

The First United Methodist Church of Lowell Tele-Christian ~ March 2020 Edition

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

Mark's Remarks.....

Contention! The very sound of the word is negative. The word means, "a heated argument." I am weary of the amount of contention in our society today. The Democratic Primary is heating up with the various candidates slinging mud at the other candidates. The Democrats seem united in their contention with Donald Trump. Trump seems to thrive on a contentious relationship with the Democrats.

Even within our own denomination, there is contention between those holding various views on the topic of sexuality. It seems to be a never-ending heated argument between two groups who won't listen to the other side.

I realize that we all need to hold on to our beliefs about various topics. I know that to win a national election these days requires a candidate to not only promote their views, but to tear down the other. My problem is that we are surrounded by it. How should we react to the environment? Racial issues? Economic policies? Sexual issues? Male/Female interaction? How to treat the poor? The immigrant? Religious differences? We're surrounded by people with strong opinions on everything who seem to enjoy being in contention with others with strong opinions. Frankly, I'm getting tired of it. All the arguing I see in the public sphere just makes me weary. I would hate to be described as a contentious person.

Isn't there a better way? Isn't there a better way to live our lives? I believe there is another way. God's way is always superior to our way. In Romans 12:18, Paul writes, "If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men." Now this might seem too simplistic to you. For me, I can see a way of life in these few words. "If possible" means that we must know what we believe and why. Some things must be defended. Some beliefs are worth an argument.

The older I get though, the more I realize there are fewer and fewer arguments that are needed. Peace with those around me is much more desirable. If you listen, rather than argue, you can learn a lot about a person. Why do they feel that way, where did that opinion originate? I've been able to develop friendships and drawn closer to others simply by listening. I don't always have to pound my belief into them.

Do you like contention? Are you weary of all the strife around us? There is a better way. Try it, God's way!

Learn More about Our Denomination's Future

On Tuesday, March 17, Pastor Mark will lead an informational meeting about the United Methodist Separation Proposal. If it passes at the General Conference in June, there will be a split in the denomination. Come at 6 pm to the church basement to learn more. Many especially want to know how it will effect our church.

March Sermon and Scripture Schedule

March 1 ~ Communion Sunday

Scripture ~ John 1:1-5

Sermon Title ~ *'Jesus, the First Created'*

March 8 ~

Scripture ~ Judges 7:1-3

Sermon Title ~ *'God Helps Those Who Help Themselves'*

March 15 ~

Scripture ~ Hebrews 10:19-25

Sermon Title ~ *'Worshipping on the Golf Course'*

March 22 ~

Scripture ~ Romans 3:9-18

Sermon Title ~ *'People are Basically Good'*

March 29 ~

Scripture ~ 1 Corinthians 4:8-13

Sermon Title ~ *'Name It and Claim It'*



Worship News Trudy Corning & Linda Hayden, Co-Chairs

Giving Opportunities

Once again during the Lenten Season, we will be hosting a food drive. Each week, starting March 1, a different grocery item will be collected.

March 1 Canned fruit or Applesauce

March 8 Breakfast cereal/Breakfast bars

March 15 Pasta and Sauce

March 22 Soup and Crackers

March 29 Canned Vegetables

April 5 Canned Meat or Peanut Butter

During Holy Week, the donated food items will be delivered to local food pantries in Lowell. As you select your food items, think about what would feed an average family of 4. Bring your donated food items to church each week and place them on the grocery store shelves located in the Narthex. Come and help feed those in need during lent!

Worship Opportunities

The Lenten Season will begin on Ash Wednesday, February 26. Our desire is to provide meaningful worship opportunities during this season of reflection. The Ash Wednesday service will be at 7 p.m. in the church sanctuary.

Palm Sunday, April 5

We will celebrate Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem as we joyously wave palms during worship at 8am and 10:30am

Maundy Thursday, April 9

We will remember the last supper of Jesus and his disciples as we sample a traditional Passover meal followed by a pot luck supper starting at 5:30 in the Fellowship Hall. Worship begins at 6:30 and will include dulcimer music as well as communion.

Good Friday, April 10

A service of shadows observing the death of Jesus. This powerful tenebrae service will include a medley of songs presented by the choir with narration.

EASTER SUNDAY!! April 12

Come and celebrate our risen Lord and savior!! We will offer 3 worship opportunities: Sunrise service at 7am in the senior citizen park (west of the church). Worship is at 8am and 10:30am in the church sanctuary.

Easter flowers of lilies, tulips and hyacinths will adorn the church sanctuary again this year. You may order Easter flowers using the envelope in the church bulletin later in March!

March Sermon Series

Don't miss a single Sunday in March! We are starting a sermon series entitled, "Heresy is Alive and Well and Living in Our Churches." Heresy is a false teaching that goes against the rest of the church. Each Sunday we'll talk about a different heresy that many of us hold as truth. We'll use the scripture to show how this is not God's truth. See you on Sundays!



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

March 1: Greeters: B. Johnson, C. Olson, Trudy C, G. Corning, B Kelley, R. Maas

Ushers: 8:00: L. Bochart, B. Savich 10:30: El. DeVine, D. Olson

Liturgist: 8:00: C. Wilson 10:30: K. Stoner **Children's Time:** P. Corning

March 8: Greeters: Li. Snell, A. Nichols, V. Kasparian, M. Hayden, N. Hayden

Ushers: 8:00: D. Bales, G. Corning 10:30: S. Sanders, T. Stoner, D. Champanois, T. Champanois

Liturgist: 8:00: A. Martin 10:30: R. Bachman **Children's Time:** N. Lain

March 15:

Greeters: B. Hayden, L. Hayden, G. Peterson, A. Nichols, P. Moser, C. Savich, T. Manier, A Manier

Ushers: 8:00: C. Haberlin, R. Maas 10:30: D. Perry

Liturgist: 8:00: L. Haberlin 10:30: B. Kussy **Children's Time:** Pastor Mark

March 22: Greeters: A. Childress, J. Nichols, P. Atherton, Nina Wilson, D. Olson, C. Grant, S. McQuiston

Ushers: 8:00: L. Brown, B. Bubness 10:30: K. Bisacchi, Scott Spry

Liturgist: 8:00: R. Bachman 10:30: K. Taylor **Children's Time:** D. Smith

March 29: Greeters/Ushers: UMW

Liturgist: 8:00: D. Bales 10:30: E. Rosengard **Children's Time:** K. Stoner



Thursday BRD4Life Dinner/Worship Service

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 5 ~ Speaker: Ellen Rosengard
Theme: *National Grammar Day*

Cook: Tracy Seitzinger
Greeter: Ellen Rosengard

March 12 ~ Speaker: Pastor Mark
Theme: *National Plant a Flower Day*

Cook: Kevin Corie
Greeter: Ellen Rosengard

March 19 ~ Speaker: Scott Spry
Theme: *National Let's Laugh Day*

Cook: Kim McGinley
Greeter: Jenny Nichols

March 26 ~ Speaker: Al Martin
Theme: *National Social Work Month*

Cook: Susan, Jenny and Amy
Greeter: Pastor Mark

Tempting Services
“Expanding, Extending, Building the Church Family”

We are doing our **“Tempting Services -Expanding, Extending, Building the Church Family”** again this year! Your participation of “sharing God’s gifts, talents, and resources” will contribute to the needs of others as well as assist in raising funds toward the mission of the Lowell United Methodist Church. **Let’s 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; 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 16, 2020**. The list of services/goods available for sale will be distributed Sunday, **March 22**. Certificates with each individual item will be made available for sale in the Narthex on Sundays, **March 22 and March 29** and Thursdays at Bread 4 Life, **March 26 and April 2**. **Arrangements for goods and services are to be made between the seller and the purchaser.** No money is exchanged between seller/purchaser. 100% of sales support the mission of our church.

BE PREPARED to purchase your goods or services on Sunday, March 22 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? Please 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. Please 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: (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** _____

The Year Ahead

By the time this newsletter article reaches your homes, many in our congregation will have experienced the initial delivery of a “Giving Moment” shared near the beginning of our church services. Throughout the 2020 year, twice a month, church committee members will share their stories, their vision, of how your resources have provided hope, lifted joy into the hearts of people, and shared how lives are being blessed as well as changed by our church ministry. Why are we approaching the congregation? If we want our church to grow, we must share how to motivate, inspire, and embrace the responsibility of investing our resources into the Kingdom for ministry and the facilities that support the vision of those ministries. If you are going to form the vision, you also have to be able to fund the vision.

Throughout the year your Finance Committee, a committee of 16 members of our congregation, will continue to meet to examine how to move forward with the ministries of the church that require financial support. They carefully look at the “Giving” trends of the congregation and attempt to create a vision of the future missions. We hope you are touched by the “Giving Moments” and seek God’s counsel in your answers to giving to the church.

Your Finance Committee



Did you Know????

Did you know that if you are over the age of 70 ½ and have a traditional IRA, you can do non-taxable distributions from your IRA directly to the church? This would be a good way to donate to the church with IRA funds and not pay taxes on those distributions.

For more information, contact your tax advisor and your IRA custodian.

Submitted by Lynn Bochart, Treasurer



Well done, faithful servants!

From the 30+ forms that were returned, we know that countless acts of kindness occurred in & beyond our community during our “Love Thy Neighbor Week”. You reached out in so many ways – leaving quarters in Aldi carts; tending to another’s needs; making time for personal visits; leaving generous tips; treating others to lunch or dinner; helping to pay someone’s bill/debt; sending cards & notes; spending quality time with someone; providing a ride; donating blood; making cookies for a senior; sitting with a friend at a funeral; picking up groceries for a neighbor.

One person noted on their form that it “felt good”. We hope you all felt good and that you enjoyed focusing on other’s needs and being able to do something for them. Thanks for taking part in our Kindness week!

The Missions Committee

UMW NEWS

Rachelle Ruge-Bernard, President

Coming Events

Saturday, March 7 Our UMW unit is helping organize the community **World Day of Prayer** event which is being held in our church. The schedule for the day: Registration 8:30-9:30; Bible Study 9:30-10:45 with Pastor Mark; Lunch at 11:00 followed by the World Day of Prayer program at 12:00.

Please plan to share with friends and family. Fellowship with church members and members of other local churches will make it an enjoyable day.

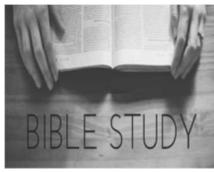
Sunday, March 15 Our **Lenten Lunch** will take place at noon in the Fellowship Hall. We will be share a simple meal. All members of our church family are invited to join us and enjoy the time together.

Supporting UMCOR (The United Methodist Committee on Relief)

Several of our UMW ladies traveled to deliver layettes, reusable pads, sewing machines, surgical caps, T-shirt dresses, loose diapers, tie-dyed fleece blankets and medicine donations to the UMCOR warehouse near Springfield, IL. Many of these items were sewn by our church sewing group which is made up of UMW ladies and others from the community. These items had been stored at the Resale, in closets and in cars! Marge Wyckoff and Martha Farney had been to the facility before and were happy to return. Kitty Peart was there for the first time. She was impressed by the warehouse and the enthusiasm of the director. UMCOR assists people in times of disasters in our country and around the world. These donations are a blessing from you and God.



Our UMW unit would like to have the help of our church family for a mission from the Midwest Mission Distribution Center. This would be filling a large quantity of bags with rice and beans (Rice Meal) to be sent to people in need. Stay tuned for details of when we will do this mission in the future.



Education Opportunities

WINGS CLASS

Meets at 9:15 in Room 300 with facilitator Al Martin.

FRIENDS CLASS

The FRIENDS Sunday School class is currently doing a video study by Chris Hodges called, "What's Next?" In this study, Chris reveals four steps to spiritual maturity. No matter where you are in your spiritual journey, there is always a "next step" to spiritual growth. We will continue this study on February 23 and March 1.

Starting on March 8, we will begin a Lenten video study with Andy Stanley called, "Why Easter Matters." In this study, Andy looks at the lives of several people in the story of Jesus' crucifixion. The circumstances they faced are different than ours, but their actions and mistakes are, unfortunately, not different at all.

Meets at 9:15 a.m. in room 304 with facilitator Don Bales.

FOM Class

Meets at 9:15 a.m. in room 301 with leader David Schoon.

Bible Study

Our Bible studies continue. We are finishing our series on angels. It is not too late to join. Our March dates for this series are Sunday, March 1 and 8 at 6 pm at the parsonage (1325 Hilltop Dr. in Lowell) and Wednesday, March 4 at 10 am in the church library. We'll take a break on March 11 and March 15.

We will then start a new 5 week series entitled: Dealing with Social Issues. We'll cover such social issues as the poor, capital punishment, abortion and pornography. Come planning to study God's Word on these contentious topics but not to argue our own point of view. Each will be able to make up their own mind about each topic. See you in March!



Members: Address/Phone Numbers Needed

If anyone has direct contact information (not someone that we can call to get information) for any of these members please let the office know.

Kelsey Arndt, Diane Brown, Marilyn Chili, Beth Clark, Allie Clark, Lyle Crabb, Jason Favors, Michelle Favors, Carrie Frank, David & Karen Gregory, Jessica Kamstra, Paul and Jeannie Lewis, John Mahler, Emily McLellan, Judy Milde, Helen Mooney, Mitchel Osborn, Kimberly Partyka, Jeremy Pokropinski, Marcia Quale, Brian Roadruck, Mary Roadruck, Andrew Roadruck, Samantha Roadruck, Mitchell Roadruck, Kelsey Roadruck, Paige Roadruck, Caryn Steckel, Jill Sutton, Amber Travis, Jalyn Travis, Stephan Travis



Do you have fond memories of reading Dr. Seuss books to your children or grandchildren? Characters, plot lines and settings of 15 of those books have been woven together into a wild, whimsical adventure that will be brought to life on the Lowell High School Theater stage!

Fifty-five cast and crew members have been working tirelessly creating fun characters, flashy light designs, colorful costumes, and animal-like make-up plans. Our own John Yelkich is starring as Horton the Elephant and through his interactions the themes of steadfast faithfulness, inclusivity and diligent caring are conveyed. This musical will appeal to young and old alike!

Performances are March 5 – 7 at 7:00 p.m. with a closing matinee on Sunday, March 8 at 2:00 p.m. Tickets are \$9 for adults, \$7 for seniors & students and can be purchased one hour before the show at the LHS Auditorium doors (2051 E. Commercial Ave.). Don't miss this opportunity to watch the youth of our community devote their efforts to a refreshingly positive outcome!

Patrice Martin, Theater Director



Our Senior Citizen group, *Young at Heart* continues to run strong. The next meetings will be Tuesday, February 25 and March 24, at 12:30 pm. We will have a light lunch and bingo. There is no charge for this event although a free-will offering is available. All who can make it at this time are welcome. Invite friends and come be a part!



We are starting a Mom's Group that will meet once a month! Our Mom's Group will be a place where moms of young children can come together and have a time to fellowship, worship, and grow together. There will be snacks, activities, discussions, devotions, and much more. We are meeting the third Friday of every month from 8:45am-11:15am in the church library.

The meetings we currently have scheduled are March 20, April 17, and May 15. Please spread the word to any moms of little ones that you may know. Nursery will be available for children. If you have any questions, please contact Paige Corning or Trudy Corning.

WEEKLY EVENTS

Sunday - *Worship* ~ 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. (in Sanct.), *Sunday School for All Ages 9:15*: F.O.M. (301), WINGS (300), FRIENDS (304) Youth (303) Children (downstairs)

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 - Godsbells 4:30 p.m., *BRD4life* dinner 5:30 p.m., *Worship* 6:15 p.m. (Fellowship Hall), Chancel Choir 7pm

March 2020

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

1 Pastor Bible Study 6 pm (parsonage)	2 Staff/Parish 5:30 p.m.	3 Household Pantry	4 Pastor Bible Study 10 am (library) UMW Exec. 4:30pm	5 Cub Scouts 6pm (300)	6 Alpha/Barbara 1:30pm (library)	7 World Day of Prayer 8:30am
8 Pastor Bible Study 6 pm (parsonage)	9 Susanna Wesley 1pm (library)	10 Trustees 6pm Missions 7pm (library)	11	12 Naomi Circle 1:30 pm (library)	13 Cub Scouts 6pm (300)	14
15 Lenten Lunch 12 (basement)	16 Ad. Council 6pm (basement)	17 HHP Information Meeting about UM Separation Proposal 6 p.m. (bsmt)	18 Pastor Bible Study 10 am (library) Finance 5:30pm Praise Practice 7pm	19 Meadowbrook POA Mtg. 4:30 (300) Cub Scouts 6pm (300) Bread for Life Mtng 7pm	20 Mom's Group 8:45 a.m. (library) Cub Scouts 6pm (300)	21
22 Pastor Bible Study 6 pm (parsonage)	23 Pre-School Spring Break (23-27)	24 Senior Bingo 12:30 pm (basement)	25 Pastor Bible Study 10 am (library)	26	27	28
29 Pastor Bible Study 6 pm (parsonage)	30	31 Children's Council Meeting 7pm (library)				