

# The First United Methodist Church of Lowell

## Tele-Christian December 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...*



The following is an Advent devotional that I ran across. It comes from CRU which used to be Campus Crusade for Christ. Enjoy.

“Advent is a time of preparation, beginning four Sundays before Christmas. The word comes from the Latin *adventus*, which means coming or arrival. Similar to the Lenten season, which prepares us for Resurrection Sunday, Advent is a season of reflection and longing for the coming King. As our awareness for the first coming of Christ is heightened, our longing and expectation for his second advent increases as well.

The great proclamation “The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us” (John 1:14) assures us that God has entered into human history through the incarnation of the Son. The season of Advent, a season of waiting, is designed to cultivate our awareness of God’s actions—past, present, and future. In this season, we hear the prophecies of the Messiah’s coming as addressed to us—people who wait for the second coming.

Our sense of anticipation is heightened as we look for the day when the lion will lie down with the lamb, death will be swallowed up, and every tear will be wiped away. In this way Advent highlights for us the larger story of God’s redemptive plan.

A deliberate tension must be built into our practice of the Advent season. Christ has come, and yet not all things have reached completion. So we remember the longing of Israel, we give thanks for Christ’s birth, and we anticipate his return. For this reason, Advent began as a penitential season, a time for discipline and intentional repentance in the confident expectation and hope of Christ’s coming again.

Throughout the centuries, the Church has adopted many themes by dwelling on a specific idea during each week. We will use perhaps the most common theme by focusing on hope, peace, joy, and love.

We pray that when Christmas Day arrives, you will join with the early Church with the word, Maranatha! “Come, Lord Jesus!”

*Pastor Mark*



In December we will go on a journey through the characters of the Nativity Scene in someone’s home. Each week we will focus on a different character and the issues they have. Each week we will have a video of the Nativity Scene coming alive and the characters interacting. Be prepared for a fun and yet spiritual preparation for Christmas.

<b>December 7:</b>	Scripture: Luke 15:4-7	Sermon Title: ‘The Shepherds’
<b>December 14:</b>	Scripture: Matthew 2:1-2, 10-11	Sermon Title: ‘The Wisemen’
<b>December 21:</b>	Scripture: Luke 1:26-38	Sermon Title: ‘Mary and Joseph’
<b>December 28:</b>	Scripture: Luke 2:8-14	Sermon Title: ‘Baby Jesus’



## WORSHIP NEWS

*Join us this Advent season as we prepare our hearts for the birth of our savior!*

<b>Sunday, November 30</b>	Advent begins
<b>Friday, December 5</b>	9:00 AM Hanging of the Greens (decorating the church)
<b>Sunday, December 7</b>	Godsbells and the Unrehearsed Christmas Program
<b>Sunday, December 14</b>	Choir Cantata "The Angels Sang Glory"
<b>Sunday, December 21 &amp; 28</b>	Special Music

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### **CHRISTMAS EVE** **Wednesday, December 24**



**4:00 PM\*** service with COMMUNION (\*Note the time change)

We will celebrate the birth of Jesus through communion, special music and conclude with "Silent Night" by candlelight.

**7:00 PM** service with CHILDREN'S TIME

We will celebrate the birth of Jesus with children's time, special music and conclude with "Silent Night" by candlelight.



**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!

**\*\*December will be our annual Christmas Pot-Luck! Please bring a dish to share. Meat, rolls and drinks will be provided.**

We will not have LYFT December 25 or January 1. We will be back to our regular service on January 8. Merry Christmas!

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



### **Children's Christmas Program**



The children will be putting on a Christmas program this year on Sunday, December 7 at the 9:30 am worship service. You may wonder when the practices will happen. The title of this year's program again is, "The Totally Unrehearsed Christmas Pageant With a Mystery." It is written by Pastor Mark.

The first practice will be the presentation? Come on the 7<sup>th</sup> for an unpolished fun pageant! We need all of the children of the church and even your grandchildren who don't come here to be here that day. There is a part for everyone who can be here.



## GIFT CARDS FOR CHRISTMAS

As we have in the past, the church will sell Gift Cards this holiday season. This program is a fund-raiser — the church receives a percentage of the value of each gift card purchased. An order form is attached to the newsletter and will also be available in the church Narthex and in the worship bulletins on December 7 and 14. Payment is due with the order form. We will place two orders for gift cards. Your paid orders must be in the office by 10 a.m. on either Monday, December 8 or Monday, December 15.

Gift cards are usually available to be picked up in the office 3-4 days following the order date. The office will contact anyone who ordered and let them know their cards are in. If you have questions please call Kim in the church office.



## Winterfest 2025



Winterfest is coming December 6. This is a town wide activity. We have the following activities to show the town what a great place FUMC is.

**Candy Canes for greeters**--300 have been purchased.

**Candy Canes for the Candy Cane Hunt** have been purchased. Kim Westerfield will be reading the story of the Candy Cane to the kids in the Narthex at 1:15. The kids will be given direction and then kids 6 and under (or close to that age) will search the sanctuary. It would be great if as many hands could be in the sanctuary to help.

**Children's Craft**--Jake and Madison Lautenschlager will be helping Congregational Care with this activity in the Library from 1-4. We still need some more help in this area.

**Story Time**—Patrice Martin has graciously agreed to be our storyteller once again in the narthex. This will be at 1:00 pm

**Christmas Sing-a-Long**—Peggy Hendricks is in charge of this in the Sanctuary. Michelle Mishlove will accompany on the piano. We will be singing songs that people should know so no hymnals or handouts should be necessary. We will have jingle bells for kids and kids at heart to stand or sit and ring. This will be at 2:00

**The Joyful Strummers-Dulcimers** will be playing in the sanctuary at 2:30. Bev Kussy and the gang will be set up so that after they play a few songs--kids and adults can try their hand at playing a simple song on the dulcimer. Our UWF ladies will be holding their annual cookie walk with an added soup sale in the basement from 11-6.

**Marketplace**—There will again be a marketplace in the Fellowship Hall. Our UWF ladies will be holding their annual cookie walk with an added soup sale in the basement from 11-6. Our other booths will start selling crafts and other Christmas items from 1-5.



## CARING PACKAGES

**Thank you** to all who participated in the college box ministry! Your donations, cards of encouragement, prayers and assistance packing the boxes for mailing is very much appreciated! Please continue to pray for our college students as they take finals, end the fall semester, and travel home for the semester break. Our church family college students include:

Mason DeVine, Athens OH

Zelia Hanrath, Warsaw IN

Raylynn Miller, Angola IN

Lauren Riordan, Muncie IN

Chesney Wilson, Indianapolis IN

## Children's Coins Mission



The Children collect coins each Sunday. In October, November and December the coins will go to the Bishop's Christmas Offering; This offering gives money to children's missions. One third goes to international projects, one third to national and one third to Indiana mission projects. The following is a short message from Bishop Malone.

*"The Bishop's Christmas Offering invites us to join together to share the light of Christ in tangible ways. Your generous gifts make it possible to support ministries and programs that serve, nurture, and uplift children and youth. Together, we become instruments of God's love, extending Christ's light to our local communities and across the globe.*

*I encourage you to prayerfully participate in this year's offering. Every gift, offered in love, becomes a beacon of hope. Thank you for your faithfulness and for your witness to the transforming love and light of Jesus Christ."*

Grace and Peace,

*Bishop Tracy S. Malone*

Bishop Malone



## Missions News

Happy December!!

Twenty four shoeboxes were collected for Operation Christmas Child!! Thank you!!

The "Christmas Clothesline " is now hung in the Narthex!! The gifts will need to be returned to the church on or before December 8th. Please spend no more than \$75.00 per (tag) student. Also, you may also join with someone else and two or more of you can go in on one (tag) student!! As of this writing, there are still 12 tags to be taken.

We also have white tags available that are \$10.00 and will be given to middle and high school students at the annual Christmas party sponsored by "Community Help Network".

Thank you all for your continued support of these missions. Any questions feel free to call the church office or text me at 1 (219) 779-3906.

Susan Wells  
Missions Chairperson



## **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: December 3and 17.

# Upcoming Events:

## Christmas Eve Services

There will be two Christmas Eve services this year. At 4:00 pm we'll have a candlelight Communion service. There will be special music, carols, scriptures, Communion together, and lighting candles and singing Silent Night.

At 7 pm we'll have a family-oriented service. It will have an extended Children's story, special music, the Christmas story, favorite carols, and a candlelight ending as we sing Silent Night.

Join us for one or both of these services as we celebrate the birth of Christ. Notice the time change and that there is no 11 pm service. We thought it was important to have it earlier so that those who can't drive at night could attend.



Young at Heart Sr. Bingo meets on the fourth Tuesday. We'll be taking December off since it would be the day before Christmas Eve. We'll be back for fun in January. Have a blessed Christmas!



THANK YOU!

Dear Church Friends,

First I want to thank you for the notes I received from you at roll call on the Chicago Honor Flight. What a great experience. A special thanks to Phyllis DeFrance for giving me the entry form and encouraging me to go.

Then another thanks for the get well cards I have received during my hospital and rehab stay. It is sure good to be home again.

Thanks again,  
Don Tilton



## 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



Due to a slight hearing problem, history does not remember Doug and Gary, chicken herders of Bethlehem.



## 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)

# December 2025

| Sun                                                                                     | Mon                                                                                                                                   | Tue                                     | Wed                                                                              | Thu                                            | Fri                                                                              | Sat                                                                                          |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                         | 1                                                                                                                                     | 2                                       | 3<br>Country/Gospel<br>Jam<br>1 pm (FH)                                          | 4<br>Organ Tuning<br>11 am (sanct.)            | 5<br>Hanging of the<br>Greens 9am<br>(Narthex)<br><br>Winterfest<br>Set-up 11 am | 6<br><b>Winterfest</b><br>Cookie Walk<br>starts at: 11am<br><br>Activities start<br>at: 1 pm |
| 7<br>Unrehearsed<br>Christmas<br>Pageant (during<br>service)<br><br>Travelogue<br>11 am | 8<br><b>**Clothesline<br/>Items due today</b><br><br><b>**Giftcard orders<br/>due by 10am</b><br><br>Susanna Wesley<br>1 pm (library) | 9                                       | 10                                                                               | 11                                             | 12                                                                               | 13<br><br>Fellowship Hall<br>rented                                                          |
| 14<br>Christmas<br>Cantata                                                              | 15<br><b>**Giftcard<br/>orders due by<br/>10 am</b>                                                                                   | 16<br>Household<br>Pantry<br>9-12 & 5-6 | 17<br>Country/Gospel<br>Jam 1 pm (FH)                                            | 18<br>LYFT<br>Christmas<br>Pot-Luck            | 19                                                                               | 20                                                                                           |
| 21                                                                                      | 22                                                                                                                                    | 23                                      | 24<br>4 pm and 7 pm<br>Christmas Eve<br>Services<br><br>Office closed<br>1/2 day | 25<br>Merry<br>Christmas!<br><br>Office closed | 26<br>Office Closed                                                              | 27                                                                                           |
| 28                                                                                      | 29                                                                                                                                    | 30                                      | 31<br>Taking Down<br>the Greens<br>9 am<br><br>Office closed<br>1/2 day          |                                                |                                                                                  |                                                                                              |