

# The First United Methodist Church of Lowell Tele-Christian August 2021 Edition

**The mission of the United Methodist Church is to  
make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.**

## *Mark's Remarks.....*

If you know anything about me, you should know that I love history. I'm a strong believer in learning from history. I believe we have a tendency to repeat our mistakes if we don't continually look back and learn from our past. I love the history of the churches I serve. First UMC has a rich history with roots back to the 1830s. Over the next year, I want to share some of your history with you.

In this article I want to give you a test. As you picture the membership role of the church, it is compiled in chronological order. This means that number 1 on the list is the person who joined earliest. The roll of members continues up to those who have recently joined. Your test is, who fills numbers one through twenty-three on the membership roll? Who has been a part of the church the longest?

Twenty-three is an unusual number to choose. I decided to make a list of everyone who joined the church before I was born, (that's October, 1963). I then discovered that our computer was missing over 60 membership dates. I hauled all the old membership books out of storage and have been whittling that number down. We still need to find the records for 14 more people, so the list that follows may need to change slightly.

Have you written down your guesses? Here's the list of the longest serving members of First UMC in countdown form.

- Twenty-three: joining 4/7/1963 Lillian McLellan;
- Twenty-two: joining 2/10/1963 Mark Lindemer;
- Twenty-one: joining 4/2/1962 Charlene Grant;
- Twenty to Eighteen: joining on 9/3/1961 Lewis Childress, Anita Childress and Gisela Peterson;
- Seventeen: joining 4/10/1960 Connie Cox;
- Sixteen: joining 10/11/1959 Virginia Kasparian;
- Fifteen to Twelve: joining 3/15/1959 Bonnie Wilson, Linda Hayden, Jackie Mansfield, Charles Howkinson;
- Eleven: joining 1/4/1959 Paula Tilton;
- Ten: joining 6/29/1958 Dennis Keithley;
- Nine to Eight: joining 4/3/1955 Lyle Patchett, Frances Van Deursen;
- Seven to Six: joining in July 1954 Mary Stuart, Janet Kaiser;
- Five: joining 4/13/1951 Jim Johnson;
- Four: Joining 2/11/1950 Shirley Spry;
- Three to Two: joining 3/21/1948 John Little, Judy Livingston;

Our longest serving member, number one on the membership roll joined 3/29/1942. Did you guess correct? Wayne Wietbrock!

If you know you joined the church before 1963 and are not listed above, just let me know. We may still be searching through the membership records trying to find your record. Reading through that list. It's amazing what a Godly group of people these are.

*Pastor Mark*

## August Sermon and Scripture Schedule

### **August 1 ~ Communion Sunday**

Scripture ~ James 3:9-12

Sermon Title ~ *Tame the Tongue: Profanity*

### **August 8 ~**

Scripture ~ Ephesians 4:1-7

Sermon Title ~ *Unity in Christ*

### **August 15 ~**

Scripture ~ Ephesians 4:25-5:2

Sermon Title ~ *Living in Christ*

### **August 22 ~**

Scripture ~ Ephesians 5:15-20

Sermon Title ~ *Living for Christ*

### **August 29 ~**

Scripture ~ Ephesians 6:10-17

Sermon Title ~ *Fighting for Christ*



### **August Sermon Series**

Our sermons in August will be a series from the book of Ephesians. It is entitled *Christian Living*. The four weeks will be: Unity in Christ, Living in Christ, Living for Christ, and Fighting for Christ. Join us through August as we draw closer to Jesus!



### **Worship News**

Linda Hayden & Trudy Corning, Co-Chairpersons

### **God is not restricted by walls.**

In July, our church hosted guest speaker Brandon Knight. Brandon reflected on scripture from John 4:1-26 and challenged the congregation by telling us that God is not restricted by walls. We were reminded there are many forms of walls in our life including physical and spiritual walls.

Join us on Sunday for worship either within the walls of our beautiful sanctuary at 10:30 or outside the walls in nature's beautiful sanctuary at 8:00 in Evergreen Park. Our outside worship service will continue through the month of September.



### L.Y.F.T. SERVICE

Our LYFT (Live Your Faith Today) service has been a wonderful addition to our faith journeys here at our church. We meet every Thursday from 6-7 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. We sing praise music, have Bible study or a guest speaker, and end with communion. The Praise Team also sings once a month at this service.

Below is what will be offered in the month of August:

We will continue with our Bible study called 'Power to Persevere'

- August 5: Remember the Cross
- August 12: \*\*No LYFT tonight
- August 19: Without Compromise Trust God to Help You
- August 26: Signs of the End Times



### Music Notes

Michelle Mishlove, Music Chairperson

This will be a busy month for the members of our Chancel Choir! They will be singing on the following Sundays: @ 8:00 on August 1, @ 10:30 on August 15, and @ 8:00 August 29.

Our Praise Team will sing on August 22 at the 10:30 AM service. You can also hear them at the LYFT service on Thursday, August 26 which begins at 6 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Music Committee members: Please check your email and mark your calendar now! Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, September 1 at 7:00 pm (upstairs in the WINGS room).



### Ring to the Glory of God

From Patrice Martin

Godsbells, our church Hand Bell Choir, will begin rehearsal for the new season on Thursday, September 2 at 4:30. We practice in the balcony on the third floor and **this year, we are seeking new ringers!** You do not need previous bell experience, but you will feel more comfortable if you can read music. The Choir prepares a selection for the worship services on second Sunday of every month, beginning September 12. We are usually at the 10:30 service, but will play one time for the 8:00 and one Sunday down front. We have quite an eclectic balance of music, including jazz, contemporary, gospel, classical and traditional tunes. These talented musicians provide spiritual support for each other as they joyously ring to the glory of God.

Come join in the FUN!

## FUMC and COVID-19: August 2021 Update

The Lay Leaders met on July 13 and evaluated our FUMC Covid protocols.

Protocols that will be maintained: Masks are required in the building for those not vaccinated. Social distancing is still encouraged. Offering plates will remain stationary, not passed. Sealed Communion elements will still be used. Water fountains will remain closed. Greeting during worship will remain a simple wave while seated.

### Changes to protocols:

- Attendance cards will be returned to pews and to the park service table, starting July 25.
- Worshippers will stand for singing, starting July 25.
- Worshippers will be invited to kneel at the altar rail during the last hymn.
- Mask wearing for children under 12 will be optional.
- Church facilities may be rented by church & community members for private parties/events.
- Snacks may be served at church & community meetings.
- Church meals can resume, but must be served or plated – no self-serve buffet meals.
- Martha's Coffee House will resume when park service ends in October. Only packaged foods, coffee & lemonade served. Members may bring their own coffee in travel mugs with secure lids.
- Thursday evening meals at the L.Y.F.T. service will resume in October.

**NOTE: The decisions made may be rescinded or revised if Covid case numbers increase.** We will continue to monitor Lake County statistics and keep aware of guidelines and mandates from the CDC. Our main concern continues to be making FUMC a safe place for ALL of our church family and guests. For those now feeling uncomfortable as the Delta variant case numbers rise, we invite you to wear a mask at your own discretion.

As our Church Mouse stated in the July newsletter: The biggest thing you can do to end this pandemic is to get your vaccination.



### **The Nurses' Corner**

Trudy Corning & Lauren Jansma

#### Staying healthy 70+

You can't turn back the clock, but there are lots of ways to stay healthy in your 70s and beyond. Diet and exercise are important. Monitor your health, especially when it comes to problems like cancer and heart disease. Stay active socially and challenge yourself mentally – both help fight mental decline.

Looking forward, the Nurse Is In is hoping to be back checking blood pressures this fall! Watch for more details in the near future.

## From the Finance Committee

We are on the cusp of developing our 2022 church budgets. Committees are being requested to pray, to seek guidance, to have plans that will encourage faith, sustain vital ministries, and inspire a growing relationship with God. Our stewardship chair, Rick Bachman is asking committee chairs to share "their story" on how God's works are touching lives in and out of our church walls. We shall begin to hear those stories each week at our services.

We bring our church together in serving, lifting others, building a closer and more intimate relationship with our Lord and savior Jesus Christ. We are the stewards of God's resources.

A biblical world view of stewardship can be consciously defined as: "**Utilizing and managing all resources God provides for the glory of God and the betterment of His creation.**" The central essence of biblical world view stewardship is managing everything God brings into the believer's life in a manner that honors God ... A good steward **Remembers We Work for God.**

A good biblical steward is always mindful that he or she works for God. God is the owner. "The earth and everything in it, the world and its inhabitants, belong to the LORD" (Psalm 24:1, HCSB). Good stewards take care of the gifts God has given them to manage.

The best way to cultivate a deep-rooted spirit of stewardship in our congregation is to actually make a plan to accomplish it. The Finance Committee is charged with a role to brainstorm what can be done throughout the year to communicate the church's vision, regularly give feedback on how it is being accomplished, and give our church community opportunities to further participate.

Seek God's guidance, feel His presence, listen to His Word as you pray for a deeper relationship so that you feel inspired by your stewardship commitment.



## Wedding Coordinator Needed

Can you tell folks which room to go to? Can you help a wedding party line up and tell them when to go into the sanctuary? Can you make sure they don't forget items as they leave the church? If yes, then you could be a wedding coordinator. You will get all the training you need. It won't take a lot of your time, currently one or two weddings a year. And you will receive some compensation for your time. Talk to Pastor Mark if you can be our church's next...Wedding Coordinator!



## Lowell Church Mouse

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.

Boy, I'm amazed at our Trustees. They do so much work around here. Have you seen the new park benches that have been put in next to the playground? The Trustees have also pulled up the railroad ties next to the fence in the parking lot. They were pushing into the fence and causing it to lean. The fence is straight and they have a plan to replace the ties with a block wall.

Have you noticed how pretty the flowers and lawn are? Dan and Laura Eller have been taking care of all the landscaping and lawn work at the church. A big thank you to them.

Carol Goodrich and her daughter, Stephanie Crandall have been working hard getting things ready for preschool for the coming year. They're going to have a bumper crop of kids this year. They've hired more teachers and aides. It will be nice to see the basement full of kids again.



## Pastor's Comic Corner

In case you haven't noticed, I love humor.  
Below are a couple of comics that I've come across. Enjoy! Pastor Mark



### PRAYER PUPS BY JEFFREY SMITH



## WEEKLY EVENTS

**Sunday - Worship** ~ 8 a.m. (at Evergreen Park) 10:30 a.m. (in Sanctuary), *Sunday School 9:15*: F.O.M. (301)  
**Monday/Tuesday** - A/A 12 p.m. (303) **Wednesday** - A/A - 8 p.m. (Fellowship Hall), Al/Anon - 8 p.m. (library)  
**Thursday** - Dulcimers 10 am (303), **LYFT** Worship 6:00 p.m. (Fellowship Hall), Chancel Choir 7pm (sanctuary)  
**Saturday** - A/A 11 a.m. (303)

# August 2021

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**Sun**                      **Mon**                      **Tue**                      **Wed**                      **Thu**                      **Fri**                      **Sat**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9 Congregational Care Mtg. 6 p.m.	10	11	12 **No LYFT service tonight  **No Chancel Choir practice	13	14 Mary Zoe Weaver Memorial Service 11 a.m.
15	16	17 Household Pantry (curbside) 9-12 & 5-6	18 Finance Meeting 5:30 p.m.	19	20	21
22	23 Ad-Council Meeting 6 p.m. (basement)	24 Leaps and Bounds Pre-School meet the teacher night. 5:30 p.m. (basement)	25 Lay Leader Meeting 1 p.m.  **deadline for Tele-Christian articles	26	27	28
29	30 Staff/Parish Meeting 5:30 p.m. (conf. room)	31				