

The First United Methodist Church of Lowell

Tele-Christian November 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...



Recently, I had the opportunity to hear our Bishop, Tracy Malone, speak. She is an excellent speaker and a dynamic, energy-filled Bishop. She spoke about the mission focus of the Conference: What are the priorities of the Conference? As I reflected on these priorities, I could see how they should also be our priorities here at First Church.

Number one is Discipleship. It is the Mission Statement of the Denomination and our own church. We exist to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. We need to encourage people to come to faith and then help them to grow in their faith throughout their lives. This is not an easy assignment. What works for one person may not be the answer for another. We need several experiences that allow people to move forward with their faith. It can be helping others, classroom teaching, self-learning, volunteer work, quiet reflection, loud music praising, prayer; there are many ways that we advance in our faith. The church generally offers these opportunities, the difficult part is to make it a comprehensive program to touch the lives of all in the church. We will continue to work on this.

The second priority (these are not in a specific order of importance), is church revitalization and church development. For us it would mean ministry revitalization and development. I'll give you a specific example from our church. Every year we had done a five day Vacation Bible School program. A couple of years ago, we decided to cut Friday out of the schedule because the kids were tied up with sports commitments and were not attending much on Friday. Last year we made a bold leap and decided to move from an evening format of four days to a daytime format including lunch for three days. We had a larger attendance this year than we did in the past few years. We need to evaluate all of our ministries. Do they need updating? Do they need to be eliminated? Have they served their purpose? Ending a great ministry is not a failure. It's an opportunity to free up resources to develop new ministries.

The third priority is faith formation and leadership development. Faith formation is different than discipleship. Discipleship is growing in faith. Faith formation is molding a faith according to one's spiritual giftedness and passions. It's one thing to ask someone if they want to teach Sunday School. It's quite another thing to invest in someone's life, to see what God is blessing them with. It's much easier for another to see your gifts than it is for you to see them. Faith formation is to step by step train someone, encourage them, enable them and guide them into the ministry role God is calling them. Leadership development again is encouraging others to see their God given talents to take on leadership roles. All in the church should be doing this.

There are six more priorities. I'll tell you about them next year. Reflect on these three. What can you do to encourage someone, teach someone, build someone up so that they are a stronger Christian? It doesn't have to be a big job. A simple smile, hug, or encouraging word can propel a Christian to new heights.



**In November we will focus our attention on the Gospel lessons in the lectionary.
Come and hear the teachings of Jesus!**

November 2:	Scripture: Luke 19:1-10	Sermon Title: <i>'Seeking & Saving the Lost'</i>
November 9:	Scripture: Luke 20:27-38	Sermon Title: <i>'Marriage in Heaven'</i>
November 16:	Scripture: Luke 21:5-19	Sermon Title: <i>'Signs of the Times'</i>
November 23:	Scripture: Luke 23:33-43	Sermon Title: <i>'What a King!'</i>
November 30:	Scripture: Luke 2:8-14	Sermon Title: <i>'Gabriel'</i>



Worship News

November will bring many meaningful worship services.



All Saints Day, November 2.

We will remember those we have lost in our church family this past year.

Veterans Day, November 9.

We will honor those who have served our country.



Christ the King & Thanksgiving, November 23.

We will give thanks for our blessings and celebrate Christ the King!

Advent begins on November 30.

Many musical talents will be shared with us throughout the advent season.



Looking ahead: Please note the time change for services on December 24!



Christmas Eve Services will be at 4:00 pm and 7:00 pm.

*The 4:00 pm service will include Holy Communion.

*The 7:00 pm service will be our traditional family service, including children's time.

Both services will feature special music and conclude in candlelight.

Join us! We look forward to worshipping with you!

REMINDER!! Nov. 2 IS THE DEADLINE FOR MAKING YOUR RESERVATION FOR THE VETERANS BRUNCH. SIGN-UP IN THE NARTHEX OR CALL THE OFFICE.



*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!



THANK YOU!

Dear Lowell United Methodist Church Family,

We extend our deepest gratitude to each of you who has prayerfully and generously pledged to support our church's mission and ministry in the coming year. Your commitment is a true reflection of your faith and dedication to God's work among us.

Through your pledges, we are able to continue the vital ministries that serve our congregation, our community, and beyond. Your generosity ensures that our church remains a place of worship, fellowship, spiritual growth, and outreach. We will continue to provide the stories of love, devotion, compassion, and commitment.

Thank you for your vital role in what God is doing in and through our church. May you be blessed abundantly for your faithfulness and generosity.

With sincere appreciation,
Finance Committee



The Story of Thanksgiving

Pastor Mark

What was the first Thanksgiving like? According to the Encyclopedia Britannica this is how it happened.

Plymouth's Thanksgiving began with a few colonists going out "fowling," possibly for turkeys but more probably for the easier prey of geese and ducks, since they "in one day killed as much as...served the company almost a week." Next, 90 or so Wampanoag made a surprise appearance at the settlement's gate, doubtlessly unnerving the 50 or so colonists. Nevertheless, over the next few days the two groups socialized without incident. The Wampanoag contributed venison to the feast, which included the fowl and probably fish, eels, shellfish, stews, vegetables, and beer. Since Plymouth had few buildings and manufactured goods, most people ate outside while sitting on the ground or on barrels with plates on their laps. The men fired guns, ran races, and drank liquor, struggling to speak in broken English and Wampanoag. This was a rather disorderly affair.



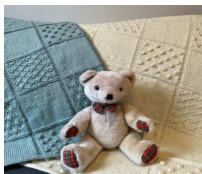
Confirmation Class

We will hold a Confirmation Class this year for all in 6th grade and up who would like to learn more about the church and join. Talk to Pastor Mark if you are interested and have a time in mind that will work with your schedule.



Mission of the Month

We do so much in October and November. We have the pledge drive, the Samaritan's Purse Shoe box ministry, college finals box ministry, and Christmas Clothesline ministry. We are going to take November off this year from Mission of the Month. We'll be back in December.



Do you knit? Do you crochet?

Congregational Care needs your help!



Our New Baby Visitation ministry has been busy lately welcoming new lives into our extended church family. When possible, a visit is made to the family home and a special cross and a fresh soft handmade baby blanket are given to the parents for their baby. We are restocking our cross supply, but currently our supply of baby blankets is low. We would welcome donations of handmade blankets, especially in blue or neutral colors.

If you are able to help us restock our baby blanket supply and/or have questions, we encourage you to contact Trudy Corning at 219-613-1787, or Bev Johnson at 219-742-9376.



The Children's Change for November and December will be going to the Bishop's Christmas Offering. This offering helps children in need around the world. One third of the money goes to international children's mission projects, one third goes to national children's mission projects and one third stays in Indiana to help children in need. Thank you for supporting the children in their important ministry work.

Children's News
From Amy Manier, Education Chair

Children were everywhere in our church during the weekend of Oct. 18 & 19!

The predicted rains held off and our Pumpkin Party on Saturday, October 18 was a great success. We welcomed families from our community into our Fellowship Hall after the Park Department's downtown Halloween parade. The basement was full of children and their parents eating lunch, playing games, and decorating cookies. As they left, each child received a 'goodie' bag and a reading called 'The Pumpkin' that explains how carving a pumpkin is similar to the way God works in our lives. There were approximately 60 children and 45 adults in attendance. Thank you to all of our hard-working volunteers that made this community event possible.



On Sunday, October 19, we celebrated Children's Sunday throughout our worship service. Some of our youth served as liturgists and ushers. After the service they also passed out pumpkins with "The Pumpkin" reading to everyone in the congregation. The highlight of the service was the Blessing of the Children by Pastor Mark. It was a wonderfully joyous service!



Our church provides final exam boxes to our college students and everyone can be a part of this ministry!

What are final exam college boxes? It is a box filled with goodies including snacks, gum, highlighters, prayers and uplifting notes to support a college student during the stressful week of final exams.

Who are the college students? Our church family children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews who are enrolled in college and will be preparing for finals this Fall. Missed out on submitting a students name? There is still time to submit names to the church office before November 23.

How can I be a part of this ministry? Everyone can participate in the college ministry!!

1. Pray for the college students.
2. Write a note of encouragement to the college students.
3. Donate items for the college boxes. Look for items needed for the college final boxes in the narthex starting in November.
4. Help pack the college boxes at the end of November.

Any questions, contact the church office or Trudy Corning at 219-613-1787.



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: November 5, 19; December 3, 17.



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.

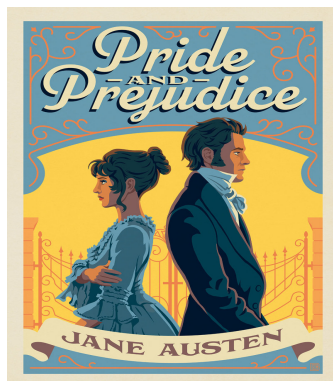
You missed all the action around here recently. There was a crane hauling two new industrial air conditioner units onto the roof to replace the one that broke down this summer. Men were crawling in the attic above the sanctuary ceiling, cutting up the old blower units and installing new ones. I watched and nobody fell through the ceiling. The Trustees have been here a lot maintaining other bits of our building.

Natalie Manier made her star appearance in a Vlog about what the church has been doing. She did an amazing job. It's mind boggling how much this church does in a year. Not only is it all the ministries that folk see, there are a lot of people who do jobs that no one necessarily sees. All the finance work, organizing and cleaning various parts of the building. The UWF (Women's group) put up new curtains in the basement. It's a busy place.

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



From Patrice Martin, Theater Director of Lowell High School...



Travel back in time to the early 1800's to view proper social etiquette, courtship practices and expected public conduct.

The Lowell High School Theater will be presenting *Pride and Prejudice* by Janet Munsil. This stage adaptation is based on the book by Jane Austen. Our own Brad Miller, (from Chancel Choir) is the mysterious Mr. Darcy who will experience some changes in his character, as the feisty Elizabeth Bennett challenges his intentions.

Join the cast and crew of 70 on Nov. 13, 14, 15 at 7:00 pm. or Sunday, Nov. 16, at the 2:00 matinee. Tickets can be purchased at the door of Lowell High School Auditorium, 2051 East Commercial Ave. for \$8 for Students or Seniors, \$9 for Adults. Don't miss this culmination of nine weeks of dedicated efforts!

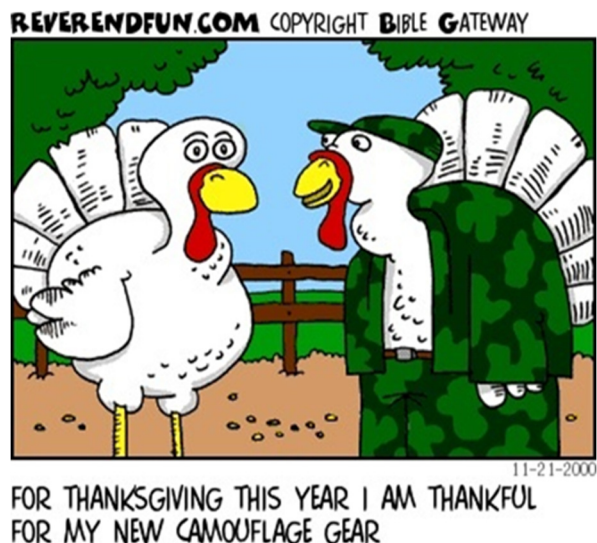


Young at Heart Sr. Bingo meets on the fourth Tuesday. The next gathering will be November 25th at 1 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Invite someone to come along with you. This is a free Bingo with dessert and snacks and prizes for the winners. It's a fun time!



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 - Worship ~ 9:30am (in Sanctuary), **Sunday School** ~ Adult: 8:15 am WINGS, FRIENDS Children: 9:30 am
Monday - A/A 12pm (303) **Wednesday** - A/A - 8pm (Fellowship Hall), Al/Anon - 8pm (lib) **Thursday** - Dulcimers 10am (303),
 Godsbells 4:30 pm, *LYFT* Dinner 5:30pm/Worship 6:00pm (F.H.) Chancel Choir 7 pm **Saturday** - A/A 11 a.m. (303)

November 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 All Saints Sunday 	3 Outreach 5:30 Tri-Kappa 6 pm	4	5 Country/Gospel Jam 1 pm (FH) UWF Exec 5:30 Trustees 6 pm	6	7 Working Together Circle 1:30 pm (library)	8
9 Veteran's Day Recognition Veteran's Day Brunch	10 Missions Meeting 1 pm (conf. room) Susanna Wesley Circle 1 pm (lib.)	11 Staff/Parish Meeting 6 pm (conf. rm.)	12 Congregational Care Mtg. 10 am (library) Worship 6 pm	13	14	15 Fellowship Hall Rented
16	17	18 Household Pantry 9-12 & 5-6 (curbside)	19 Country/Gospel Jam 1 pm (FH)	20	21	22
23 Tri-Kappa 1-3 pm under canopy	24 Ad-Council 6 pm (FH)	25 Senior Bingo 1 pm (FH)	26	27 Thanksgiving/ Office Closed	28 Office Closed	29
30						