

# The First United Methodist Church of Lowell

## Tele-Christian November 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...



November is a time of Thanksgiving. It was established as a national holiday as a time to thank God for the bounty that He provides. It is a time to be thankful for the harvest. This pattern of living a life of thankfulness to God is not a new phenomenon, or even an American quality. In biblical times there were feasts of thankfulness to God for the harvest. Thanksgiving has been pushed further and further from the heart of our society to just a day off when we eat a big meal.

Let's get back to a biblical view of Thanksgiving. The psalms contain many psalms of thanks. One example is Psalm 92. The first two verses say, "It is good to praise the Lord and make music to your name, O Most High, proclaiming your love in the morning and your faithfulness at night."

To me this is an inspirational and aspirational verse. It is good to praise or thank God. I will wake up remembering that God loves me and He will walk with me throughout the day. We can be thankful every morning, knowing that God loves us and wants the very best for us. With God at our side during the day, what can we not accomplish? What foe can overcome us? Where will God lead us in our day? What can we do for Him during each day? We need to temper a near infinite number of choices each day with prayer and study of the scripture as well as common sense. Though God doesn't want us to do everything that can be done for the good around us, He does want us to serve Him every day. Be thankful at the start of every day that you can serve Him that day.

Psalm 92:2 ends with (paraphrase) I will proclaim your faithfulness each night. Are you able to do this? Every night do you thank God for His faithfulness to you throughout that day? The Bible promises that He will never forsake us or abandon us. Can you make a list of what God has done for you during the day, and say thank you? Maybe you have trouble coming up with a list. It reminds me of the conversation I had with my sister last night. She was talking of wanting to travel in Peru and that travelers have to buy bottles of oxygen at high altitudes. She said she had trouble breathing at high altitudes. My response was I really liked to breath. It flashed through my head then, I can thank God for that gift. The list of what God does for us everyday is limitless. Can you pull together a small list every night and express Thanks?

Thanksgiving should never be a day. It is not a season. It is not a parade or turkey. It is an attitude we have. Being thankful to our Creator for all that He does for us. Have a blessed Thanksgiving, and may your life be thanksgiving.

Pastor Mark



### November Sermon Title and Scripture Schedule

<b>November 3</b> ~	Scripture: John 11:38-44	Sermon Title: ' <i>Come Out of Death!</i> '
<b>November 10</b> ~	Scripture: Hebrews 9:11-14	Sermon Title: ' <i>The Blood of Christ</i> '
<b>November 17</b> ~	Ed Miller guest speaker	Sermon Title: ' <i>Echoes of War</i> '
<b>November 24</b> ~	Scripture: Psalm 103:1-5	Singing Group: Common Bond Quartet



### Worship News

Trudy Corning and Linda Hayden, Co-Chairs

November 3 All Saints Day ~

This is the time to remember those who have died in the previous year. We will read the names, light a candle, ring a bell and prayerfully remember our loved ones.

November 17 Veteran's Sunday ~

We will honor those in our church who have served in the various branches of the military. If you would like to wear any of your military garb that day, please do so. Our present veterans and their immediate family have been invited to a lunch in their honor. Families of our past church veterans have also been invited as we remember their service to our country. Ed Miller will speak on this Sunday.

November 24 We celebrate Christ the King and Thanksgiving.

December 1 Advent begins as we prepare for the birth of our savior.

Looking ahead: Mark you calendar on Friday, December 6 at 9 am. We will be hanging the greens throughout the church building, including our outside holiday décor.



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 person or Pastor Mark speaking, prayer and communion. LYFT is a casual worship service where each week we enjoy food, fellowship and fun! Everyone is welcome! Bring a friend! **\*\*Our annual Thanksgiving pot-luck will be on November 21. Everyone is invited to bring a side dish or dessert to share. Meat, mashed potatoes, rolls and drinks will be provided.**



### 'COMMON BOND QUARTET' COMING....

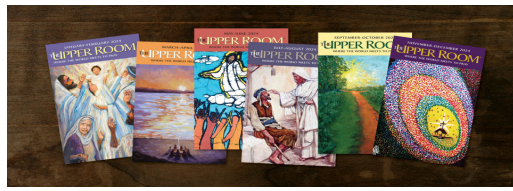
On Sunday, November 24 at the 9:30 service, we will be hosting the gospel group 'Common Bond Quartet'. They will be singing during the worship that morning. We will have two offerings that morning; our regular offering and a love offering for this group.

In addition, we will have a carry-in dinner following the service. Bring a dish to share. Drinks and place settings will be provided.



### Mission of the Month

In November we are supporting Kokomo Urban Outreach. This is the mission that Reverend Jeff Newton started. Pastor Jeff served at Lowell from 2000-2005. The goal of Kokomo Urban Outreach is running the UP program. UP helps youths 10-18 grow into self-reliant adults. The aim is to break the cycle of intergenerational poverty. There are specific expectations participants must meet and they are given specific skills that help them on that journey to adulthood. On November 10 there will be envelopes in the bulletins that we will accept all month to help this mission.



### The Upper Room Daily Devotional

**What is it?** *The Upper Room* is a daily devotional magazine published in more than 30 languages and 100 countries around the world. The daily meditations are written by readers of the magazine and others interested in sharing their faith experiences through writing—both laity and clergy, published authors and new writers. The meditations are stories of real people working to live faithfully with the Bible as their touchstone. Every day, readers of *The Upper Room* around the world read the same story in many different languages and pray the same prayer together.

**Where can you find it?** An ongoing ministry of Congregational Care has been to offer the Upper Room to our church family free of charge. Our subscription includes both regular and large print versions. These magazines can be found on the cabinet in the narthex, opposite the office. Each issue covers 2 months. We invite and encourage you to take a devotional for your personal use. Online subscriptions are available, at your own expense, if you prefer that format.



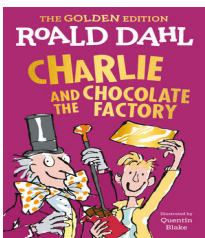
### F.R.I.E.N.D.S. Sunday Study Group

On Sunday, November 3, the F.R.I.E.N.D.S. Sunday Study Group will begin their next series titled “Relat(able) Making Relationships Work”. In this six Sunday series author Louie Giglio will guide a journey of exploring a simple but weighty question: “How do **you** relate?” We will engage in stories of the Bible. Each week, participants will expect a question, a short Bible study, and then some time with a Louie Giglio video. At the heart of the Trinity is a profound truth that has endured for millennia: God’s very being is relationship. The flow of love from Son to Spirit, and Spirit to Father, and Father to Son is the essence of who God is. We long for connections that are meaningful, fulfilling, and significant. Whether it is a desire to be a healthier parent, spouse, partner, or friend or have the capacity to forgive and reconcile with those who have hurt us, we do not need to worry. God has everything we need.

Consider this weekly gathering a time of group devotion. We meet in room 304 at 8:15 a.m.



### Chocolate Anyone?



Fifty Lowell High School Theater students have been working hard to create their own production of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* by Richard R. George, based on the book by Roald Dahl. Our own youngest Chancel Choir members, Brad Miller and Lachlan Haskins, have starring roles as Grandpa Joe and Violet's mother, Mrs. Beauregarde. Will Charlie Bucket fulfill his dreams and Willy Wonka leave a legacy?

Come enjoy the culmination of this 9 week journey on November 14, 15, or 16 at 7:00 p.m. or the matinee at 2:00 p.m. on November 17. Tickets can be purchased at the Auditorium door or from Patrice Martin. Join this chocolate adventure!



*Blessings*

**BLESSINGS!!** We all have them! From now through Thanksgiving our Blessing Board will be in the narthex so we can share our blessings with each other. Let’s fill the board with a representation of the abundance of grace each of us receives from God.

## Blessings were abundant in our church during the month of October.

The Pumpkin Party on Saturday, October 19 was a huge success. During Lowell's Pumpkin Fest, our church basement was full of children and their families eating a free meal and listening to the Pumpkin Parable. Games, toys, and coloring pages were provided to entertain the children while they were in and around our church. Our church spread blessings throughout our community: a record number of people served, a story of God's love shared, a chance to interact with those who attended, volunteers served others ... the list could go on and on.

Children's Sunday was on October 20. It was a joyful worship service full of the energy that young people bring. It was a blessing to watch the children and youth participate side by side with the adult volunteers to greet the congregation, sing in the choir, serve as ushers, and minister to the church. It was heartwarming to witness the kids help and support each other in lighting the candles, collecting Children's Change, and participating in Children's Time. The culmination of the service was the Blessing placed upon all the children and youth by Pastor Mark and the congregation.

At both of these events, 'The Pumpkin' story was read and/or passed out. If you were unable to attend either of these events, there are copies in the office. It is a fun reminder of what God has done for us.

All blessings come from God! If you helped in any way during these two days, thank you for accepting God's calling to bless our community and church.

Amy Manier, Education Chair



### College Care Packages A Ministry of Congregational Care

It is time to think about our college students who will be ending their fall semester and taking final exams. Our church family reaches out with love and care through care packages to help support the students during a stressful week of testing. This fall 9 students will receive a finals box. Some of the boxes will travel as far as Alabama and Hawaii, while others will stay right here in Indiana. The students are:

Hailey Adcock  
Kelle Riordan

Keeley Bernard  
Lauren Riordan

Adam Fucela  
Kyle Simmons

Raylynn Miller  
Toby Taylor

Chesney Wilson

Here are ways you can be involved in this ministry:

1. You can pray for the students.
2. You can write notes of encouragement to be included in their package.
3. You can donate items, including snacks and school supplies, to fill their finals box.

Look for the college box display and information in the narthex starting November 3. We ask that items be returned by November 17. The boxes will then be packed and mailed. Please prayerfully consider how you can be part of this ministry. Any questions, please contact Trudy Corning or the church office.



## **Handling the Church's Finance with Transparency and Integrity**

How churches spend the money entrusted to them should matter greatly to believers. And yet, we find ourselves living in a world where it's hard to talk about money. We get squeamish when the topic of money comes up. Should it be the same way in the church? Jesus didn't shy away from talking about money. In fact, we see in the gospels that of his thirty-two parables, eleven of them talk about money! Church members tithe their hard-earned money; they give sacrificially, trusting those in charge that their gifts will be stewarded to serve God's kingdom. When we give, we're not just investing our money: we're investing our allegiance. And we're trusting that those who have oversight of the stewarding the church's finance are doing so with the utmost integrity. To that end, here are three basic principles that are implemented in your LUMC and lead to a healthy church culture.

**Lean on transparency** – when money is handled properly, those handling the finance should count it a joy and privilege to share the details of what the church is doing with spending their money.

**Invite accountability** – inviting accountability sets the stage to develop internal controls for checks and balances.

**Commitment to moderation** – best intentions can be clouded when we allow our love of money, power, and image to overshadow our love for God. How we spend our money reveals what we value. And we should commit ourselves to pray that our church's spending reveals that our greatest treasure is Christ himself and his gift of forgiving, transforming grace. Your Finance committee has committed their gifts of serving the church community here at the Lowell United Methodist Church in the following ways:

### **The Many Facets of Finance Committee**

#### **Finance Committee**

14 members

Includes Church Treasurer

Includes Church Finance Secretary

Includes representatives from Staff Parish; Trustees; UWF treasurer; Stewardship; Technology; 5 members at large

Approves a Church Ministries Budget to present to Administrative Council for final approval

#### **Endowment Committee**

4 members

#### **Stewardship Committee**

4 members

Plans & implements the Stewardship Drive

#### **Offering Reconciliation (Money Counters)**

5 members + Treasurer

Many safeguards in place

Each person has a job

Each job balances to the total received

Treasurer does not take money to bank

#### **Church Finance Secretary**

Only person who knows how much any one person pledges or gives

Enters individual giving; prepares giving statements

Gives Pledge numbers to Finance Committee

#### **Church Treasurer**

Reconciles bank

Signs checks

Prepares Financial Statements

Prepares & files payroll reports; prepares W2's

Prepares & files all government reports

Compiles all information for a Church Ministries Budget

#### **How expenses are paid**

Church Administrative Assistant pays all bills

Enters in QuickBooks accounting system

Church Treasurer reviews and signs checks



## Winterfest News!!

The Lowell Chamber of Commerce Annual Winterfest Holiday Event will be Saturday, Dec. 7, from 11 AM to 7 PM, with the light parade and tree lighting concluding the day's activities. Mark your calendars now! For the second year, our church is joining in the Winterfest Event by hosting several exciting activities. We are inviting you and the community through our open doors!

**Our** Winterfest event hours will be from 1:00-5:00 PM. During that time span we will offer a nativity showcase, a children's craft, the United Women of Faith annual Cookie Walk, and a Marketplace with homemade items for sale. In addition, at 1:00 and 4:00 we will have a Children's Storytime around the narthex Christmas tree. At 2:00 we will host an old fashion Christmas hymn sing in the sanctuary, led by Peggy Hendricks. That will be followed by a bell choir performance at 2:30pm.

How can you be a part of these exciting festivities?



1. You can attend! Watch for times and more information in the bulletin, morning church announcements and our church website. In addition, our activities and times will be in the Chamber of Commerce flier and also on their website.
2. You can participate! We are looking for volunteers to be within the church to greet and direct our guests to the various activities.
3. Do you have a specialty craft that you would like to peddle at our biblical marketplace? Some items that we are currently expecting are crocheted dishcloths, wooden spoons, handmade ornaments, embroidered dish towels, nut rolls. There is always room for more!
4. Do you have a special nativity you would like to share for display? It doesn't matter how big or small or new or old the nativity is. It doesn't even matter if the cow has a broken back. That is what makes it special and unique. We want to know the story behind your special nativity. The viewing days for the nativities in the library will be Saturday, December 7 and then again Sunday morning on December 8. We want to assure you not only will the nativities be safe and kept secure when the viewing area is open, but also when closed until Sunday morning. In addition, when open to the public, the displays will be monitored at all times to ensure the safety of your precious nativity. Any questions, Laura Eller is available to talk to you about the nativity display.

The outreach committee is looking forward to this great opportunity to reach out to our community and the Chamber of Commerce is excited to have a church located right downtown to be a part of Winterfest.

If you would like to be a part of Winterfest as a volunteer, crafter, bringing a nativity, or anything else, please contact Trudy Corning, Rachelle Ruge-Bernard, Laura Eller, Pastor Mark or the church office.



### United Women of Faith Cookie Walk

The UWF will be selling cookies and candies this year during the Winterfest activities that will be taking place inside our church from 1:00-5:00 on the afternoon of Dec. 7. This is our only scheduled fundraiser this year. It will pay for our missionary work locally, statewide, nationally, and worldwide. We are hoping you have a sweet tooth that you want to satisfy!

We got a really warm welcome from Lowell Intermediate School for the school supplies we donated. It's wonderful to be able to donate to our community. In God's presence we will be blessed and bless others.



### From the Lowell Chamber of Commerce:

Christmas carolers are needed on Saturday, December 7 at various times during the town's Winterfest.

Winter Hat, Glove and Scarf Drive now thru December 1

All items collected will go directly to members of the community who are in need.

(Our members may drop items off at the church and we will get them to where they need to go)

Contact Maria Mink for any questions or if you need more information.

317-217-9684 or [hello@lowellinchamber.com](mailto:hello@lowellinchamber.com)





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.

Did you see the kids and youth in church on Sunday? I thought they all did a wonderful job taking part in the service and I loved the blessing of them. We love our children and youth and need them as we grow into the future.

We said goodbye to David Schoon last month and this month we say hello to Brenda Roberts who is playing the organ on the first and second Sunday of the month. Michelle Mishlove is playing the piano on the third and fourth Sunday of the month. They are doing a great job!

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 on November 26 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!



December 6 'Hanging of the Greens'  
December 7 Winterfest.

December 24 at 7 pm is the family oriented Christmas Eve Service.  
December 24 at 11 pm is the Candlelight/Communion Christmas Eve Service.



Thank you to everyone who has sent me cards or come to visit me in Munster. I really appreciate it.  
Ellen Rosengard



### 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



NICE WORK FELLAS ... IT'S BEEN A LONG WHILE NOW AND THEY ARE STILL REMEMBERING TO THANK ME



Mark Fine © MarkFine.com

## WEEKLY EVENTS

**Sunday** - Adult Sunday School 8:15am ~ WINGS (300), FRIENDS (304) *Worship* ~ 9:30am (in Sanctuary), **Monday** - 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)

# November 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 <b>Working Together Circle</b> 1:30 pm (library)	2
3 <b>All Saints Sunday</b>  Daylight Savings Time Ends (Fall Back)	4 <b>Women's Study 3 pm (library)</b>  Outreach Meeting 6pm (library) Tri-Kappa 6pm (FH)	5 <b>Election Day Voting in Fellowship Hall</b>	6 <b>UWF Executive Meeting 5 pm (library)</b>	7	8	9 <b>Mommy's Haven Auction Pick-Up 9-11</b>
10	11 <b>Susanna Wesley Circle 1 pm</b>	12	13 <b>Staff/Parish 4 pm (conf. rm.)</b>  Worship 6 pm	14	15	16
17 <b>Veteran's Day Celebration</b>	18	19 <b>Household Pantry 9-12 &amp; 5-6 (curbside)</b>	20 <b>Finance 5:30 pm</b>	21 <b>LYFT Thanksgiving Pot-Luck</b>	22	23 <b>FH occupied 11-3</b>
24 <b>Common Bond Quartet at Service w/Pot-Luck dinner to follow</b>  Tri-Kappa 1-3 (parking lot)	25 <b>Ad-Council 6 pm</b>	26	27	28 <b>Happy Thanksgiving/ Office Closed</b>	29 <b>Office Closed</b>	30