

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

This church's history dates back to 1870. Our oldest records show that Joseph Sites was assigned as your pastor in 1895. I have been your 32nd pastor in these 124 years of history. Your pastors have been here an average of 3.9 years each. That is an unusual amount of pastoral transition. I cannot account for why this is.

I have been here 6 years starting in 2013. Only 3 pastors have been here longer than I. John Wortinger has the record at 9 ½ years starting in 1987. Charles Brown was here 9 years starting in 1917. And Lynn Henry was here 8 years starting in 1977. When I looked over this history a few years ago, I had hopes that I would set the record and be here for at least 10 years. Here I am, forever linked to the pack of 6 years. There are 4 of us in this group, including my predecessor, Bill Dunfee, who began in 2007.

As many people around this area are aware, I have been asked to lead a church in Anderson. That is a good-sized city a little northeast of Indianapolis. It is somewhat near Ball State U. I will start as their pastor on July 1. Our last Sunday here will be June 9. The moving truck is scheduled to come to load up our house on June 18.

In our six years together, I have preached from 22 of the 27 books of the New Testament. I missed Titus, Philemon, 2 & 3 John and Jude. (Titus has 3 chapters. The other 4 only have 1.) 81.5 % of the number of the New Testament books is not so bad. I have also preached from 17 of the 39 books of the Old Testament. 43.6% is not as good. Looks like I am not as faithful to the Hebrew section.

I hope that through this diverse teaching, you have learned about God's love for you and about how to love God in a deeper way. I hope I have inspired you to grow in your faith.

You have made me a better preacher in my time here. I prepare for the message more intently. I focus on fewer and deeper understandings within the message. I feel like I have made the entire Sunday experience flow with more intention. While I keep all of these factors in balance, I am more emotionally worn out at the end of each service.

There is one side project that we took a chance on. I wasn't sure it would go anywhere. It has blossomed. I take a great amount of pride in this side endeavor, that many of you likely forget about.

I dreamed of doing a podcast "years down the road". Sam Conley heard of my dream. He brought the pieces together much quicker and smoother than I thought possible. Since the end of 2016, we have broadcast our services each week.

I know of two families who regularly attend with us each Sunday morning who first experienced our service through our podcast. In the past month, I have talked with two members of the community who have told me how much they like our podcast. I didn't know that either of these gentlemen knew that I was a pastor. I was thrilled to learn they tune us in each week.

In the month of April, we have averaged 67 people watching us each week. 254 people have tuned in the Sunday that Michael Card was with us. Throughout the year, we have averaged viewers from 5 ½ countries and 26 ½ cities around the world. That is amazing that our little service is picked up by so many people.

I have been going through old records and files. I am amazed at how much we have accomplished together. It has been a great six years together. Thank you for blessing us in so many ways.

Pastor Rick

May Sermon and Scripture Schedule

May 5 ~ UMW Sunday, Guest Speaker Dr. Rev. Cindy Reynolds

Scripture ~ Psalm 30:4-5, John 21:1-19

Sermon Title ~ *'After These Things'*

May 12 ~ Mother's Day, Communion

Scripture ~ Philippians 2:1-18

Sermon Title ~ *'Protecting Others'*

May 19 ~

Scripture ~ Philippians 3:1-11

Sermon Title ~ *'Looking Out for Others'*

May 26 ~ Memorial Day Weekend

Scripture ~ Philippians 3:12-4:1

Sermon Title ~ *'Press On'*



Worship News

Trudy Corning and Linda Hayden, Co-chairs

We pray you had a meaningful Lenten journey this year. The Lenten season through Holy Week was filled with many opportunities to experience a joyful Easter. Thank you to everyone who participated in our services in any way and to all who purchased flowers to adorn the sanctuary on Easter Sunday.

Our Lenten food drive was very successful. You, our church, collected 1,284 items! This is almost 300 more food items than last year! THANK YOU for your generosity! The collected items that filled the shelves in the Narthex were distributed to 4 local food pantries.

Here is what we collected:

Canned Vegetables 270

Cans of Meat 188

Cans of Soup 208

Boxes of Cereal 104

Boxes of Pasta 112

Packages of Meat 21

Cans/Jars of Fruit 191

Boxes of Crackers 33

Jars of Spaghetti Sauce 82

Jars of Peanut Butter 14

Boxes of Granola Bars 29

Thank you to everyone who participated in this outreach ministry through prayer, donations, sorting and distributing the food items.

Looking ahead to Summer Worship

Our summer Sunday schedule will begin on June 2 with the 8:00 service moving to Evergreen Park and the 10:30 service remaining in the Sanctuary.

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

May 5:

Greeters: Bev Johnson, Carol Olson, Trudy Corning, Garrett Corning

Ushers: 8:00: Lynn Bochart, Bob Savich 10:30: Elaine DeVine, Dennis Olson

Liturgist: 8:00: Cheryl Jones 10:30: Cheryl Jones **Children's Time:** Nancy Lain

May 12:

Greeters: Linda Snell, Maryrose Lynch, Amy Nichols, Virginia Kasparian, Mike & Nicole Hayden

Ushers: 8:00: Don Bales, Kathy Nelson 10:30: Sharon Sanders, Tom Stoner,
Darin & Tammy Champanois

Liturgist: 8:00: Peggy Hendricks 10:30: Al Martin **Children's Time:** Denise Smith

May 19:

Greeters: Bill and Linda Hayden, Gisela Peterson, Amy Nichols, Phyllis Moser, Carolyn Savich, Travis and Amy Manier and family

Ushers: 8:00: Charlie Haberlin, Wayne Wietbrock 10:30: David Perry, Scott Beier

Liturgist: 8:00: Lynne Haberlin 10:30: Bev Kussy **Children's Time:** Pastor Rick

May 26:

Greeters: Anita Childress, Jenny Nichols, Peg Atherton, Nina Wilson, Dennis Olson

Ushers: 8:00: Bill Bubness, Luan Brown, Garrett Corning 10:30: Scott Spry, Ken Bisacchi

Liturgist: 8:00: Don Bales 10:30: Tom Stoner **Children's Time:** Kathie 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 May:

May 2 ~ Speaker: Peggy Hendricks

Theme: *King James Bible first Published in 1611*

Cook: Kim McGinley

Greeter: Ellen Rosengard

May 9 ~ Speaker: Ellen Rosengard

Theme: *Golden Spike Driven on May 10, 1869*

Cook: Tracy Seitzinger

Greeter: Jenny Nichols

May 16 ~ Speaker: Al Martin

Theme: *National Foul Ball Week*

Cook: Dean Moes

Greeter: Amy Nichols

May 23 ~ Speaker: Rick Bachman

Theme: *National Eat more Fruits and Veggies Day*

Cook: Kevin Corie

Greeter: Kim McGinley

May 30 ~ Speaker: Pastor Rick

Theme: *First American Newspaper Published in 1783*

Cook: Carol Goodrich

Greeter: Sharon Sanders

Important Tax Saving Information

Submitted by Lynn Bochart, Treasurer

Are you over 70 ½ years old? Do you want to save money on your taxes?

Do you want to make contributions to your church? Do you have a traditional IRA or 401k?

If you answered yes to all of the above...you need to read the information below.

You can make withdrawals from your traditional IRA/401k and not pay federal or state taxes on those withdrawals if they are paid directly to the church from your IRA/401k (must be institution to institution.) Even RMD (required minimum distribution) withdrawals qualify. For more information, contact your tax advisor and/or your IRA custodian.



A Gentle Reminder

The trustees would like to gently remind all groups that use the church facilities in any and all ways for community outreach or other purposes that these guidelines should be followed.

Your group is responsible for cleaning up the entire area that you used: classrooms, kitchen, or the Fellowship Hall.

Please do not leave any supplies that your group used in the area. All supplies should be stored in trustee-approved areas, containers or the supplies should be taken home with your group.

The trustees will not be responsible for lost or damaged supplies that were left in the area.

Please dispose of all garbage by putting refuse in the dumpster.

Please remember that the custodial staff is not responsible for storing supplies or cleaning the area that was being used.

The trustees would like to thank all of our church's many groups that provide Christian outreach and our hope is to make our facilities clean and neat for all to use.

May God continue to bless Lowell FUMC

Committee _____

Contact person _____

Date _____

Please return to the Trustees' mailbox

*****This Form will be available in the church office for committee/mission leaders to complete.***

CHURCH EVENTS



You are invited to a

Farewell Potluck Luncheon

in honor of

Pastor Rick & Cheryl Jones

on

*Sunday, June 9, 2019 at 12:00 pm
in the Fellowship Hall*



June 9 will be Pastor Rick's last Sunday to preach to our church family. Bring a favorite dish and join us in celebrating our six years with Pastor Rick and Cheryl! We want to thank them for shepherding us and wish them well as they answer God's call to serve another church.

The Staff Parish Relations Committee



**CALLING ALL GRADUATES!
May 19 will be Graduation Sunday.**

It's that time of year when mortar boards make their appearance, and we want to congratulate and recognize all the graduates in our congregation. If you have a high school, college, or technical or trade school graduate in your family, please let the office know. We are designating May 19 as "Graduation Sunday" and will list the names of all our graduates in the bulletin. Those who are able to be with us that Sunday will have a chance to share their "next step" with us and receive a small gift. Graduates will be recognized at both the 8:00 and 10:30 services. Please submit your grad's name to the office before Wednesday, May 15.



VBS is coming soon!

How is it already May? Next Month is already Vacation Bible School. This month we are going to be getting everything ready for VBS and with that comes pre-registration. We are going to do pre-registration a little different this year, but we are hoping that it makes everything easier for everyone! We are going to do online registration, but we will still have paper copies available in the Narthex. The link for the online registration is printed in this article and will be on the church website, the church Facebook page and the SONshine Express Facebook page. Pre-Registration will be open May 1. Please share Vacation Bible School and the online registration website with your friends and family. As incentive for pre-registering, if you register your child prior to the week of VBS your child will receive a CD of the VBS songs the first day of VBS. Pre-registering helps us prepare the right amount of supplies for all of the wonderful activities during the week. If you have any questions on pre-registering, please ask me or any of the other VBS directors (Kathie Stoner, Deb Kelley, and Tammy Champanois).

As well as pre-registering, we still are looking for some things to be donated to help with the items we still need. The items we are still in need of are: brown crepe paper, dark green crepe paper, card board boxes, orange bulletin board paper, yellow bulletin board paper, black bulletin board paper, green bulletin board paper, brown bulletin board paper, blue plastic table cloths, green plastic table cloths, scotch tape, twine, white paint, brown paint, black paint, quart size plastic bags, gallon size plastic bags, pom poms, glue dots, paper towels, craft sticks, foam plates, and flexible straws. You can also find this list located on the table in the Narthex. If you are able to donate any of these items, please write your name down on that sheet of paper so we know that the item is accounted for. We are asking that donations be brought to the Youth room on the third floor of the church by May 19. We are also in need of empty toilet paper rolls and coffee cans. Please bring these to the Youth room also.

We appreciate all of your help with VBS; it takes a whole church to put on this event for the children. I can vouch for the impact VBS make on the children's lives as they talk about vacation bible school all year and are already excited for this summer. We are still in need of crew leaders and someone to take photos during the week of VBS. If either of these things interest you please reach out to me or one of the other VBS directors. We would love to answer your questions and give you more information.

Pre-registration website: <https://vbspro.events/p/fumclowell>

Don't miss the last performance of the SONshine Singers before summer break on May 12 at the 10:30 service! The last day of children's Sunday school will be May 26. Classes and the children's choir will resume in September.

Children Ministry Director
Paige Corning



Join us for...

***A Spot of Tea - A Light Lunch -
A Silent Auction - Entertainment - Fellowship***

***All in our Fellowship Hall at 12:00 noon
on Sunday, May 5, 2019!***

This Tea & Fashion Show is reasonably priced at \$6 for adults and \$4 for children under 10. The tickets will be sold in the Narthex on Sunday mornings during the month of April. Of course, you are invited to join in the fun!

Why does the Ladies United in Missions Circle do this Tea? It is to raise money for the missions that the LUM Circle pursues. What kind of missions? Missions for children and the community are the first on the list as well as projects to improve our church. The Circle is continuing with the cooking classes, snacks at schools, clothing at schools, and more to come.

Rachelle Ruge-Bernard, LUM Circle



Adult Education Opportunities

Three adult study groups meet each Sunday at 9:15 am.
You will be welcomed in each/any of these groups.

Room 300 The WINGS class is presently watching a video study called *Undaunted* by Christine Caine. The Concept is: Daring to do what God calls you to do. There are 3 sessions left - April 28 “Be the Hope”, May 5 “Be the Change” and May 12 “The Challenge”. Al Martin facilitates.

Room 301 The FOM class continues their study of Genesis with David Schoon.

Room 304 The FRIENDS discussion group is beginning a study called “The Me I Want to BE”. Pastor and author, John Ortberg, teaches through five sessions about how you can move toward becoming God’s best version of you in four specific areas: your mind, your time, your relationships, and your experiences. Don Bales facilitates this class.

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)

May 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 UMW Executive Meeting 4:30 (301) Music Comm. Meeting 6:30pm	2 VBS Planning 5:30 pm (conf. rm.) Cub Scouts 630 p.m. (300)	3 Alpha/Barbara May 1:30 pm (library)	4 Set-Up for UMW Sunday (basement)
5 The Nurse is In UMW Sunday Tea/Fashion Show 12 noon (basement)	6 Tri-Kappa 6pm (basement) Staff/Parish 6pm (conf. room)	7 Children's Council 7pm (library)	8 Praise Practice 7p (sanct.)	9 Naomi Circle 1:30 pm (library)	10	11
12 Mother's Day	13 Susanna Wesley Circle 1pm (library)	14 Trustee's Meeting 6:30pm	15 Finance Meeting 5:30pm	16 Meadowbrook POA 4:30pm (301) VBS Planning 5:30pm (conf. room)	17	18
19 Graduation Sunday	20 Administrative Council 6pm	21 Pre-School graduation: 4pm (bsmt) 5pm (sanct)	22 **Tele-Christian Articles Due	23	24	25
26	27 Memorial Day/ Office Closed	28	29 Lay Leaders Meeting 1pm (conf. room)	30 VBS Planning 5:30pm Bread for Life planning meeting 7pm	31	