

The First United Methodist Church of Lowell

Tele-Christian August 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...



Be Prepared to Share

Apologetics is a word that is tied with Christianity. Apologetics is not being sorry for what we believe. Apologetics is defending what we believe. How much time have you spent thinking about what you believe? What do you believe about creation? Sin? Becoming right with God? Heaven? Hell? The state of humanity? Other religions? End times? Scripture? The church? Issues of morality? Can you come up with more than one sentence about each of these (and for that matter the hundreds of other topics of faith?) If an unbeliever asked you, "What do you think heaven will be like?" Could you give an intelligent, biblically-based, Godly answer? What if somebody with different beliefs challenged you, "Heaven is going to be for the 144,000 leaders within our faith. Other believers will live on the new earth. The most enlightened of our leaders will become gods themselves." This is the Mormon view of heaven – is it right or not? Could you defend your position?

The Bible contains many passages commanding and encouraging us to defend our faith. 1 Peter 3:15 says, "But in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect," What is the best way to defend the faith? The best and in reality the only way to defend the faith is from the Word of God. If we have beliefs that are not in the Word, they are probably not worth defending.

We must know the scriptures. We must begin memorizing the scriptures. If we do not, we will be unable to defend them. Thankfully, there are also alternatives to speaking scriptures right in the midst of a controversy.

If someone says something in opposition of scripture, for instance; "I believe in reincarnation." If you don't know passages that speak against reincarnation, say to them, "I know the Bible disagrees with what you are saying. Let me look at it and I'll get back with you (at a specific time)." Be sure to study up on the issue, ask me where the scriptures are or look in a Concordance to find the scriptures. Come up with an intelligent argument including the Bible passages and restart the conversation with that person.

One other option is the Bible promise found in Luke 12:11-12 which says, "When they bring you before the synagogues and the rulers and the authorities, do not worry about how or what you are to speak in your defense, or what you are to say; for the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say." In these instances take a deep breath, say a prayer asking God to give you the words you need, and make your case. I have had times when God has given me the right words at the right time.

Know what you believe. Then try to prepare yourself, arm yourself with the weapons you need to defend the faith. Be an apologist for Christ! Be prepared to share!



August Sermon Title and Scripture Schedule

August 4 ~ Guest Speaker Brandon Knight

August 11 ~ Scripture: Ephesians 4:29-5:2

August 18 ~ Scripture: Ephesians 5:15-20

August 25 ~ Scripture: Ephesians 6:10-20

Sermon Title: *'Dearly Loved Children'*

Sermon Title: *'Making the Most of Opportunities'*

Sermon Title: *'Put on Your Armor'*



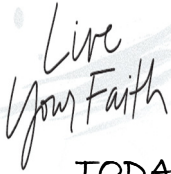
Summer Worship

Worship in the park (Olde Towne Square on west side of the church) will continue at 8:00 AM through the month of August. The last summer worship service in the park will be Sunday, August 25.

Beginning Sunday, September 1, we will once again gather our church family together for ONE worship service in the sanctuary at 9:30 AM.

LYFT (Live Your Faith Today) will continue to meet on Thursday in the Fellowship Hall. Dinner at 5:30 PM, worship at 6:00 PM.

See you in worship!



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



Join us **Sunday, September 8 at 9:30 AM** as we celebrate Homecoming Sunday!

We will welcome a guest speaker, as well as a historical guest, for a centennial celebration!

The special worship service will be enhanced with wonderful music from our choirs.

Did you know our sanctuary is 100 years old?? Construction was completed in December of 1924 and the sanctuary was dedicated in January of 1925. At that time, a time capsule was placed in the church cornerstone. What did the former church members put in the time capsule?? And 100 years later, how has the First United Methodist Church affected our community and our personal walks with Christ? What does our church mean to you?

Following the worship service we will gather in the Fellowship Hall for a potluck luncheon. All are welcome! You may bring a dish to share (this is optional).

Invite former members to come home for the special day. Invite your friends and neighbors to join our celebration and learn about our church building's past. Mark your calendar now for Homecoming Sunday on September 8 at 9:30 AM.



Dear Parents of Church Children,

We will continue to offer the summer **Kids Retreat** with Bible stories, activities and snacks during the 9:30 worship service through September 1.

We have enjoyed working with the kids this summer and wish them well as they begin their fall activities! Thank you to Judy Williams for providing snacks for the kids each week!

Have a great school year!
Kim Westerfield and Nancy Lain



Another Successful Kidz Karnival!

We had perfect weather on the evening on July 19 to host the community at our kid-oriented outreach event. We are grateful to each one of you who were involved in any way: **Before** -- planning, purchasing, advertising, loaning coolers & canopies, setting up, prepping hot dogs and popcorn, donating stuffed animals; **During** -- working the food tables, the entrance tables, the games, the bounce houses, the prize tables, or painting faces; **After** -- taking down, cleaning up. Special thanks to Amy Ingebretsen and the 4-H Color Guard & Drill Team for providing the horse-back rides. We are also grateful for the participation of our local police and fire departments.

We know that 250 treat/ticket bags were given out to the children of all ages who attended. We do not have a count of the many adults who accompanied the children. We do know our Kidz Karnival was enjoyed by all who attended. We received expressions of gratitude as families exited. One parent even took the time to comment on a community Facebook post: "Just wanted to say thank you to the First United Methodist Church for hosting the kids carnival today. It was such a wonderful event and my family really enjoyed it. Thank you!"



Woman's Devotion Group

Our next devotion time will be on Monday, August 5 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



From Our Finance Team

August begins our annual Stewardship Drive. We will soon be sending out letters seeking each family's pledge towards the missions and ministries of our church. May we all call to mind our innumerable blessings as we prayerfully consider our commitments of time, talent, and treasure to the Lowell United Methodist Church for the upcoming year.

We gratefully acknowledge all of you who have not only fulfilled your pledge commitment for the current year but have even exceeded it. We appreciate the efforts made by so many of you to regularly submit your pledges even by weekly mail! We thank those of our church family who have resumed their giving within this past year. We also extend an invitation to those who have not given of their financial gifts to step forward in faith and in thanksgiving for our many blessings. You are all vital and needed members of this church family.



August 23, 2024 will be our third annual Music in the Park night. It will once again be at Olde Towne Square (park next to the church). *The Lemmon Brothers* will play and sing music from the 60's, 70's, 80's and 90's. Food trucks will be available beginning at 5 pm and the music will start at 6 pm. Please bring your own lawn chair. Everyone is invited and welcome to come to this free concert in the park. Invite a friend!



Save the Date!

3rd Annual Chuck Wagon Dinner
Saturday, September 21
In the Fellowship Hall
High Country String Band will be performing
Proceeds to benefit future outreach events



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 the lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.
Psalm 100:2**

Music is a vital part of worship. Here at Lowell FUMC we have multiple musical groups where members and friends can join with others and enhance the worship services with 'joyful songs'. We welcome all levels of talent. We seek to glorify God with our music.

Godsbells Lead by Patrice Martin, the three octave handbell choir will begin rehearsals on Thursday, August 29 at 4:30 in the balcony on the third floor. They will be joining the Homecoming Celebration on Sunday, September 8 and will "ring out glory to God" the second Sunday of every month at the 9:30 AM worship service.

Repertoire this year includes every genre from classical to spirituals. New ringers are welcome, as well as reliable substitutes for both practice and performances. This is a spiritually supportive community dedicated to praising God through music. Come join the FUN!

Chancel Choir Under the direction of Bobbie Sue Whaley, this group of men, women, and teen singers meets at 7:00 PM on Thursday in the sanctuary to practice. The Chancel Choir sings at worship services on the first and third Sunday from September through May. Each year in December the choir presents a Christmas cantata. Summer break is now over, the choir will resume practices on August 1. Everyone is welcome to join the choir.

Praise Team If you don't have time for weekly practices, the Praise Team may be the group for you! Led by Michelle Mishlove, this group sings praise or contemporary Christian songs. They practice individually, then rehearse together on the fourth Sunday, right before they share the song at worship. Musicians, like guitar players, as well as teen and adult singers are welcome to join this group. Contact Michelle if you are interested.



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 big news is the Kidz Karnival. We had about 250 children plus all of the adults that were with them. There were countless volunteers, and behind the scene workers before and after. It was a fun time as well as a lot of work for everyone.

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



YOUNG AT HEART SENIOR BINGO

Young at Heart Sr. Bingo will meet on August 27 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 August.



Dear Church Partner,

Thank you so much for your VBS missions donation of \$104.30. Churches like yours are empowering kids and families to rise above poverty and build futures once thought unreachable. World Vision is truly blessed to have you as a champion for kids. Thank you for your gift and compassion for others.

Anthony Williams, Senior Director Donor Services

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), Al/Anon - 8 p.m. (library) **Thursday** - Dulcimers 10 am (303), *LYFT* Dinner 5:30 pm
 Worship 6:00 pm (Fellowship Hall), Chancel Choir practice 7 pm (sanct.) **Saturday** - A/A 11 a.m. (303)

August 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Chancel Choir practice starts 7 pm (sanct.)	2 Working Together Circle 1:30 pm (lib.)	3
4 Guest Speaker Brandon Knight			7 UWF Exec. Meeting 5 pm (lib)	8 **NO LYFT **		10
11			14 Shift Mtg. 5 pm			17 Memorial Service 10 am Sanctuary
18	19 Leaps & Bounds Open House 3-8 (FH)	20 HHP 9-12 & 5-6 (curbside)	21 Education Mtg. 7pm		23 Music in the Park 6-8 pm (Olde Towne Square)	24
25 Last 8 am Service at Park for summer	26 Ad-Council 6pm (FH)	27 Senior Bingo 1pm (FH)		29 Godsbells practice starts 4:30 pm (sanctuary)		31