

The First United Methodist Church of Lowell Tele-Christian March 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 ~

Why did Jesus have to die on the cross?

We are looking at this topic each Sunday throughout the 6 weeks of Lent. We are using a book and DVD series by Adam Hamilton in an adult Sunday School class. In addition, each week the worship sermon will embrace those topics laid out and further explain them.

The basic explanation of the cross is that it is our means of atonement. That needs some unpacking. We all sin and fall short of God's glory. Because of that blight on our spirits, we cannot enter the presence of God. Sin cannot stand before God. Something needs to happen to bring us back into union with God. Something needs to make us "at one" with God. That is the meaning of atonement, coming back into a right relationship with God. The way to come back into alignment with God is through the cross. In these next five weeks we will look at the "why" of this. Why does it have to be a cross? Why did the Son of God have to die? Why couldn't Jesus just wave a stick and say I forgive all of your sins, and let that be an end to it? Why death? Why a cross?

We've already studied the first topic. The cross as God's Word. The cross wasn't just an inevitable event in Jesus' life. Jesus, as God's Son, is the Word of God according to John 1:1-5. The Word or in Greek, the Logos, is the logic behind the creative power of God's spoken word. He spoke all things into being. Throughout His life and ministry, Jesus lived and spoke the Word of God. There is life in the words and actions of Jesus. They still speak to millions of people today. On the cross there is great power in that Word willingly giving up His life for us. It is the story of God's love for us.

Join us through the rest of Lent to hear more of the answers to the question, "Why did Jesus have to die?" The two adult classes are combined for this series and meet at 8:15 am on Sunday morning on the third floor in the center room.

March Sermons

All through March we will be exploring the reasons that Jesus had to die. Come be a part of church in Lent and be a part of this critically important topic for our lives.

March 1: Scripture: Colossians 2:13b-14

Sermon Title: 'The Selfless Offering'

March 8: Scripture: Exodus 12:21-28

Sermon Title: 'A New Covenant'

March 15: Scripture: Galatians 2:20

Sermon Title: 'I Am Crucified with Christ'

March 22: Scripture: John 3:16

Sermon Title: 'What Wonderful Love Is This'

March 29: Scripture: Philippians 2:5-11

Sermon Title: 'The Humble Man'

Worship News

The Lenten season began on February 18 with Ash Wednesday. It is a 40-day journey. Lent is a period of [repentance](#), which ends at the arrival of [Easter](#). Each Sunday, our worship service will prepare us for Holy Week. During Holy Week, there will be special worship services.

Palm Sunday, March 29

Celebrating the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem; we will celebrate with song and waving of palms

Maundy Thursday, April 2 (5:30 pm dinner/6:00 pm worship in Fellowship Hall)

Sharing a meal and communion together as we remember The Last Supper

Good Friday, April 3 at 7 pm

Remembering the crucifixion through a moving Tenebrae service

EASTER! April 5

He is Risen!

Celebrating the empty tomb through joyous music, fragrance, and beauty!

This Lenten season we are collecting specific nonperishable food items that will then be distributed to the food pantries in our community.

Bonus *Ash Wednesday: Dessert treats, Little Debbie, Hostess and all those things you're not supposed to have.

Week 1 (Feb. 22) Canned Vegetables

Week 2 (March 1) Proteins/Meats: Canned tuna, chicken, beef, nuts, peanut butter.

Week 3 (March 8) Pasta/Sauces: Includes Chef Boyardee. Spaghetti-O's

Week 4 (March 15) Breakfast: Cereal, Pop Tarts, granola bars, pancake mix, syrup.

Week 5 (March 22) Canned Fruit

Week 6 (March 29) Soup and crackers

We will again have an opportunity to purchase flowers to adorn the sanctuary Easter morning. More information will be made available throughout the month of March.

We pray you will experience a meaningful Lenten journey and joyous Easter celebration.



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!

NEW MEMBER CLASS

If anyone would like to join the church, please talk to Pastor Mark. We'll do a membership class this Spring and plan for a time to join the church in late April.



Mission of the Month

In February we supported Kafakumba Training Center in Zambia, Africa. In March we are supporting a new mission for us, **Royal Family Kids Camp**. Royal Family provides a United Methodist camping experience for abused and neglected children. Children aged 7-12 who are living in foster homes or other out-of-home placements are able to come to Epworth Forest and enjoy a week of camp in a safe supportive environment. The cost is \$700, so your donation will help a child truly in need have a positive experience this summer. Tom Sufana and David Schoon have worked at this camp over the years. On March 8 there will be envelopes in the bulletins that we will accept all month to help with this mission.



During worship on February 8, our church family prayed over 26 colorful handmade blankets and shawls! **What happens next? Everyone is needed to continue this ministry.** Do you know someone in need of prayer? Someone who needs to feel wrapped in God's love? Take them a prayer blanket! The prayer blankets and shawls are located in the church library and are waiting to be taken to someone you know who has a physical, emotional or spiritual need. Thank you to all who have and will participate in this ministry!



UWF News

The United Women in Faith have been busy planning activities and events for the year. We will be involved with Music in the Park in August and Winterfest in December. We will be adding some more choices to our Winterfest menu. We will definitely continue cookies, candy, soup, and hot chocolate during the Cookie Walk. Thank you again to people in the church who contributed to the Cookie Walk. We will make sure this year to have a list of ingredients and names of cookies. We were contacted by people who purchased from us for our recipes!

We will be hosting a tea on May 2 for all the ladies of our church. We will also be inviting other UWF units from churches in our district. We will have a speaker, food, fellowship, and fun. More details to come. United Women in Faith Sunday will be May 31.



Stewardship: Understanding What Giving Really Means

When we hear the word *stewardship*, many people immediately think about money. But stewardship is much bigger than finances. Stewardship is about recognizing that **everything we have belongs to God**, and we are simply entrusted to manage it faithfully. Psalm 24:1 says, *"The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it."*

That means our time, talents, resources, relationships, opportunities, and yes—our finances—are not truly ours. They are gifts from God, placed in our hands for a season.

We are in month two of our Stewardship story titled "Five Pockets of Stewardship. The First pocket was the Outreach and Care Pocket. This means we are reaching out in love to the community and loving our church family.

This month's pocket is the "Bill Pocket." The Bill Pocket may not seem glamorous, but it is essential. This pocket represents the faithful giving that keeps the lights on, the heat or air flowing, the water running, and the doors open. It ensures that our church building remains a welcoming, safe, and comfortable place for worship and fellowship.

Because of the Bill Pocket, our church family can gather in a space where:

- Cares and concerns are lifted in prayer
- Praises and joys are shared in celebration
- Friendships are strengthened
- Faith is nurtured and renewed

The Bill Pocket supports the everyday expenses that make ministry possible. While it may not always be seen, its impact is felt every single week. When we contribute to the Bill Pocket, we are doing more than paying utilities — we are sustaining sacred space. We are helping create an environment where God's presence is experienced, where burdens are shared, and where hope is restored.

Thank you for your continued generosity and faithful stewardship.



Volunteer Needed....

For basic gardening and maintenance of the church grounds in the summer months. Please contact Pastor Mark or Tony Farney if you are interested in this ministry.



LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

The Leadership Summit in January gathered the accomplishments of the church in 2025. We are letting you know what the accomplishments were by committee each month in this newsletter. There are way too many to throw at you all at once. Below is one committee's accomplishments.

Staff Parish:

1. Planned and implemented Kim McGinley's 20th work anniversary celebration.
2. Presented card and gift for Bobbie Sue McDaniel's new baby.
3. Had regular discussions about how things are going in the church.
4. Moved from having one committee member taking care of a staff member to all members of the committee showing care and appreciation to all of the staff.
5. Presented appreciation and a gift to the staff at Christmas.
6. Did the annual evaluation of the pastor and turned in the paperwork to the conference.
7. Did a parsonage inspection with the Trustees.
8. Turned in paperwork for charge conference.
9. Set the staff salaries for 2026 which were approved by Finance and Administrative Council.
10. Were open to addressing any concerns by the congregations and yet we maintained confidentiality.

SPRC meets at least four times a year. It is the only closed committee in the church. At all other meetings, anyone in the church can come and sit in and observe (but not make motions or vote). Anyone can come and present a concern to the SPRC and then leave. The resolution of that concern remains a private matter within the committee.

Children's Valentine Party

On Friday, February 13, the Education Committee hosted a Valentine party in the Fellowship Hall. The evening started with Brooks Bales making balloon animals for all. Children and adults decorated and enjoyed heart-shaped cookies, then burned off all that sugar by participating in a scavenger hunt that led teams on an adventure throughout the whole church searching for clues and finally finding the prize! We wrapped up the evening by eating popcorn and watching a Scooby Doo movie. We had a great time enjoying food, fun, and fellowship!



**EASTER
EGG-STRAVAGANZA**



We are excited to be hosting the Easter Egg-Stravaganza again this year! On Saturday, March 28 we will welcome the children of our church and the community for lunch, games, crafts, and story time.

Much help will be needed! Please mark the date on your calendar and be on the lookout for the volunteer sign-up sheets in the Narthex.



Annual Chili Cook-Off & Dessert Auction is Back!

Our beloved community tradition returns on Sunday, March 29 right after worship! Join us for an afternoon of great food, friendly competition, and fellowship.

Chili Cook-Off Calling all chili chefs! Whether you're a seasoned pro or trying your hand for the first time, we invite you to enter your best recipe and compete for bragging rights. Word has it we'll have a celebrity panel of judges this year!

Dessert Auction Not a chili master? We need your legendary desserts! Bake your specialty to be auctioned off or come prepared to bid on delicious homemade treats.

How to Participate Sign-up sheets for both the cook-off and the dessert auction will be posted at the beginning of March. Everyone is welcome to attend and enjoy the festivities.



"Ya Got Trouble!" in River City, Iowa. The year is 1912, and Professor Harold Hill (played by our own Brad Miller), is trying to form a Band. There's one problem. He doesn't know a thing about music! Marian, the Librarian, is set on revealing his true character. Come find out if she is successful, as Lowell High School Theater presents Meredith Willson's *The Music Man* on March 12 - 14 at 7:00 and Sunday, March 15 at 2:00.

Michelle Mishlove, as Vocal Director, has masterfully created the choral component of this classic musical. Hannah Mishlove brings her talent to the stage as Mrs. Paroo, Marian's mother, and Matthew Mishlove, as Ewart Dunlop, local grocer, and tenor in the Barbershop Quartet. For nine weeks, 80 students have been working tirelessly to bring this show to life, and you won't want to miss the culmination of their dedicated efforts.

Students/Seniors are \$8 and Adults \$10. Tickets can be purchased from Patrice Martin.



SENIOR BINGO

Young at Heart Sr. Bingo meets on the fourth Tuesday. We'll be meeting on March 24 at 1 pm. Bring friends and come play free Bingo, eat wonderful snacks and win great prizes.

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



"I downloaded them from a cloud."



"Remind me never to ask the Youth Group to help fold the church bulletins again."

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) **Wed.** - A/A - 8pm (Fellowship Hall), Al/Anon - 8pm (lib) **Thurs.** - Dulcimers 10am (303),
 Godsbells 4:30 pm, *LYFT* Dinner 5:30pm/Worship 6:00pm (F.H.) Chancel Choir 7pm **Saturday** - A/A 11 a.m. (303)

March 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Confirmation Class 10:30am (303)	2 Tri-Kappa 6pm (FH)	3	4 CPR Class 11am and 1 pm (300) Music Jam 1 pm (FH) UWF Exec. Meeting 5:30 pm (library)	5 Women's Book Study 3 pm (304)	6 Working Together Circle 1:30 pm (library)	7
8 Confirmation Class 10:30am (303)	9 Susanna Wesley Circle 1pm (library)	10	11 Worship Mtg. 6 pm Education Mtg. 7 pm	12 Women's Book Study 3 pm (304)	13	14
15 Confirmation Class 10:30am (303)	16	17	18 Music Jam 1 pm (FH) Finance Mtg. 4 pm (FH)	19 **no women's book study today	20	21
22	23 Ad-Council 6pm (FH)	24 Senior Bingo 1pm (FH)	25 Trustee's Mtg. 6 pm	26 Women's Book Study 3 pm (304)	27	28 Children's Egg-Stravaganza 11:30am (FH)
29 Palm Sunday Chili Cook-Off/Baked Goods Auction 11am	30	31				