

The First United Methodist Church of Lowell Tele-Christian ~ June 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.....

The worship service is the signature of the church. Regardless of the ministry, mission or education in which any church participates, worship is at its heart. Worship is where the church community gathers to honor the God we love. Especially with this fact before us, over the next few months we are redefining our worship services.

For the summer months, we are going back to the summer worship schedule we had when I first arrived in 2013. From the first Sunday in June to the last Sunday in August, we will have an 8:00 am and a 10:00 am worship service.

The 8:00 service will meet at Evergreen Park. Bring a chair and a friend with you as we enjoy our outdoor worship service. Having only two services will allow us to not rush this service as much. For example, we will take time in the service to collect the offering.

The 10:00 service will meet in our church's sanctuary. It will have contemporary and traditional music elements. It will be in the comfort of indoors without concern for the weather's unpredictability. Both of these services will have the same message and the same worship theme for the day.

When summer comes to an end and we move the service away from the park on the first week of September, we will host another change. We will keep the 8:00 service. We will introduce a 10 something service. We have not settled on where that new time will be set. The leading candidates are 10:30 and 10:45.

The 8:00 service will lean toward a streamlined, but traditional, approach. It will reflect the park service in many ways. The 10:00 service will be something like our current 9:15 service. It will feature our talented choirs. There will be some contemporary music elements added. The current praise band will still exist. They will lead worship occasionally. Elements of our current 10:45 service will be seen this summer and in the fall.

As a part of the drive behind this change in the Fall, we will focus on Christian Education. Between these two services, we will have a time for Sunday school. Classes for adults, youth and children will be offered. I hope that there will be a few small group options that will appeal to you and your family.

We are still debating how much time should be allotted to the Sunday school teaching time. We are still debating how much time is needed from the end of Sunday school to the beginning of the large service. When these questions are answered, we will be more willing to set the start time of that service.

I believe this change will help our church overall. As we learn together, we will grow together. We will become a stronger church. I have heard of two teachers who are considering starting a new class during this time. I am sure others will come to light as September nears.

I know that this is a big change. I know that it shifts what is comfortable for us all. This is a harder change than meeting in the basement during renovations. We made it through that time. We can make it through this and still share grace with one another.

I would love to hear your thoughts. Please talk with me and share your excitement and concerns. You may also talk with any of the Lay Leaders or a member of the Administrative Council. We want to hear your thoughts. Ad Council talked about this idea at their May meeting. They hope to vote on this idea at their June 25 meeting. Please talk with us.

If I understand this church's history correctly, we are going back to the model that we have used for years. Two services and one Sunday school time served us well in the past. It will serve us into the future.

Pastor Rick

June Sunday Sermon and Scripture Schedule

June 3 ~ Communion Sunday, Confirmation Sunday

Scripture ~ James 2:1-13

Sermon Title ~ *'The Poor are God's Favored'*

June 10 ~ Graduation Sunday

Scripture ~ James 2:14-26

Sermon Title ~ *'Proudly Display Your Faith'*

June 17 ~ Father's Day

Scripture ~ James 3:1-12

Sermon Title ~ *'Tongues of Fire'*

June 24 ~

Scripture ~ James 3:13-18

Sermon Title ~ *'Wisdom's Call'*



June Worship News

Summer Worship Times

8:00 at Evergreen Park

Bring a chair and worship God in the great outdoors.

10:00 Traditional service in the sanctuary.

Martha's will be open between services.

Coming Events

June 3 is Confirmation Sunday. The students will be confirmed at the 10:00 service. We invite you to join us for a reception in the library beginning at 9:30 to get acquainted with the confirmands.

June 10 is Graduation Sunday. Graduates will be recognized at the 8:00 and the 10:00 services. We invite you to join us for a reception in the library beginning at 9:30.

Father's Day—We will celebrate the men of the church at Bread for Life on June 14 and at the worship services on June 17.

Many thanks to those who have volunteered get up early on Sunday mornings to set up sound at the park services.

During summer travel time, additional people are needed on Sunday morning to greet, usher and light candles. Please step in to help our services run smoothly.

The worship committee is contemplating some changes to the fall worship times. We would like to have a Sunday school time between the two worship services. Please join us as we pray for God's direction.

Charlene Grant,
Chairperson

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

- June 3:** Greeters: Bev Johnson, Carol Olson, Marie Woolfolk, Martha Farney, Amy Nichols
Ushers: 8:00: Lynn Bochart 10:00: Elaine DeVine & Dennis Olson
Liturgist: 8:00: Rick Bachman 10:00: Rick Bachman
Children's Time: Kathie Stoner
- June 10:** Greeters: Linda Snell, Maryrose Lynch, Darion Kidwell, Jackie Mansfield
Ushers: 8:00: Don Bales 10:00: Sharon Sanders & Tom Stoner
Liturgist: 8:00: Lynn Bochart 10:00: Bev Kussy
Children's Time: Beth Bales
- June 17:** Greeters: Kathy Nelson, Gisela Peterson, Jenny Nichols, Phyllis Moser
Ushers: 8:00: Charlie Haberlin 10:00: David Perry & Dennis Olson
Liturgist: 8:00: Cheryl Jones 10:00: Scott Spry
Children's Time: Becky Crabb
- June 24:** Greeters: Anita Childress, Amy Nichols, Sandy Villa, Nina Wilson, Dennis Olson
Ushers: 8:00: Luan Brown 10:00: David Perry, Scott Beier
Liturgist: 8:00: Don Bales 10:00: Susan Wells
Children's Time: VBS Sing/Share



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 **June**:

June 7 ~ Speaker: Scott Spry Cook: Tracy Seitzinger
Theme: *'National Chocolate Ice Cream Day'*

June 14 ~ Speaker: Ellen Rosengard Cook: Kim McGinley
Theme: *'Midsummer's Day'*

June 21 ~ NO BREAD FOR LIFE (VBS)

June 28 ~ Speaker: Rick Bachman Cook: Tracy Seitzinger
Theme: *'Great Outdoors Month'*



FALL SPIRITUAL RETREAT

So what will you do? What will you choose? Will you settle for less than what God has intended for you? When you come to the end of your life, will you be able to say with no regrets "I gave everything I had"? Will you choose to really live and create a beautiful future for yourself and for God? Come and explore these questions with Al Martin, the facilitator for our fall spiritual retreat.

On Friday, September 21 and Saturday, September 22, we will travel approximately one hour east on Highway #30 to the Lindenwood Retreat and Conference Center, which is part of the Center at Donaldson. Our first session will commence at 7:00 p.m. (Central Standard Time), 8:00 there. The evening will end with a campfire and s'mores, of course. Saturday will continue with two sessions and culminate with a worship service in the Ancilla Domini Chapel. You will be on the road by 4:00 p.m. (Eastern Standard Time). Throughout the weekend, you will have personal time to walk the labyrinth, stroll on pathways around Lake Gilbraith, or visit the outdoor Stations of the Cross.

Our church has **graciously** chosen to subsidize the event, so the cost to you will be only \$25.00 per person. We have reserved ten rooms with double occupancy (2 Twin Beds). You may select your roommate when you sign up in the church office. Also included in your fee will be Saturday breakfast and lunch (which will be prepared for us), as well as rental of the meeting room for both days. A kitchenette is available to prepare snacks and store drinks.

You will **not** want to miss this opportunity for fun, fellowship, God-centered encounters and spiritual reflection. Do not wait! We will accept the first twenty paid participants. You may sign up in the church office. Please make checks out to Lowell First United Methodist Church with 'retreat' on the memo line. Please contact Patrice Martin with any questions or concerns at patriceannmartin@gmail.com or text/call 689-4518.



Summer Giving

Ah, summer—the time of year when heat exhaustion drives families to the white sandy beaches and salty ocean air of the nearest coast. Baseball season is in full swing, the lake is overcrowded with boats, and sleeping in is a regular occurrence. Unfortunately, all this rest and recreation often leaves church pews a bit emptier and offering plates slightly smaller. **Ministry simply can't afford to take a vacation.**

The doors are open to all who seek His guidance and love; who ask for His word to enlighten their life, and to support the many activities that will bring each of us nearer to understanding His kingdom. We continue to offer the opportunities for many outside our church walls through the gifts that God has provided. Our Vacation Bible School, our July "Kidz Karnival", our Household Pantry and the Good Samaritan Fund are among so many activities supported throughout the summer. God wants us to give through our talents, our gifts, because it shows that we truly recognize that he is Lord of our life.

The doors to the church are open in the summer time. Do we continue to open our hearts to prayer, to devotions, to reading the scripture, to building the relationship with God?

Philippians 4:19 says, "And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus." We pray that you will continue to know that our lives are richer when we are committed to a genuine relationship despite the time of year.

The Finance Committee



Deep Blue Kids

Our last Sunday School class of the year was May 27. Our top attendance award winners were Savannah Wilson, Corey Manier, Natalie Manier, and Lily Oman who all attended over 15 Sundays this year.

We had a blast this year under Miss Paige's direction! Thank you to our teachers – Beth Bales, Paige Van Wolde, Kathie Stoner, Nancy Lain, Kathy Taylor, Deb Kelley and family, Trudy Corning, Nicole Hayden, Denise Smith, and Shara Oman.

See you again next fall!



VBS is June 18 –June 22!!!

We are excited about this year's VBS theme: Shipwrecked - Rescued by Jesus. Kids will venture onto an uncharted island where they discover that Jesus is with them in all of life's storms.

Time is drawing near so please help us by doing the following:

- **Pray!!!** Please continue to pray for the children who will be coming to VBS. Pray for the youth and adults who will be working with VBS. Pray that God prepares everyone to hear His message for us!
- **Volunteer!!!** We still have a few positions to fill and can use people of all ages. If you are interested in helping, please call Deb Kelley (219) 707-6254.
- **Help with creating the decorations!!!** Come help create the decorations. Contact Kathy Taylor or Megan Snell to help.
- **Donate!!!** Donation cards for needed items are in the Narthex.
- **Register!!!** Please register now! Registration forms are available in this TeleChristian, at the church, or on the church website.

VBS 2018 Registration Form (one per child)

Name: _____ Boy or Girl (circle)

Date of Birth: _____ Age: _____ Grade next year _____

Name of Parent/Guardian: _____

Address: _____

Contact phone number: _____ E-mail address: _____

Allergies/Special Needs: _____

Names of Friends/Siblings to be together: _____

The Lowell First United Methodist Church has my permission to use my child's picture on:
Social Media, Church Website and Newsletter
(please circle all that apply)

Emergency Contact: Name _____

Phone Number: _____ Relationship to Child: _____

Signature: _____

News from OUTREACH



KIDZ KARNIVAL

Our annual outdoor carnival for children is scheduled for Friday, July 13, from 6-8:00 PM. This event is held on Library Drive on the west side of our church building and in the park. It offers free games, horseback rides, treats and prizes to the children in our neighborhood and community. It is an opportunity for the community to get to know us, and for us to get to know our community. Please spread the word by inviting your friends and neighbors to come to our carnival.

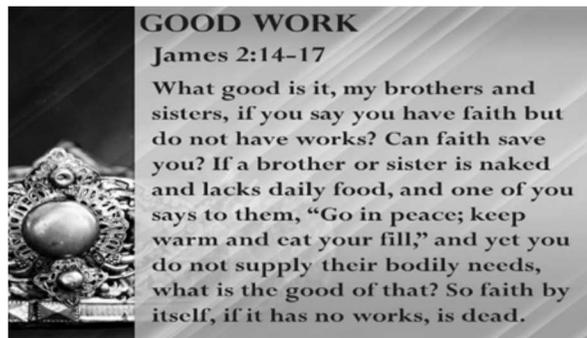
Last year the threat of severe weather forced us to cancel this event. Let's all pray for ideal weather conditions this year! In addition to your prayers for this event, we will need many hands to assist with all of the games and with passing out treats and prizes. Don't worry, there are some jobs that can be done sitting down. Please consider joining us in hosting this event for our community.

REACHING OUT THIS SUMMER

As a result of conversations with the school nurse at the Three Creeks Elementary School, we are planning a new community outreach project for this summer. The children from Apple Valley attend Three Creeks Elementary. The nurse expressed concerns about these children getting regular meals and having access to basic hygiene products during the summer months.

The Outreach Committee is combining efforts with the Missions Committee, the Ladies United in Missions Circle, the Household Pantry and Apple Valley to serve these children and their families. Range Line Presbyterian Church provides a meal at Apple Valley on the first and third Tuesday of the month. We plan to provide a meal, along with games and fellowship, on the fourth Tuesday evening of June, July and August. We are planning to also provide breakfast foods and personal care products like shampoo, deodorant and soap.

As this project takes shape, we will keep you informed of ways that you can be involved. If you have questions, you may contact Carol Goodrich at 313-3864.



Lowell UMM Warriors for Christ

A United Methodist Men Moment

I had an article all set in my mind that was going to be a little funny and light hearted, but that changed on a recent Saturday. Let me give a quick backstory...

The Monday before this incident I had attended a Conceal Carry Defensive Mindset course at the Lake Dale Fire Department. The instructor was giving scenarios of what people may do in certain situations. He would present different scenarios for the same situation. One example was this. You are at the Shedd Aquarium alone. There is a new shark tank with only 3 ft. high walls all the way around, and you get to feed the sharks. As you are feeding the sharks, your wedding ring falls into the tank. Are you going in after it? Probably not. But let's say you are there with little Timmy having fun feeding the sharks, but now little Timmy falls in. What are you going to do? You probably are going to jump in and try to get him out knowing you may not make it.

This leads into what is called "Rules of Engagement" -- What are you going to do in a given situation?

As Christians we should have our own rules of engagement. If we see homeless people here in Lowell, a fairly safe community, and they ask for help, you probably won't hesitate. But let's say you are lost in a bad section of Chicago, and a homeless person comes and asks for your help. Are you still going to be willing to help? Split decisions are tough. As Christians, that answer should be yes, but was your answer yes? Do we pick and choose when or who we help? We shouldn't, but do we?

Now back to what led up to this article... I had stopped by our storage unit to get my golf clubs. I was by myself. As I was leaving a lady came running up to my truck, looking scared and distraught. I asked what was wrong, she said she was trying to get away from her boyfriend. She showed me her skinned elbow, but I don't know if she had fallen or this was done by her boyfriend. She said he had taken her phone and keys. I hesitated, but then offered to take her to the police station. She said no, she was going to try to make it to her car a few blocks over. I didn't offer to drive her there, and she then took off. I was getting ready to head home but felt I needed to do more, so I called 911 and explained what was going on. I waited at the storage unit until an officer came to verify what was going on. He thanked me, then he and two other squad cars went looking for her. That is the last I know of what happened.

So, did I fail as Christian by not taking this woman to her car? Or did I prevail by calling the police? I will probably never know.

Making Godly decisions and trying help others is a tough thing for any Christian. Do you put yourself in harm's way for a stranger? Do you put yourself in harm's way for family or friends? We hear people brag about what they would do if this or that happens, but until the situation arises, nobody really knows what they would do. Make your "Rules of Engagement". Be prepared to help when and where you can.

May God continue his many blessings of our Church.

Craig Wilson
UMM President



A big THANKS to all who helped make possible the 56 fleece blankets started and the 53 inner pillows made for the Rosebud Indian Reservation children. Thanks to all who helped physically cut and stuff and sew, to those who donated fleece and fiberfill and blanket kits and money, and to those who prayed!

Please continue to pray for the team going to South Dakota and for the Lakota Indians. And again, THANK-YOU! It's hard to express just how much YOU are helping and effecting these Lakota people!!!!

**If anyone is interested in going on the trip, June 24-30, please contact Ed or Becky Crabb.

Sincerely,
Becky Crabb

Please give your congregation my heartfelt thanks for their more than generous donation of food. It will help so many people who are struggling to feed their families.

God Bless,
Rosie Morrow
Eagle Creek Trustee

Have you noticed how attractive our church grounds look? Once spring finally arrived, our church blossomed with fresh new life in our trees, gardens and lawn. Thank you to our hard-working Trustees for maintaining our lawn, parking lot and church exterior. Thank you to our gardeners Dan & Laura Eller for our beautiful gardens on the parking lot and Commercial Ave. sides of our church building. Thank you to Sharon Sanders for beautifying our Memorial Garden on the west side of our building with colorful flowers. Due to the time and efforts of these and many other people, our community sees a church building that is well-cared for. Our community can tell that inside the building there is a long-established, strong, caring faith family.

Thank you good and faithful servants!!

WEEKLY EVENTS

Sunday - *Worship* ~ 8 a.m. (at Evergreen Park) and 10:00 a.m. (in sanctuary)

Adult Sunday School ~ F.O.M., 11:00 a.m. (rm. 301)

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), 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)

June 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 Birthday Party
3 First Park Service 8a.m. Confirmation Sunday	4 Staff/Parish 6pm Tri-Kappa 6pm (basement)	5	6 UMW Executive Meeting 4:30pm (301)	7	8 Game Night 5:30 p.m.	9
10 Graduation Sunday	11 Apple Valley Meeting 6:30pm	12 VBS Training 6-8 p.m. (basement) Trustees 6:30pm Missions 7pm	13	14	15	16
17 Father's Day	18 VBS 6-8pm (whole church)	19 VBS 6-8pm (whole church)	20 VBS 6-8pm (whole church) Finance 5:30pm	21 VBS 6-8pm (whole church)	22 VBS 6-8pm (whole church)	23
24	25 Outreach 10am (library) Ad-Council 6:30pm (basement)	26 Alzheimer Support Group 6pm (library)	27	28	29 Movie Night 6pm	30 Baby Shower