The First United Methodist Church of Lowell

Tele-Christian ~ March 2018 Edition

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

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Words for the Journey.....

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We recently celebrated the second Sunday of Lent together. Lent is the season designed to help us draw closer to God as we consider the priorities in our life. I hope you have had a good Lenten journey to this point.

As a church, we are collecting non-perishable food items for our local food pantries each week of Lent. It has been a great project this far. The first week we asked you to bring in vegetables. You brought in many veggies. We collected 137 cans of vegetables that week. The vast majority of these were green beans, peas & corn, although we had a few cans of asparagus, spinach and mixed vegetables among others thrown into the pot. This should help many families in our community grow big and strong.

The second week we requested pasta and pasta sauce. We collected 81 boxes and bags of pasta totaling about 92 lbs. This included a few boxes of lasagna noodles, penne, bow ties, as well as a few Mac & Cheese and other pastas. What an international flare we have in our collection.

We also collected 83 jars or cans of pasta sauce totaling about 1,973.5 fluid ounces....and 2 containers of parmesan cheese. We should help a few families in our community enjoy some good meals together.

The collections will continue each week throughout Lent. I hope participating in this event is enriching your Lenten experience.

An unexpected twist in our Lenten season has been the many funerals we have experienced. I have not enjoyed this rash of deaths we have experienced this season. We have some strong families in our church community who have suffered great loss. I pray that Lent brings new light to our healing process.

We have expected our Lenten study classes to touch many students. That appears to be the case. We have three study classes which are meeting during Lent. These classes have a total of 18 students. Each student seems to appreciate their class sessions.

As Lent draws to a close, I hope you will invite a friend to worship with us on Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Sunrise and Easter morning. Each of these worship services are unique. Each of these brings a deeper light into the exclusive meaning of our faith. Take the time to enjoy these services with us.

The Sunday after Easter, April 8, from 1:00 to 3:00 in the afternoon, we will host an Internet Security class. This is a free event where experts in Internet safety will give us practical tips on protecting our electronic devices and our personal information. This is a free event. This is the first event in our Tom Clawson Sunday Afternoon Study Series. Bring a friend and learn with us.

These are some of the ways that we are learning and growing together as a church. As God works in your life, it brings growth to the entire group. Keep enjoying Lent.

Pastor Rick

March Sunday Sermon and Scripture Schedule

March 4 ~ Communion Sunday

Scripture ~ 1 Peter 1:13-21 Sermon Title ~ 'A Little More Won't Hurt'

March 11

Scripture ~ Matthew 20:1-16 Sermon Title ~ 'There's Always Tomorrow'

March 18

Scripture ~ Matthew 18:23-35 Sermon Title ~ 'The Neighbors Have More'

March 25 ~ Palm Sunday

Scripture ~ Matthew 5:21-30 Sermon Title ~ 'I Can Control It'

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March Worship News by Charlene Grant, chairperson

Continuing our Lenten Journey

Thank you for your donations of canned vegetables and pasta with sauce on the first two Sundays in Lent. The food collections coordinate with Pastor Rick's sermons on the seven deadly sins. (February 18 envy & February 25 pride) The food we collect will help stock four local church food pantries.

Here is the March collection schedule;

March 4--peanut butter or canned meat-chili, stew, tuna, (gluttony)

March 11--canned soup, (sloth)

March 18--canned fruit or applesauce, (greed)

March 25--cereal or any nonperishable food item, (lust & pride)

Easter Flowers

Easter lilies, tulips and hyacinths may be purchased to adorn our sanctuary on Easter morning. The cost is \$10 for each plant. Order envelopes will be in the bulletin March 11, 18 and 25. You may take your flowers home following the Easter morning services.

Holy Week Worship Opportunities

Palm Sunday—March 25 9:15 & 10:45 Services

Wave your palms as Jesus rides into Jerusalem.

Maundy Thursday—March 29 5:30 potluck in the Fellowship Hall

Meat and drinks will be provided. You may bring a dish to share. Join us for Jesus' last meal with his disciples.

Good Friday—March 30 7:00 p.m. Service

Remember Jesus' crucifixion.

Easter—April 1 7:00 a.m. Sunrise Service at Evergreen Park 9:15 & 10:45 in the sanctuary

Celebrate Jesus' resurrection!

SMILE—Don DeFrance will be taking family photos Easter morning in the Narthex.

Did you notice the purple draping on the cross? Thank you, Ray Smith!

Did you notice the outdoor cross on the west side of the church? Thank you, Dennis Olson!

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

9:15 a.m. Service

March 4:

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

March 11:

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

March 18:

Greeters: Gisela Peterson, Phyllis Moser, Jenny Nichols, Carolyn Savich
Ushers: Charlie Haberlin, Wayne Wietbrock, Dave Perry, Darion Kidwell, Tom Brown
Liturgist: Scott Spry Children's Time: Pastor Rick

March 25:

Greeters: Anita Childress, Nina Wilson, Sandy Villa, Dennis Olson Ushers: Luan Brown, Scott Beier, Scott Spry, Ken Bisacchi, Bill Bubness Liturgist: Cheryl Jones Children's Time: Kim Newlin

10:45 Worship Leaders:

February 4: Cheryl Jones February 18: Al Martin February 25: Al Martin

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 **March**:

March 1 ∼ Speaker: Susan Wells Cook: Kim McGinley

Theme: 'National Pig Day'

March 8 ~ Speaker: Al Martin Cook: Carol Goodrich

Theme: 'March is Employee Spirit Month'

March 15 ~ Speaker: Ellen Rosengard Cook: Sharon Sanders

Theme: 'March is Humorists are Artists Month'

March 22 ~ Speaker: Peggy Hendricks Cook: Tracy Seitzinger

Theme: 'National Goof Off Day'

March 29 ~ Speaker: Al Martin Cooks: Everyone (bring a dish to share)

Theme: 'Maundy Thursday'

Tempting Services "Expanding, Extending, Building the Church Family"

Once again, we are doing our "Tempting Services -Expanding, Extending, Building the Church Family." Your participation of "sharing God's gifts, talents, and resources" will contribute to the needs of others as well as assist in raising funds towards designated missions of the Lowell United Methodist Church. Let us bring people together!

Do you have a special talent, a simple service, or treat you can offer for sale? Suggestions: Stained glass artwork; cook a dinner for two or four; casseroles; cakes; haircuts; cookies; pies; coffee cakes; artwork in any form; snow removal; mowing; weeding; leaf raking; cleaning gutters; cleaning in any form; sewing; woodworking; oil change; car tune-up; car detailing; a timeshare for rent; tax services; computer work; tutoring; babysitting; music lessons; washing windows; transportation services; boat ride. **The ideas are endless**. BE CREATIVE!!!!!

Please consider completing the form below if you feel so moved to offer a special talent, a simple service, treat, or other type of resource/gift.

All forms must be submitted by Monday, March 5, 2018. The list of services/goods available for sale will be distributed Sunday, March 11. Certificates with each individual item will be made available for sale in the Narthex on Sundays, March 11 and March 18, and Thursdays at Bread 4 Life, March 15 and March 22.

Arrangements for goods and services are to be made between the seller and the purchaser.

BE PREPARED to purchase your goods or services on Sunday, March 11, if you want to have first pick and before items are gone! If you have any questions, you may contact Lynn Bochart @ 219-696-9048.

Thank you!!! Finance Committee

TITLE OF DONATION

What service, talent or resource are you willing to sell for "Building the Church Family?" Please be detailed.

Example A: Babysitting for 3 hours for 2 children

Example B: Pumpkin Pie Example C: Painting – 1 hour

Example D: Carpentry Repairs – 1 hour

HOW MANY TIMES

How many times are you willing to donate your item or service? Be Specific.

Example A: (Babysitting for 3 hours for 2 children) 2 times

Example B: (Pumpkin Pie) 3 pies

Example C: Painting – 1 hour (4 times)

Example D: Carpentry Repairs – 1 hour (4 times)

NAME YOUR PRICE

Name your price for your item or service. Be Specific.

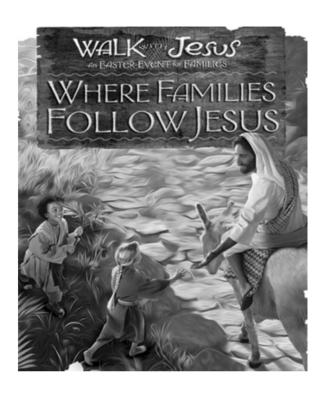
Example A: (Babysitting for 3 hours for 2 children) \$10 per hour x 3 hours = \$30

Example B: (Pumpkin Pie) \$12 each

Example C: Example: Painting – 1 hour (4 times) Cost \$20.00/hour

Example D: Carpentry Repairs – 1 hour (4 times) Cost \$30.00/hour

YOUR NAME	
PHONE NUMBER:	and/ or E-mail



Come Join us Saturday, March 17, from 1pm-3pm for an Easter event that you'll never forget.

Walk With Jesus is a powerfully moving outreach event that guides you through Jesus' last days on earth. You will travel to Jerusalem for Palm Sunday, sit down for the Last Supper, pray in the Garden of Gethsemane, discover the sacrifice of Good Friday, and celebrate freedom from your sins at the empty tomb that first Easter morning a way you'll never forget.

Designed for parents and their children to experience together, *Walk with Jesus* also works great for participants of ALL ages.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Below is a list of items that are needed for the **Walk With Jesus** Easter Event. We will have a donation box in the Narthex. Please <u>mark your items with your name</u> so they can be returned to you. Thank you for your support of this wonderful children's Easter program!

- Various artificial plants that look like they belong in biblical times
- Various sizes of baskets for decoration
- Small pottery jars that look like jars from biblical times
- Flicker tea lights
- Flicker candles
- Artificial fruits and rolls
- Assorted blankets and rugs that look like those in biblical times.



The confirmation class has been meeting for seven weeks. We have learned a lot and had some great discussions about the history of the Methodist Church. We are beginning the section of class when we learn about confirming our faith. These are more challenging topics. I'm looking forward to what I learn from these great teens.

Mentors can begin meeting with their confirmands. If you don't have your "Talk Points" book yet, they are in the confirmation mailbox.

Thank you to everyone who has kept us going with treats so far! We meet on Sundays from 10:30-12 noon. Stop by and say hi!

Lynn Skafish



Tree of Life Mission Trip June 24-30, 2018

Blankets and Pillows for Indian Reservation

Pillows are a luxury for many Lakota on the Rosebud Indian reservation. Blankets are necessary to stay warm in the winter and are used as gifts in their culture. It is important each year to take blanket kits and pillows that have been prepared so the Lakota children can finish their own blanket and pillow to take home.

Besides blankets and pillows, other crafts are done with the children during the week-long afternoon Kids Club at the White River United Methodist Church in South Dakota. Each day 40 to 50 children attend and enjoy the Bible story, craft, play time and snack.

To take 50 blanket kits and 50 pillows, your help is needed!

Materials are needed:

- Fleece blanket kits the larger of the two sizes and/or 5' fleece pieces (2 per blanket) to total 50 blankets
- * pillows- 12" inner pillows and/or muslin fabric and fiber fill to make 12" inner pillows to total 50 inner pillows

Help is needed:

- When: Thursday afternoons, 3:30-5:00, March 22, 29, April 5, 12, 19, 26
- Where: Church basement or alternate room (especially March 29)
- * Bring: good scissors, rotary cutter and matt, sewing machine (if sewing inner pillows)

Prayers are needed:

* Always pray for the Lakota children and their families, for the team that is going on the mission trip June 24-30, and for those helping prepare the materials for the children. Please help in any and all ways that God is calling you.



News from the Ladies United in Missions Circle

God really blesses us! The L.U.M Circle had shopped and was ready for our Advanced Cooking Class. We were disappointed when the weather delayed our class, but as always God had a plan. A young lady was waiting for the new class. During that week off her mother contacted the school. The school told the mother to contact the church, where the secretary routed the call one more time. Needless to say, a mother was very excited that her daughter got into the class.

The advanced class has five kids that are cooking on the stove and using the oven. They made strawberry French toast casserole, biscuits and gravy, scrambled eggs, bacon, and smoothies for the first class. All the kids, teen helpers, adult helpers, a few parents, and guests enjoyed the meal.

The kids were blessed with donations from Carol Olsen. They are truly blessed with their own pans, cooking utensils, and oven mitts to take home. Carol really seemed to enjoy the kids and everyone was thankful for the t-shirts that were given to them and the help. Dennis seemed to enjoy the biscuits and gravy. The kids were glad to share.

We hope you will plan on spending time with us in May at our tea. We will have wonderful food, a silent auction, and a fashion show. The donations will pay for our missions. Hope to see you in May!

Rachelle Ruge-Bernard

P.S. If you are interested in joining this or one of the other United Methodist Women circles, please contact the church office.





Our UMW ladies are offering a Lenten Luncheon on Sunday, March 18, at noon in the Fellowship Hall.

Everyone is invited to partake in this simple meal as we prepare our hearts for a meaningful Holy Week and Easter experience.

ADULT STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

The FRIENDS discussion group will begin a new study on Sunday, February 25, called "The Twelve Disciples." In this 10 week study, we will focus on a passage of scripture each week as we learn more about the 12 men that Jesus chose to be his closest followers. We will learn how the time spent with Jesus transformed these ordinary men into outspoken witnesses of Jesus' redeeming grace. The FRIENDS class meets upstairs on Sunday mornings in Room 304 at 10:30 am. Come when you can to join the discussion and share in others' perspectives.

All are welcome to join the short-term studies going on in March:

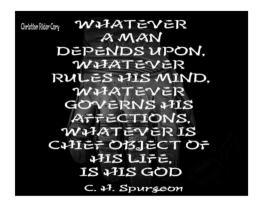
Basic Christianity 102 with Cheryl Jones at 6:00 PM on Tuesdays in Room 304.

Experiencing God: Knowing and Doing the Will of God with Al Martin at 7:00 PM on Tuesdays in Room 300.

<u>Full: Focus on Jesus</u> with Ethel Devine at 10:30 AM on Wednesdays in the church library.



Lowell UMM Warriors for Christ A United Methodist Men's Moment





Matthew 6:21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Do you have other gods in your life? What are your treasures? Do you do things for yourself all the time, instead of taking care of God, family and friends?

We all have things we love to do; fishing, golfing, camping, and hobbies. These are great things to do unless they consume your life and you put them before God and others.

As men, if we are the breadwinner in our household, we tend to think we deserve to do what we want and when we want. But we need to find balance in life.

What can we do as Warriors for Christ to achieve that balance? That is great question for you to ponder.

Most of us pray every day for guidance, safety for our family, a promotion, a winning lotto ticket and so on. We ask God for a lot in our lives. I am challenging you, the Warriors for Christ, to incorporate into your prayers; "God, what can I do for you today?"

May God continue his many blessings on our church.

Craig Wilson UMM President



Veterans, we would like to know...

We are thinking about starting a group for military veterans, or family members of a veteran, who are dealing with PTSD and/or struggling to adjust to civilian life and all its aspects. We want to know if you would like to join us in a study, **Resilient Warrior** written by Retired Major General Robert Dees. The group will be led by combat veterans.

If you are interested, please contact Laura Hutchison at 696-0321.



Shrek The Musical

Ninety cast and crew members of the Lowell High School Theater program are tirelessly working to create their own production of Shrek The Musical. John Yelkich and Kristen Newlin, from our church, are Mama and Papa Ogre **and** Mama and Papa Bear. Yes, they do have a Baby Bear. In addition, Kristen is the Stage Manager of the cast. Kim Newlin is our parent liaison.

On this Tony Award-winning fairy tale adventure, you meet an unlikely hero fighting a twelve-foot dragon sculpted by a talented LHS student. Shrek, joined by a feisty donkey, finds himself on a life-changing journey, as he rescues a princess, to save his swamp. Join us to learn a valuable moral lesson about **not** judging others!

The opening show will be Thursday, March 8, at 7:00 p.m. The weekend will feature performances on Friday and Saturday, March 9 &10, at 7:00 p.m. The closing matinee will be Sunday, March 11, at 2:00 p.m. Tickets may be purchased at the door of the Lowell High School Auditorium, 2051 East Commercial Ave. Student and Senior prices are \$7.00 with Adults at \$9.00.

Don't miss this opportunity to see the fruits of their labors and enjoy the positive contributions these Lowell students have to offer.

Patrice Martin Director

Thank You! •••••••

Thank you and God bless everyone at F.U.M.C. for all your prayers and support. I'm doing well and look forward to seeing you again soon.

Mark Lindemer

Dear Church family,

Thank you friends for all the cards and prayers during Hank's illness and untimely death. Thank you to my wonderful Chancel Choir friends that sang at Hank's Funeral. Thank you to the ladies that served such a fine meal to my many family members and friends! Your love helped us get through this difficult period in our lives! You came through when we needed lots of true friends!

Your friends in Christ,

Nancy, Jesse, and Nobu Lain Mary and Kevin Kampenga

Thank you so much for saving egg cartons for my Farm Bureau friends. They are very glad to get them. Please keep saving!

Beth Bailey

WEEKLY EVENTS

Sunday - Worship ~ 9:15 and 10:45 (Sanct.) Adult Sunday 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)

March 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Cub Scouts 6:30 pm (300)	2 LUMC Game Night 5:30 pm	3
4 Confirmation Class 9:15	5 Staff/Parish 6pm Tri-Kappa 6pm (basement)	6 Cooking Class 4:30 (bsmt) Christianity 102 6pm (304) Experiencing God 7pm (300) Children's Council 7pm (library)	7 FULL Study 10:30 am (library) UMW Executive Meeting 4:30 pm (library) Worship 6:30pm (304)	8	9 Pre-School Open House 5-8 p.m. (basement)	10 Private piano recital 6:30 p.m. (sanctuary)
11 Confirmation Class 9:15	12 Susanna Wesley 7 p.m. (library)	13 Christianity 102 6pm (304) Experiencing God 7pm (300) Trustees 6:30 p.m. Missions Mts. 7pm (library)	14 FULL Study 10:30 am (library)	15 Cub Scouts 6:30 p.m. (300)	16	17 Family Easter Event 1 p.m.
18 Lenten Luncheon 12 noon (bsmt)	19	20	21 Finance Meeting 5:30 p.m.	22 Indian Blanket Ministry 3:30 p.m. (basement)	23	24 Children's birthday party 3 p.m. (bsmt)
25 Baby Shower 1 p.m. (basement)	26 Tri-Kappa 6:30 p.m. (library) Ad-Council 6:30 p.m. (basement)	27 Alzheimer Support Group 6 p.m. (library)	28	29 Maundy Thursday Indian Blanket Ministry 3:30 p.m. (basement)	30 Good Friday (office closed at noon)	31

THE FAMILY ALTAR

Are you remembering the church with your prayers?

Pray for those persons who are/were in the hospital:

Tom Brown, Denise Denney, Ethel Devine, Becky Ferguson, Lisa Leep, Mary Zoe Weaver

Pray for people living in care facilities:

Aperion Healthcare: Lucille Kirk

Brentwood Assisted Living (Hobart): Carol Cantwell

Cedar Creek Health Facility: Phil Barlowe, Dee Dee Benshoof, Doris Curless,

Lillian McLellan, Mary Zoe Weaver

Lowell Healthcare: Don Krupa

Spring Mill Health Facility: Tom Hutchings

Symphony: Don Biter

Wittenberg: Verneice Anderson

Pray for those receiving treatment: Tom Brown, Jeff Woolfolk

Pray for those recovering from illness/surgery/procedures:

Dee Dee Benshoof, Ethel Devine

Pray for those with long term health concerns:

Sharon Bailey, Scott Beier, Dee Dee Benshoof, Don Biter, Tom Brown, Connie Cox, Danah Deitz, Don DeVine, Marjorie Donnelly, Tom Grant, Joyce Hogeveen, Betty Kenney, Darion Kidwell, Mark Lindemer, Marilyn Lynch, Caryl Meadows, Sally Mijares, Ernie Moser, Marion Nelson, McKenna Smith, Mary Stuart, Dave Vandercar, Sam Wilson, Sandy Villa, Kate Yelkich

Pray for our military and their families serving in the Armed Forces all over the world:

Aaron Brown, Ben Eller, Kyle Eller, Cody Pate, Troy Pate, Josh Kuiper,

Daniel Sutton, Jeremy Wardell, Kyle Weaver, Phebe Zambeto

Pray for Pastor Rick and all of our church staff.

Please pray for our Community and our National leaders.

Please pray for our Cluster churches:

Cedar Lake UMC, DeMotte UMC, Hebron UMC and Hebron Salem UMC.

Please pray for

The family and friends of *Rita Lyles* who passed away on February 5.

The family and friends of **Sandie Ingebretsen** who passed away February 9.

The family and friends of *Hank Lain* who passed away on February 15.

The family and friends of **Jack Foss** who passed away on February 18.

The family and friends of *Greta Pinneger* passed away on February 25.

Congratulations to Bob and Lynda Dawson on the birth of their grandson *Harris Michael Dawson* who was born January 30.

To strengthen our church we pray for each committee, team, group, ministry, and mission for one week during the year. In the coming month please pray specifically by week for

March 4	Our "Nurse Is In" ministr	ry – the nurses who serve & the clients who are served
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March 11 "Walk With Jesus" children's Easter event

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March 18 The Casserole Ministry

March 25 The Missions Committee



Reminder

Articles for the April issue of the Tele-Christian are due on or before **March 21**. Please send articles as an e-mail attachment to Kim McGinley at umcfriends@sbcglobal.net **and** to Bev Kussy at kussy@sbcglobal.net.

Those without e-mail may submit written articles

Birthdays

1 ~ Mike Hanger 3 ~ Zack Taylor 4 ~ Phil Kuiper 7 ~ Lillian McLellan 9 ~ Anita Sark 11 ~ Candace Wallace 12 ~ Bill Newlin 14 ~ Amy Manier 17 ~ Cameron Skafish 18 ~ Joe Goodrich 19 ~ Luke Manier 21 ~ Olivia Rineheart 22 ~ Scott Beier, Deb Kelley 23 ~ Kathy Taylor 24 ~ Tom Frederich, Dave Perry, Luther Daugherty 25 ~ Danah Dietz 26 ~ Don Tilton 28 ~ Donna Bauman, Melanie Eller 29 ~ Trudy Corning, Jeannie Kennell 30 ~ Melissa Cottingham, Katie Mooney, Peyton Snell 31 ~ Patice Martin

Anniversaries

7 ~ Jack and Bonnie Wilson 13 ~ Mike and Katlin Lumsdon 14 ~ Lyle and Nancy Patchett 18 ~ Dwight and Judy Livingston 20 ~ Bill and Connie Cox 21 ~ Mike and Nicole Hayden 24 ~ Doug and Diane Ward

The "Have Car, Will Travel" ministry in our church provides the names of volunteer drivers to those in need of a ride to medical appointments or treatments in the local area. Call the office at 696-9219 to get the list of the drivers you can contact for a ride. Most of our drivers are very active retirees who travel often. We could use a few more drivers. Please contact the office if you can help.

The 'Nurse Is In'

Keeping tabs on your blood pressure? Remember, the "Nurse Is In" on the first Sunday of each month. Look for the nurse in the office area.

First United Methodist Church 520 E. Commercial Avenue Lowell, IN 46356



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