

The First United Methodist Church of Lowell

Tele-Christian May 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 ~

Mother's Day is almost upon us. I can't relate to being a mom, but I came across this article of biblical motherhood. Enjoy. *Pastor Mark*

WRITTEN BY MAGGIE COMBS

I don't need to tell you that motherhood is hard work. It's physically grueling, emotionally exhausting, and intellectually numbing. We are moms, we know each of these challenges firsthand. One hardship we often overlook as moms is the challenge it makes to our sense of purpose. Understanding our purpose and calling is a tricky part of being a new creation. It gets even trickier when we become a new mom.

Through the consuming trials of motherhood, we lose many of the earthly ways we used to understand the purpose of our lives before: We may no longer be working outside the home. We might find our friendships weakening as we enter a different stage from single or childless friends or just have a fussy baby that won't do the play date routine. Even church changes for us: we rarely get to sit through a service before a baby needs to nurse or an upset child needs to be taken out.

Because the challenges of motherhood strip away our old identity markers, we are tempted to replace them by finding our purpose in godly motherhood. We hear from our Christian friends and leaders or tell ourselves things like: "Motherhood is the highest calling." Or, "Raising godly children is our most important work."

Our Christian culture is trying to support us as we work our bodies, hearts, and brains to the bone, but these kinds of encouragements miss the point. If our ultimate purpose as godly women is to raise godly children, what happens when our children are grown? Do we get to lie down on the couch and watch daytime television for the rest of our lives because we have completed the job God gave us? What happens if despite the countless hours memorizing Bible verses, teaching God's grace, and praying for their souls, some of our children don't accept God's gift of salvation? Did we fail as moms? If our purpose is to raise godly children and some of them don't accept God's gift of salvation, what did all those countless hours of endless sacrifice amount to?

Although godly motherhood is valuable, it is not our purpose. It is not our first calling, but the result of it. Our tendency is to find our purpose in the good works we do for God and the people we impact for Christ, but that's getting the process backward. Revealing God to others isn't the purpose of my life; it's the product. My ultimate purpose isn't to love my children, my friends, or even my husband—it is to love God.

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment" ([Matthew 22:37-38](#)).

Our purpose is first and foremost to love God more. This means that motherhood can't be our ultimate purpose. Godly motherhood is a product of fulfilling our purpose: loving God more by knowing him better. God's purpose for every relationship we have and every circumstance of our lives, even one as world-shifting and challenging as motherhood, is to bring us further up and further in. When we find our value, identity, and purpose in our relationship with Jesus, we are sanctified and godliness is the result.

Paul says "Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord" (Philippians 3:8). If we know Jesus is of "surpassing worth," nothing is as valuable or as important as developing an intimate relationship with him. Without this Jesus-relationship component, everything in our worlds is a loss. Motherhood is not meant to give us life; it's meant to point us to the true Life-Giver.

May Sermon Titles and Scripture

In May the sermons will continue to focus on the Acts and the life of the early church. Come hear how the church started in Jerusalem and exploded around the world and now how it affects us today.

May 3:	Scripture: Acts 7:55-60	Sermon Title: The First Martyr'
May 10:	Scripture: Isaiah 66:12-13	Sermon Title: A Mother's Love'
May 17:	Scripture: Acts 1:1-11	Sermon Title: The Prophecy of the Coming Church'
May 24:	Scripture: I Corinthians 12:3b-13	Sermon Title: The Holy Spirit is Here'
May 31:	UWF Sunday ~ Peggy Hendricks Speaking	

Worship News

Our church family celebrated the resurrection of Jesus in glorious fashion on Easter Sunday. Thank you to all participants who contributed to this meaningful Easter season including the beautiful Easter flowers that adorned the sanctuary Easter morning. Let us try to be Easter people all year around!

Additional Upcoming Worship Services

May 10:

Mother's Day

Women will be honored and receive a special gift

May 24:

Memorial Day

Honor those deceased military church members

Pentecost

Everyone please wear red to church

May 31:

Graduation and Sunday School Recognition

Celebrate our Graduates and Sunday School Children

United Women in Faith Sunday

The Women's Circles of the church usher and greet, circle recognition, Peggy Hendricks will speak

*Martha's Coffee House will be taking a summer break after this Sunday

Father's Day, June 21

Men will be honored and receive a special gift

Summer Worship at Evergreen Park

Sunday, July 26 at 9:30 am

Mission of the Month



A Ministry of Cedar Lake United Methodist Church

In May we are supporting a local United Methodist mission. Our Mission of the Month is the Cedar Lake Food Pantry at the UM Church. The food pantry provides food help for families across southern Lake County. The pantry started in the church but has since outgrown the space and is now housed in a beautiful building behind the church. Your gifts will help feed the hungry.

On May 10 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.



The Good Samaritan Fund is an account in our church that assists people in the Lowell community who need help with gasoline, food, rent or utility bills. From May 3 -17, we will use 'Generosity Trees' to raise money for the Good Samaritan Fund. The trees will be in the Narthex with envelopes on them labeled from \$1 to \$100. The envelopes have a place that you can write in honor of or in memory of a loved one or a friend. There will be a bulletin insert on Memorial Day Sunday with the names on it.

Please consider taking an envelope and giving to our Good Samaritan Fund. All envelopes are due on May 17. The people in need in our community...*and I*, thank you!

Kim McGinley, Fund Administrator



Thank you to all who have supported the College Box Ministry through donations, prayers, words of encouragement and packing the boxes. A total of 4 boxes are being sent to college students in our church family as they complete their spring semester. Please continue to pray for the students and this ministry.

**The recipients this spring:
Keeley Bernard, Kalamazoo MI
RayLynn Miller, Angola, IN
Lauren Riordan, Muncie, IN
Chesney Wilson, Indianapolis, IN**



**2026 Vacation Bible School
Tuesday, June 23 – Thursday, June 25
12:00 – 2:00 pm**

We are excited to begin planning Vacation Bible School for this summer. It will be 3 fun-filled days helping the children of our church and community “discover the nature of God” while exploring **Rainforest Falls**. We look forward to sharing more about this year's theme with you in the coming weeks, but in the meantime please start spreading the word about VBS.

We are so grateful that our congregation has always supported Vacation Bible School through prayer, donations, and lots of volunteers. Be on the lookout in the church Narthex for volunteer sign-up sheets and donation opportunities. If you have any questions, please call Amy Manier, 219-712-6157, or the church office.

More information is coming soon!



Celebrate! Celebrate!

We will be celebrating high school and college graduates during worship on Sunday, May 31st. Please let us know if you have a graduate in your family that has attended our church. We want to recognize their accomplishment. Call the church office to add your graduates' name to the list.

In addition, we will be recognizing our children's Sunday School participants during worship on Sunday, May 31st. Please join us to celebrate the children of our church.

Confirmation

Through the winter and early spring Pastor Mark led five of our youth through a 10-week Confirmation Class. These youth were Aiden Champanois, Mischa Champanois, Corey Manier, Lilly Oman, and Savannah Wilson.

On April 12, four of the youth stood before the church congregation with their parents and sponsor. They professed their faith in Jesus and became members of our Lowell Methodist Church. Aiden was unable to attend on that date and will be confirmed when his work schedule allows.

It was a joy to witness these youth proclaim their faith and commitment to Christ. These young adults are smart, insightful, funny, thoughtful, and all-around amazing human beings. They have bright futures ahead of them!



From This
<
To This
>
Where
has the
time
gone?



A report on our Lenten Food Drive...*Well done Church!*

By Trudy Corning



Thank you to all who participated in our Lenten Food Drive. We collected a total of 585 items!

The collected items were distributed to 4 local food pantries:
Cedar Lake Methodist, Church of Christ, Lutheran Church, and St. Edward's

For those of you who like numbers, here is the breakdown of items collected:
133 canned vegetables; 98 protein/canned meat; 110 pasta/sauce; 70 breakfast items; 73 canned fruit; 66 soups/crackers. And for those sweet treats we are not supposed to have, 35. Thank you also to those who helped sort, organize, bag and deliver the items. It is amazing to see the hands of Jesus at work.
May our community experience the love of Jesus.



Called to Stewardship: Using God's Gifts Wisely

Don Bales, Finance Chair

Our Stewardship Story this month focuses on the "Education Pocket". This pocket represents the ministries that help us learn, grow, and deepen our faith together. Stewardship is about investing in people and spiritual growth.

The Education Pocket supports ministries like:

Children's Sunday School – where our youngest members first learn Bible stories and discover God's love.

Adult Sunday School – spaces for conversation, learning, and wrestling with faith together.

Children's Programs – activities that nurture faith, friendships, and belonging.

Adult Bible Studies – opportunities to explore Scripture and apply it to daily life.

Every class taught, every curriculum purchased, every gathering of learners is possible because of the generosity and commitment of this congregation. In other words, our Education Pocket plants the seeds of faith—in children, youth, and adults alike.

- Some seeds are planted today.
- Some grow slowly over time.
- But all of them help shape faithful disciples for the future.

Thank you for being part of that story.



SENIOR BINGO

Young at Heart Sr. Bingo meets on the fourth Tuesday. We'll be meeting on May 26 at 1 pm. Bring friends and come play free Bingo, eat wonderful snacks and win great prizes.

Pastor's Comic Corner

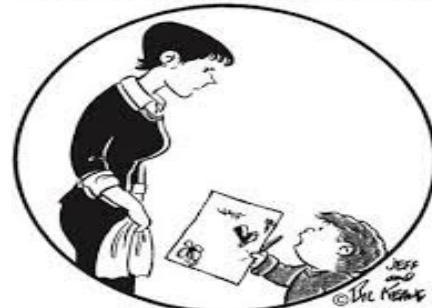
In case you haven't noticed, I love humor.

Below are comics that I've come across. Enjoy and smile! Pastor Mark



YOUR FATHER HAS AGREED TO STAY AWAKE IN CHURCH TODAY SINCE IT IS MOTHER'S DAY ... IT WOULD BE NICE IF YOU WOULD DO THE OPPOSITE FOR ONCE

THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Jeff & Bil Keane



"Mommy, will you write 'Happy Mother's Day' on here? But don't look at it!"

from JoyfulNoiseletter.com
Reprinted with permission of Bil Keane

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 3 pm (303), A/A - 8pm (F.H.), Al/Anon - 8pm (lib)
Thurs. - Dulcimers 10am (300), Godsbells 4:30 pm, *LYFT* Dinner 5:30pm/Worship 6:00pm (F.H.)
 Chancel Choir 7pm (sanctuary)

May 2026						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Working Together Circle 1:30 pm (library) UWF Tea Set-Up 5 pm (FH)	2 UWF Tea 11 am Lawn Mower Blade Sharpening 10am-1pm
3 Generosity Tree in Narthex	4 Tri-Kappa 6 pm (FH)	5 Election Day (FH)	6 Music Jam 1 pm UWF Exec. 5:30 pm (library) Worship 6 pm Education 7 pm	7 Leaps and Bounds 10am (lib)	8	9
10 Generosity Tree in Narthex Mission Sunday ~ Cedar Lake Food Pantry	11 Susanna Wesley 1 pm (library) Pre-School Program 4-8 pm (sanctuary)	12 Pre-School program 9 am (FH)	13 Finance 4 pm (FH)	14	15	16 Fellowship Hall Rented 12 pm
17 Generosity Tree in Narthex	18 Ad-Council 6 pm	19 Household Pantry 9-12 & 5-6 (curbside) Library Rented 11am	20 Music Jam 1 pm	21	22	23
24	25 Memorial Day /Office Closed	26 Senior Bingo 1 pm (FH)	27 Trustees 6 pm	28	29	30
31 UWF Sunday Graduation Sunday Sunday School Recognition						