

The First United Methodist Church of Lowell

Tele-Christian April 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...



I found a devotional by David Wilkerson that I like. Enjoy reading about the Resurrection Power.
David Wilkerson (1931-2011)

“That I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being conformed to his death, if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead”.

(Philippians 3:10-11, NKJV)

What I'm about to say may come as a surprise to you. It is that the resurrection of Jesus Christ is all about power. When I say this, I don't just mean the divine power that raised Jesus from the dead. Of course, that kind of power is absolutely miraculous, and it can only come from God himself.

Christ's resurrection speaks of an additional power, and this one also only comes from God. It is a power that causes us to live holy lives, to be free from sin's dominion, to overcome every habit and lust known to man, to walk in a righteousness that comes from God alone by faith. To obtain this power is to know Christ in the power of his resurrection.

The apostle Paul speaks of this kind of resurrection power. He had a profound inner longing to know Christ, and that hunger came from his own deep cry for holiness. He found the answer in “Jesus Christ our Lord, who was born of the seed of David according to the flesh, and declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead. Through him we have received grace and apostleship for obedience to the faith among all nations for his name” (Romans 1:3-5).

Paul saw that Jesus had come to earth as a man with the power of heaven resting upon him, power to heal the sick, set captives free, raise the dead and give eternal life. Jesus' resurrection, accompanied by a divine proclamation that he truly was the Son of God, opened the pathway for all to new, abundant life in him.



Sermons for April

In April, we will follow the Lectionary. (Bible passages chosen for each Sunday of the year.) April will be a celebration of the Resurrection and the various times Jesus appeared to the disciples.

April Sermon Title and Scripture Schedule

April 7 ~ Scripture: John 20:19-23	Sermon Title: <i>'Marching Orders'</i>
April 14 ~ Scripture: Luke 24:36-48	Sermon Title: <i>'Marching Orders Part II'</i>
April 21 ~ Scripture: Acts 4:5-12	Sermon Title: <i>'Ask the Wrong Question'</i>
April 28 ~ Scripture: Acts 8:26-35	Sermon Title: <i>'Ask the Right Question'</i>



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.



Worship News

Trudy Corning & Linda Hayden, Co-chairs

Well done, church family!

We collected over 400 cans of fruit, exceeding our goal, during the Fruit of the Spirit sermon series this Lenten season! Thank you for your donations!

Three local food pantries received 8 bags of canned fruit totaling 84 cans delivered to each one. The three local food pantries include Lowell Church of Christ, Lowell Lutheran Church, and the United Methodist Church in Cedar Lake. In addition, our very own LYFT received 174 items to serve at meals including individual fruit cups & applesauce!

Thank you also to those who helped sort, bag and deliver the canned fruit!



Live Your Faith

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 followed by communion. LYFT is a casual worship service where we look forward each week to food, fellowship and fun! Everyone is welcome! Bring a friend!

TODAY! 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



Our April mission of the month is Africa University. Africa University began in 1984 with the call for the UM Church to build a university in Africa. At the 1988 General Conference work on Africa University was approved as a United Methodist institution in Old Mutare, Zimbabwe. The first students were enrolled in agriculture. New degrees have since been added as well as dormitories, libraries, and other buildings. Students from all over Africa come and receive a top-quality education. Most of them then return to their country of origin and help build the economy. Your donation will help many Africans receive a university education.



Solar Eclipse Party

On April 8, we will have a solar eclipse party at the church. We will gather at 1:00 for lunch. Bring a brown bag lunch and a drink. We'll socialize and then move outside at 2:00 for the eclipse. We'll have eyeglasses available for the first twenty who show up. Talk to Pastor Mark if you have any questions.

From the Finance Committee

Members of our church community are the foundation of our church. Through their efforts of resourceful skills, talents, and financial support, we can share God's message and reach out to our community with various programs. A culture of gratefulness in our church has a powerful impact on members and new visitors.

Tithing is a tribute to God: Your weekly gifts have shown your faith and trust in His name. We, at the Lowell United Methodist Church, are honored you've chosen us as your home.

The Finance Committee would like to share that the repairs and upgrades to the Memorial Brick Garden were made possible through the Memorial Brick Sales, landscaping budget, and most of the cost covered by anonymous donors. New cordless microphones will soon be in place, made possible by the support of our church members.

Each month there is a designated "Mission of the Month" for which members are asked to consider above and beyond their tithing. So far this year these have been United Methodist missions or our own church missions. Following the required procedure, a form was submitted seeking approval for raising funds to help supplement our Good Samaritan Fund (a budget line item previously approved by the Ad. Council.) So, looking ahead, the "Mission of the Month" in May will be our Good Samaritan Fund through the Generosity Tree on May 5 and 12.

Anyone seeking to understand the church budget and its management may stop by the office and ask for the income/expenses statements as well as the Cash, Memorials, and Designated Accounts statements.



WOW! WOW! WOW! WOW!
What brings smiles to adults and children at the same time on Sunday mornings?
The Children's Change Collection!!
We have been doing this for about 18 months
and have collected a little over \$2,600 for our children's programs!!!!



FYI...College Students ...Trade School Students...H.S. Seniors

Lowell First United Methodist Church has student loans available through the Clara Pixley Trust. Clara Pixley, one of our own Lowell Methodists, set up a trust in her will back in the 1940's to loan money to students to go to college or any trade school.

Loans can be \$3,000 per year with a maximum of \$10,000 per student. You or your parents must be a member of our church. If you are interested, please contact Terry Donovan, Kirk McQuiston, or Lynn Bochart for details.



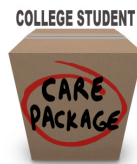
Bell Tower Clocks

The Trustees are proud to announce that the bell tower clocks are now functioning for the community. Clock faces were installed on all four sides of the bell tower in 1929. For the last 25 years or so the clock movement was not working. We have had the old mechanical clock movement replaced with an electronic system with one master controller that will automatically reset to the correct time in the fall and spring and after power outages. We pray the clocks will serve the community for decades to come. We have been in our downtown location for 100 years and we take pride in maintaining our historic building.

Children's Ministry

The *Easter Eggstravaganza* was held on Saturday, March 16, and it was a lot of fun. We served a free lunch of hotdogs, chips, cookies, and lemonade to all present. There were approximately 50 guests, 30 children and 20 adults, in attendance. Following lunch, the children rotated through Easter themed stations to complete a craft, play games, and listen to the Easter story. **Thank you** to all of you for making the *Easter Eggstravaganza* a success. It would not have been possible without your prayers, donations, and time.

Amy Manier, Children's Education Chair



College Care Packages

Sending care packages to our college students is a ministry of Congregational Care. We send boxes at final exam time to support and encourage our students during their stressful week.

What are final exam college boxes? They are boxes filled with goodies including snacks, gum, highlighters, prayers and uplifting notes.

Who are the college students? Please submit the names and addresses of your children, grandchildren, nieces, or nephews who are enrolled in college and preparing for finals to the church office by **Sunday, April 7**.

Everyone can participate in the college ministry!! What can you do?

1. Pray for the students.
2. Write notes of encouragement to the students.
3. Donate items for the college boxes. Look for a list of needed items in the narthex starting Sunday, April 7.
4. Help pack the college boxes on Sunday, April 28 in the Fellowship Hall after the worship service.

If you have questions, contact the church office or Trudy Corning at 219-613-1787.



A Ministry of Comfort at a Time of Loss

One of the most important and appreciated ministries of Congregational Care is providing funeral meals to our church families. Our mission for this ministry is: *To provide a friendly and welcoming place for families and friends to gather after a funeral and be comforted with conversation, fellowship and a meal.*

Already in the first 3 months of 2024 we have served 4 dinners. We have a team that plans each dinner, but we need additional hands to provide desserts or potato casseroles (we supply that recipe and do the cooking in the church ovens), and to help serve the meal or clean up on the day of the funeral. We also need strong arms to set up & take down tables and chairs. We are compiling a new list of volunteers to assist the funeral dinner team in any of these ways.

A signup sheet is available on the table in the narthex. Please add your name before April 8, or call the office and Kim can add your name to the list. If you have questions, speak with Kim or Pastor Mark, or one of the team members – Anita Childress, Bev Kussy, Sue McQuiston or Patrice Martin. Thank you to those who have already signed up!



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.

The Education Committee keeps at it. In March they hosted the Easter Eggstravaganza. There were a lot of little children running around having a good time. Their parents seemed to have fun as well. Many volunteers made the event run smoothly.

Dan & Laura Eller and Bill Bubness have placed five yards of mulch around the church. Our flowerbeds are again beautiful following the winter. They worked hard placing it all with wheel barrows and buckets. Thank you to all three and those who helped get the mulch here.

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



Young at Heart Sr. Bingo will meet on April 23 at 1:00 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 anyone, so anyone of any age can come. See you in April.



The family of Marie Woolfolk would like to thank everyone for their prayers and expressions of sympathy at the time of Mom's passing. We were blessed by Pastor Mark's presence at the hospital and his meaningful, comforting words at her funeral. Peggy Hendrick's singing of "In the Garden," Mom's favorite hymn, was beautiful. We appreciate David Schoon's musical talents also. Thank you to those who provided food and worked at the luncheon after the service. We are grateful to our church family for your love and support.

Charlie and Lynne Haberlin and family

We want to thank you all for all of the prayers, lovely cards, text messages and phone calls about my newest "bump in the road". I cannot even begin to express how much support and love I feel from you all. Also, Pastor Mark for coming up to be with us before and after my surgery and visiting me on my birthday (even if it was in the hospital). I still have a few months of chemo treatments before they will say I am cancer free but until then I know you are there with prayers and uplifting thoughts.

Love & Hugs,
Nina & Chuck Wilson



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



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)

April 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Office Closed	2	3 UWF Exec. Mtg. 5 pm (library)	4	5	6
7	8 Solar Eclipse Party 1pm Tri-Kappa 6pm	9	10 Education Mtg. 7 pm (300)	11	12	13 Wedding Shower 12 pm (FH)
14 Mission Sunday ~ Africa University	15 Shift Mtg. 5 pm	16	17 Finance Meeting 5:30 pm (FH)	18	19	20
21	22 Ad-Council 6 pm (FH)	23 Senior Bingo 1 pm (FH)	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				