

# The First United Methodist Church of Lowell Tele-Christian February 2024 Edition

The mission of the United Methodist Church is to  
make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

## Mark's Remarks...



We are starting an exciting time here at the church. This year we are going to move towards being a more mission-minded church. Jesus makes it very clear that we are to reach out in love to help with the needs of our neighbors. He then makes it clear that everyone is our neighbor. We are going to start the process of making missions a part of our being. I want people outside the church to start saying, "First UM Church is that church that does so much in missions."

We need to define what missions are. There are many entities vying for your money. Most are exemplary, doing wonderful work. Not all are missions, however. The National Cancer Society does great work. The Muscular Dystrophy Association is worthy. Your college alumni association does good work with your money. These are charities though. A mission is an entity that does helpful work in the name of Jesus. Usually, a part of that work is presenting Jesus to the people they are helping.

To further define missions: I like to support United Methodist Missions. 100% of your contribution goes to the need to which you are giving. There are no administrative costs taken out. Those costs are raised through other offerings and apportionments that have been given. All other charities and mission organizations must take a percent of your gift for administrative costs.

Here's what we have planned so far: We will continue to do the mission work we are already doing. That is ... the Samaritan's Purse shoeboxes, Christmas clothesline gifts for local students, food collections or buddy bags. To this we will add a Mission of the Month. Each month the Mission Committee will choose a different mission. On the second Sunday of the month we will have a presentation on that mission. There will be an envelope in the bulletin. If you feel called to give, you will be welcome to do so.

We will also spend time developing opportunities for you to serve in a mission setting. Even if it is packing bags in our basement for a need, making a health kit for a mission, or going out to serve at a food pantry. We want everyone to feel that they can serve as a missionary in some way.

One last thought about missions: It is biblically described as 'second mile giving'. We are to bring the whole offering to the Lord and then with our abundance we are to give to help others. Don't take away from your regular offering to give to missions.

It truly is an exciting time for our church. Let's move together into the future. Where God leads us, we will follow.

***Our February Mission of the Month is Red Bird Mission in Beverly, KY. Red Bird Mission ministers in one of the poorest counties in our country. They have been ministering to the area since 1921. They have a school, a medical clinic, a clothing store, a senior and family center. Red Bird Mission hosts work camps with about 2,500 volunteers each year. Your contributions keep the many ministries in each of these areas running.***

Pastor Mark



We invite all able bodied attenders on Sunday morning to **not** park in the church parking lot. Please save those spots for our elderly, folks with mobility issues, those with young children and visitors. You can park at Sheets Funeral Home, Chase Bank or behind the church. Thank you for your consideration of those who have trouble getting to the building on Sundays.

## February Sermon Title and Scripture Schedule

**February 4** ~ Scripture: 1 John 4:8-12

Sermon Title: *'Fruit of the Spirit: Love'*

**February 11** ~ Scripture: 1 Peter 1:8-9

Sermon Title: *'Fruit of the Spirit: Joy'*

**February 18** ~ Scripture: John 14:23-27

Sermon Title: *'Fruit of the Spirit: Peace'*

**February 25** ~ Scripture: Philippians 4:4-7

Sermon Title: *'Fruit of the Spirit: Patience'*

In February we will start a series of sermons on the fruit of the Spirit. These are listed in Galatians 5:22-23. The fruit of the Spirit is: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. We will talk about these nine fruits each Sunday in February, leading up to Lent and then throughout Lent. Come learn what these fruits can look like in your life.



### Worship News

Trudy Corning and Linda Hayden, Co-Chairs

**Fruit of the Spirit** is the title of Pastor Mark's sermon series that will begin February 4 and continue through the Lenten season.

The Mission and Worship Teams will head up a **canned fruit collection** during this sermon series. All members of the congregation are invited to bring a can, or cans, of fruit to worship each Sunday from February 4 through March 24. Our goal is to collect 400 cans of fruit! We will mark our progress each week!

Following our worship service on Palm Sunday, March 24, our church family will be invited to pack up our fruit collection. The cans of fruit will be divided and donated to LYFT and all of the local food banks. We will then gather together in the Fellowship Hall and enjoy a soup luncheon hosted by the Worship Team.

Bring your cans of fruit to church each week, place them on the shelves in the narthex and watch the **Fruit of the Spirit** grow this Lenten season!

The **Ash Wednesday** service will be February 14 at 7pm in the church sanctuary. Ashes from the palm branches waved at the start of Holy Week last year will be used during this service. Join us to start your Lenten journey this season.



**LYFT** is our Thursday evening worship service. We start at 5:30 pm with dinner and go right into worship at 6 pm. Worship includes music, a lay speaker or Pastor Mark speaking, prayer and ends with communion. LYFT is a casual worship service where we look forward each week to food, fellowship and fun! Everyone is welcome! Bring a friend!

LYFT gets transformed into Messy Church on the fourth Thursday of each month. Do you know what 'Messy Church' is? We really don't get dirty or messy, it is just another way to say that we are doing church a little differently than normal. We start out as usual with dinner. After dinner, Pastor Mark divides us into 4 groups. The size of the groups depends on how many people are at LYFT that night, but it is usually around 6 per group. There is no communion or speaker on 'Messy Church' night. Try it you might like it!

The four stations that we have at 'Messy Church' are:

1. Dessert station
2. Craft or Mission station
3. Discussion station (with Pastor Mark)
4. Game station

# WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Welcome the newest members to our church:

**Gail Kemick and Kim Westerfield**

Gail and Kim joined our church on January 4 through the Thursday night LYFT worship service.



The 58 memorial bricks were delivered on Friday, December 8. They are in storage until such time that the weather is more predictable before they are “planted” in the memorial garden. The Trustees will most likely wait until early spring. The bricks all arrived in good shape and appear to be accurately created. Thanks everyone for your patience.

Kirk McQuiston



## Sharing Our Church Financial Report with the Congregation

Like any family, the church needs a financial plan to take care of its members and to do its job with a church financial report to the congregation.

- Churches need money to function. This is not something to be ashamed of, but should be treated honestly.
  - The church is a family and every family needs to know its financial status.
  - People need to know where the church is financially so they can give and pray.

Let's celebrate the outcomes of our 2023 budget!

All committees kept within their budgets. All conference and district apportionments were paid in full. The church lived within its means. Even though our expenses exceeded our income, we had a savings to cover the shortfall. It should be noted, however, that if consistent deficits continue we will eventually deplete our reserves.



## Sunday Adult Study Opportunity

The FRIENDS class is doing a new DVD study by Louie Giglio called, “Perfect Father.” In this Bible Study, Louie Giglio challenges our perceptions of who God is, and points us to know him as a heavenly Father who is not absent or ambivalent but is available and ready to embrace you with his unconditional love and blessing.

The FRIENDS class meets upstairs in Room 304 at 8:15 am. All are welcome to come to any of the sessions.

Don Bales, Facilitator



### Children’s Movie and Magic Valentine Party

The Children’s Education Team is planning a Valentine event for our elementary Sunday School kids and our Youth. It will be Friday, February 9 from 6-7:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. We will serve popcorn and lemonade. The kids will be asked to bring a snack to share. In addition to watching a movie, there will be games and a magic show performed by Brooks Bales. Invitations will be sent out.

### Looking back at our children’s Christmas activities...



The children presented a live nativity for the community at the Winterfest celebration in Olde Towne Square December 2. Hannah and Matt Mishlove’s grandparents were our shepherds and provided the livestock. Patrice Martin read the Christmas Story to the public. On Sunday, December 10, we presented the ‘Totally Unrehearsed Christmas Pageant’ to the delight of the congregation. The youth also went Christmas caroling at Cedar Creek Health Facility and to several individual homes.

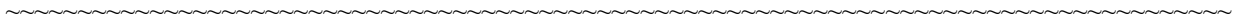


*THANK YOU!*

Dear Church Friends,

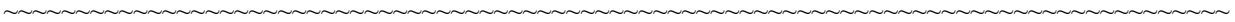
Thank you for the generous Amazon gift card you gave us for Christmas. Lucien loves Skippy Jon Jones Books and just pours over Lego Idea Books, so we are going to get a few of those. Plus, as fast as he grows, I’m pretty sure he will need some new summer clothes. Mark and I are looking at seat cushions for our wooden rocking chairs. You are such a wonderful congregation! Thank you very much.

Mark, Lori and Lucien



On behalf of the Jim Kirk family, I would like to thank all those who so graciously prayed for Jim these last couple of years. Thank you for your cards, visits, and phone calls. He appreciated every one of them. Thank you to Pastor Mark for all of the hospital visits. Thank you to those who attended the visitation and funeral, and a big thank you to Anita Childress and her wonderful team for the delicious meal.

In Christian love and gratitude, Peggy Hendricks



I want to express how thankful I am for my church family! It means so much knowing I have prayers for getting rid of this sciatic pain. I see the Dr. January 25.

Ethel Devine



## Lowell Church Mouse

I'm the church mouse. I see all that goes on in the church and I love to gossip about it. Of course being a Christian mouse, I only say positive things.

Two new paintings are gracing our walls. Ed Miller donated the paintings that were created by Anna Losiniecki. Be sure to stop by and see them. One is on the wall in the office. The other is hanging at the bottom of the stairs going to the third floor. Thank you Ed for these memorials of Anna who attended here for several years before her death.

You can hear the patter of little preschool feet more at the church. Leaps and Bounds Preschool in the basement is now meeting until 1:30 pm on Monday and Wednesday. I'm going to keep my tail away from all of that energy!

Bob McGinley is a plumber in our church. He is frequently in the building fixing plumbing issues. He always gives us a great discount for his services. Thanks Bob, for all you do!

Be careful when you do good work for the church. I'm watching and just waiting to share that gossip.



In January Young at Heart Sr. Bingo was cancelled due to the weather. On February 27 we will meet at 1 pm. There will be snacks, prizes for the winners and many games of Bingo, all for no charge to you. Invite friends. We don't card folks, so anyone of any age can come. See you in February.



## Pastor's Comic Corner

In case you haven't noticed, I love humor. Below are comics that I've come across. Enjoy and smile! Pastor Mark



"If I send my prayer as a text message, will I get a faster reply?"

©Glasbergen / glasbergen.com



"If God wants me to be thankful for vegetables, why did He make them taste like vegetables?"

## WEEKLY EVENTS

**Sunday - Worship** ~ 9:30 a.m. (in Sanctuary), **Monday/Tuesday - A/A** 12 p.m. (303) **Wednesday - A/A** - 8 p.m. (Fellowship Hall), **Al/Anon** - 8 p.m. (library) **Thursday - Dulcimers** 10 am (303), **Godsbells practice** 4:30 pm (balcony), **LYFT Dinner** 5:30 pm **Worship** 6:00 pm (Fellowship Hall), **Chancel Choir** 7 p.m. (Sanctuary) **Saturday - A/A** 11 a.m. (303)

# February 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 <b>Working Together Circle</b> 1:30 pm (lib)	3
4 <b>Canned Fruit Collection Begins</b>	5 <b>Women's Bible Study</b> 3 pm (300)  <b>Tri-Kappa</b> 6pm (FH)	6	7 <b>Trustees Meeting</b> 6pm	8	9 <b>Congregational Care Meeting</b> 1pm (lib)  <b>Children's Valentine Party</b> 6-7:30 pm (FH)	10
11 <b>Youth Group</b> 5:30 pm (303)	12 <b>Women's Bible Study</b> 3 pm (300)  <b>Susanna Wesley</b> 1pm (lib)	13	14 <b>Ash Wednesday Service</b> 7pm	15	16	17
18	19 <b>Women's Bible Study</b> 3 pm (300)  <b>Shift Meeting</b> 5 pm (304)	20	21	22  <b>Messy Church @LYFT</b>	23	24
25	26 <b>Women's Bible Study</b> 3 pm (300)  <b>Ad-Council</b> 6pm (FH)	27 <b>Senior Bingo</b> 1pm (FH)	28	29		