

# The First United Methodist Church of Lowell

## Tele-Christian May 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...



Mother's Day is approaching. The following is a mother's story of love and sacrifice. Enjoy.

On a cold Christmas Eve in 1952, when Korea was in the throes of civil war, one young woman struggled along a village street, obviously soon to deliver a child. She pleaded with passers-by, "Help me! Please. My baby." No one paid any attention to her.

A middle-aged couple walked by. The wife pushed away the young mother and sneered, "Where's the father? Where's your American man now?" The couple laughed and went on.

The young woman almost doubled up from a contraction as she watched them go. "Please . . ." she begged.

She had heard of a missionary living nearby who might help her. Hurriedly, she began walking to that village. If only he would help her baby. Shivering and in pain, she struggled over the frozen countryside. But the night was so cold. Snow began to fall. Realizing that the time was near to deliver her baby, she took shelter under a bridge. There, alone, her baby was born on Christmas Eve.

Worried about her newborn son, she took off her own clothes, wrapped them around the baby and held him close in the warm circle of her arms.

The next day, the missionary braved the new snow to deliver Christmas packages. As he walked along, he heard the cry of a baby. He followed the sound to a bridge. Under it, he found a young mother frozen to death, still clutching her crying new born son. The missionary tenderly lifted the baby out of her arms. When the baby was 10 years old, his now adoptive father told him the story of his mother's death on Christmas Eve. The young boy cried, realizing the sacrifice his mother had made for him.

The next morning, the missionary rose early to find the boy's bed empty. Seeing a fresh set of small footprints in the snow outside, he bundled up warmly in a winter coat and followed the trail. It led back to the bridge where the young mother had died.

As the missionary approached the bridge, he stopped, stunned. Kneeling in the snow was his son, naked and shivering uncontrollably. His clothes lay beside him in a small pile. Moving closer, he heard the boy say through chattering teeth: "Mother, were you this cold for me?"

Pastor Mark



### May Sermon Title and Scripture Schedule

<b>May 4:</b>	Scripture: Acts 9:1-6	Sermon Title: 'Called to Change'
<b>May 11:</b>	Scripture: Luke 8:19-21	Sermon Title: 'Called to Let Go'
<b>May 18:</b>	Scripture: Acts 11:2-3, 15-18	Sermon Title: 'The Call Expands'
<b>May 25:</b>	Scripture: Acts 16:12-15	Sermon Title: 'Calls in Unexpected Places'

In May we will have a sermon series on God's call for our lives. We'll explore topics such as: Called to change, called to let go, the call expands and calls in unexpected places. You'll have to come in May to see what each one is about.



During our Lenten journey, we, the church, collected items each week to fill buckets for distribution by UMCOR to disaster areas.

This was not an easy project; and as a congregational member shared, “we were stretched at times. But it is in stretching that we get to evaluate our commitment to serving as our Lord seeks. Being comfortable often is the enemy of growth”.

Yes, this Lenten project stretched us; but, do you know our church filled 50 buckets!!

These filled buckets will soon be delivered to UMCOR and will reach those in need of cleaning supplies during a disaster in our country and world.

Way to go church! Great Job!

Thank you to all for supporting this Lenten project!



The Good Samaritan Fund is an account in our church that helps people in the Lowell community who need help with gasoline, food, rent or utility bills.

On Sunday May 4, 11 and 18, we will use ‘Generosity Trees’ to raise money for the Good Samaritan Fund. The trees will be in the Narthex with envelopes on them from \$1 to \$100. The envelopes have a place that you can write in honor of or in memory of a loved one or a friend. There will be a bulletin insert on Memorial Day Sunday with the names on it. Please consider taking an envelope and giving to our Good Samaritan Fund. All envelopes are due on May 18. I and the people in need in our community thank you!

Kim McGinley, Fund Administrator



### **Chili Cook-Off & Dessert Auction Warms Hearts and Supports Outreach**

Our recent chili cook-off and dessert auction was a tremendous success thanks to the generous spirit of our church family! The fellowship hall buzzed with excitement as members gathered to taste a variety of delicious homemade chili recipes, each one prepared with care and creativity.

After much tasting and friendly competition, Gil Rodriguez and Pastor Mark were crowned for the "best" chilis, but the real winners were all who enjoyed the warm fellowship and delicious chili we shared together.

The dessert auction that followed was nothing short of spectacular! From classic pies to elaborate cakes, the stunning array of sweet treats on display showcased the incredible talent within our congregation. Thanks to the enthusiastic bidding of our members, we raised an impressive \$977 for our Outreach events.

These funds will directly support the various community activities our Outreach committee sponsors throughout the year, extending our church's love and service beyond our walls.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who contributed chili and desserts for the event. Your generosity and culinary skills made this gathering truly special. And to all who opened their hearts and wallets to bid on the desserts – your support means more than you know.

Events like these remind us that we are not just a church, but a family that breaks bread together and works together to make a difference in our community.



From Dennis Olson, Trustee Chairperson

Anyone doing any spring cleaning? Wondering what to do with the stuff that is too good to throw away but you are ready to part ways with it? The church can help out!!

The Trustees will hold a rummage sale on Thursday, June 12 and Friday, June 13 from 8 am - 4:30 pm in the church Fellowship Hall and parking lot. The purpose for the sale is to raise money for a new boiler.

If you are interested in donating items to the sale, please drop them off on June 10 and 11. There will be people at the church to collect the donations from 9 am – 4 pm.

**NO clothing will be accepted.** All other donated items will be greatly appreciated. Any questions please contact Dennis Olson or the church office.



### **Mission of the Month**

In May we are supporting a United Methodist mission. McCurdy Ministries is located in Espanola, New Mexico. McCurdy ministries started as a primary and secondary mission school. Because of economic issues the school became a charter school with the New Mexico system. The mission still continues, doing after school faith programs, pre-K, summer camps and adult education programs. They also have a clothing store.

The mission serves Hispanic, Native American as well as poor white children of the region. On May 11 there will be envelopes in the bulletins and we will accept donations all month to help this mission. Giving to missions should be above and beyond your giving to the ministries of the church. It is called second-mile giving. Don't feel bad if you don't feel you can afford to support any of these monthly missions.



### **1st & 3rd Wednesday Country/Gospel Music Jam...**

On the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of every month from 1-3 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall, local musicians from around the area gather to play and sing your favorite country gold, gospel greats, bluegrass, old rock 'n roll, folk, and more. You may bring an instrument and play along, or just come to listen.

Our very own United Women in Faith will be on hand with refreshments for purchase. As with all of their projects, the proceeds will go to help others through missions. We really hope to see you there.

Mark the following dates on your calendars: May 7, 21; June 4, 18; July 2, 16; August 6, 20; September 3, 17; October 1, 15; November 5, 19; December 3, 17. ***Just remember 1st & 3rd, 1 to 3.***



Thank you to all that helped make the Easter Eggstravangza a success! Families from the community enjoyed a free lunch, played games, made crafts, and heard the Easter story. We served 33 children and 19 adults that accompanied them. It was a joy to have all these families in the church learning the true meaning of Easter.

### Vacation Bible School

Save the Date  
June 17 - 18 - 19  
Noon - 2:30 pm



We have some exciting changes for Vacation Bible School. We are going to host VBS for three days this year on Tuesday, June 17th, Wednesday, June 18th, and Thursday, June 19th. We are throwing back to the old days and having VBS during the day, rather than the evening, and will provide lunch to all attendees.

The theme this year is 'True North - Trusting Jesus in the Wild World' It will be so much fun guiding kids on the ultimate Alaskan adventure. While we navigate mountains, rivers, glaciers, and tundra, kids will learn that Jesus is their faithful friend who they can always trust. Even in a world that has gone wild, Jesus is our true north!

Save the dates so you can join the fun! Volunteer opportunities to come.



### SAVE THE DATE!!

The Annual Kidz Karnival will be:

Friday, June 20 from 5-7:30 pm in Olde Towne Square

Be on the lookout for volunteer sign up sheets....it takes a village!



This spring we are sending 5 finals boxes to our college students as they end their semester. Thank you to all who have donated items, written notes of encouragement, packed the boxes and have prayed for this congregational care ministry! The recipients of the finals college boxes include:

Raylynn Miller  
Zelia Hanrath  
Lauren Riordan  
Toby Taylor  
Chesney Wilson



There is still time to write a note of encouragement to our college students as they finish the school semester! If an address is needed, please contact the church office. And, as always, prayers are appreciated!!



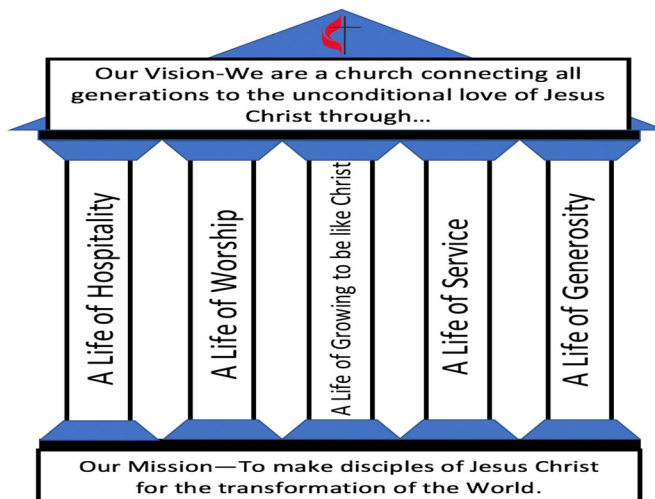
The FRIENDS class will begin a video study called "Created to Dream" by Pastor Rick Warren. Pastor Rick reveals how God uses a predictable process to grow your faith and develop your character so you can realize God's dreams for your life. We will begin this study on Sunday, May 4th. The FRIENDS class meets in Room 304 at 8:15 am. Join us! All are welcome!





## Senior Bingo

Young at Heart Sr. Bingo meets on the fourth Tuesday. The next gathering will be May 27 at 1 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Invite someone to come along with you. This is a free Bingo with dessert and snacks and prizes for the winners. It's a fun time!



This image represents our church. It is built on the Mission to make disciples for Jesus, sheltered by a Vision of unconditional love for all, and supported by five Pillars of Discipleship:

**HOSPITALITY, WORSHIP, SPIRITUAL GROWTH, SERVICE, and GENEROSITY**



## 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), **Mon.** - A/A 12pm (303) **Wed.** - 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.) **Sat.** - A/A 11 a.m. (303)

# May 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 Working Together Circle 1:30 pm (library)	3
4  'Generosity Tree' for Good Samaritan Fund in Narthex	5  Women's Book Study 3 pm (library)  Tri-Kappa 6 pm (FH)	6	7  Country/Gospel Music Jam 1-3pm (FH)  UWF Exec. 5:30 pm (library)	8	9	10
11 Mission Sunday McCurdy School New Mexico  'Generosity Tree' for Good Samaritan Fund in Narthex	12  Susanna Wesley Circle 1 pm (lib.)  Outreach Mtg. 6 pm (library)	13  Staff/Parish Mtg. 6 pm  Pre-School Grad. 4-8 pm (Sanct./FH)	14  Summer Buddy Bag Program Mtg. 10 am  Worship Mtg. 6 pm  Education Mtg. 7 pm	15  Pre-School End of year program 10 am (FH)	16	17
18  'Generosity Tree' for Good Samaritan Fund in Narthex	19  Ad-Council 6 pm (FH)	20  Household Pantry 9-12 & 5-6 (curbside)	21  Country/Gospel Music Jam 1-3pm (FH)  Cong. Care Mtg. 1 pm (library)  Finance 4 pm	22	23	24  Fellowship Hall rented
25	26  Memorial Day/ Office Closed	27  Senior Bingo 1 pm (FH)	28	29	30	31