

The First United Methodist Church of Lowell Tele-Christian January 2025 Edition

The mission of the United Methodist Church is to
make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Mark's Remarks...



Do you know what a wonderful group of people you are? There are so many within our church family who are spiritual examples, there are so many who are truly hospitable, there are so many who are wonderful leaders, there are so many who are cheerful givers. You are a great group of folk!

I want to take this opportunity to say thank you. Thank you for letting me serve you. Each year you must tell the Bishop if you want me to continue to be your pastor. For the past six years you have said, "yes." I very much appreciate the chance to lead this congregation. It is by your generosity that I am able to do so.

I thank you for giving my family and I a beautiful home to live in. We really do appreciate the accommodations. It is comfortable and provides everything we need as a family. Not every parsonage in the conference is as well cared for. We especially like the big backyard with lots of trees. We've enjoyed the birds and animals we see regularly. Thank you.

I also want to thank you for the compensation that you provide. We are able to live comfortably off of what you provide. This is very important. I wouldn't be able to devote myself to your needs without an income. I truly appreciate your generosity.

Finally, I want to thank you for the love that you show to my family and I. Most are continually expressing appreciation. You shower us with gifts and cards throughout the year. In many ways, big and small, you make us feel welcome and a part of the community.

This is a wonderful church and a great community. My prayer is to stay here until I retire. Of course, this will depend on you, the Bishop and God. Thank you for being who you are. You mean a lot to us and we love you all. God bless you in the New Year.



New Members Invited

On Sunday, January 19 after worship we will have a membership class for any who are interested in joining the church. Pizza will be provided. The class will last about two hours.

On Sunday, January 26 we will bring in new members. Talk to Pastor Mark if you are interested.



January Sermon Title and Scripture Schedule

January 5: Scripture: Ephesians 3:2-6, 10-12
January 12: Scripture: Acts 2:5-13
January 19: Scripture: Ezekiel 47:21-23
January 26: Scripture: Genesis 4:2b-5, 8

Sermon Title: *'Epiphany's Good News'*
Sermon Title: *'The Middle East, It's Not Complicated'*
Sermon Title: *'Let's Solve the Palestinian/Jew Problem'*
Sermon Title: *'Artificial Intelligence in Scripture?'*

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!



Join the worship committee Friday, January 10, 2025 at 9am to take down the greens.
Many hands make light work. All are welcome!



Our church's Prayer Chain is an important ministry that everyone can be involved in. It consists of church members who have volunteered to pray for prayer requests submitted by our church family. What a comfort we can be to our church family and their loved ones when they know we are praying for them. If you have a Prayer Request, there are several ways to send it to the Prayer Chain.

- The Sunday morning Attendance Cards can be used for Prayer Requests. If you would like the Prayer Request to go out to the Prayer Chain, check the box under your written request. Please make sure the person you are putting on the Prayer Chain has given you permission to do so.
- If the request is very personal or confidential and you would like prayers, but do not want it to go out on the Prayer Chain, then do not check the box. These requests will be prayed for privately by Pastor Mark and the Prayer Team.
- Call, text, or email Beth Bales or Kim Westerfield with your Prayer Request. (See contact information below.)
- Call the church office with your Prayer Request and Kim or Pastor Mark will forward it to Kim W. or Beth to put on the Prayer Chain.

If you would like to be part of this very powerful ministry of supporting others in prayer, just let Kim or Beth know the email address you would like to use. Or call the church office with that information.

Beth Bales
219-775-0916
balesbd75@comcast.net

Kim Westerfield
219-361-9526
westerfieldkim64@gmail.com



Mission of the Month

In January we are supporting Habitat for Humanity of Northwest Indiana. Habitat for Humanity brings groups and individuals together to build homes for those in need. The Northwest Indiana chapter began in 1986 and since then has built over 150 homes in Lake County. First UMC has a long history of helping Habitat. With your financial support we can continue their mission to build homes. On January 12 there will be envelopes in the bulletins that we will accept all month to help this mission.



NEWS FROM THE HOUSEHOLD PANTRY
Julie Donovan, Chairperson 2024

Our amazing congregation at Lowell FUMC remained committed and dedicated to the Household Pantry with their monetary gifts, product donations and prayers. The pantry remained open CURBSIDE every month. We served an average of 48 families each month, with January being our lowest month serving 30 and December being our highest month serving 62. We distributed a total of 577 packed bags in 2024.

THANK YOU FOR HELPING US BE ABLE TO SERVE NEEDY FAMILIES IN THE TRI-CREEK AREA

We were able to supply our families with laundry detergent, dish soap, household cleaner, paper towel, facial tissue, toilet tissue, bar soap, deodorant, toothpaste/ toothbrush, and shampoo/conditioner in a PREPACKAGED bag each month. Feminine hygiene products and diapers were available upon request. Our total costs for the Household Pantry for 2024 were \$6,193.90. It costs about \$516 a month to keep our pantry going!!!

We continued to work in partnership with the Lowell Family Dollar in 2024. Rachel, the store manager, made sure our monthly orders got filled correctly. PLEASE thank Rachel for everything she continues to do for us. We also added Dollar Tree in St. John to our partnership because Family Dollar can't always get everything we need. So a big thank you to Gail, the store manager there too!!! To date, the pantry was blessed with donations from Indian Trail Grange, Athletico, William and Sharon Poer, Hawthorne Arbor of Gleaners, Rotary Club, 12 Aldi gift cards to bless 12 families in need, Avery Dennison, along with many monetary donations within and outside the church. How fortunate the Household Pantry is to be remembered by so many thoughtful people!!!!

We head into 2025 with a dedicated staff of compassionate servants whose hearts lie in serving those in our community who need assistance. We are humbled to be able to serve these families. We could not keep this pantry going without ALL OF YOU!!! THANK YOU!! THANK YOU!! THANK YOU!! THANK YOU!! THANK YOU!!



Good Samaritan Fund
Kim McGinley, Administrator

For those of you who may not know, our church has an account called the 'Good Samaritan' fund. This fund helps people in need in our community with food, gasoline, utility bills, rent, etc. The fund is mainly supported by the people of our church, but we welcome and receive help from the community as well.

Our two biggest times of the year to receive donations are in May with the Generosity Tree and in December with the Christmas Eve offering. I am so grateful and humbled by this churches faithfulness to this fund. It sure makes my job easier to be able to help people when they call for help with a Nipsco bill or stop in for a gas card to make it to a doctor's appointment or a job interview. Or sometimes they just need a loaf of bread and some milk to get by until their monthly check comes in.

YOU do this for your community. YOU help people with your generosity. YOU make a difference in people's lives and for that I am forever thankful. Any questions, please give me call.

"For I, the LORD your God, will hold your right hand, saying to you, 'Fear not, I will help you.'" Isaiah 41:10



Thank you to everyone who participated in the Christmas Clothesline!! Forty seven packages, covered in love and prayers, were delivered to the three Tri-Creek elementary schools.

The schools are always so very grateful to our church and it's members for the support we give to their families!!

Thirty two gift cards, for various fast food restaurants were collected and distributed to middle school students through Community Help Network.

Have a wonderful New Year!

Susan Wells
Missions Chairperson



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 Chancel Choir did an amazing job with the Christmas Cantata this year. Bobbie Sue McDaniel is doing a great job directing the choir. All of the music throughout December has been wonderful. This little mouse just loves to listen to pretty music.

Other programs from December should be mentioned. Winterfest was wonderful. I especially appreciated the children's craft area. Tom and Kathy Stoner and Kim Westerfield kept the kids busy. About 79 children came through. Patrice Martin read a story to the children about the nativity. At least one child had never heard about the birth of Jesus. Of course there was the nativity display, the carol sing, the Godsbells played, a group from the high school played and sang, the marketplace and last but not least, my favorite the UWF cookie walk. Yum!

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



Thank you to all for a successful Winterfest!

We welcomed approximately 240 guests through our church doors, 79 children made a nativity craft and 69 nativities were viewed in the Nativity Showcase! I am not sure how many pounds of cookies were sold, but heard more cookies were sold than last year!

The community commented on the beauty of our building, some came in just to see the sanctuary, others sat in the still beauty of the sanctuary, the kids loved ringing the church bell; one mother specifically shared being in our church was the best experience she had had all day as her toddler was having a meltdown and they were both welcomed with open arms.

We do make a difference; the community is looking and listening for the love of Jesus and He is using each of us! Well done church!!



SENIOR

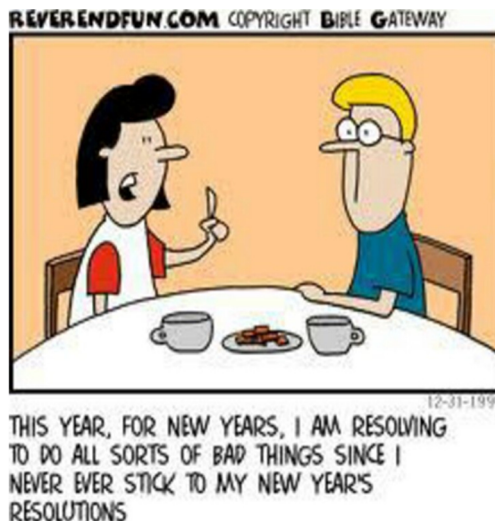


Young at Heart Sr. Bingo will start back in January. We'll meet on the fourth Tuesday, January 28 at 1 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Invite someone to come along with you. This is a free Bingo with desert and snacks and prizes for the winners. It's a fun time!



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 - 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)

January 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Happy New Year! Office Closed	2 **NO LYFT	3	4
5	6 Tri-Kappa 6pm (FH)	7	8 Education 7 pm	9 LYFT resumes	10 Unhanging of the Greens 9am	11
12	13	14	15 Shift 5 pm (304)	16	17	18
19	20	21	22 Finance 5:30 pm (FH)	23	24	25
26	27 Ad-Council 6 pm (FH)	28	29 Worship 6 pm	30	31	