

# The First United Methodist Church of Lowell Tele-Christian ~ January 2019 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.....**

As we finalize the books on 2018, let's consider some of our church's highlights.

Through the season of Lent, we studied the Seven Deadly Sins as we looked at some of the ways sin wants to become a part of our life and not give us freedom. During that season, we collected nearly 1,100 food items which we donated to our fellow food pantries around town.

In April, we hosted our first session in our Tom Clawson Teaching Series. Sam Conley and Joy McCowen taught us about internet safety and identity protection.

During the summer months, we studied the New Testament book of James which gave us some practical advice on applying the teachings of the faith to our daily life. In these months, we split into two services with one group worshipping at Evergreen Park. Craig Wilson and his crew did a great job of making sure the sound system and other details were functioning for that service.

As summer turned into fall, we continued honoring the park service by offering an 8:00 service and the later 10:30 service, both inside our building. We also began a dedicated Sunday school hour. Many of us adults have taken advantage of this learning time. During the worship service, we studied the New Testament books of First and Second Peter while we talked about evil in our world.

In October, we hosted our second Tom Clawson Speaker. Doctor Michael Peterson, a Philosophy professor at Asbury Seminary, talked with us about Our Christian God and The Reality of Evil in our World.

Throughout the fall months, we established our 2019 budget and chose the leaders for our various committees and work areas. We had yard signs printed to invite our community to join us on Christmas eve. We had a good crowd join us for this celebration.

Throughout the year, our internet presence has grown. In the month of December, we averaged 99 people from 7 countries tuning us in each week. Last December we had 28 people in 3 countries.

In 2018, I hosted 16 funerals, representing many friends from our church that I wish had not left us. This also includes the graveside service I led for my father in Silver City, Iowa, in May.

I hosted 5 weddings throughout the year. This includes the outdoor wedding for our daughter, Shana. The photographer caught some great shots of Beau handing me the rings for this service.

Over the next few weeks, we will study the life of Simon also called Peter and consider a few of the ways that Jesus changed his life.

On Sunday, March 10, we will host our next Tom Clawson Speaker as Christian teacher and music artist, Michael Card will be with us. He will preach our morning sessions and present a special teaching session at 2:00 in the afternoon. Watch for more details.

As we continue in this faith journey together, I know that God will walk with us and bless us in many ways. Keep being faithful as we grow together.

***Pastor Rick***

## January Sunday Sermon and Scripture Schedule

### **January 6 ~ Communion**

Scripture ~ Matthew 2:1-12

Sermon Title ~ *'Witnesses from the East'*

### **January 13 ~**

Scripture ~ Mark 1:16-20

Sermon Title ~ *'Called in the Midst of Life'*

### **January 20 ~**

Scripture ~ Matthew 16:13-20

Sermon Title ~ *'Holding the Keys'*

### **January 27 ~**

Scripture ~ Matthew 16:21-28

Sermon Title ~ *'Not Hearing Jesus'*



## **Worship News**

Linda Hayden and Trudy Corning, Co-Chairs

*For the Beauty of the Earth:* Some of the earth's beauty has adorned our sanctuary in the form of poinsettia plants during the Christmas holiday. They were glorious! Thank you Bonnie Wilson and Candy Johnson for ordering, picking up and caring for them. Thank you also to all who purchased the poinsettias.

We sincerely hope the Christmas worship season touched your hearts as we celebrated the birth of Jesus. Thank you to everyone who helped decorate the church or helped in any way with the Christmas services.

If you would like to take part in the worship service we always welcome in ushers, greeters, communion servers, acolytes, choir members and Martha's coffeehouse hosts.

Our first worship meeting for committee members will be January 9 at 6:30 p.m. in room 304.

As we enter the new year we look forward to a year of faith, hope and love.



## **Church Membership**

If you are older than high school age and would like to consider becoming a member of our church, here is your opportunity. Yes, I would like for you to go through class even if you are transferring from another congregation. We will be holding adult membership classes January 27 through February 10. These classes will meet each of these Sunday mornings during the Sunday School hour in the church office. We will bring the class into membership on Sunday, February 17.

If you would like to be a part of this class, please call or email the church office 696-9219 or [umcfriends@sbcglobal.net](mailto:umcfriends@sbcglobal.net) to let us know you would like to participate.

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

- January 6:** 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: Al Martin  
Children's Time: Paige Corning
- January 13:** 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: Lynn Bochart 10:30: Becky Crabb  
Children's Time: Becky Crabb
- January 20:** 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: Don Bales 10:30: Ellen Rosengard  
Children's Time: Pastor Rick
- January 27:** Greeters: Anita Childress, Jenny Nichols, Peg Atherton, Nina Wilson, Dennis Olson  
Ushers: 8:00: Bill Bubness, Scott Spry 10:30: Luan Brown, Ken Bisacchi  
Liturgist: 8:00: Rick Bachman 10:30: Rick Bachman  
Children's Time: Nancy Lain



**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 **January**:

**January 3** ~ Speaker: Rick Bachman Cook: Kim McGinley  
Theme: *Festival of Sleep Day*

**January 10** ~ Speaker: Susan Wells Cook: Dean Moes  
Theme: *Women's Suffrage Amendment Introduced 1878*

**January 17** ~ Speaker: Peggy Hendricks Cook: Tom Sufana  
Theme: *Ditch New Year's Resolutions Day*

**January 24** ~ Speaker: Ellen Rosengard Cook: Sharon Sanders  
Theme: *National Compliment Day*

**January 31** ~ Speaker: Al Martin Cook: Kevin Corie  
Theme: *Zane Grey Born in 1872*

# MINISTRY IN ACTION

## NEWS FROM THE HOUSEHOLD PANTRY.....

Julie Donovan, Chairperson

### 2018... What a year!!

Our awesome congregation at Lowell FUMC remained committed and dedicated to the Household Pantry with their monetary and product donations and prayers. We served a total of 774 families/2,367 people during the year. **THANK YOU for helping us be able to serve needy families in the Tri-Creek area.**

We had 177 registered families in 2018. Pantry attendance always varies from month to month, but our average monthly attendance was 65 families.

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 napkins, and shampoo. Our total costs for the Household Pantry for 2018 were \$7,089.26.

We continued to work in partnership with the Lowell Family Dollar store in 2018. 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 thank her for everything she has done for us!!

The Pantry was blessed with so many generous donations in 2108. As of this writing, we have received monetary and/or product donations from Crown Point Community Foundation, Hawthorne Arbor of Gleaners, Three Creeks Elementary School, Lowell Moose Lodge, Tri-Creek Lumber and Hardware (winter coats), William and Sharon Poer, Gwen Lappie, and many other personal donations of diapers from families within the church. **How fortunate the Household Pantry is to be remembered by so many thoughtful people!!!!**

We head into 2019 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 products. But sometimes they need our listening ears and prayers, and we do our best to serve their needs. We are humbled to be able to serve these families.

**THANK YOU!      THANK YOU!      WE COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU!!!**

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### Congregational Care

On December 10, eight church members delivered cards, breads, muffins or cookies to 23 of our shut-ins. Hopefully this brightened their day as much as it did those of us who did the deliveries. We had six bakers who prepared all of these goodies. Thanks to all of them.

The gratefulness that was shown should inspire us to visit these dear ones on days other than holidays.

Paula Tilton  
Caring Ministry

## Missions Update

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Christmas Clothesline mission project. All 59 of the tags were taken quickly and all bags were filled generously. Because the bags were returned in a timely manner, we were able to deliver the gifts to all three elementary schools on Monday December 10. Great job, church!

If you would like to learn more about our missions or be involved in the planning and organizing of this and other mission projects, you are invited to come to our next meeting. It will be Tuesday, January 8 at 7:00 PM in the church library. You may contact our chairperson, Susan Wells, at 219-779-3906.

The Missions Committee

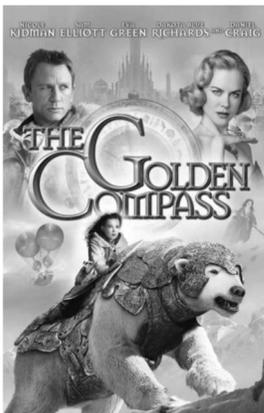
## CHURCH EVENTS



**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!



### Movie Night

Our next movie night will be on Friday, January 25, at 6 p.m. in the church Fellowship Hall.

We will show the movie *'The Golden Compass'*

Everyone is welcome. Bring a snack to share.



Pastor Rick and Cheryl thank the congregation for their many gifts and notes of encouragement that we have received throughout the year. We especially appreciate the thoughts and gifts we received during the Christmas season. Thank you for your kindness as we travel through ministry together.

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To Our Secret Santa,  
Thank you again this year. We love our gifts so much.  
Love, Jenny and Amy Nichols

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Sincere thanks to those who sent cards, made calls, or donated food during my recent recovery. Your generosity was awesome. Blessings for a wonderful holiday season and new year.  
Virginia Kasparian

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Thank you for sending the Tele-Christian to me. It's wonderful to hear how my friends in Lowell are doing. In February I had to have another vertebrae cemented in my lower back. I'm moving around with a walker and not driving because of the nerves in my feet. I'm doing well otherwise.  
Love and blessing to all,  
Mary Lou DeLong

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**Here are some notes, texts, and comments shared by family members in response to the abundant treat boxes YOU filled for Congregational Care to send to our college students;**

To My Church Family,  
Thank you so very much for my finals week care package. This was definitely a surprise and I GREATLY appreciated it. Thank you!  
Best Regards, Kimee Mooney

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Thank you so much for the college care package. I loved it and shared some things too!  
Madison Lacy

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My boyfriend Brad Schroeder and I wanted to give a big thank you to everyone who put those boxes together for us college kids! It was a really nice surprise, especially nearing finals week!  
Terra Kelley

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Thank you to everyone who donated & put the boxes together. Toby says he did get the box. He said "It's Spectacular! Be sure to send them my thanks and appreciation."  
Ethel Devine (for Toby Taylor)

**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)

# January 2019

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	31	1 Office Closed/ New Year's Day	2 UMW Execu- tive Meeting 4:30 pm (301)	3 Undecorate the church 9am	4	5
6	7	8 Trustee Mtg.6:30pm  Missions Mtg. 7pm (library)	9 Worship Mtg. 6:30pm (304)	10	11	12
13	14 Susanna Wesley 1pm (library)  Staff/Parish 6pm	15 Congregational Care 6:30pm	16 Music Commit- tee Meeting 6:30pm	17	18 Mystery Dinner Set-up (basement)	19 Mystery Dinner 6:30pm (basement)
20	21	22	23 Finance Mtg. 5:30pm  Praise Practice 7pm (Sanct.)	24	25 Movie Night 6pm 'Golden Compass'	26
27 Membership Class 9:15am (conference room)	28 Administrative Council 6pm (basement)	29	30	31		