

The First United Methodist Church of Lowell

Tele-Christian ~ December 2018 Edition

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

Words for the Journey.....

This church and our community were saddened when Lisa Leep died on November 3, ending her short fight with cancer.

When she was first diagnosed with stage four cancer back in March, she compiled a package of information for me. As I prepared for her funeral, I opened this package and found it very helpful and informative.

If you would like to write out the details of what you would like for your funeral, you will be able to tell me about songs and scripture that are important to you. You can also tell me some of the lessons you learned or anything else that might help me as we prepare for your day of celebration. As with Lisa, I will likely not read your information until it is necessary for planning.

I encourage you to write me a letter. You may hand it to me, or you may email it to me, whatever is comfortable for you. Take the time in these cold, winter months, to let me know what you are thinking.

I used a portion of Lisa's words as the base for the teaching section of her message. I have been asked to share her words in this setting:

The lessons I hope to pass along to my children, Kaitlyn and Savanna, and to all my nieces and nephews too are:

Always remember to pray to the Lord your God about all things.

Believe in Him because God is good all the time. And all the time God is good. Even when it may not seem like it.

Be Thankful and grateful for every single thing you have. It can be taken away at any minute. So always be happy with what you have. You are very blessed in this way!

Be a good person and bless as many people as you can along the path of your life.

Be generous.

Be forgiving. Let go of grudges. Love unconditionally.

The one thing I wish I could do one more time would be to hug and kiss my husband and daughters one last time to make sure they know I will love them forever.

My favorite memory of all of us together is watching my girls in the baby pool splashing around together having so much fun while Bill and I relaxed, holding hands, taking in the life God so richly blessed us with. My Family. My Love. Forever.

Thank you, Lisa, for sharing with us. You blessed us in this life in so many ways.

December Sunday Sermon and Scripture Schedule

December 2 ~ Communion, 1st Sunday of Advent

Scripture ~ John 1:1-5

Sermon Title ~ *'Light in the Darkness'*

December 9 ~ 2nd Sunday of Advent

Scripture ~ Matthew 1:18-25

Sermon Title ~ *'Joseph is Assured'*

December 16 ~ 3rd Sunday of Advent, Cantata Sunday

Scripture ~ Isaiah 12:2-6

December 23 ~ 4th Sunday of Advent

Scripture ~ Luke 1:26-38

Sermon Title ~ *'Mary is Invited'*

December 24 ~ Christmas Eve

Scripture ~ Luke 2:1:20

Sermon Title ~ *'The Gift of a Baby'*

December 30 ~

Scripture ~ Luke 2:25-35

Sermon Title ~ *'A Prophet Confirms'*



December Worship News

*For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given:
and the government shall be upon his shoulder;
and his name shall be called
Wonderful, Counselor,
Mighty God, Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace.
Isaiah 9:6*

Christmas Poinsettias

You may order a poinsettia in memory or in honor of a loved one for \$10 each. They will decorate our Sanctuary December 16, 23, and 30. Then you may take them home to enjoy. There will be order envelopes in the weekly bulletin or see Kim in the office. The last day to order is Monday, December 10.

Christmas Worship Schedule

Christmas Eve Candlelight services are December 24 at **7:00 and 11:00**.

Martha's will be open Christmas Eve. Be sure to stop in.

Don't miss the Christmas cantata at the 10:30 service on December 16 and the children's Christmas program at 6:00 pm that same day. These events will be sure to put you in the Christmas spirit.

Wishing you all the true blessing of Christmas!

Charlene Grant,

Chairperson

671-1044

granttc@sbcglobal.net

Below is a list of the members of the congregation who will be participating in various aspects of worship during the month of December:

- Dec 2:** Greeters: Bev Johnson, Carol Olson, Mark and Barb Lindemer
Ushers: 8:00: Lynn Bochart, Bob Savich 10:30: Elaine DeVine, Dennis Olson
Liturgist: 8:00: Peggy Hendricks 10:30: Kathie Stoner
Children's Time: Paige Corning
- Dec 9:** Greeters: Linda Snell, Maryrose Lynch, Amy Nichols, Virginia Kasparian
Ushers: 8:00: Don Bales, Kathy Nelson 10:30: Sharon Sanders, Tom Stoner
Darin and Tammy Champanois
Liturgist: 8:00: Trudy Corning 10:30: Al Martin
Children's Time: Nancy Lain
- Dec 16:** Greeters: Gisela Peterson, Jenny Nichols, Phyllis Moser, Carolyn Savich
Ushers: 8:00: Charlie Haberlin, Wayne Wietbrock 10:30: David Perry, Scott Beier
Liturgist: 8:00: Denise Smith 10:30: Becky Crabb
Children's Time: Denise Smith
- Dec 23:** Greeters: Anita Childress, Jenny Nichols, Sandy Villa, Nina Wilson, Dennis Olson
Ushers: 8:00: Bill Bubness, Scott Spry 10:30: Luan Brown, Ken Bisacchi
Liturgist: 8:00: Cheryl Jones 10:30: Susan Wells
Children's Time: Kathie Stoner
- Dec 30:** Greeters/Ushers: UMW
Liturgist: 8:00: Lynn Bochart 10:30: Rachelle Bernard
Children's Time: Beth Bales



Thursday BRD4Life Dinner/Worship Service (Bread for Life)

Our mid-week service, Bread for Life, offers an informal experience that will nourish both your body and your spirit.

Dinner begins at 5:30 in the Fellowship Hall and worship starts at 6:15.

Everyone is welcome! Bring a friend!

Below are the speakers, themes, and cooks for the month of **December**:

December 6 ~ Speaker: Peggy Hendricks
Theme: *'National Pawnbrokers' Day*

Cook: Kevin Corie

December 13 ~ Speaker: Al Martin
Theme: *'Safe Toy' Month*

Cook: Pot-Luck

December 20 & 27 ~ NO BREAD FOR LIFE ~ CHRISTMAS BREAK

Finance Committee

The 2019 budget will go before the Ad. Council shortly before the posting of this article. **THANK YOU!!!** Thank you to all who have made a commitment pledge towards the 2019 ministries. Thank you to all who have made and are making those pledge offerings to the Lowell United Methodist Church. Your offerings - of your time, of your God-given talents, and of your money - help support all that we do in the ministries of our church. The Lowell United Methodist Church could do nothing without the faithful offerings of its members. Together, we are the Body of Christ. When we are giving, we are being the faithful people God calls us to be.

Our offerings bring about blessings on many levels. We are transformed, made new, through our offerings. We believe in a God who is generous. And we are created in God's image. So, we are called to be generous as God is generous.

Our offerings also help to transform others. We are impacting lives through all the ministries we serve. The impact is helping others to grow in their relationship with God. William Temple, a former Archbishop of Canterbury once said, "The Church is the only society that exists for the benefit of those who are not its members." Let us continue to serve the needs of those who are not yet members.

Yours in Christ,
Don Bales, Chairperson



Gift Cards for Christmas

Due to the popularity of giving gift cards at Christmas time, we are bringing back the Scrip Gift Card program just for the holiday.

Order forms will be in the Sunday worship bulletins on December 2 & 9 and will be available in the office. Payment is due with the order form.

Orders will be placed on two Mondays: December 3 and December 10. Cards are normally available to be picked up on the Thursday following the order date. Happy shopping!

MINISTRY IN ACTION

Missions Update

Susan Wells, Chairperson

On Nov. 13, the 34 shoeboxes that you filled for Operation Christmas Child were delivered to Village Church in Dyer by Ethel Devine and Kathy Taylor. The ladies saw your boxes get packed into large boxes (holding 23 of the red & green shoeboxes, or 16 of the white boxes) to begin their journey to children around the world. Once the boxes reach one of the 8 national processing centers in our country (we think your boxes have gone to NC), each shoebox is opened, checked, and Christian literature is added. From there, your boxes will travel by boat or plane to countries all around the world. ***Thank you to everyone who participated in this mission that shares God's Word and Love around the world!***

All 59 of the tags from our Christmas Clothesline were taken by you, our generous church family, in 8 days! Please pray for your child as you shop for needed clothing items and gifts. We hope you have fun! Please include a gift receipt and return your gifts in a bag with that important ID tag firmly attached by Dec. 9. ***Thank you for making our traditional local Christmas mission an outreach of love from our church to our community!***

College Ministry

By Trudy Corning, Congregational Care

Thank you to the church family for supporting our college students! The last Sunday of November, fourteen college boxes were stuffed with your generous donations. The boxes were prayed over and mailed throughout the state of Indiana (and one to Illinois) just in time for semester finals. It is one way our young people feel the love and support of their church family.



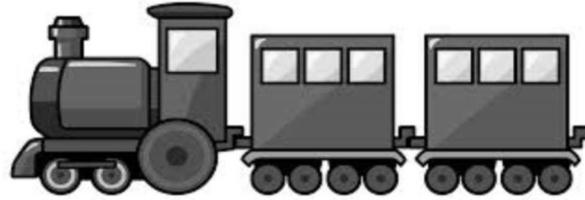
"Let the children come to me...."

An opportunity to nurture our youngest

Our nursery is looking for volunteers willing to provide this ministry for the 8:00 service. We would appreciate if you could choose a couple of dates that you are available to offer this ministry for our next generation. We would like you to be available at 7:45 in front of the nursery door at the top of the stairs to be able to greet families and welcome them.

So far this fall, very few children have used the nursery at the 8:00 service. So it is quite possible that even though you have volunteered for that date, your ministry in the nursery may end at 8:15 at which time you could join the congregation in worship. Please sign up on the chart next to the nursery. We thank you in advance for prayerfully considering this opportunity to touch young lives.

The Staff Parish Relations Committee



SonShine Express News

By Paige Corning, Children's Ministry Director

SonShine Express has been having a lot of fun so far this year. We started a new curriculum from Group called "DIG IN: The Bible in a year". The children enjoy the new curriculum as it keeps them active and engaged in fun and creative ways. I have been amazed at the depth of knowledge they have been able to learn with this curriculum. The older elementary classroom has been learning the Old Testament books of the Bible. They have them memorized to a song that they will be singing for the church the first Sunday of December. They are also starting to read their way through the Bible now. They have their binders, and they read chapters of the Bible everyday and write a summary for me and ask questions that they have. The children constantly amaze me at their excitement to learn more about the Bible!

The children had a Halloween party that was filled with fun music, games, snacks and a mission project that they worked on. They made chocolate dipped pretzels for the children of the community at the town's Monster March. The Sonshine children made 300 beautifully decorated pretzels and 270 pretzels were given to children at the Monster March. The 30 leftover pretzels were given to the church's fall music festival. The children at the Monster March were so excited about the chocolate dipped pretzels, which made our children excited about their mission project. We plan on doing this again next year!

Christmas is nearing, and the children are getting ready for their **Christmas musical called "It all happened in the Country" on December 16 at 6:00pm**. The children are practicing their songs and parts both at home and at church on Sundays. The kids invite you to join them as they tell the Christmas Country Story. The kids will be in their country best: flannel shirts, jeans, boots, and cow boy hats!

Please join them in the country spirit on December 16! We can't wait to see you there!



CHURCH EVENTS



WHO DONE IT???
Find out at our 5th annual
MYSTERY DINNER THEATRE
Saturday, January 19, 2019
6:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall
\$20 per ticket

Join us for an entertaining evening that includes being served a delicious plated dinner with dessert, a cast of suspicious characters portrayed by the Thespian Troupe from Valparaiso University, and great fun as you try to determine who the guilty character is. Look for tickets to be sold in the Narthex this month. You may also purchase them through the office during business hours. All sales will be final. The Outreach Committee is sponsoring this event to benefit our Household Pantry.

Invite your neighbors and friends to a great evening of fellowship for a good cause!

“Caroling, caroling now we go...”

Do you remember the fun of “spreading good cheer” by Christmas caroling? It brought both you and the listeners a “warm” feeling, no matter what the temperature was. This year some of our church family plans to sing carols as a gift to our community.

On Sunday, December 23, we will meet at 2:00 PM at the corner of Commercial and Mill Street. There will be no walking involved, so all ages can participate. A song book will be provided. And please don't say "I can't sing"! Some will have beautiful voices and some, like myself, will be making a "joyful noise".

This will be a joyous, informal gathering, therefore will not have any refreshments to partake in or to sell. Please come and join us for this old fashioned way of celebrating the birth of our Lord. I hope all of you, with your family and friends, will come and help us “spread good cheer”.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 696-6316. See you then!

Sharon Sanders

Movie Night

Our next movie night will be on Friday, December 14, at 6 p.m.
in the church Fellowship Hall.

We will show the movie ‘Believe’

Everyone is welcome. Bring a snack to share.



Christmas Cantata 2018

Chancel Choir Celebrates With Song!!

This year our Chancel Choir is excited to present “God Came Near: The Miracle and Majesty of Christmas” at the 10:30 AM service on Sunday, December 16. Church family, this is a wonderful opportunity to invite friends, family, and neighbors!!

A community performance will also be offered on Wednesday, December 19 in the dining room at Cedar Creek Health Campus (located on Burr St.) at 6:30 pm. All are welcome to come and enjoy the music of Christmas.

Based on the Christmas writings of best-selling author Max Lucado, this new musical by Tom Fettke features a blend of new songs, classic texts, and beloved carols. The result is a wonderful celebration of the Incarnation. It all happened in a moment---a most remarkable moment---when God came near.

Isaiah 9:6 For unto us a child is born, to us a son is given.



Adult Study Opportunities

Three adult discussion groups meet on the upper level from 9:15-10:00 a.m. each Sunday.
You are invited to join in any of these December studies!

Room 300 The Wings discussion group, facilitated by Al Martin, will do a 5-part DVD study of the Christmas story called “The Journey: Walking the Road to Bethlehem”. This series was filmed on location in Israel and is taught by Adam Hamilton.

Room 301 The FOM Bible Study class, led by David Schoon, is continuing their chapter by chapter study of the Book of Daniel.

Room 304 The FRIENDS group, facilitated by Don Bales, will begin a four session Advent video Bible study on December 2. In "Because of Bethlehem," Max Lucado explores how the One who made everything chose to make himself nothing and come into our world.

Then on December 30, FRIENDS will begin a video study by Kyle Idleman called, "The End of Me." Kyle examines the beauty in coming to the end of ourselves as we realize that we aren't strong enough, smart enough, or talented enough to navigate life on our own. That's when we are in the best position to be used by God in significant ways.

WEEKLY EVENTS

Sunday - *Worship* ~ 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. (in sanctuary), *Children's Sunday School* 9:15-10:15 (basement)
Youth & Adult Sunday School 9:15-10:00 ~ WINGS (300), F.O.M. (301), Youth (303), FRIENDS (304)

Monday - A/A 12 p.m. (rm. 300), Guitar 6 p.m. (rm. 303)

Tuesday - Household Pantry 9-12 and 5-6 (1st and 3rd Tuesday)

Wednesday - Weight Watchers 6 p.m. (300), A/A - 8 p.m. (Fellowship Hall), Al/Anon - 8 p.m. (library)

Thursday - *BRD4life* dinner 5:30 p.m., *Worship* 6:15 p.m. (Fellowship Hall)

December 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Hot Chocolate/Game Night 5pm
2 UMW Installation of officers/Christmas Luncheon	3 Tri-Kappa 6pm (bsmt)	4	5	6 Cub Scouts 6:30 p.m. (303) Bread for Life Meeting 7pm	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14 Movie Night 'Believe' 6pm (basement)	15 Chancel Choir practice 10:30 a.m. (sanct.)
16 Cantata Sunday Children's Christmas program 6pm	17	18	19 Chancel Choir at Cedar Creek 6:30pm	20 Cub Scouts 6:30 p.m. (303) **No Bread for Life	21	22
23 Christmas Caroling 2pm	24 Office Closed at Noon Services 7 & 11 p.m	25 Christmas Day	26 Office Closed	27 **No Bread for Life	28	29
30	31 New Year's Eve Office Closed at Noon					