

The First United Methodist Church of Lowell

Tele-Christian April 2026 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 Resurrection of Christ will be celebrated at Easter. Have you spent any time considering what the Resurrection actually is and what it means for us? Your first thought might be that it was the moment when Jesus came back to life. He was raised from the dead. It was a point in time when God brought life back into Jesus' body. We have many ways of describing it. They all fall woefully short.

The Resurrection is a new act of creation. Jesus is not just one of many throughout history who have been raised from the dead. Jesus is the firstborn of the dead. In rising from the dead, God created a new form, a new body. What is this body and what is the good news for us?

From the evidence, we know that Jesus' body moved through the mummy-like wrapping that bound His body. When Jesus raised Lazarus from death, He had to tell those standing around, "Take off the grave clothes and let him go." Jesus' new Resurrection body simply sat up going right through the grave clothes (which contained 75 pounds of spice). They were left still wrapped. Almost as a joke, however, the cloth that was placed on Jesus' face was folded neatly and was lying off to the side. Jesus' new body then moved through the solid rock of the tomb and was gone when the angel opened the tomb. Jesus later entered a locked room with the disciples. Our resurrection body will not be bound by physical barriers. It's not the image of a ghost gliding through the walls of a haunted house. Jesus was touched and He ate with His disciples.

Jesus' Resurrection body arose perfected. He was buried bruised, battered and bloody. He arose without injury or lack of blood. He chose to retain the marks of the nails in His hands and feet and the spear hole in His side. The good news for us is that our resurrection body will be perfected. There will not be any aches or illnesses. We will appear as God intended us to be.

Jesus' Resurrection body does not age. We know from John's description in Revelation that Jesus is at the end of the world. Our good news is that our resurrection body will not age and will never wear out.

This is just the start of a conversation about the good news of the Resurrection. One day, when Jesus returns, we will receive what is promised. One last bit of good news is that until that day arrives death is not the end. After this body dies, our spirit will dwell with God until we are given our resurrection body. All of this is a gift Jesus gives us in His Resurrection.

Make it a point to be in church on Easter, April 5. Celebrate this gift. Worship your Lord. What a wonderful day! See you in church!

Pastor Mark

'Christ has no body now on earth but yours; yours are the only hands with which he can do his work, yours are the only feet with which he can go about the world, yours are the only eyes through which his compassion can shine forth upon a troubled world. Christ has no body on earth now but yours.'

St. Teresa of Avila

From The Little Book of Prayers, an anthology of prayers from around the world.

April Sermon Titles and Scripture

In April we'll celebrate Easter. After this the sermons will focus on the first sermon given in the early church. Peter gave it on Pentecost Sunday. From that sermon, the church began to explode in growth across the Roman empire and the entire world. Come hear what Peter had to say, and how it affects us today.

April 5:	Scripture: John 20:11-18	Sermon Title: 'The Power of Resurrection'
April 12:	Scripture: Acts 2:22-32	Sermon Title: 'The Prophet Without a Tomb'
April 19:	Scripture: Acts 2:26-41	Sermon Title: 'Resurrected, Now What?'
April 26:	Scripture: Acts 2:42-47	Sermon Title: 'The Start of the Church'



We pray you have had a meaningful Lenten journey. Continue your Lenten journey throughout Holy Week:

Palm Sunday, March 29

Worship at 9:30 am in the Sanctuary. We will celebrate Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem riding on a donkey with palm branches waving and special music. Our Lenten Food Collection ends this day.

Following the service, gather in the Fellowship Hall for a chili lunch, fellowship and a dessert auction hosted by the Outreach and Worship committees.

Tuesday, March 31 at 10 am join us in the Narthex to sort and bag the food collected for distribution to local food pantries.

Maundy Thursday, April 2

We will share a carry in/potluck supper at 5:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. Bring a dish to share. Ham, rolls and drinks will be provided. Following the meal, we will have worship and communion as we reflect on the Last Supper.

Good Friday, April 3

Worship at 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary.

We will remember the crucifixion through scripture, special music and a powerful Tenebrae service.

Easter morning, April 5

Worship at 9:30 am in the Sanctuary.

We will celebrate our Risen Christ through sight, sound and fragrance! We will have special music and Easter flowers! You are also invited to bring a flower to church (artificial or fresh) to transform the dark somber cross in the Narthex to a beautiful living symbol.

In addition, there will be an opportunity to have Easter pictures taken! Don DeFrance will be taking pictures on the second floor immediately west of the sanctuary on Easter. The only cost to you will be the prints you opt to purchase at Walgreens.

We look forward to celebrating our Risen Christ with each of you!

CPR Class



Thank you to all who participated in the CPR class hosted by our church on Monday, March 16. The class was led by the Lowell Volunteer Fire Department in conjunction with the American Heart Association. Nine participants became certified in CPR, choking and the use of AED. Our church has an AED on the west wall of the Narthex located on the second floor.

In addition, a personal testimony was shared by a member of our congregation who needed the Heimlich Maneuver performed while at a local restaurant. The Town of Lowell will be recognizing this community person at the next Town Hall meeting in April for their life saving measures. The meetings are open to the public.

Mission of the Month



In April we are supporting a United Methodist mission. Our Mission of the Month is Africa University. Africa University began in 1984 with the call for the UM Church to build a University in Africa. At the 1988 General Conference work on Africa University was approved in Old Mutare, Zimbabwe as a United Methodist institution. It's first students were enrolled in agriculture. New colleges have since been added as well as dormitories, libraries, and other buildings. Students from all over Africa come and receive a top-quality education. Most of them then return to their country of origin and help build the economy. Your donation will help many Africans receive a university education.

On April 12 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.



An Invitation from Our UWF Ladies ~

We will be hosting a Guatemalan Fiesta in the Fellowship Hall on Saturday, May 2, at 11:00am. We will be learning about the culture of Guatemala from a missionary. There will be games, music and fun. All are invited!

Energy Conservation & Maintenance Help Needed from Congregation

Help us save energy and reduce costs. We kindly ask everyone to turn off lights when leaving a room or if no one is present. Please note, the safety lights stay on overnight. Also, if you notice a leaky faucet, a toilet that is constantly running, water leaking from the roof, or ceiling stains, please inform for Kim, Pastor Mark or a Trustee so it can be fixed promptly.

The FUMC Trustees



Student Care Packages

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

What is a college final exam box?

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?

Please submit the names and addresses of your children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews who are enrolled in college and will be preparing for finals this Spring. There will be a sign up sheet in the Narthex after Easter.

How can you be a part of this 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 a list of items needed for the boxes in the Narthex starting mid-April.
4. Help **pack** the college boxes the end of April; watch for details in additional emails.

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

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

Our 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 approximately 75 people gathered to taste a variety of delicious homemade chili recipes, each prepared with care and creativity.

We had 15 chili recipes entered, 9 of which were submitted for judging. After much tasting and friendly competition, Catherine Perigo took home the top prize for her Taco Chili. Second place went to Craig Wilson's Beef and Bean Chili, and third place was a tie between Jen Wilson's Chili Bean Chili and Jake Lautenschlager's Mexican Style Chili. But the real winners were everyone who enjoyed the warm fellowship and delicious food we shared together.

This year's cook-off was held in loving memory of Gil Rodriguez, last year's winner. He was greatly missed and fondly remembered.

The dessert auction that followed was equally impressive! Our 25 bakers showcased an incredible range of talent, with entries spanning classic pies, elaborate cakes, and beautiful cupcakes. Thanks to the enthusiastic bidding of our members, we raised an impressive \$1,900 for our Outreach events. These funds will directly support the various community activities — Kids Karnival, Music in the Park, Bingo, and more — that 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. Your generosity and culinary skills made this gathering so special. And to all who opened their hearts and wallets to bid on the desserts — your support means more than you know. A special thank you as well to our panel of judges, who had the tough task of selecting the winners. 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.



SENIOR BINGO

Young at Heart Sr. Bingo meets on the fourth Tuesday. We'll be meeting on April 28 at 1 pm. Bring friends and come play free Bingo, eat wonderful snacks and win great prizes.



The Lion's Club collects hearing aids in any condition, working or non-working. You can put them in the glasses collection box that is under the bench in the church foyer.

Thank you ~ Mel and Kathy Goldman

Benevolence in Stewardship: Leading with Generosity and Purpose

Don Bales, Finance Chairperson

We are in month three of our Stewardship story titled “Five Pockets of Stewardship.” This month’s pocket is the “Benevolence Pocket.” At the heart of effective stewardship lies benevolence—the conscious choice to act for the benefit of others, fostering goodwill, and uplifting communities. Benevolent stewardship is a conscious choice that strengthens relationships, enhances trust, and creates lasting positive impact.

Understanding Benevolent Stewardship

- Generosity of resources: Sharing time, talent, and treasures for the common good.
- Empathy in decision-making: Considering the well-being and dignity of all in our communities.

The Benefits of Benevolent Leadership

- Trust and loyalty: People are naturally drawn to leaders who show genuine concern for others.
- Community enrichment: Benevolent actions empower communities, encouraging cooperation and shared growth.

Benevolence transforms stewardship from a duty into a meaningful vocation. A church family who prioritizes generosity, empathy, and ethical foresight not only manage resources wisely but also leave a legacy of positive change. In a world often focused on self-interest, benevolent stewardship reminds us that true stewardship commitment is measured by the good we do for others.

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



"Wait! That's the Friday part.
Wait until you hear the Sunday part!"



WEEKLY EVENTS

Sunday - Worship ~ 9:30am (in Sanctuary), **Sunday School** ~ Adult: 8:15 am WINGS (300), FRIENDS (304), Children: 9:30 am **Monday** - A/A 12pm (303) Wed. - A/A - 8pm (Fellowship Hall), AI/Anon - 8pm (lib)
Thurs. - Dulcimers 10am (300), Godsbells 4:30 pm, *LYFT* Dinner 5:30pm/Worship 6:00pm (F.H.)
 Chancel Choir 7pm

APRIL 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Music Jam 1 pm (FH) UWF Exec. Meeting 5:30 pm (lib)	2 Women's Book Study 3 pm (304) LYFT Pot- Luck/Maundy Thursday Service 5:30p	3 Working Together Circle 1:30p (library) Good Friday Service 7 pm	4
5 Easter Sunday ~ He Is Risen!	6 Office Closed Tri-Kappa 6 pm (FH)	7	8 Education Meeting 7 pm (300)	9 Women's Book Study 3 pm (304)	10	11 Fellowship Hall Rented
12 Confirmation Sunday Fellowship Hall Rented	13 Susanna Wesley Circle 1 pm (library)	14	15 Music Jam 1 pm (FH)	16 Women's Book Study 3 pm (304)	17	18
19	20 Congregational Care Meeting 1pm (library)	21 Household Pantry 9-12 & 5-6 (curbside)	22 Finance Meeting 4 pm (FH) Trustees Meeting 6 pm (conf. rm.)	23 Women's Book Study 3 pm (304)	24	25
26	27 Ad-Council 6 pm (FH)	28 Senior Bingo 1 pm (FH)	29	30 Women's Book Study 3 pm (304)		