

The First United Methodist Church of Lowell

Tele-Christian ~ November 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.....

Thanksgiving is coming. (Believe it or not.) Much has been written about this holiday. Below is Abraham Lincoln's Thanksgiving Proclamation that he gave in 1863. Read the beauty of these words and how they apply as much today to a country in the midst of a pandemic as they did nearly 150 years ago.

Lincoln's Thanksgiving Proclamation that follows is taken from the collection of Lincoln's papers in the Library of America series, Vol. II, pp. 520-521.

The year that is drawing towards its close has been filled with the blessings of fruitful fields and healthful skies. To these bounties, which are so constantly enjoyed that we are prone to forget the source from which they come, others have been added, which are of so extraordinary a nature, that they cannot fail to penetrate and soften even the heart which is habitually insensible to the ever watchful providence of Almighty God. In the midst of a civil war of unequalled magnitude and severity, which has sometimes seemed to foreign States to invite and to provoke their aggression, peace has been preserved with all nations, order has been maintained, the laws have been respected and obeyed, and harmony has prevailed everywhere except in the theatre of military conflict; while that theatre has been greatly contracted by the advancing armies and navies of the Union. Needful diversions of wealth and of strength from the fields of peaceful industry to the national defense have not arrested the plough, the shuttle, or the ship; the axe had enlarged the borders of our settlements, and the mines, as well of iron and coal as of the precious metals, have yielded even more abundantly than heretofore. Population has steadily increased, notwithstanding the waste that has been made in the camp, the siege and the battlefield; and the country, rejoicing in the consciousness of augmented strength and vigor, is permitted to expect continuance of years with large increase of freedom. No human counsel hath devised nor hath any mortal hand worked out these great things. They are the gracious gifts of the Most High God, who, while dealing with us in anger for our sins, hath nevertheless remembered mercy. It has seemed to me fit and proper that they should be solemnly, reverently and gratefully acknowledged as with one heart and voice by the whole American People. I do therefore invite my fellow citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next, as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens. And I recommend to them that while offering up the ascriptions justly due to Him for such singular deliverances and blessings, they do also, with humble penitence for our national perverseness and disobedience, commend to his tender care all those who have become widows, orphans, mourners or sufferers in the lamentable civil strife in which we are unavoidably engaged, and fervently implore the interposition of the Almighty Hand to heal the wounds of the nation and to restore it as soon as may be consistent with the Divine purposes to the full enjoyment of peace, harmony, tranquility and Union.

Abraham Lincoln

November Sermon and Scripture Schedule

November 1 ~

Scripture ~ Revelation 7:9-17

Sermon Title ~ *'The Saints of God'*

November 8 ~

Scripture ~ Matthew 25:1-13

Sermon Title ~ *'Be Ready'*

November 15 ~

Scripture ~ 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Sermon Title ~ *'The Day of the Lord'*

November 22 ~

Scripture ~ Matthew 25:31-46

Sermon Title ~ *'Christ the King'*

November 29 ~

Scripture ~ Mark 13:24-31

Sermon Title ~ *'We Start at the End'*



Worship News

Trudy Corning & Linda Hayden, Co-Chairs

There is a chill in the air, and the Sunday 8:00 service has moved back indoors. We continue to offer three opportunities to worship: *Come and join us for one or all!!*

Sunday 8:00 am Fellowship Hall

Sunday 10:30 am Sanctuary

Thursday 6:15 pm Fellowship Hall

Special Worship Services

November is full of special worship opportunities.

November 1: All Saints Sunday.

Remembering those in our church family who have entered eternity this year. All who have lost a loved one this year are invited to join at the 10:30 worship to remember those in our congregation who have died in the past year. The name will be read, a candle lit, and a bell rung for each person. The candleholders are special keepsakes with the name of your loved one printed on it.

November 8: Veterans Sunday.

Honoring those in our church family who have served our country. All veterans in the church are invited to the 10:30 service. We'll recognize you by playing your service anthem for which we'll ask you to stand. We appreciate all of our veterans!

November 22: Christ the King Sunday.

On this last day of the Christian year, we celebrate Jesus in all of His glory. Come this Sunday to celebrate our King!!

November 29: First Sunday of Advent.

We'll start the Christmas Season. Make sure you and your family are a part of this exciting time.

Hanging of the Greens to be announced!



Music Notes
Michelle Mishlove, Music Chair

Thank you to all the musicians (soloists and groups) who shared special music last month. You are a blessing! Some of our music groups have returned to our Sunday services! You can hear the Praise Team on the first Sunday of each month, and you can enjoy the Sunshine Singers on the third Sunday of each month.

Regarding the Chancel Choir...

I miss meeting with my faithful Chancel Choir members!! We have not met for rehearsals since the middle of March. The current pandemic and the highly contagious nature of the Covid virus is keeping us apart. And singing in masks is especially difficult. For these reasons, the Music committee made the decision that the Chancel Choir should forgo a Christmas cantata this year.

We are hoping to resume rehearsals in the New Year. If we can sing together safely, then we will resume singing for Sunday services (once per month) in January.

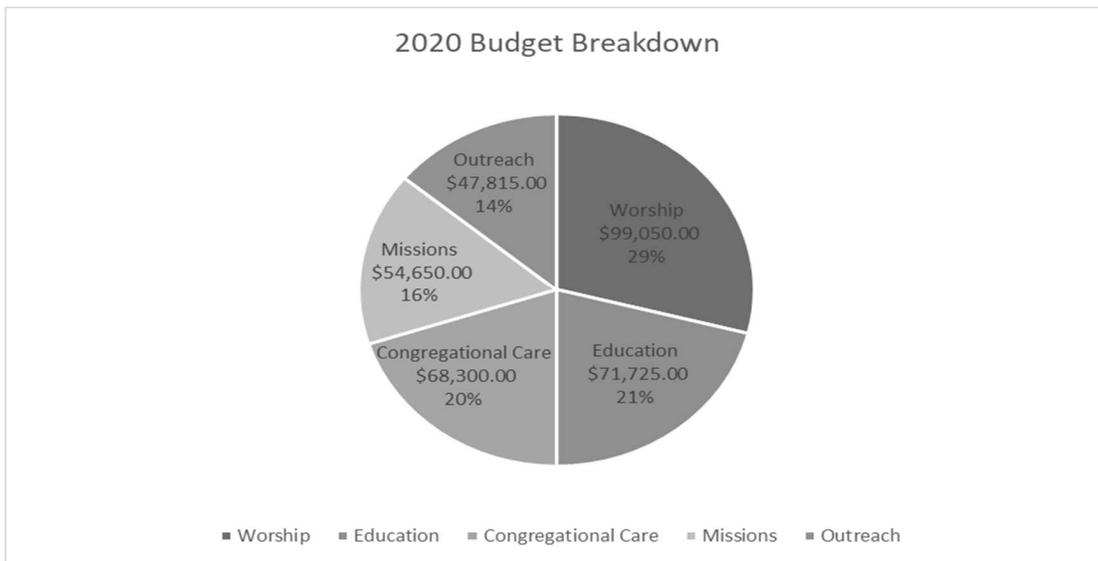
Hear the Bells Ringing
by Patrice Martin, Director

Godsbells, our hand bell choir, will begin rehearsals on Thursday, November 12 at 4:30. To be safe and allow for social distancing, practice will be in the Wings classroom (room 300) in the center of the third floor, behind the sanctuary balcony. New ringers are always welcome to this supportive fellowship. Bell selections will be a part of 10:30 worship services the second Sunday of the month, beginning in January. Don't miss this opportunity to create music, dedicated to the glory of God.



Finance/Stewardship Report

We have spent most of this year telling the “Impact” story through the Giving Moments videos. Members of the various committees have expressed what they have accomplished “Because you give.” A big thank you to all who took time out of their busy schedules to create the videos. Although this has been a trying year, most of our dedicated members have been faithful with their giving. We wanted to take this opportunity to “show” where & how funds are being spent. The following chart provides a visual representation of that.



For every \$1 you give: 29 cents goes to Worship, 21 cents to Education, 20 cents to Congregational Care, 16 cents to Missions, and 14 cents to Outreach. All payroll and building expenses are allocated to each of these categories. Again, thank you for all that you do each & every day to support our missions and help those in need, both locally and globally.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE REPORT, Part 2

The second portion of the Annual Conference 2020 was held virtually on October 10, 2020. The conference began with a Celebration of Life for former Bishop Mike Coyner, who influenced the lives of United Methodists throughout the denomination. The Celebration of Life continued honoring the other clergy and spouses who have passed during the last year.

Under business, all reports were passed. The Children Matter Most Steering Committee extended an invitation to members of the Annual Conference to specifically pray for children. They presented a resolution that will be submitted for a vote of affirmation at the 2021 Annual Conference. Churches that merged and those churches that disbanded were celebrated. The conference recognized the oldest ordained Elder by presenting the Conference Cane to 98-year-old Chester Mayan.

Ian Hall gave the following financial update:

- INUMC has experienced a significant decline in tithe giving: -9% (\$575,000 as of August 2020)
- INUMC received \$1,232,685 as part of the Payroll Protection Plan which is expected to be forgiven.
- Department expense lines are currently below the 59% benchmark.

Chris Lantz summarized the proposed 2021 budget which is broken into two sections: \$7M funds the mission and work of the Indiana Conference. \$4.3M funds the worldwide ministry of the United Methodist Church.

Shannon Stringer announced that \$50,000 has been put toward anti-racism and gave an update on the Conference's plan for making anti-racism more of a priority and to develop a plan that demonstrates our commitment to anti-racism and to actively dismantling systemic institutional racism in our conference by January 31, 2021.

Closing business was the total of registered members for the second session of Annual Conference. That number was 1,598.

Bishop Trimble has set the dates of June 10-12 for the 2021 Annual Conference at Indiana Wesleyan University in Marion, Indiana.

Respectfully submitted by

Nancy Lain

Lay Delegate to the Annual Conference



Clue On Stage

Patrice Martin, Theater Director

Have you played the board game *Clue* with Miss Scarlet, Colonel Mustard and Mrs. Peacock? Did you guess the Library, Study or the Lounge with the candlestick, wrench or rope?

Well, sharpen your investigative skills as Lowell High School Theater students bring to life their rendition of *Clue On Stage*. Based on the Paramount Motion Picture and screenplay by Jonathan Lynn, this madcap mystery is written by Sandy Rustin. A dinner party takes place at Boddy Manor where blackmail and murder are on the menu. Our own John Yelkich expertly portrays Wadsworth, the Butler, leading us through precarious events as the evening unfolds.

Performances are November 5, 6, and 7 at 7:00 p.m. and Sunday, November 8 at 2:00. Tickets are on sale at the Auditorium door one hour before each show. There is limited seating due to social distancing and masks must be worn. Tickets are \$7 for students and seniors and \$9 for adults. Come and see the efforts of 50 cast and crew members over nine weeks, as you try to figure out 'Whodunnit'!

MINISTRY IN ACTION

College Treat Boxes

Wow, what a year this has been! Our college students have found themselves having to adapt to an ever-changing year at school. We will be collecting store-bought items for the boxes along with written messages for our students from Nov. 1-15. We will have tear-apart cards with items to purchase and message cards with a list of names attached on a table in the narthex starting Nov. 1. (See instructions below.) These items will be due back to the church no later than Nov. 15. There will be a drop box for you to place the items. (We are sorry to say we cannot accept homemade items at this time.) We will be packing the boxes on Nov. 15 after the second service at 11:30 with all safety precautions in place. We appreciate your help, thoughts and prayers, and messages for our college students as they continue to navigate through these uncertain times.

Instructions for taking a donation card: Please tear the card at the perforation, put your name and phone number on one side of the torn card. Drop the side with your name and number in the box provided. Tape the card with item description to the item after purchase and place in the box provided.

Thank you and God bless,

College Ministry

Kim Newlin (219) 669-9078 and Trudy Corning (219)613-1787

Here are the names and addresses of our college students:

Kristen Newlin
7731 Silver Fox Dr
Indianapolis IN 46217

Bryce Hayden
421 S. Chauncy
West Lafayette IN 47906

Caleb Bernard
14438 Wheeler St.
Cedar Lake IN 46303

Natalie Manes
182-25 Wexford Terrace
Apt. # 406
Jamaica Estates NY 11432

Madison Lacy
224 N. 3rd St.
Apt. # 238
Terre Haute IN 47809

Megan Snell
515 Stadium Av
Apt. # 4
West Lafayette IN 47906

Terra Kelley
515 N. Grant St.
Apt. # 202
Bloomington IN 47408

James Nadolski
108 River Rd.
Apt. # 405
West Lafayette IN 47906

Brooke Hayden
CASNR 330
Oklahoma State University
Stillwater OK 74077

Lauren Devine
217 W. Hawthorne St.
Florence AL 35630

Audrey Madura
1120 Driftwood Dr.
Lowell IN 46356

Garick Madura
1120 Driftwood Dr.
Lowell IN 46355



The Nurses' Corner

Trudy Corning and Lauren Jansma

What is the difference between Influenza (flu) and COVID-19 according to the CDC?

Signs & Symptoms

Both COVID-19 and flu can have varying degrees of signs and symptoms, ranging from no symptoms (asymptomatic) to severe symptoms. Common symptoms that COVID and flu share include:

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath
- Fatigue
- Sore throat
- Runny or stuffy nose
- Muscle pain or body aches
- Headache
- Some people may have vomiting or diarrhea, though this is more common in children than adults.

How long until symptoms appear after exposure and infection

Flu --- Typically a person develops symptoms 1 to 4 days after exposure.

COVID-19 --- Typically a person develops symptoms 5 days after exposure, but symptoms can appear as early as 2 days after infection or as late as 14 days after infection.

How long can someone spread the virus?

For both COVID-19 and flu, it's possible to spread either virus for at least 1 day before experiencing any symptoms, but if a person has COVID-19, they may remain contagious for a longer period of time lasting up to at least 10 days after signs or symptoms first appear. In addition, if someone is asymptomatic or their symptoms go away, it's possible to remain contagious for at least 10 days after testing positive for COVID-19.

How it Spreads

Both COVID-19 and flu can spread person-to-person, between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet). Both are spread mainly by droplets made when people with either virus cough, sneeze or talk. In addition, it may be possible to become infected by shaking hands or by touching a contaminated surface and then touching one's own mouth, nose or eyes.

While the viruses are spread in similar ways, COVID-19 is more contagious and is considered a super-spreader. This means the virus that causes COVID-19 can quickly and easily spread to a lot of people and result in continuous spreading among people as time progresses.

Remember good hand washing, wear a mask and stay home with any signs or symptoms of illness.

Stay Healthy!



Please remember to save any type of egg cartons in good condition. There will be a receptacle underneath the church mailboxes (located west of the sanctuary) for them.

Thank you so much. God Bless.
Beth Bailey

COVID WILL NOT STOP THE CHRISTMAS CLOTHESLINE!

From the Missions Committee



The Christmas Clothesline is an annual mission of our church. This year has been a challenging one. Our church attendance has not yet returned to normal. Schools may be forced to move to all-virtual learning at any time. **But** we feel it is not the year to abandon this ministry to local families! We have lowered the number of children we will serve, knowing some who have purchased gifts in the past may not be able to this year. We trust we can still share our generosity with some local families.

Our Clothesline will be hanging in the Narthex beginning Sunday, November 15. The 45 tags hanging on the Clothesline (down from 60 last year) will represent children who attend Lowell elementary schools, and their younger and older siblings. This mission project provides Christmas gifts of clothing and other items that the parents may not be able to provide.

If you choose to join in this mission, here is what we ask you to do:

- *** Select an I.D. tag from the Clothesline.
- *** Sign the Gift Log with your name next to the I.D. number of the child. **This is very important!!**
- *** Shop for some of the items listed on the card. We ask that you spend around \$50-\$60 per child. We suggest this \$\$ range to try to assure that all siblings in a family are treated equally.
- *** Return the unwrapped items that you purchase, with gift receipts, in a large paper or plastic bag with the child's I.D. tag securely attached to the bag. *Please, do not lose the tag!!*
- *** Return your Clothesline gifts to the church on or before Sunday, Dec. 6.

Special considerations this Covid year: If you do not wish to be out shopping due to Covid concerns (or don't have time to shop) consider ordering gifts online. [Note: this should be done early to allow time for possible shipping delays.] Another option is to donate the \$50-\$60 for a child's gifts and someone else will shop for you. Mark your \$\$ donation "Clothesline" and take it to the office before Thanksgiving.

If the \$\$ amount is more than you can comfortably spend, ask a friend, or two, to share the cost of gifts for a child with you. If you wish to spend more than the suggested amount, please take a second I.D. tag and share your generosity with two children.

Let's not allow Covid to cancel our chance to add joy to Christmas for local children!



HOUSEHOLD PANTRY NEWS

Julie Donovan, Chairperson

We served 38 families during a curbside pantry held October 20. Our next curbside pantry will take place November 17, and the last one of this year will be held December 15 from 9 to 12 and 5 to 6. Please spread the word! STAY SAFE!!



U.M.W. News

The normal things such as meetings and working at the Resale continue for the UMW. We are ready for new projects and continuing our missions. We still find solace in working together and the reading program. The reading program has so many books that are up-to-date with world events. It keeps us aware of others need's in this world. They are also enjoyable reads.

Due to Covid-19 we are not having the Cookie Walk at the church. We are moving it to the Resale the night of the Parade of Lights. Hopefully, we will be able to keep the date.

Stay safe and much love.

Rachelle Ruge-Bernard, President



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.

Each year there is a change in the committees at the church. This year we are losing two of our leaders. Sharon Sanders is going off Trustees after 6 years of service. She has been one of those Trustee chair people who gets their hands dirty. She will crawl anywhere in the building to get to what needs repaired. She is almost always on hand to help those fixing problems. She has done a great job over the years. We'll miss her.

Laura Eller is stepping down as Chairperson of Staff Parish Relations Committee. Laura was asked to come onto the Committee as chairperson. A few months later it was found that Pastor Rick had been appointed to Anderson. Laura had to struggle with the committee on saying goodbye to a pastor and to welcome a new one. She has done a wonderful job keeping things running smoothly and providing leadership.

There are two other leaders who are stepping down this year. Kirk McQuiston and Tom Stoner are stepping down as Lay Leaders. Our Lay Leaders have done so much to shape the direction and vision of our church over the years. This year in the midst of the pandemic, they have done even more, meeting for hours to keep the church operating. We'll miss the leadership of Kirk and Tom.

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



"Welcome to our church—even though you're sitting in our family pew . . ."



"Ed moves that we buy new choir slickers and adjourn for pizza. Do I hear a second?"

November 2020

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

1 All Saints Day Daylight Savings Time Ends	2 A/A ~ noon (303) Staff/Parish Meeting 5pm (303) Tri-Kappa 6pm (bsmt)	3 Election Day	4 Girl Scouts 3:15 (303) UMW Executive Meeting 4:30 pm (bsmt) A/A 8pm (bsmt) Al/anon 8pm (lib)	5 Ducimers 10am (303) Bread for Life 6:15pm (bsmt) Cub Scouts 6:30pm (300)	6 Alpha/Barbara Circle 1:30pm (library)	7 Naomi Circle 1:30 (library)
8 Veteran's Sunday	9 A/A ~ noon (303)	10 Trustees 6pm (conf. room)	11 Worship 6pm (300) A/A 8pm (bsmt) Al/anon 8pm (lib)	12 Ducimers 10am (303) Girl Scouts 4:30 (bsmt) Godsbells 4:30 (300) Bread for Life 6:15pm (bsmt)	13	14
15 Pack College Boxes 11:30am (basement)	16 A/A ~ noon (303)	17 Curbside Household Pantry 9-12 & 5-6	18 Girl Scouts 3:15 (303) Music Meeting 7pm (300) A/A 8pm (bsmt) Al/anon 8pm (lib)	19 Ducimers 10am (303) Godsbells 4:30(303) Bread for Life 6:15pm (bsmt) Cub Scouts 6:30pm (300)	20	21
22	23 A/A ~ noon (303)	24	25	26 Thanksgiving Day/Office Closed	27	28
29	30 A/A ~ noon (303) Administrative Council 6pm (basement)			Sunday Worship Hours: 8 a.m. ~ Fellowship Hall 10:30 a.m. ~ Sanctuary 9:15 a.m. Sunday School for all ages Thursday Worship: 6:15 p.m. in Fellowship Hall		