

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

On Saturday, May 5, our youngest daughter, Jeannie, will graduate from college. Let that sink in for a moment.

It doesn't seem like we have been in this town long enough for her to have completed her college studies. But, it is true. She was starting her senior year when we moved to town back in 2013. She graduated from LHS in 2014. Now she is preparing to graduate from college in 2018. Where has the time gone?

I am amazed that she was able to complete her college education in the traditional 4-year time slot. It seems like that with all the pressures that college students are under today that it is more common to graduate in 5-years or more. She completed her studies in 4 years.

As you may recall, she is about to graduate from Asbury University. Asbury is located a few miles SW of Lexington, KY. It is a beautiful campus filled with southern charm. Yes, it is where I graduated with my Accounting and Business Management degree oh so many years ago. It is amazing that most of the buildings still stand from my days on campus.

Jeannie will graduate with a bachelor's degree in Social Work. She participated in two practicum classes which were in a school setting. She would enjoy working in a school setting. She would also enjoy working for the Department of Child Protection Services as she serves children and family needs. She would like to avoid working in the clinical setting of a hospital or other type of care facility. At the moment, she would enjoy the opportunity to participate in an employment interview.

Yes, she would like to find her first full-time job in her field of choice in this area, so she may establish her residence here in Lowell. She is currently more focused in finishing her academic requirements than filling blanks on job applications. Cheryl and I have hope this will all come together in due time.

We had been living in this town a little over a month in 2013 when Jeannie accepted a job at the Loven Oven Pizzeria here in town. She has continued to serve orders over the counter when she was back home again in Indiana from school breaks. She hopes to don their uniform for as long as possible or until the demands of children's social justice take their toll on her time. Be sure to pick on our daughter as you pick up your next order.

We are proud that Jeannie overcame many obstacles in her personal and academic life to attain this honor. We are not totally sure how God is calling her to use this degree for His glory. We are sure that we are proud she has made it to this point in her life.

*Pastor Rick*

## May Sunday Sermon and Scripture Schedule

### **May 6 ~ Communion Sunday**

Scripture ~ James 1:1-8

Sermon Title ~ *'Just Ask God'*

### **May 13 ~ Mother's Day**

Scripture ~ James 1:12-18

Sermon Title ~ *'Perfection Flows Down'*

### **May 20 ~ Pentecost**

Scripture ~ James 1:19-27

Sermon Title ~ *'Mirror Images'*

### **May 27 ~ Trinity Sunday**

Scripture ~ Philippians 3:4-14

Sermon Title ~ *'Ladies and Gentlemen ~ Start Your Engines'*



## **May Worship News**

Our thanks to everyone who worked to make the Holy Week and Easter worship services such a joyous celebration. It takes many hands!

And thank you to all the choirs and musicians for bringing us such beautiful music throughout the year.

On May 13, we celebrate Mother's Day. All women, start your flower garden with the gift of a petunia that will be given out at Bread for Life on Thursday, May 10, and on Sunday, May 13, at regular worship services. The Sunday school children have designed the 'flower pots'.

On May 24, we celebrate Pentecost. Acts, chapter 2, recounts that the disciples were gathered together when suddenly a mighty wind filled the room and with flames of fire, the Holy Spirit filled the room, prompting the disciples to speak in different languages. Red signifies the fire and that is why the paraments are red for Pentecost. Notice there is a red flame on the United Methodist symbol.

### Coming in June

Confirmation Sunday is June 3. Students will be confirmed at the 9:15 service.

Graduation Sunday is June 10. If you are graduating from high school, college or trade school, please let our secretary, Kim, know.

The summer park service begins June 3, at 8 AM, at Evergreen Park. Bring a lawn chair and worship with us in the beautiful outdoors. If there is inclement weather, the service will be in the sanctuary.

Because of summer travel schedules, we often need additional greeters and ushers at our 9:15 service. Let us know if you would like to help out.

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 May:

9:15 a.m. Service

May 6:

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

May 13:

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

May 20:

**Greeters:** Gisela Peterson, Phyllis Moser, Jenny Nichols, Carolyn Savich  
**Ushers:** Charlie Haberlin, Wayne Wietbrock, Dave Perry, Darion Kidwell  
**Liturgist:** Lynn Bochart      **Children's Time:** Pastor Rick

May 27:

**Greeters:** Anita Childress, Nina Wilson, Sandy Villa, Dennis Olson  
**Ushers:** Luan Brown, Scott Beier, Scott Spry, Ken Bisacchi, Bill Bubness  
**Liturgist:** Deb Kelley      **Children's Time:** Denise Smith

10:45 Worship Leaders:

May 6: Cheryl Jones      May 13: Al Martin  
May 20: Susan Wells      May 27: 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 **May**:

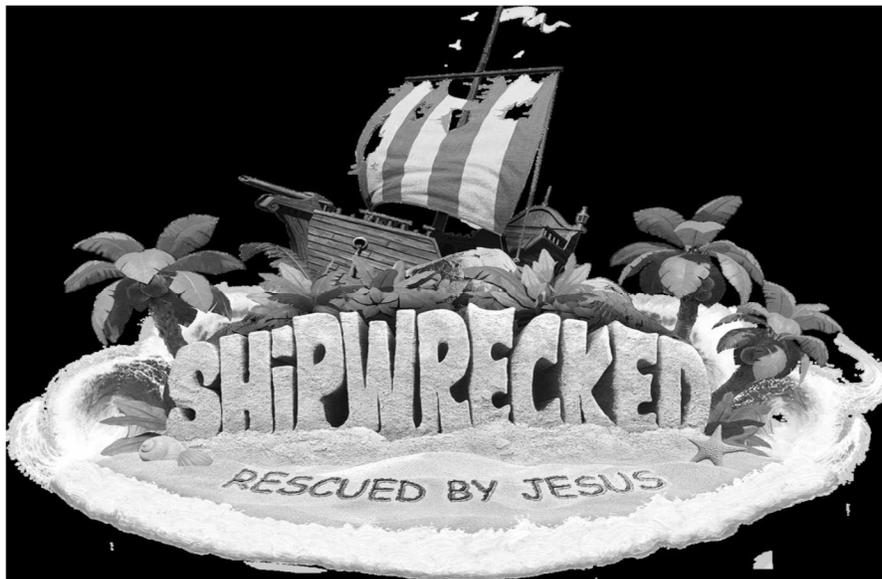
**May 3** ~ Speaker: Al Martin      Cook: Ellen Rosengard  
Theme: *'National Day of Prayer'*

**May 10** ~ Speaker: Rick Bachman      Cook: Tracey Seitzinger  
Theme: *'National Clean Up Your Room Day'*

**May 17** ~ Speaker: Pastor Rick      Cook: Kim McGinley  
Theme: *'First Kentucky Derby 1875'*

**May 24** ~ Speaker: Peggy Hendricks      Cook: Susan Wells  
Theme: *'International Tiara Day'*

**May 31** ~ Speaker: Susan Wells      Cook: Carol Goodrich  
Theme: *'National Salad Month'*



## **VBS is Coming June 18 –June 22!!!**

We are excited about this year's VBS theme: *Shipwrecked - Rescued by Jesus*. Kids will discover that Jesus is with them and will rescue them in any situation. Each day will have a different Bible verse to guide the children to an important point.

Monday – Psalm 27:10 “The Lord will hold me close”  
(When you're lonely...Jesus rescues!)

Tuesday – Psalm 34:19 “The Lord comes to the rescue each time.”  
(When you worry...Jesus rescues!)

Wednesday – Psalm 46:10 “Be still, and know that I am God!”  
(When you struggle...Jesus rescues!)

Thursday – John 16:13 “Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world.”  
(When you do wrong...Jesus rescues!)

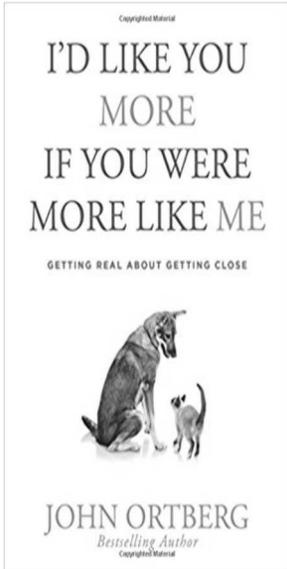
Friday - Ephesians 1:19-20 “This is the same mighty power that raised Christ from the dead.”  
(When you're powerless...Jesus rescues!)

## **How can you help?**

- Pray!!! 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 many positions to fill and can use people of all ages. If you are interested in helping, please call Deb Kelley (219) 707-6254 or sign up on the volunteer sheet in the Narthex.

-Donate!!! Watch the May bulletins for items that we need!



## **From the Pastor's Bookshelf**

I recently finished reading the book, "I'd Like You More, If You Were More Like Me" by John Ortberg, Tyndale Books, 2017. This is a classic Ortberg book with great humor surrounded in good lessons.

This book centers around our personal relationships and some of the problems that our relationships cause in our life. He uses modern and classical psychological research for support. He uses a few people and situations from the pages of the Bible for collaboration.

I enjoyed reading this fun and educational book. You might, as well. You are welcome to borrow it from my bookshelf anytime you would like.



## **Finance Committee**

Your Finance Committee, a team of 17 people meets regularly to review many financial practices of the Lowell United Methodist Church. Many of these include reviewing all the financial line items that are supported by the church including mission project operations, building care and maintenance, committee financial requests for mission related projects, personnel costs, etc. All the decisions are based upon a group of people reviewing the giving practices (commitments) of our loving church congregation. We want to remind the congregation that even though there is a committee that makes final decisions, any member of the church may review the financial documentation.

Most finance committees plan no more than one year at a time, using multi-year planning solely for endowments and multi-year capital campaigns. This short-term thinking will trap you (and keep you) in a crisis-management mode. Your Finance Committee asks all committees each year to provide a vision budget which we refer to as the "Dream List." This consideration provides for adding some long-term planning as they begin work on the next year's annual budget.

God asks believers to give cheerfully (2 Cor. 9.7), regularly (1 Cor. 16.2), and sacrificially (Mark 12: 41- 44) Our relationship, your personal communication with God is intentional and passionate. It provides us with strength, calmness, support, love, hope, and more for everyone.

Jesus taught us to pray, "Give us this day our daily bread." This simple and direct prayer recognizes that all we have is a blessing from God. Perhaps if we prayed this way each day, we would remember that nothing that we have is really ours – and consequently be willing to give back to God more than what is His already.

We hope and pray these words speak to your heart, guide your wisdom and increase your relationship with our Lord.

Your Finance Committee

## Behind the Scenes – Humble Servants

Congregational Care – Providing opportunities to share God’s love.

Our church family has unfortunately experienced far too many deaths of members or loved ones of members since 2018 began. In addition to Pastor Rick providing these families with a meaningful memorial service, many of the bereaved families have also been served a bountiful meal in the comfort of our Fellowship Hall following the service. This meal provides nourishment to the grieving family on a very difficult day and provides a place for them to be with family and friends for needed emotional support and closure.

In a period of 9 weeks, six funeral dinners have been served under the Funeral Dinner ministry of Congregational Care this year. Meat is purchased for these dinners, but the salads and desserts are donated by church members. There are 2 teams led by Charlene Grant and Anita Childress that alternate handling the funeral dinners. Each team makes calls to volunteers for the needed salads and desserts for the dinner. For the six dinners provided so far this year, our wonderful volunteers have donated 97 salads and 73 desserts!! Many volunteers donated to more than one dinner.

### **THANK YOU, VOLUNTEERS!!**

*YOU are the reason we can provide this ministry.  
YOU are sharing God's love with a grieving family on one of their darkest days.  
YOU make a difference in the life and ministry of our church.*

Another ministry of Congregational Care that quietly works throughout the year is the Casserole Ministry. Volunteers for this ministry prepare and deliver a hot meal to someone following a hospitalization or while undergoing treatments. Scheduled by Laura Hutchison and Melissa Cottingham, volunteers are currently providing meals 2 days a week for Lisa Leep and her family while Lisa receives treatment for her cancer.

### **THANK YOU, VOLUNTEERS!!**

*YOU are being the hands and feet of Jesus to Lisa and her family!  
YOU are making the Casserole Ministry a ministry of love & care as well as nourishment.*

So many humble servants, working behind the scenes, sharing God’s love quietly, without fanfare or glory.... Would you like to be a part of these ministries of love? We can always use more volunteers for the Funeral Dinner Ministry and the Casserole Ministry. If you are not already on the volunteer lists and would like to be involved in either (or both!) of these ministries, please call the church office, or contact one of the leaders.

P.S.

After funeral dinners the leftover food is packed into containers for the family to take home. Donations of clean plastic containers with lids can be dropped off in the large box under the center work table in the church kitchen at any time. Thank you!



## CONFIRMATION NEWS

Lynn Skafish, confirmation teacher

As June approaches, confirmation class is wrapping up. We have learned a great deal about the history of our religion and church. We’ve talked about John Wesley and the sacraments. We have discovered why Methodists do things the way we do. This month, we are finding out how to live our commitment as members of Lowell First United Methodist Church and as Christians in our world.

This has been an exciting four months. I look forward to confirming this group of ten students at the 9:15 service on June 3. Please join us afterward in the library so you can meet each of our new members.

## Devotionals Available

For over 80 years, *The Upper Room* daily devotional guide has encouraged people everywhere to share their stories of faith. These short daily devotions apply the message of scripture to the challenges and opportunities of everyday life. Copies of *The Upper Room* are now available in our Narthex at no cost to you courtesy of Congregational Care. (Just one more ministry made possible by the faithful giving of our church family!) You can find both regular and large print editions of these devotionals on the cabinet across from the office. These will be available on a 'first come first served' basis every other month. The May/June issue will be available before May 1.

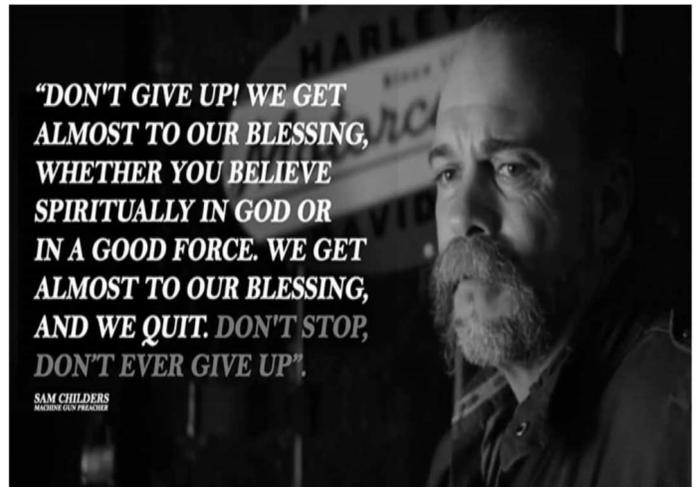
Hard copies are not the only option for enjoying *The Upper Room*. You may also read the daily faith stories online at the website [www.upperroom.org](http://www.upperroom.org). And a third option is to download the Upper Room Daily Devotional app to your smart phone. Three ways to spend time with God each day ... which will you chose?

Bev Kussy, Congregational Care



Lowell United Methodist Men

Warriors For Christ



Sometimes life gets to everyone -- things don't go as we planned, work is not going the way you want. Have you every wanted to just throw in the towel? Maybe you have asked God why this is happening and have started to turn away. Many of you may know Sam Childers (pictured above) as the Machine Gun Preacher. He gave up his wicked ways to help the children of the South Sudan in Africa. He has put all his efforts into rescuing these kids and has never given up his mission.

There is another preacher that we know, Pastor Jeff Newton, who did a similar action. He gave up a lot to move back to Kokomo, Indiana, and create an outreach program to help those in need. He also had a dream and never gave up.

As we rebuild the UMM, we need not give up either. Get the word out: be those Warriors for Christ!

I have put three sign up sheets on the table in the Narthex. The first is a contact sheet. Once I have your contact information we can start arranging some group activities. The second sheet is for interest in going to a Railcats baseball outing. The third sheet is asking for help with sound set up for summer worship at Evergreen Park. Please pick at least one Sunday. It will help Pastor Rick and our church worship team out tremendously.

Let's Not Stop or Ever Give Up!

May God continue his many blessings of our Church.

Craig Wilson  
UMM President

**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)

# May 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Children's Council 7 p.m. (library)	2 UMW Executive Meeting 4:30 p.m. (301)  Worship 6:30pm	3 Cub Scouts 6:30 p.m. (304)	4 Movie Night 6pm	5
6 Ladies United in Missions Spring Tea/Fashion Show 12 p.m. (Fellowship Hall)	7 Staff/Parish 6pm  Tri-Kappa 6pm (basement)	8 Trustees 6:30pm  Missions 7pm (library)	9 Finance 5:30 p.m.	10	11	12 Basement Rented 2-5 p.m.
13 Mother's Day  	14	15	16	17 Cub Scouts 6:30 p.m. (304)	18	19
20 Pentecost  	21 Ad-Council 6:30 (basement)	22 Pre-School Graduation 4-8 (Sanctuary and Basement) Alzheimer Support Group 6pm (lib.)	23	24	25	26
27	28 Office Closed/ Memorial Day	29	30	31		