

The First United Methodist Church of Lowell

Tele-Christian July 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...



*"I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands.
One nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."*

What do these words evoke in you? Perhaps it is a deep patriotism, a reminder of the failings of our nation, a memory of school days. Whatever emotions and thoughts come from these words, they are still powerful words. They were written in 1892 by a pastor. They did not include reference to the U.S. or to One nation under God. Originally, it stated: "I pledge allegiance to my Flag and the Republic for which it stands, one nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all." They were written as something children in any nation could say to express pride for where they lived. In 1923 "the flag of the United States of America" was added. Finally, in 1954 President Eisenhower encouraged Congress to add; "under God," to give us the 31 word pledge we use today.

Do you understand the pledge? Do you know what a Republic is? I'll confess that I chose to look it up and make sure I understood it. I happened to be correct, but wasn't confident enough in my answer to share it with others. A Republic is a form of democracy, in which the people elect leaders to represent their interests and make the necessary decisions for the nation. This is the definition of our form of government. Other Republics have some variations to this definition.

We are then pledging that our allegiance to the American flag is in reality to the form of government that is represented by our flag. We desire that nation to continue under God. This means that our nation was established as a Christian nation and we desire to serve and recognize our God in the decisions that are made. We also of course desire God's blessings to continue on our nation.

We state that we are indivisible. We believe that our nation is not to be torn apart. We can't see California and Nevada pull away and still be the United States. We also can't allow Democrats and Republicans to tear our nation apart with bickering. We can't allow blacks and whites; rich and poor; urban and rural or any other possible divisions to fracture our country. We believe that under our flag we can be united, even if we disagree.

We believe that all Americans deserve Liberty and Justice. Liberty is freedom from oppressive government and rule by foreign governments. Justice is the rule of law and penalties we must endure if we break those laws. Liberty and Justice are always in the balance. If you have too much liberty there is anarchy. If there is too much of the rule of law we are stripped of our liberty.

There is much in the Pledge of Allegiance. It is powerful for such a short statement. It is something appropriate for Christians to say. Scripture makes it clear that we are to support the government that is over us. Of course, God must come first. Pray it never comes to a time in the United States that we must choose between the law of the land and God.

Have a happy 4th of July and God bless America!



July Sermons

In July we will focus our attention on the second lesson scriptures. They will focus mainly on Colossians and Hebrews. Come and learn about these under used books of the Bible!

July 6:	Scripture: Galatians 6:11-16	Sermon Title: 'Living By the Law'
July 13:	Scripture: Colossians 1:9-14	Sermon Title: 'Pray for Your Church'
July 20:	Scripture: Colossians 1:21-23	Sermon Title: 'Freed from Sin'
July 27:	Scripture: Colossians 2:6-10	Sermon Title: 'Live in Faith'

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!

Remember...if you can't arrive in time for dinner, you can still come for worship!



Mission of the Month

Our July Mission of the Month is Tree of Life Ministries. It is a relief agency, located in Mission, South Dakota on the Rosebud Reservation, serving several of the poorest counties in the United States. The reservation has an 80% unemployment rate. The ministries of Tree of Life include: The Warm Welcome -feeding program and food pantry, Tree of Life Boutique --- thrift store and a construction ministry. Tree of Life distributes over 1,500,000 pounds of groceries each year, and provides about 52,000 free meals. Tree of Life provides a "Thrift Shop Boutique." New and used clothing and small household items are available to buy at a very low cost in a "shopping experience".

On July 13, you will have an opportunity to learn more about our mission, as well as a chance to give. 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.



Buddy Bag Food Distribution: Serving Our Community with Love

Our church is proud to host the weekly Buddy Bag Food Distribution program, partnering with the Community Help Network in Crown Point to serve families in need throughout South Lake County. This wonderful program brings neighbors together in a spirit of hospitality and care, providing essential groceries to those who need them most.

The Community Help Network generously supplies all the food products for this distribution, so our church doesn't need to provide any of the grocery items. Our role is equally important – we provide the welcoming space and volunteer hands that make each distribution a success. Our volunteers greet guests with warmth, help them select items that work best for their families, pack their bags, and assist with carrying groceries to their cars.

In our first week alone, we were able to serve 15 families, many of them with multiple children. It's heartwarming to see the impact this program is already having in our community.

How You Can Help

While the main food supplies are covered, we do have a couple of specific needs where our church family can make a real difference:

Fruit donations needed: We're currently running short on fruit, which can be hard to come by. If you're able to donate canned or fresh fruit, it would be greatly appreciated by our guests.

Garden surplus welcome: As the growing season progresses, if you find yourself with extra vegetables from your garden, we'd love to share them with families who visit our distribution. Fresh produce is always a blessing!

Buddy Bag distributions are every Wednesday through August 6th. Whether you donate, volunteer, or simply keep this ministry in your prayers, thank you for helping us serve our community with Christ's love.

Laura Eller, Outreach Chairperson



Getting the room ready for the Buddy Bag families.

SAVE THE DATE!



SAVE THE DATE!

August 22, 2025 will be our fourth 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 (new this year: our very own United Women in Faith will offer food for sale by the west doors of the church). Returning food trucks will be from Mexico Lindo and the iced coffee drink station.

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. It's a fun night! Invite a friend!



Christmas in July...though it is a familiar statement, we will not be having Christmas in July, but, it is not too soon to start thinking about Winterfest!

Winterfest is the first Saturday in December. During Winterfest, our church has opened its doors to the community and hosted a cookie walk, kids craft, Christmas Carol sing along, Godsbells, Nativity Showcase and the Marketplace.

Do you have an artisan craft talent you would like to share? We are looking for hand crafted items to sell in the marketplace.

Start thinking about your talents and how you can be a part of Winterfest.



Wow!! What an incredible week of activity within the walls of our church. There was Vacation Bible School where we had thirty to thirty-two children Tuesday through Thursday experiencing how a relationship with Jesus can guide their paths in life. Our church family, thirty plus in numbers, facilitated the activities throughout the day. We had the Kidz Karnival where over two hundred children supported by their fathers and mothers, attended the community event held in our backyard. Thank you to the many of our church family as well as students from a church neighbor who organized, facilitated the games, and built a friendly relationship with all who attended. But let's not stop there! We also have the "Buddy Program" going on. On the third floor of our church the "Buddy Bag" program sponsored by the Crown Point Community Foundation is serving families.

Thank you church family! Your gifts of time and resources have brought smiles to so many who may not have had a reason to smile. We praise God that you do not neglect doing good and sharing. We are grateful for how you share with us your gifts unto Him. You are a continual source of joy and encouragement to our church family as you pray and give faithfully. When David commissioned Solomon to build the house of the Lord, the people rejoiced because he had offered willingly and made their offering to the Lord with a whole heart. WE thank God for your willingness and wholeheartedness in giving.



Dear Friends,

Many thanks for the well wishes and cards we received for our 70th anniversary. A special thanks to LYFT for the beautiful plant and pictures. It is so special to have a loving church family.

Also thanks for the prayers for our son's successful surgery. He seems to have done very well.

In Christian Love,

Don and Paula Tilton

This is how I began my 2nd career as a Certified Lay Speaker over thirty years ago. It was held at Valparaiso 1st UMC at that time. I attended many wonderful courses and taught basic, Children's Sermons, and Worship through Dance. I highly recommend it.

The Hebron Lay Servant Academy (LSA) is offering the Introduction to Lay Ministry class (also known as "Basic") off site at Hobart Trinity UMC with Pastor Sheri LoCascio instructing. To complete a certified track, you'll need to have this class! :) Reach out if you have any questions!

Peggy Hendricks

SUMMER '25 LAY SERVANT ACADEMY CLASS @ HOBART TRINITY

IN-PERSON CLASS

Tuesdays: July 29, August 5, 12, 19, and 26
6-8:15 pm Central

\$10 per participant + cost of text

Introduction to Lay Ministry

led by Pastor Sheri LoCascio

Discover and employ your personal spiritual gifts, learn the worth of servant leadership, and be rooted in good spiritual practices. This basic course is required for first-time attendees. Course Text - *Lay Servant Ministries Participant Book - Basic Course* by Sandy Zeigler Jackson and Brian Jackson.

Participant's Book ISBN DR626 * 978-0-88177-626-3 (\$12).

ALL participants MUST register online by 7/22 at this link:

<https://inumc.swoogo.com/NorthLSABasic>

Questions? Contact Registrar Karen Williams
@ 219-869-2324 or mrs.karen.wms@gmail.com



Young at Heart Sr. Bingo will **not** be meeting in July. The volunteers who are in charge of it will not be available. The next gathering will be **August 26** 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!



1st & 3rd Wednesday Country/Gospel Music Jam...from Peggy Hendricks

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: 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.**



At first we thought it was Jim Reeves singing, "Put your sweet lips a little closer to the phone...", but it was our own Ed Miller, at the 1st & 3rd Wednesday Music Jam. Thanks, Ed. You were great!

Trustees Rummage Sale Update

Knowing that the day will come when the church boiler will have to be replaced, the Trustees decided a fund should be established to help cover that cost when that day arrives. We decided to hold a spring Rummage Sale as a first step toward raising funds. The sale was held June 12 and 13 in the Fellowship Hall. Just over \$1450.00 was raised. This included some cash received by taking left over metal to a recycle facility.

The Rummage Sale was a successful event due to the many church members who donated items to sell. Volunteers picked up items from those unable to bring their donations to the church, did the set up for the sale, and helped clean up afterwards. The Trustees want to send a big "Thank You" to all of these people. We are so grateful for all those who participated. Hopefully there will be another Rummage Sale in the future.



Kids Karnival: A Night of Joy and Community

What an incredible evening! Our Kids Karnival was a tremendous success, welcoming over 200 children and their families from throughout the Lowell community. The laughter, joy, and excitement was a beautiful testament to what happens when we open our hearts and doors to our neighbors.

This special event wouldn't have been possible without our amazing team of 60+ volunteers who stepped up to serve in countless ways. From our kitchen crew and greeters to our game masters, face painters, bounce house supervisors, prize table champions, petting zoo guardians, and setup/teardown teams – every single person played a vital role in creating magical memories.

The evening was filled with squeals of delight, exciting game victories, gentle moments with the petting zoo animals, and the pure joy of children redeeming their hard-earned tickets for treasures at the prize table. But beyond the fun and games, we witnessed something even more beautiful – our Church family and other volunteers from Hilltop Church coming together to love and serve our community well.

Thank you to everyone who volunteered, spread the word, and prayed for this event. You helped us show the love of Christ in action.

The Outreach Committee

(photo credit: Kim McGinley featuring grandson Sebastian)



Vacation Bible School was WILD!

Thirty-two children joined us on our 3 day adventure into the Alaskan wilderness. They learned that Jesus is our 'True North' and we can trust Jesus in our wild world. It is a blessing to interact with children and see their excitement as they learn about Jesus and helping others. I am grateful that God led these families to our church for VBS!

We also had 30 adult and youth volunteers who participated all or some of the days. It is a blessing to work together with volunteers focused on sharing the word of God with the children. I am grateful for each volunteer and the role they played during VBS!

We had countless donations provided by the congregation. It is a blessing to have a supportive and giving congregation. From food items to art supplies and everything in between, you provided everything we asked for. I am grateful for your generous support of VBS!



All of us worked together and provided another wonderful Vacation Bible School for children of our community.

Amy Manier, Children's Education Chairperson

WEEKLY EVENTS

Sunday - Worship ~ 9:30am (in Sanctuary), **Mon.** - A/A 12pm (303) **Wed.** - A/A - 8pm (Fellowship Hall), Al/Anon - 8pm (lib)
Thursday - Dulcimers 10am (303), *LYFT* Dinner 5:30pm/Worship 6:00pm (F.H.) **Sat.** - A/A 11 a.m. (303)

July 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Buddy Bag Summer Program 10-1(300) Country/Gospel Jam 1-3 (FH)	3 **NO LYFT**	4 Independence Day/ Office Closed	5
6 Communion Sunday	7	8	9 Buddy Bag Summer Program 10-1(300) Worship Mtg. 6 pm	10	11	12
13 Monthly Mission Sunday	14	15 Household Pantry 9-12 & 5-6	16 Buddy Bag Summer Program 10-1(300) Country/Gospel Jam 1-3 (FH)	17	18	19
20	21 **Tele-Christian Articles are due	22 **No Senior Bingo	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30 Education Meeting 7pm (300)	31		