

The First United Methodist Church of Lowell

Tele-Christian ~ January 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.....

If you have spent any time in our sanctuary, you may have noticed cloths draped at the front of the room. There is a short rectangular one hanging long ways from the pulpit and from the lectern. There is a long rectangular one hanging short ways from the altar table. This set of three cloths is called "Paraments".

"Parament" is from a Latin word that means "cloth that hangs in the front of the church, but no one knows why." Not really. But, I bet you remember that definition. "Parament" is from a French word meaning "Adorn" or a Latin word meaning "Prepare".

Paraments come from the time in our church history when most of the people were not able to read. The paraments helped celebrate the seasons of the church through color. Today, most of us read just fine. The paraments continue to tell us a story.

We use 5 basic parament colors in this church.

White. The white ones are used in celebration. We use the white from Christmas Eve to Epiphany Sundays to celebrate Jesus' birth. We use white on Easter Sunday and a few Sundays thereafter to celebrate Jesus' victory over death. We use white on special celebration Sundays of the church as, Transfiguration, Trinity and Christ the King Sundays which celebrate high points in Jesus earthly life. We use white to celebrate weddings and funerals within our church.

A family in our church honored the passing of a member of their family by purchasing a new white set of paraments. Our older ones were looking faded and less than celebratory. We thank this family for their gift of the white paraments which should arrive in our building in time for Easter.

Purple or blue. The colors blue and purple are closely related. The purple is used in the seasons leading up to the days of celebration. We use purple or blue during the four Sundays of Advent to help us prepare for Christmas. We use purple during the six Sundays of Lent to help us prepare for Easter.

Another family in our church wanted to honor the passing of their parents by purchasing blue paraments. We thank that family for the new Advent blue paraments we used this past season.

Red. The red paraments remind us of fire. They are used on Pentecost Sunday to remind us how the Holy Spirit came with tongues of fire as described in the second chapter of Acts. Red can also be used in special church celebrations as in the ordination of pastors, church anniversaries and certain national holidays.

Green. The green paraments remind us of growth as we are called to constantly grow in our relationship with God. The green paraments are used between the above listed seasons. Green will be seen between Christmas and Lent or the long season between Pentecost and Advent.

We purchased new green paraments this year with funds from our memorial gifts. If you gave a gift in memory of someone, some of that money was used. As green is the longest season, the Worship Committee purchased a fresh set. The new green set should arrive in time to replace the red of Pentecost this summer.

As you worship with us throughout this coming year, you might notice the change in the parament colors. As you do, I hope you will remember how these colors walk with us during the seasons of the year.

Pastor Rick

January Sunday Sermon and Scripture Schedule

January 7 ~ Communion Sunday

Scripture ~ Luke 9:23-27

Sermon Title ~ 'A Frosty Morning'

January 14

Scripture ~ 2 Kings 6:8-23

Sermon Title ~ 'Snow Covered Mountains'

January 21

Scripture ~ Ephesians 5:21-24

Sermon Title ~ 'Strong Castles'

January 28

Scripture ~ Ephesians 5:25-33

Sermon Title ~ 'Safe Castles'



Worship News

Co-chairs Michelle Mishlove and Charlene Grant

The worship committee would like to say a very special "Thank You" to all those who served during all of our Christmas Eve services and the Hometown Christmas program. It truly takes an army to provide the decorations, Advent candles, sound, music and refreshments that we all enjoy.

And speaking of an army... we will be un-decorating the church on Wed. Jan. 3 at 9:00 am. Your help will be welcomed, as many hands make light work.

Worship committee members should plan to attend our first meeting on Wednesday, January 10.

Worship Committee Changes for 2018

Starting in January, there will be some changes to the Worship Committee.

The following is a note from Michelle Mishlove:

"Dear UMC Family,

I want to thank you for the opportunity to serve on this committee. I have learned so much and have enjoyed watching many people come together for the purpose of ministry!! In January I will be stepping down from this committee so I can focus my efforts towards our various music groups. More than before, I am needed to act as a sub for Godsbells (in addition to my work for Chancel Choir, Praise Team and Sonshine Singers Kids Choir). I know the committee will carry on its good work!"

Music Notes:

The Praise Team will lead worship for the Praise Services on the second and third Sundays in January as usual.

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

9:15 a.m. Service

January 7:

Greeters: Bev Johnson, Barb Potter, Carol Olson, Marie Woolfolk, Martha Farney
Ushers: Lynn Bochart, Bob Savich, Elaine DeVine, Dennis Olson, Rick Bachman
Liturgist: Don Bales **Children's Time:**

January 14:

Greeters: Virginia Kasparian, Maryrose Lynch, Amy Nichols, Linda Snell
Ushers: Don Bales, Jack Foss, Sharon Sanders, Tom Stoner, Kathy Nelson
Liturgist: Ellen Rosengard **Children's Time:**

January 21:

Greeters: Gisela Peterson, Phyllis Moser, Jenny Nichols, Carolyn Savich
Ushers: Charlie Haberlin, Wayne Wietbrock, Dave Perry, Darion Kidwell, Tom Brown
Liturgist: Denise Smith **Children's Time:**

January 28:

Greeters: Anita Childress, Nina Wilson, Sandy Villa, Dennis Olson
Ushers: Luan Brown, Gladys Weaver, Scott Spry, Ken Bisacchi, Bill Bubness
Liturgist: Rick Bachman **Children's Time:**

10:45 Worship Leaders:

January 7: Cheryl Jones January 14: Susan Wells
January 21: Kim McGinley January 28: Susan Wells

If you would like to join this group of volunteers,
please contact the church office at 696-9219.



Thursday BRD4Life (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 **January**:

January 4 ~ Speaker: Pastor Rick
Theme: *National Spaghetti Day*

Cook: Kim McGinley

January 11 ~ Speaker: Peggy Hendricks
Theme: *Step in a Puddle and Splash a Friend Day*

Cook: Tracey Seitzinger

January 18 ~ Speaker: Susan Wells
Theme: *Winnie the Pooh Day*

Cook: Sharon Sanders and Kevin Corie

January 25 ~ Speaker: Peggy Hendricks
Theme: *Opposite Day*

Cook: Tracey Seitzinger

Companions from the Pastor's Shelf

I finally read the book, "The Case for Christ" by Lee Strobel. Mr. Strobel was an award-winning investigative reporter for the *Chicago Tribune*. Using his investigative skills, he interviewed many experts as he researched Jesus' life, teachings, death and resurrection.

This book gives some excellent facts and reasoning for our faith. It helped me think in new ways about why the truth of the Gospel is real. There is no valid argument that can stand up to the truth. If you still think there is after reading this book, come talk with me.

My copy of this book is dated 1998. I was a student at Asbury Seminary when this book splashed on the world. Many of my professors quoted from this work during their lectures. This student didn't have time to read anything that wasn't required. I never picked it up.

I was in a second-hand shop this summer looking for a book to enjoy on our upcoming vacation. I found this classic for less than \$1. I figured it was time to dig into my past and see what it has to say. I am glad I did.

This book was updated in 2016. A movie version was released last Easter. I have not read the update nor seen the movie. I am confident that the teaching of the classic book is still compelling, whichever form you digest it.

If you have not read this book in the past few years, pick it up. If you don't own a copy, you are invited to stop by the church office and borrow mine. It is a companion from my shelf that I recommend spending some time.

-Pastor Rick



News from the Ladies United in Missions Circle

By Rachelle Ruge-Bernard

Happy New Year to all! The Ladies United in Missions Circle has taken it easy during the holidays. We are saving our energy for cooking classes in February. We are having an advanced class, and we are almost full with excited kids. Thanks for all the blessings you have given in helping with this mission.

NEWS FROM THE HOUSEHOLD PANTRY...

Carol Bachinski, Chairperson

2017. What a year!

Our awesome, caring congregation at Lowell FUMC remained committed and dedicated to the Household Pantry with their monetary and product donations and prayers. It's hard to convey to you just how much good that this church did and is doing through this ministry! We were able to accomplish great things together! We served a total of **932 families/2,741 people** during the year. **THANK YOU** for helping us to be able to continue serving needy families in the Tri-Creek area.

We had **215 registered families** in 2017. Pantry attendance always varies from month to month. July proved to be our lowest attendance month with **66 families/204 people**. November won honors for having the highest attendance with **98 families/296 people**. Our average monthly attendance was **78 families/228 people**.

We were able to supply our families with laundry detergent, dish soap, household cleaner, paper towels, facial tissues, toilet tissue, bar soap, deodorant, toothpaste, sanitary pads, and shampoo. Our costs for the Household Pantry for 2016 were approximately **\$8653.00**.

We continued to work in partnership with the Lowell Family Dollar store in 2017. Our products were purchased there. Kelly, store manager, made sure our monthly orders got filled correctly. If you happen to be shopping in the store and Kelly is there, please introduce yourself, tell her you're from the church and **thank her** for everything she has done to help us out. I'm sure she'd appreciate it!

In addition to Family Dollar, the Pantry was **blessed** to have other collaborative partners working with us in 2017. As of this writing, we have received monetary and/or product donations, clothing or services from the Ladies United in Missions Circle, the UMW Resale Shop, Avery Denison, Susanna Wesley Circle, Tri Kappa, Hawthorne Arbor of Gleaners, Tri-Creek Lumber and Hardware (winter coats) and Oak Hill Elementary School. We had an overwhelming congregational response to a plea for diapers. Additionally, we have had generous diaper donations from community organizations and other families within the church. We also received monetary donations from church families in memory of a loved one. We even had relatives of church families donating items such as lightbulbs and warm knitted hats for winter. **How fortunate the Household Pantry is to be remembered by so many thoughtful people!**

We head into 2018 with a dedicated **Household Pantry Team of 25 compassionate servants** with varied and multiple talents, whose hearts lie in serving those in our community who need our assistance. Each month our families are able to come into a warm, welcoming atmosphere to get the much-needed, product-based help that they seek. But sometimes they need our listening ears and prayers, also, and we do our best to serve their various needs. We know that God has placed us where we are for a reason and that He is working side by side with us. We are humbled to be the hands of God.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU. WE COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU!



Our Christmas Clothesline Was Amazing!!

THANK YOU to everyone who participated in our annual Christmas Clothesline mission project! Sixty-one tags hung on the clothesline on Sunday, Nov. 12, and at the end of those morning services only 6 tags remained! Those last tags were snatched up quickly. This was indeed a record response in the history of this mission! Even more impressive, all bags were returned on time so delivery was made to the schools without a hitch on Monday, Dec. 11. You have touched the lives of 61 local children, FUMC family! Thank you for your generosity!

The Missions Committee



Confirmation Class Seeks Mentors

By Lynn Skafish

We have ten teens signed up to take our confirmation class this winter. We are looking for adult church members who would be interested in becoming mentors for these kids. A mentor meets with one student and discusses questions from a class workbook. We will have a meeting to discuss the mentor's job before you would work with your student. Anyone who would be interested in working with a teen for the next five months, please contact Lynn Skafish.

Also, teens always seem to be hungry, and they work better when they're fed. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Narthex for anyone who is interested in providing snacks occasionally for our class sessions.



WHO DONE IT??? Find out at our fourth

MYSTERY DINNER THEATRE

Saturday, January 27, 2018
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!

WEEKLY EVENTS

Sunday - *Worship* ~ 9:15 and 10:45 (Sanct.) *Adult Sun. School* ~ WINGS, 8 a.m. (rm. 300), F.O.M., 10:30 a.m. (rm. 301), FRIENDS, 10:30 a.m. (rm.304) *Children's Sunday School* (during 9:15 service)
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. (rm. 300), Praise Practice 7 p.m. (Sanctuary), A/A - 8 p.m. (basement), Al/Anon - 8 p.m. (library)
Thursday - *BRD4life* dinner 5:30 p.m., *Worship* 6:15 p.m. (Fellowship Hall), *Godsbells* 4:30 p.m. (balcony), Chancel Choir 7 p.m. (Sanctuary)

January 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 Undecorate the church 9 am	4 Cub Scouts 6:30 (300)	5 Movie Night 6pm (Risen)	6 Birthday Party 1pm (basement)
7 Confirmation Class 12 p.m.	8 Staff/Parish 6 p.m.	9 Trustees 6:30p Missions 7pm	10 Endowment Meeting 9am Worship 6:30p	11	12	13
14 Confirmation Class 12 p.m.	15 Office Closed	16	17	18 Cub Scouts 6:30pm (300)	19	20
21 Confirmation Class 12 p.m.	22 Ad-Council 6:30p	23 Alzheimer Support Group 6p (library)	24	25	26	27 Mystery Dinner
28 Confirmation Class 12 p.m.	29	30	31			