

# The First United Methodist Church of Lowell

## Tele-Christian September 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...



Are you looking forward to Homecoming? I'm not talking about the Homecoming on September 8, here at the church. I'm talking about your Homecoming. One day all of us will die and go home to be with Jesus. Does that fill you with comfort and hope or does the thought scare you? It's alright to fear death, but I hope you have the deep-down assurance that heaven will be waiting for you and that it will be a grand homecoming celebration. We will be reunited with our Christian family members, and we will be introduced to our brothers and sisters in Christ from across the world and across time. What a family reunion that will be.

We don't have to worry about conflicts, and relatives that were hard to be around. At our heavenly Homecoming we will love and know each other perfectly. You won't have to fight with your sister over the remote control or be lectured by dad for some petty reason. We will all be perfected in love in the heavenly realm. We will know and understand each other perfectly in heaven. Paul says, "Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known" (1 Corinthians 13:12)

That heavenly Homecoming is something to truly anticipate. I'm glad God doesn't give us all the answers. It makes it more fun to dream about. Will there be golf in heaven? Will there be flowers? Will our pets be there? What will we do with our time? What will our body look like? The questions are endless.

There's more to the story. At some point in the future a trumpet will blast around the world, Jesus will appear and all believers living and dead will go to that Homecoming with their resurrection body. Again, I love the way Paul says it, "Listen and I will tell you a mystery: We will not all die, but we will all be changed – in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable. and we will be changed." 1 Corinthians 15:51-52.

If you are one who really fears death, pray for Jesus' return. When that happens, the living believers will go straight to heaven and bypass death. Don't concern yourself too much about end times and prophecies of the end of the world. Many preachers have built their careers on interpreting the signs. A better way to live is to be ready today if death occurs or the second coming. You won't stop either by worrying. We can hold on to the promises of God and trust our eternity to His love and grace. See you all at Homecoming; September 8 and...?

Pastor Mark



### September Sermon Title and Scripture Schedule

<b>September 1 ~</b>	Scripture: Mark 7:1-8	Sermon Title: <i>'What Defiles Us?'</i>
<b>September 8 ~</b>	<b>Homecoming Sunday ~ Surprise Guest Speaker</b>	
<b>September 15 ~</b>	Scripture: Mark 8:34-38	Sermon Title: <i>'The Way of the Cross'</i>
<b>September 22 ~</b>	Scripture: Mark 9:30-37	Sermon Title: <i>'Coming in Last'</i>
<b>September 29 ~</b>	Scripture: Mark 9:42-50	Sermon Title: <i>'Cleansed with Fire'</i>



### Looking Ahead...

October 6 is World Communion Sunday  
November 3 will be All Saints Sunday



**You are invited to a family reunion!**

**Homecoming Sunday on September 8 ~ Worship Service at 9:30**

During this special homecoming service, we will celebrate the 100th anniversary of our church building and the 100 years of worship in the sanctuary. All of our choirs will participate, we will have a special visitor from our church's past, and a video to celebrate 100 years. Also, there will be a surprise guest preacher. (Only 3 people know who it is, so good luck trying to find out!) Finally, everyone attending will receive a gift memento of the day.

In 1924, a time capsule was placed in the cornerstone of the new church building. The Trustee committee is investigating if the memorabilia can be retrieved. As part of this 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, we invite each family to bring a picture, a small item, or a written memory of what the church means to you. How has the church impacted your life? We will create a new 100-year time capsule with these items!

Following the worship service, everyone is invited to the Fellowship Hall to share a meal. It will be a good old traditional Methodist potluck! Pulled pork sandwiches and drinks will be provided. We are asking our regular attendees to bring a side dish or dessert to share, if you are able. Bring your family, and invite friends, neighbors, and past church members to join us for this special worship service and meal. All are welcome!



*Live Your Faith TODAY!*

**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!

**\*\*FYI...There will be NO more Messy Church on the fourth Thursday of the month.**



**Celebration Service Welcoming Bishop Malone**

**A service celebrating Bishop Malone's assignment to the INUMC will take place on Sunday, September 15, at 3:00 p.m. (ET)**

at St. Luke's UMC  
(100 W 86th St, Indianapolis, IN 46260)

Plan to join us for this service of celebration as we welcome Bishop Malone.



**Labor Day Parade**

During the Lowell Labor Day parade we will again offer donut holes, lemonade and coffee to the community. If you can help, we need folks to fill the cups with donut holes and to make the drinks, as well as some to carry out tables and chairs. We could also use help passing out the food while being friendly and welcoming to the community. Bring a lawn chair and a smile at 8 am on Monday, September 2. We will start offering the food at 9:00. The parade starts at 10. Any questions, please contact Rachelle Bernard.



All are welcome! Bring your family! Invite your neighbors and friends!



### Chuck Wagon Dinner

Saturday, September 21 from 5:00-7:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall

Tickets will be sold at the door for Dine-In and Carryout. The cost will be \$12 for adults and \$6 for children under 10. The menu is Sloppy Joe made with homegrown Hayden beef, fresh off-the-cob Hayden sweet corn, potatoes, coleslaw, dessert & drinks. Musical entertainment will be provided by the High Country String Band.

This dinner is open to the community. Come for a tasty meal and good music! You will have an enjoyable evening and you will be supporting our Outreach programs. Proceeds from this event will benefit our community events – the Kidz Karnival, Music in the Park, and Winterfest.



### Come One! Come All! Ring Bells This Fall!!

Godsbells will begin rehearsals on Thursday, August 29th at 4:30 in the balcony on the third floor. We will be joining the Homecoming Celebration on Sunday, September 8th and will be playing the second Sunday of every month at the 9:30 am service. Repertoire this year includes every genre from classical to spirituals. We welcome new ringers, as well as reliable substitutes for both practice and performances. This is a supportive community dedicated to praising God through music.

### Come join the FUN!



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.

Lots of work is going on behind the scenes around here. Bobby Sue Whaley has had the choir practicing for weeks and they did a great job August 18. Finance is getting things ready for the budget -making season and Stewardship time. Education is preparing for the Sunday School kick-off. Outreach has events coming up through December. Worship is working on the Homecoming service and the Fall season. So many are doing so much behind the scenes getting ready for our future. I can hardly wait.

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



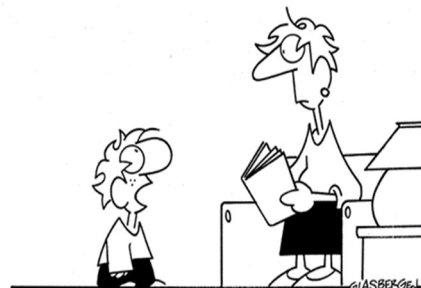
### Pastor's Comic Corner

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

CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH by Thom Tapp



© Randy Glasbergen  
www.glasbergen.com



"Our pastor says all men are brothers. Does that mean all men want to pull my underwear up over my head?"

## Have Car Will Travel ... Drivers Ready to Serve

A Congregational Care Ministry



Sometimes our health keeps us from being able to drive. For example, we are often not released to drive a car until several weeks after surgery, yet we need to get to physical therapy or to a follow-up doctor's appointment. Sometimes a health issue forces a person to give up driving altogether. Usually a family member or close friend can provide transportation, but they might not always be available. If you find you are in need of a ride to a doctor appointment or a medical treatment, there are members of your church family who are willing to help. The church office has a list of volunteers who may be available to provide transportation to a medical appointments or treatments that is within Lake County, IN.

Contact the church office, or stop in, for a copy of the list of drivers. Keep the list at your home. You are responsible for making the phone calls to arrange your own ride. Be sure to call several days (even weeks) in advance of the appointment. Do not wait to call the night before the appointment. The volunteer drivers are busy people, with full calendars, and are not always available. A ride is not guaranteed.

We really need more drivers for this ministry so we can meet as many ride requests as possible. If you have a car, have free time on weekdays, and feel you would like to be involved in this ministry, please let the office know or contact Bev Kussy (219-789-7715).



### Martha's Coffee House = Fellowship, Hospitality, and Relationships

Martha's Coffee House will resume on September 15 in the church library. Beginning 30 minutes prior to the 9:30 worship service, this time of fellowship offers light refreshments along with hot coffee & tea, and juice or other cold beverage. While we have the opportunity to greet each other during the service with "a smile and a wave", Martha's offers a time to engage in conversations to connect with old friends and make new ones.

Martha's Coffee House is not just about treats and fellowship. It is about hospitality to new or visiting people and building relationships within our church family.

While Martha's Coffee House is overseen by Congregational Care, it is provided each week by volunteer hosts. These folks work with a partner. Hosts arrive a bit early to start the coffee, provide simple purchased or home-made treats, and clean up afterwards. A volunteer sign-up sheet (and instructions for those hosting for the first time) is available on the table in the library each Sunday. Please consider taking a turn as a host for this vital ministry! If you have questions, contact Bev Kussy at 219-789-7715.

A note to those attending the Sunday adult discussion classes at 8:15 AM: You will need to bring your own coffee from home in a travel mug, or visit the Keurig machine in the Fellowship Hall prior to class. After class you will have time to partake in the Martha's treats and fellowship before the 9:30 service begins.



A great time was had by all at this year's 'Music in the Park' featuring the Lemmon Brothers band. The weather was wonderful, the food trucks had great food and we had a lot of people from both our church and the community that came and enjoyed the music and the fellowship!





# STEWARDSHIP

*Managing God's Gifts To Us*

## Praying Through Financial Stewardship

Consider this thought; when you pray about "too little" your mind is drawn to all places you have too little. The more you think about it the less you see in your life. The result is anxiety and grumbling nature. Conversely, if you pray about "not too much" your mind is drawn to think about places where you have an abundance and can live comfortably with less than you have. The result is both gratitude and an opportunity to use those resources for the Kingdom work. Gratitude and generosity are the fruits of a generous life.

We will soon be receiving information regarding our financial faithfulness and stewardship. In relationship to financial stewardship at church, we want to steward our assets, gifts, and finances.

In his book, Budgeting For A Healthy Church, Jamie Dunlop writes about the importance of financial faithfulness. One of the challenges he gives is to pray for financial faithfulness. In doing so he gives a list of ideas of what to pray for in this arena. We want to share some of them with you.

- Pray that we (as a faith family) would be overwhelmed by how much Christ has given to us.
- Pray that I would give cheerfully, not out of guilt or obligation.
- Pray that I would be wise in how much I (and my family) decide to give.
- Pray that I would give regularly, deliberately, and proportionately.
- Pray that we would gladly part with what our world values in order to take hold of what God values.
- Pray that our church would be wise in how it stewards our gifts.
- Pray that our congregation would be known for its generosity.
- Pray that our giving would show God to be good, delightful, and generous.
- Pray that God would bring to fruition the hopes we have for every area of our church budget.

As you pray and seek His guidance, remind yourself of the Lord's goodness in our lives. We hope that this serves as a great reminder and resource for talking about godly stewardship. Our Finance team will be regularly praying for these things for ourselves, our family, and for us as a faith family. Will you join us?



## Mission of the Month

In September we are supporting another local mission. **Community Help Network** was started at the United Methodist Church in Crown Point, and is now located in the ARC building warehouse across from the Crown Point High School. We supported their Buddy Bag Program last year. That program addresses food insecurity within the student population of South Lake County, including our Tri Creek School Corp. students. While food insecure students receive free meals on school days, these bags provide weekend supplemental nutrition with breakfast, lunch, dinner and snacks for two days. Another program of the **Community Help Network** is called Ladle of Love. That program provides a meal to folks on two Saturdays each month. They also have a Household Pantry program that is just like our Household Pantry.



## Senior Bingo



Young at Heart Sr. Bingo will meet on September 24 at 1 pm. There will be snacks, prizes for the winners and many games of Bingo all for no charge to you. Invite friends. Everyone is welcome!

# Adult Education Opportunities

## F.R.I.E.N.D.S. Sunday School Resumes

The F.R.I.E.N.D.S. Sunday School study group will come back together on Sunday September 15<sup>th</sup>. The first study will center on the topic of *Daring Faith* by Pastor Rick Warren. In this six-weeks study, Pastor Rick Warren will teach our small group what it means to have a bold, unshakable faith - the kind that makes you fearless as you impact the world around you. Please consider joining the F.R.I.E.N.D.S. study group at 8:15 A.M. each Sunday. We meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor in Room 304. The facilitators are Don Bales and Rick Bachman.

*"Because of our faith in Him we dare to have boldness, courage, and confidence in coming to God with freedom and without fear" Ephesians 3:12*

## Fall Bible Study Begins for WINGS

Wings class will begin its Fall Bible Study on Sunday, September 15 at 8:15 in Room 300. The title of the series is "When Your Way Isn't Working" by noted Christian author and pastor, Kyle Idleman.

If you are feeling discouraged, frustrated, and worn out, it's a good indication that something in your life is out of sync. There is a solution to this problem found in Scripture. In John 15:5, Jesus tells his followers, "I am the vine, you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can't do anything." Instead of going it alone in this life, we are to stay connected to him.

In this five week video Bible Study, Pastor Idleman reveals how we can do that by:

- \* Seeking out greater rest, depth, and connection in our lives
- \* Recognizing that what we can't do makes room for what God can do
- \* Finding freedom from the pressures of performance and production
- \* Stepping out of loneliness and isolation even when it feels scary
- \* Getting rid of all the distractions that keep us disconnected from Christ.

In the end, Pastor Kyle reveals that the fruit of your life will have nothing to do with your accomplishments and everything to do with your connections. No matter what happens in this world, the greatest joy comes from staying close to the God who stays close to you! All are welcome to join us! The class is facilitated by Al Martin.

## Women's Faith Journey

Come with us on a journey with other women as we read the book *Invitation to Solitude and Silence* by Ruth Haley Barton. Much of our faith and practice is about words – preaching, teaching, and talking with others. This book will encourage us to move beyond words to meet God deeply and fully outside the demands and noise of daily life. The author's compelling invitation combines both a clear explanation of the purpose of solitude and seasoned guidance on how to practice it.

We will meet on Mondays at 3 pm starting on September 16. The study will go through November 4. Kim McGinley and Laura Eller will facilitate. If you are interested in taking this journey or have any questions, please contact Kim at the church office 219.696.9219. \*\*Please purchase your own book for this study as we will not place a bulk order through the office. Available at both Amazon and Christianbook.com.



## Children's Sunday School

As summer comes to a close, the Education Committee would like to extend a HUGE THANK YOU to those who made *Kids Retreat* possible during summer worship. We appreciate Nancy Lain, Amy Nichols, and Kim Westerfield who provided the lessons and fun activities and Judy Williams who provided snacks.

With the kids back in school we are also starting children's Sunday School on September 15. Sunday School is for all kids age 4 through 5<sup>th</sup> grade. It takes place during 9:30 worship, following the Children's Sermon. We will pick up where we left off last spring in our *Simply Loved* curriculum. We are looking forward having the kids back in the Sunday School room learning about Jesus and the love God has for them.

During the worship service on September 15, we will be presenting Bibles to all children in attendance who do not already have one. We want every child to have a Bible. If you have a child in your life who does not have one, please let the office know so we will have a Bible ready to present to them. If a child cannot attend on September 15<sup>th</sup>, we will have extras to give to them in Sunday School.

## WEEKLY EVENTS

**Sunday** - Adult Sunday School 8:15am ~ WINGS (300), FRIENDS (304) *Worship* ~ 9:30am (in Sanctuary), **Monday/Tuesday** - A/A 12pm (303) **Wednesday** - A/A - 8pm (Fellowship Hall), Al/Anon - 8pm (library) **Thursday** - Dulcimers 10am (303), *LYFT* Dinner 5:30pm *Worship* 6:00pm (F.H.), Godsbells practice 4:30pm, Chancel Choir practice 7pm (sanct.) **Friday** - A/A 12pm (303) **Saturday** - A/A 11 a.m. (303)

# September 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 <b>Labor Day/ Office Closed</b>	3	4 <b>UWF Exec. Mtg. 5 pm (library)</b>  <b>Trustee Mtg. 6pm</b>	5	6 <b>Working Together Circle 1:30 (library)</b>	7
8 <b>Homecoming Sunday</b>	9 <b>Susanna Wesley 1pm (FH) Staff/Parish 4 pm (conf. rm.)  Nominations Mtg. 6 pm (library)  Tri-Kappa 6pm (FH)</b>	10	11 <b>Worship Mtg. 6 pm</b>  <b>Education Mtg. 7pm</b>	12	13	14
15 <b>Bishop Malone welcome at St. Lukes, Indy 2pm</b>  <b>Sunday School Starts (all ages)</b>	16 <b>Solitude &amp; Silence women's study 3 pm (300)</b>	17 <b>Household Pantry 9-12 &amp; 5-6 (curbside)</b>	18	19	20	21 <b>Chuck Wagon Dinner 5-7pm (FH)</b>
22	23 <b>Solitude &amp; Silence women's study 3 pm (300)  Ad-Council 6pm (FH)</b>	24 <b>Senior Bingo 1pm (FH)</b>	25	26	27	28
29	30 <b>Solitude &amp; Silence women's study 3 pm (300)</b>					