

The First United Methodist Church of Lowell

Tele-Christian August 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...



Apologetics is a word that is tied with Christianity. Apologetics is not being sorry for what we believe. Apologetics is defending what we believe. How much time have you spent thinking about what you believe? What do you believe about creation? Sin? Becoming right with God? Heaven? Hell? The state of humanity? Other religions? End times? Scripture? The church? Issues of morality? Can you come up with more than one sentence about each of these (and for that matter the hundreds of other topics of faith?) If an unbeliever asked you, "What do you think heaven will be like?" could you give an intelligent, biblically-based, Godly answer? What if somebody with different beliefs challenged you, "Heaven is going to be for the 144,000 leaders within our faith. Other believers will live on the new earth. The most enlightened of our leaders will become gods themselves." This is the Mormon view of heaven – is it right or not? Could you defend your position?

The Bible contains many passages commanding and encouraging us to defend our faith. 1 Peter 3:15 says, "But in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect," What is the best way to defend the faith? The best and in reality the only way to defend the faith is from the Word of God. If we have beliefs that are not in the Word, they are probably not worth defending.

We must know the scriptures. We must begin memorizing the scriptures. If we do not, we will be unable to defend them. Thankfully, there are also alternatives to speaking scriptures right in the midst of a controversy.

If someone says something in opposition to scripture, for instance; "I believe in reincarnation." and you don't know passages that speak against reincarnation, say to them, "I know the Bible disagrees with what you are saying. Let me look at it and I'll get back with you (at a specific time)." Be sure to study up on the issue, ask me where the scriptures are or look in a Concordance to find the scriptures. Come up with an intelligent argument including the Bible passages and restart the conversation with that person.

One other option is the Bible promise found in Luke 12:11-12 which says, "When they bring you before the synagogues and the rulers and the authorities, do not worry about how or what you are to speak in your defense, or what you are to say "for the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say." In these instances take a deep breath, say a prayer asking God to give you the words you need, and make your case. I have had times when God has given me the right words at the right time.

Know what you believe. Then try to prepare yourself, arm yourself with the weapons you need to defend the faith. Be an apologist for Christ! Be prepared to share!



August Sermons

In August we will continue to 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!

August 3:	Scripture: Colossians 3:5-11	Sermon Title: 'How to Live Faith'
August 10:	Scripture: Hebrews 11:1-3, 6-9	Sermon Title: 'How Big Is Your Faith?'
August 17:	Scripture: Hebrews 11:32-12:2	Sermon Title: 'The Cloud of Witnesses'
August 24:	Scripture: Hebrews 12:18-24	Sermon Title: 'Come to the Mountaintop'
August 31:	Scripture: Hebrews 13:1-3, 7-8	Sermon Title: 'Jesus is the Same'

Worship News

Mark your Calendar!

Join our church family for worship on **September 7 at 9:30 for HOMECOMING SUNDAY!!**

Immediately following worship, we will gather in the Fellowship Hall for an all-church carry in dinner. Please bring a main dish, a side dish or a dessert to share. Plates, flatware and drinks will be provided.

Invite your family and friends! Everyone is welcome!

Refresher Course!

Calling all *ushers, greeters, liturgists.*

And anyone else who would like to learn more about these areas of serving.

On **Sunday, August 24**, immediately following worship, join us in the Fellowship Hall.

We will eat pizza and review the "job descriptions" for our current volunteers who serve as ushers, greeters and liturgist.

All are invited, whether you currently serve at the Sunday services, or are considering volunteering to serve, or would just like to enjoy fellowship!



*Live
Your Faith*
TODAY!

LYFT is our Thursday evening worship service held in Fellowship Hall. 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!



**Mommy's
Haven**

Mission of the Month

Our August Mission of the Month is Mommy's Haven here in Lowell. Mommy's Haven is a nonprofit maternity home located in Lowell that provides housing to pregnant women in need, age 18 and older. They offer pregnant women, with no means of support, the opportunity to choose life for their unborn baby in a safe, free-of-charge home. The program is a 24-month independent living system with various program services that allow each resident and their children to recognize their self-worth and prepares them to reach their full potential. Program services include career development/placement, childbirth and parenting/adoption education, life skills training, financial management, mentorship and much more.

On August 10, you will have an opportunity to learn more about this 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.



Save the date

On Saturday, September 6th there will be a Northern Lakes District UMC Rally at Crown Point First UMC. Our Bishop, Tracy Malone, will be speaking and there will be plenty of great music. Don't miss this exciting event! If you would like to carpool over, we'll leave from our church at 2:15. Sign up on the table in the narthex for a ride.



"United" Northern Lakes District

For those that know their United Methodist history, the "United" in our name was brought forward during the merge of 1968 from the United Brethren Church. With this rich nugget in mind, I want to add another layer to the "United" of our name.

As we come together formally as the Northern Lakes District, I want to suggest some ways I will be leading us to be not just a new group of strangers that are linked together by a map. I want us to be UNITED in our efforts to write a new and vibrant history in our part of the Conference.

I want us ALL IN and UNITED in ways that we never thought possible. Some of those ways are:

1. Engaged clergy and laity that are committed to "forming disciples of Jesus Christ who, empowered by the Holy Spirit, love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously in local communities and worldwide connections" by
2. UNITING our hearts with Jesus Christ and our neighbor by leaving personal agendas at home.
3. Working hand in hand with our new District Missional Strategy Team to UNITE our missional goals with
4. strategic decisions throughout the district. The DMSTeam consists of Barb Holcomb, Mary van Wijk, Matt Baughman, Roberta Cook, Jared Kendall, Rickey Bevely, Mike Beezley, Sarah Miller, Lori Grasty, Brian Durand, Denise Parker, Marybeth Scheibel, and Trish Johnsen.
5. To have each church represented at our Rally Day on September 6th at Crown Point UMC. More details will be coming soon! This will be an outstanding opportunity for us to UNITE with our Bishop who is very much ALL IN for us and the Church of Jesus Christ.
6. I will be UNITED with you as I continue to literally visit each church personally each year. We can only be UNITED in our mission if we are in a relationship with each other. I look forward to not only worshipping with you but also attending VBS, meals, mission events, etc.

It is a new day and there is no better time to be UNITED in our efforts to be an ALL IN Northern Lakes District!

Blessings,

Bishop Malone



FALL '25 LAY SERVANT ACADEMY
@ Hebron United Methodist Church
202 W. Church Street, Hebron, IN 46341
SUNDAYS: Sept. 7, 14, 21, 28 2-5 pm Central
\$10 per participant + cost of text

Introduction to Lay Ministry (for adults) - led by Pastor Sheri Locascio
Introduction to Lay Ministry (for YOUTH grades 8-12) - Led by Karen Williams
Exploring a Culture of Care for a Caring Congregation - Led by Pastor Tom Clark
Called to Preach - Led by Pastor Wayne Williams
Leading Public Prayer - Led by Pastor Jim Denton
Soul Reset - Led by Pastor Cathy Allison

ALL participants MUST register online by 9/7 at this link:
<https://inumc.swoogo.com/NDFall2025>

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



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, the United Women in Faith will offer food for sale by the west doors of the church and a previous member of the church, Melissa Charters, will have her F*R*I*E*N*D~SIP truck with loaded sodas and drinks. Returning food truck will be from Mexico Lindo.

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!



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.

The 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: August 6, 20; September 3, 17; October 1, 15; November 5, 19; December 3, 17. **Just remember 1st & 3rd, 1 to 3.**



Gratitude from the Finance Committee

Summer is quite a welcome relief as the warmth of God's creation surrounds us. During the summer months, when our attendance at church can often be down because of friend and family trips or events, we often experience a drop off in the giving. We want all of you to know we had a pretty good month of July regarding our faithful giving. Giving to God gives you a chance to enter his presence, just as He freely gave to us. We are so grateful for all our church family who shared your gifts so that we may continue to grow the presence of Jesus in the lives of others.



I'm the church mouse. I'm back from vacation all rested and ready to spread some gossip. 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.

I take a couple of months off and what do you all do? You reach out and do great things for our community! You created 50 flood buckets to go to UM missions and they were sent to flooding in Missouri. You held the Kidz Karnival and reached over 200 children and over 400 adults. You held VBS and reached more kids this year by trying a different format than last year. You are giving food to the school children of the area on Wednesdays and are averaging about 20 families each week. You painted the basement and installed air conditioning. You continued to serve the community through Household Pantry each month; to help the most needy through the Good Samaritan fund; to open the building to AA and Al Anon to help folks get their lives back on track. You do so much, I'm not going to be able to take time off.

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 meets on the fourth Tuesday. After a one month break we are back! 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 desert and snacks and prizes for the winners. It's a fun time!

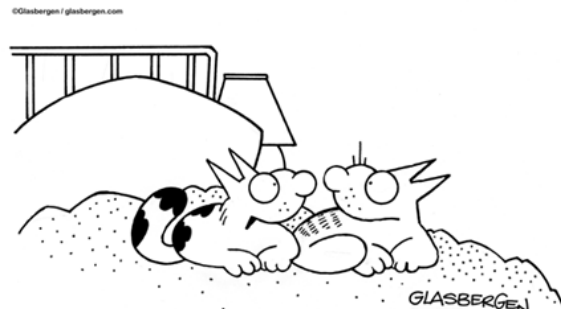


Pastor's Comic Corner

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



Thanks to Garey Southern 06-23-2004
**THIS IS GOING TO BE A LONG SERVICE ...
THEY'RE SERVING FOOD**



**"Personally, I wouldn't mind at all if God sent a plague
of mice to rain down upon the sinners of the modern world."**

WEEKLY EVENTS

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

August 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Working Together Circle 1:30 pm (lib.)	2 Betty Kelley birthday party 2-4 (FH)
3	4	5	6 Buddy Bag Program 10a-1p (300) UWF Executive Meeting 5:30 (lib.) Country/Gospel Jam 1-3 pm (FH) Trustees 6 pm (CR)	7 **NO LYFT TONIGHT	8	9
10 Mission Sunday Baby Shower 12 pm (FH)	11	12	13 Congregational Care Meeting 10am (library)	14	15	16
17	18 Tri-Kappa 6pm (FH)	19 Household Pantry 9-12 & 5-6 Leaps & Bounds Open House 5 pm (FH)	20 Country/Gospel Jam 1 pm (FH) Finance Mtg 4 pm (FH)	21 **Tele-Christian Articles Due	22 Music in the Park 6-8 pm (Olde Towne Square)	23
24 Greeter/Usher/ Liturgist Training 11 am	25 Ad-Council 6 pm (FH)	26 Senior Bingo 1 pm (FH)	27	28	29	30
31						