

The First United Methodist Church of Lowell

Tele-Christian May 2021 Edition

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

Mark's Remarks.....

Our Mother, Who Art in Heaven

We have many images of God the Father in scripture. As we prepare to celebrate the mothers in our life this month, I would challenge you to discover the motherly images of God in scripture. First, we need to make clear that Father is the appropriate parental title for God. God is clearly referred to as male in the scripture. Don't limit your views of God though according to human realities of male and father. Father is indicative of procreative creation of offspring. Male brings to mind specific stereotypes and physical realities. God is Spirit. He is not encumbered by physical limitations or physical body parts. His creative power is not through procreative action, but simply by the power of His word.

With this in mind, scripture is full of examples of motherly images of God. In Isaiah 49:14-15 God is compared to a nursing mother. "But Zion said, "The Lord has forsaken me, the Lord has forgotten me." (God) "Can a woman forget her nursing child, or show no compassion for the child of her womb? Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you." God has a greater connection with us than a new mother or a nursing mother.

Mothers are to show great ferocity in protecting their children. We compare them to a mother bear. God also compares himself to a mother bear in Hosea 13:8. "Like a bear robbed of her cubs, I will attack them and tear them asunder..." God makes it clear that no one should come between Him and His children.

Mothers are also to comfort their children. In Matthew 23:37 we have beautiful words spoken by Jesus, describing Himself as a Mother Hen. "Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing!" God desires to embrace and protect all of His children. We are unwilling to accept this embrace too often.

Finally, mothers traditionally are looked upon as the one who gives us birth. There is even that imagery of God in scripture. Deuteronomy 32:18 states that it is God who gives us birth. "You were unmindful of the Rock that bore you; you forgot the God who gave you birth." You can't get more of a motherly image than the God who gave us birth.

If you would like some of the other references of the motherly traits of God check: Hosea 11:3-4; Deuteronomy 32:11-12; Isaiah 66:13; Isaiah 42:14; Jeremiah 44:25; Psalm 131:2; and Psalm 123:2-3. Once again, don't look on God the Father as a female. But isn't it a wonderful feeling to know that God loves and nurtures us as a mother? Happy Mother's Day to all in the church!

Pastor Mark

May Sermon and Scripture Schedule

May 2 ~ Communion Sunday

Scripture ~ Acts 8:26-40

Sermon Title ~ *'Someone to Explain'*

May 9 ~ Mother's Day

Scripture ~ Romans 16:1-6, 13

Sermon Title ~ *'Mom in the Early Church'*

May 16 ~ Ascension Sunday

Scripture ~ Acts 1:15-17, 21-26

Sermon Title ~ *'Replacing Leaders'*

May 23 ~ Pentecost, Graduation Sunday

Scripture ~ Act 2:1-13

Sermon Title ~ *'The Birth of the Church'*

May 30 ~ Trinity Sunday

Scripture ~ Romans 8:12-17

Sermon Title ~ *'Living for the Spirit'*



Worship News

Trudy Corning & Linda Hayden, Co-Chairpersons

We had a beautiful celebration on Easter Sunday as well as meaningful services throughout Holy Week, including Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, through music, scripture and communion. The flowers adorning the sanctuary Easter morning filled the air with fragrance and beauty. Thank you to all!! We pray you had a meaningful Lenten journey and Easter celebration. Christ Has Risen Indeed!

Smile! It's picture day!

Mother's Day, Sunday May 9, you will have an opportunity to have pictures taken to celebrate those "moms" in your life. Don DeFrance will be available in between worship services from 9:15-10:30 in the Fellowship Hall for family, group and individual pictures free of charge. Please maintain social distancing, and masks are required while waiting your turn. Masks can be removed temporarily once posed for pictures. This Mother's Day, invite someone special to join you for worship and pictures!

Mark your calendar for summer park services!

Worship in God's outdoor sanctuary at Evergreen Park on Sundays at 8 a.m. starting June 6. The service will continue through September 26, weather permitting. We will continue to meet in the sanctuary for 10:30 worship.



Music Notes

Michelle Mishlove, Music Chairperson

The various music groups of our church are happy to be meeting regularly again!

Here is when you can see and hear them:

Our Chancel Choir will be singing at the 10:30am service on the 1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays in May.

Both Godsbells and the Sonshine Singers can be heard at the 10:30am service on Mother's Day, May 9.

The Praise Team will share at the 10:30am service on Sunday, May 23 and Thursday, May 29 at the LYFT mid-week service.

We'd like to say a giant "Thank You" to David Schoon for bringing back our "Favorite Hymns" for the summer of 2021!

Psalms 69:30 I will praise God's name in song and glorify Him with thanksgiving.



FAVORITE HYMNS

From David Schoon

*Lo, the winter is past, the snow is over and gone, flowers appear on the earth, the time of the singing of birds is come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land. AND it is time once again for Favorite Hymns!**

During the summer we will open the 8:00 and 10:30 services with a three-hymn set (1 verse each) selected by you. Hymn request forms will be inserted in the bulletins during May, June, and the first half of July. The request forms will also be available in the narthex during the request time. Fill in the name or number of the hymn (or both), print your name, and drop the form in the offering plate. You may choose hymns that are not in The United Methodist Hymnal, and if we can find copies of them (or you can provide them), we can use them. We encourage multiple requests.

This year we will celebrate summer in the park from June through September. That is an extra month compared to previous years. That's about 33% more Sundays than in previous years, so we need about 33% more requests than in the past. **In this case it is not illegal to vote early and often.**

As before, our goals—but not promises—are:

1. All people who make requests will have at least one of their requests used during the summer.
2. No favorite hymns will be repeated during the summer (except for the final Sunday).
3. People who made the request will be acknowledged when their hymns are used.
4. On the last Sunday of September we will sing the three hymns that have received the most number of requests during the summer. (More than three in case of tie.)
5. Anonymous requests may be used, but will not be counted in determining the most popular hymns of the summer.

* Apologies to King Solomon



L.Y.F.T. SERVICE

Our LYFT (Live Your Faith Today) service has launched and has been a wonderful addition to our worship journeys here at our church. We meet every Thursday from 6-7 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. We sing praise music, have Bible study or a guest speaker, and end with communion. The Praise Team also sings once a month at this service.

Below is what will be offered in the month of May:

May 6: Rick Bachman will be our speaker.

Starting on May 13 we will start a new 4 week study called ‘*The Gift ~ 4 Different Gifts God Gives Us*’

May 13: The gift of creation.

May 20: The gift of life.

May 27: The gift of Jesus

June 3: The gift of a new start.

Everyone is welcome! Bring a friend!



Calling all Graduates!

Parents! Grandparents! This is a chance to brag about your sons, your daughters, or your grandkids. Do you have a graduate in your family? We would love to hear about him or her. We plan to recognize all of the graduates in our church family, including those getting high school diplomas, college degrees, and those who have gotten certification from a trade or technical school in the past year. We will celebrate our graduates on Sunday, May 23.

Please call or e-mail the office with your graduate’s information by May 17.



College box ministries would like to thank everyone for their help with this ministry. To those who helped with donating items, the students will have snacks to sustain them thru those long nights studying. To those who wrote notes, the encouraging words will help them have the words needed to keep going. To those who prayed for them and their success, they will know that our church cares for them. We sent 14 boxes out to students this semester. We have had comments from students saying things like “the boxes always come just when I need them most” and “we look forward to the college boxes during finals week”. It takes a community, and we are lucky to have this church community to help our students.

Thank you and may God Bless
Kim Newlin and Trudy Corning

A Few Words from the Staff/Parish Relations Committee

The responsibility of the Staff/Parish Relations Committee is to build strong relationships between our church staff and our congregation and between the congregation and the Conference Superintendent. Our FUMC committee met on April 19 to prepare for staff evaluations to be conducted in May and June. We are also preparing to assist in a caring and helpful transition from current Conference Superintendent Dr. Saneta Maiko to our new C.S. Marti Lundy this summer.

As always, please continue to pray for our pastor and his family, our church staff, our volunteers, and our Conference Superintendent.

Charlie Haberlin
SPRC Chair



From the Finance Committee

Mother Teresa stated “God hasn’t called me to be successful. He’s called me to be faithful.” Faithful, devoted, caring, all words to describe one’s devotion to the work of God. Because of your devotion and your love of the church, we have completed the dream of caring for the church building that has brought all of us together to share God’s influence in our lives. A loan that would have been paid off in January 2022 has been paid early – March of 2021!

Author James Lane Allen stated, “In all human affairs there are efforts, and there are results, and the strength of the effort is the measure of the result.” “Trust in God and do something” stated Mary Lyon. We trusted that God would provide the wisdom, guide the vision, and encourage the people to understand that the resources bestowed upon each member of the church by our Lord would impact our experience every time we entered the church. And they have!!!!

Now we move on to our next challenge. We have asked committee chairs to share their long-range vision of church ministries that could be implemented or improved through Capital Project support. All church committees were asked to submit their “Dream List” by May 1. The Finance Committee will collaborate and provide direction on what the Capital Project Funding will be able to support.

We pray you will continue to support our church “Dreams”, dreams that will continue to build our relationship with our Lord.

In closing, Proverbs 3:5 “Trust in the Lord with all thine heart and lean not unto thine own understanding; in all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths.”

God’s blessings
Finance Committee

MINISTRY IN ACTION

Congregational Care News

5..4..3..2..1...Blast off!!! Our **Caring Ministry** is launching *Operation 'Caring Contacts'*.

The past 13 months made it apparent that personal contact was something we had taken for granted and that being in contact with loved ones & friends is vital to our well-being. The isolation forced upon us by the Covid pandemic was difficult for all of us, but it was even harder on those who were secured inside their health care facilities and those living alone or with a caregiver in their homes. The Caring Ministry is one of the regular ministries of Congregational Care. The Caring Ministry reaches out to these members and others of our church family who are no longer able to attend our services. Many of you joined us in sending cards, especially at Christmas, or making calls to those on our Caring Ministry list throughout the last 13 months. THANK YOU to each of you who did this!! We have received feedback from several of our shut-ins or their caregivers that the cards were appreciated and many keep the cards and enjoy them repeatedly.

As we head slowly back toward a more normal life, we would like to continue our contact with those unable to be with us on Sundays and do this in a more organized format so we can be sure no one is being neglected. We are starting "Operation Caring Contacts". We are asking you – our FUMC families – to select a person (or two!) from our Caring Ministry list and make contact with them once each month. This contact can be primarily through mailed cards and notes. An occasional phone call would be great if it is appropriate for the one being contacted. We hope to have more than one person making 'Caring Contacts' to each individual on our Caring Ministry list. Anyone, young or old, can make 'Caring Contacts'.

Throughout the pandemic "contact tracers" have had the job of reaching out to inform people they have been exposed to the virus. The job of those making 'Caring Contacts' for our church will be to reach out with good news, not bad! Our 'Caring Contacts' will remind these special folks that God is with them, wherever they are and whatever their situation is. 'Caring Contacts' will let them know their church family continues to think of them and prays for them. Please consider signing up to make 'Caring Contacts'!

A list of those needing 'Caring Contacts' is on the table in the narthex. Look over the list – who could your family "adopt" and reach out to with Caring Contacts? Maybe take a copy of the list home to pray over as you make your decision. Once you select a person to contact, sign the sheet or call the office (696-9219) or Bev Kussy (696-7045). The contact information of the person you selected will be sent to you.

Thank you in advance for helping Congregational Care launch "Operation Caring Contacts"!



Our **Military Ministry** will honor deceased veterans on Memorial Day.

Under the leadership of Phyllis DeFrance, our Military Ministry plans to acknowledge the deceased veterans of our church families for Memorial Day. Has your family lost someone who served our country? Please sign their name, along with your name, on the sheet on the table in the Narthex. We need your assistance so we do not overlook anyone.

NEWS FROM THE HOUSEHOLD PANTRY.....

Julie Donovan, Chairperson

Due to the uncertainty of the pandemic, the Household Pantry will continue drive-thru CURBSIDE delivery of products to our families for the remainder of 2021. It will be held the third Tuesday of each month from 9 to 12 and 5 to 6. Please spread the word to anyone needing assistance!! Thank you for your continued support of our pantry!!!



Join Us to Help with Mission's

Kid Friendly Food Drive

May 2nd to May 30th

May 2 to 8: Canned Pasta & Boxed Meals *Suggestions:*

SpaghettiOs, Mac & Cheese, Hamburger Helper, Banquet Homestyle Dinners, Velveeta Skillets, Packaged Rice or Pasta Mixes.

May 9 to 15: Breakfast Foods *Suggestions:*

Breakfast Bars, Pop Tarts, Cereal, Juice Boxes, Canned Fruit, Capri Sun Juice bags, Sunny D Juice Bottles

May 16 to 22: Protein Foods *Suggestions:*

SpaghettiOs with Hot Dogs, Canned Chicken & Tuna, Soup with Meat, Peanut Butter & Jelly, Chef Boyardee Beef Ravioli

May 23 to 30: Kid Friendly Treats & Snacks *Suggestions:*

Fruit Snacks, Gold Fish Crackers, Boxed Snack Cakes, Rice Crispy Treats, Pretzels, Cheez Its, Teddy Grams, or your favorite snack

Please check expiration dates. We cannot distribute expired food.

Food can be dropped off on the designated table in the Narthex.

Food Items Welcome Any Time Before May 31

Hunger Does Not Take a Summer Break



Trudy Corning & Lauren Jansma

Eating healthy is vital not just for our physical well-being, but what we eat can also affect our mental & spiritual well-being. Here are some more tips for enjoying more fruits and vegetables every day from the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics.

1. Wake up to fruit. Make a habit of adding fruit to your morning oatmeal, ready-to-eat cereal, yogurt or toaster waffle.
2. Stuff an omelet with vegetables. Turn any omelet into a hearty meal with broccoli, squash, carrots, peppers, tomatoes or onions with low-fat sharp cheddar cheese.
3. Variety abounds when using vegetables as pizza topping. Try broccoli, spinach, green peppers, tomatoes, mushrooms and zucchini.
4. "Sandwich" in fruits and vegetables. Add pizzazz to sandwiches with sliced pineapple, apple, peppers, cucumber and tomato as fillings. Add raw or cooked veggies to tacos on whole-grain corn tortillas and whole wheat wraps.
5. Stock your freezer with frozen vegetables to steam or stir-fry for a quick side dish.
6. Add grated, shredded or chopped vegetables such as zucchini, spinach, eggplant and carrots to pasta dishes, casseroles, curries, soups, and stews.
7. Fruit on the grill: Make kabobs with pineapple, peaches and banana. Grill on low heat until fruit is hot and slightly golden.
8. Grill colorful vegetables, kabobs packed with tomatoes, green and red peppers, mushrooms and onions.
9. Make fruit your dessert. Slice a banana lengthwise and top with a scoop of low-fat frozen yogurt. Sprinkle with a tablespoon of chopped nuts.



VBS is Coming June 21-25!!

We are excited about this year's VBS: Rocky Railway - Jesus' Power Pulls Us Through!

Kids will explore Jesus' power and how we can trust Jesus to pull us through when life feels like a valley or a mountaintop. They will deepen their friendship with Jesus and leave knowing they can trust him to do big things in their lives. Planning is underway for this year's adventure.

How can you help at this time?

1. Pray!! Pray for the children who will be coming to VBS this year. Pray for the adults and youth who will be working with VBS. Pray that God prepares everyone to hear His message for us.
2. Volunteer!! We have positions that need to be filled and can use people of all ages! If interested, please call Kathie Stoner at 219-552-4485.
3. Donate!! Later in May, we will have cards out with items that we need to have donated for VBS. Look for the display!



Greetings United Methodists of the North District!

I am humbled and honored to formally introduce myself as your next Conference Superintendent. Although I don't officially begin until July 1, I have been using this time to get to know you as best as I can. I have literally driven to each church in the District and prayed for you. I have attended various in-person functions at a few of our Churches, and I have worshipped with many of you already online.

My call to ministry was nurtured by amazing United Methodists in Columbia City as well as through Epworth Forest camping ministry. While at Garrett-ETS, I met my husband, Rev. Dr. Kent A. Lundy. He is serving in Extension Ministry as the Wing Chaplain to the 181st Intelligence Wing (IN Air National Guard) in Terre Haute. We have two adult sons. Josh is a fulltime member of the 122d Fighter Wing in Fort Wayne and a USAF Veteran. Nathan is a clerk for a law office and will be a fulltime student at McKinney Law School in Indianapolis this Fall.

I have served congregations in Illinois, as well as in Fort Wayne and in Huntington. Some of my service beyond the local church has included: being the District Committee of Ministry chairperson for the Northeast District; serving on the Board of Laity; and being the chairperson of the Board of Camps and Conferences. I am currently a member of the Indiana General & Jurisdictional Conference Delegation.

My personal mission statement is, "to be a God connecting dream releaser." I want everyone to be connected to the Love of God in Christ Jesus and be shaped by that love as the dreams of God are released through them. Our relationship together means I want us releasing God-sized dreams throughout the North District. Let us dream together what we can do when we fully develop as Christ followers. Let us dream together of a Church that is fully engaged in welcoming and affirming all that long for the Love that only Jesus Christ can give. Let us dream together of continuing to create a Church that works for justice and traffics in mercy for all of God's children. Let us dream of a day when the whole world is transformed by the Grace of God through Jesus Christ!

I intend to worship in as many Churches as I can this upcoming year. I have seen your buildings; now I want to meet all the great people in those buildings.

I am very excited to see all the dreams God will release in the North District through our faithful United Methodists witness!!

Blessings!

Rev. Dr. Mark Gates Lundy



Lowell Church Mouse

I'm the church mouse. I see all that goes on in the church and I love to gossip about it. Of course being a Christian mouse, I only say positive things.

My goodness there was a lot of noise in church on April 18! It was great to see our Conference Superintendent, Saneta Maiko, preaching. I almost came out of my hole to meet him. You all were clapping with those hand clappers. We mice don't like that kind of noise. I haven't been out yet to see if anyone opened their Ding Dong and left a crumb. It sounded like a great deal of fun.

One thing I learned was that Nancy Patchett was co-chair of Trustees during the remodeling project. Thanks for all the work Nancy. Sorry I missed you in my past articles. We mice don't live long, so I don't know much from before about 3 years ago.

Haven't you enjoyed the choir for the last several weeks? I didn't know how much I missed them until they were silent for most of the last year. Welcome back and keep up the great work!

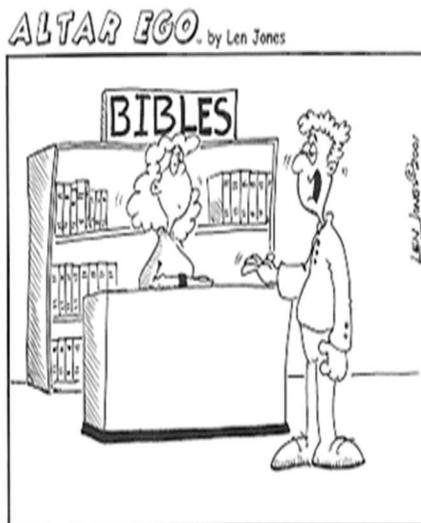
The children have really been doing a good job singing. Nancy Lain is directing them, and Michelle Mishlove is accompanying them. What a blessing we have!

Be careful when you do good work for the church. I'm watching and just waiting to share that gossip.



Pastor's Comic Corner

In case you haven't noticed, I love humor.
Below are a couple of comics that I've come across. Enjoy! Pastor Mark



"What I really need is a translation that won't leave me feeling guilty, convicted, or in need of making some kind of decision."



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 (303) Youth (library) Children (downstairs)

Monday - A/A 12 p.m. (rm. 303)

Wednesday - A/A - 8 p.m. (Fellowship Hall), Al/Anon - 8 p.m. (library)

Thursday - Dulcimers 10 am (303), Godsbells 4:30 p.m. (balcony), **LYFT** Worship 6:00 p.m. (Fellowship Hall), Chancel Choir 7pm (sanctuary)

May 2021

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

						1
2	3 Tri-Kappa 6:30 p.m. (bsmt)	4 Lay Leader Meeting 1 p.m. (bsmt)	5 Girl Scouts 3:45 p.m. (bsmt) UMW Exec. 4:30 p.m. (library)	6 Girl Scouts 4 p.m. (bsmt)	7 Alpha/Barbara May 1:30 p.m. (library)	8
9 Mother's Day 	10 VBS Planning Meeting 7 p.m. (library)	11	12	13	14	15 Tri-Kappa flower sale 9-11 a.m. (under canopy)
16	17 Staff/Parish Meeting 6 p.m. (303)	18 Household Pantry 9-12 & 5-6 (curbside)	19 Girl Scouts 3:45 p.m. (bsmt) Finance 5:30 p.m. (bsmt)	20	21	22 Wedding
23 Pentecost Graduation Sunday	24 Ad-Council 6 p.m. (basement)	25	26	27	28	29
30	31 Memorial Day Office Closed					