

# The First United Methodist Church of Lowell

## Tele-Christian June 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...



It's becoming more and more clear that we are in an election year for president. I used to look forward to voting for a president. I would listen carefully to what the Democrat and Republican candidate had to say and choosing who I thought was the better candidate between essentially the two (I was surprised in my first chance to vote in 1982 that there were Communists, Libertarians, Green Party and other choices for president.) The Bible says in Psalm 22:28: "for dominion belongs to the Lord and he rules over the nations."

I find comfort in that passage. Even if I put my trust in a candidate who is lying, I can rest assured that it is God who rules. Over the years there have been presidents that have made me question that scripture. I have to ask, "God, why did you let that man get into the Oval Office?"

In the last couple of election cycles things seem to me to be getting much more divisive. Not only are the ads becoming more attack driven, but even the messages you hear portrayed in the media on the left and right are becoming more contentious. "If Trump gets elected, say goodbye to democracy." "If Biden gets elected, there will no longer be an America as we know it." Of course, the media on the left and right must sell to their audience. Do you really believe the United States will become a different country in the next four years if either of these men are elected?

I've found the best solution for this political discord in my life is to turn off the TV, shut off the radio and put down the magazines. Instead, spend some time pondering, "Is God truly in control?" "Does God care about who is leading this nation?" When you can firmly answer this question in your heart, spend a little time studying the politics of your candidate. Then spend a little time in the opposite camp and try to understand the other side.

We should be making prayerful, careful choices of who will be our leaders. We should be choosing women and men who agree with our principles and who will represent us most closely. Finally, don't worry. The future of America is not in President Biden's or former President Trump's hands. The future of America is in God's hands.



### Sermons for June

In June, we'll follow the lectionary themes. The lectionary is a rotation of scriptures, Old Testament, New Testament and Gospel for each Sunday over a three year period.



### June Sermon Title and Scripture Schedule

<b>June 2</b> ~ Scripture: Mark 3:1-6	Sermon Title: 'Sabbath'
<b>June 9</b> ~ Scripture: Mark 3:20-29	Sermon Title: 'Jesus Must Be Wrong'
<b>June 16</b> ~ Scripture: Mark 4:26-34	Sermon Title: 'What Is Faith?'
<b>June 23</b> ~ Scripture: Mark 35-41	Sermon Title: 'Calming Our Storms'
<b>June 30</b> ~ Scripture: Mark 5:21-34	Sermon Title: 'Lost Causes'



### Worship News

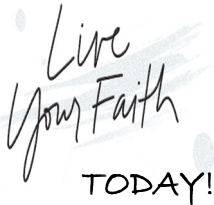
Trudy Corning and Linda Hayden, Co-Chairs

There are two opportunities to worship on Sunday mornings during the summer!

**8:00am** Starting June 2, we will have an 8 am service at the Olde Towne Square park located immediately west of our church. You will need to bring a lawn chair. Due to some uneven ground in the grassy areas and unlevelled cement on the sidewalks, we recommend that you wear comfortable sturdy shoes. In the event of adverse weather, the service will be moved inside the church.

**9:30am** Worship will continue in the sanctuary at 9:30 am as usual. There will be supervised activities for children after the Children's Time. \*See the separate article in this Tele Christian issue for details.

Martha's Coffee House will not be open throughout the summer months, but coffee is always available at the Keurig café located at the south end of the lower level Fellowship Hall.



**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!

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



Through the fall, winter and spring Martha's Coffee House was open for fellowship and refreshments in the library before and after worship services. Fifteen women of our church served as hosts and provided treats that were appreciated by both children and adults. Most of these ladies volunteered multiple Sundays. Thank you to each woman who helped make the library a warm welcoming place for both members and guests!

Bev Kussy, Chair of Congregational Care



### Woman's Devotion Group

Our next devotion time will be on Monday, June 3 at 12:00 pm in room 300. Please bring a sack lunch.

All are welcome to come. Call the church office with any questions. 219-696-9219



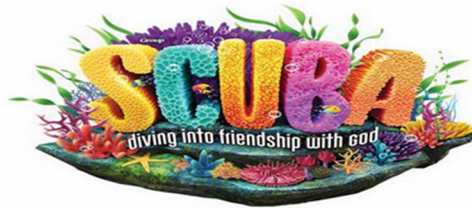
Hello Parents!

While the teachers take a well-deserved break from teaching Sunday School this summer, we would like to invite your children to join us on Sundays for *Kid's Retreat*.

*Kid's Retreat* will take place during the 9:30 church service after the Children's Time. It will be held in the church library and nursery. We will be reading Bible stories, coloring, playing, watching movies, and enjoying snacks while you remain in the sanctuary to share joys and concerns and listen to the sermon.

We hope to see your children at *Kid's Retreat* starting June 2!

Your Sisters in Christ,  
Nancy Lain and Kim Westerfield



**2024 Vacation Bible School**  
**June 17 - 20**  
**6:00 – 8:00 pm**

Preparations are underway for Vacation Bible School! This year the 'Scuba' theme will help the kids 'Dive into Friendship with God.' We are excited to share God's love with the kids of our church and community during this amazing week.

If you are able and willing to help during Vacation Bible School please sign up in the Narthex. Also, please tell all the young kids (age 4 through 5th grade) in your life about Vacation Bible School and ask them to register online at [vbspro.events/p/71ee85](https://vbspro.events/p/71ee85)

If you have any questions, please call Amy Manier, 219-712-6157, or the church office.



**From the Finance Committee**  
**"Generous Love: One Church. Many Stories. What's yours?"**

We are meant to practice generosity every day the way a pianist practices a new piece until they know it by heart. With practice over and over it becomes the rhythm of our lives.

And now as we embark on the summer months we will continue to share our time in the church, the organizing of community missions, and the building of stories that we hope are pleasing in God's eyes. Church ministry will be going on ALL summer, even when many will have summer "moments" to see family and enjoy a vacation. We thank each and every one who has kept up with their pledge. You are making it possible to cover the expenses that will still be going on throughout the summer.

A pledge says, "we believe in what we are doing as a church and in who we are becoming together with Christ."



### Mission of the Month

Our June Mission of the Month is Grace Children's Hospital in Haiti. Grace Children's Hospital primarily treats children with tuberculosis, HIV and malnutrition. Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. With the support Grace Hospital has received many children have been saved who otherwise would not have lived. On June 2 there will be envelopes in your bulletins if you would like to make a donation to support this mission and there will be a trifold display in the Narthex with envelopes available for the month of June.



### KITCHEN IN NEED

The church kitchen is in need of throw away plastic containers that have been clean and dried with the lid on, to put leftovers in from the LYFT dinner, funeral dinners, etc. If you have extra or would like to start saving for us that would be great! If you can donate, please take them straight to the kitchen in the basement and put them in the big container under the counter. Thank you!!



On Wednesday, May 29 in the church library, we had a farewell to longtime members Stan and Sandy Hurst. There was cake, lemonade and tea. A rendition of Sentimental Journey was sung and many memories shared about music and teaching. We will miss you, Stan and Sandy!



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



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.

Oodles of Noodles was a great success. The Outreach Committee sold 119 of the 120 tickets available. My feet are still stomping with Peggy Hendrick's entertainment with her Jam group.

I thought it would be getting more restful in the basement now that the preschool is over for the summer. I forgot Senior Bingo still meets down there. There were 48 folk in my quiet basement on May 28.

A special thanks to all who put in work to create our new Memorial Garden. It started as an idea by Sharon Sanders and Pastor Rick many years ago. It has now expanded to a beautiful and peaceful place to sit, pray and reflect.

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



### SENIOR BINGO

Young at Heart Sr. Bingo will meet June 25 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 folk, so anyone of any age can come. See you in June.



Saturday, June 1 ~ United Women of Faith 'High Tea'  
June 17-20 ~ Vacation Bible School  
Friday, July 19 ~ Kidz Karnival  
Friday, August 23 ~ Music in the Park



### 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



"Since you can't attend every Sunday, couldn't you at least like us on Facebook?"



© 1977 THE FAMILY CIRCUS BY SCHWAN

## WEEKLY EVENTS

**Sunday - Worship** ~ 8:00 am ‘Olde Towne Square Park Service 9:30 am (in Sanctuary), **Monday/Tuesday** - A/A 12 p.m. (303)  
**Wednesday** - A/A - 8pm (Fellowship Hall), A1/Anon - 8 p.m. (library) **Thursday** - Dulcimers 10 am (303), *LYFT* Dinner 5:30 pm  
 Worship 6:00 pm (Fellowship Hall), **Saturday** - A/A 11 a.m. (303)

# June 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 UWF High Tea 11 am (FH)
2 Mission Sunday ‘Grace Children’s Hospital’	3 Women’s Devotional Group 12pm (300)  Tri-Kappa 6pm (FH)	4	5 UWF Executive Meeting 5 pm (library)  Trustees 6 pm	6	7 Working Together Circle 1:30 pm (library)	8 Graduation Party 12-4 pm (FH)
9	10 Susanna Wesley 1 pm (library)	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18 Household Pantry	19	20	21	22
	VBS....VBS....VBS.... 6-8 PM	VBS....VBS....VBS.... 6-8 PM	VBS....VBS....VBS.... 6-8 PM	VBS....VBS....VBS.... 6-8 PM	VBS....VBS....VBS.... 6-8 PM	VBS....VBS....VBS.... 6-8 PM
23	24 SHIFT 5 PM (304)	25 SENIOR BINGO 1PM (FH)	26	27 Messy Church at LYFT	28	29
30						