

The First United Methodist Church of Lowell

Tele-Christian ~ November 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 October 14, we hosted our second speaker in our Tom Clawson Teaching series. Doctor Michael Peterson addressed our worship service. He also led a special teaching session in the afternoon.

Doctor Peterson is a professor of Philosophy at Asbury Seminary in Wilmore, KY. His area of study and his interest is in the area of evil in our world and how God is greater than the evil we see all around us.

A few of the lessons I learned from these sessions:

Often we look to the past to explain the evil we see in the present. Doctor Peterson suggested that we would be better off looking to the future. That is, we should see how God will redeem the situation. How will we give God the glory even through this evil? God could have prevented this evil. I should have turned left not to the right. We can look in the past all we would like. We are better off looking forward.

I also heard Doctor Peterson teach that evil in our world can generally be traced back to two sources; the expression of our free will and a corruption of nature.

We are aware that God has created us with free will. In this world we have a choice for good or evil. When we express ourselves for good, we give God the glory for the good he has done for us. When evil is our choice, bad consequences often follow. Good people can be caught up in someone's expression of evil. Evil also happens when nature is corrupted. When a gentle spring rain turns into a fierce thunderstorm, or when a dusting of snow becomes a cold blizzard, bad things can happen.

Nature is also corrupted when our healthy bodies become sick or attacked by mutated cancer cells. Nature is corrupted when habits become addictions, and we serve the addiction as our god.

Nature is corrupted when we turn a healthy relationship into an abusive situation. There are many examples of evil that we see in this world as we see a natural situation corrupted and someone is hurt.

As humans, we are created to bear God's image to the world. We are created to serve for the good of God's glory in the world and throughout eternity. These are all examples of evil which is a corruption of that nature.

Doctor Peterson quoted often from the author C.S. Lewis. We have a few of his books in our church library. He is a deep thinker who puts many powerful thoughts about God into some common language. If you are unfamiliar with this author, come talk with me. I will help you start some great reading.

In the final session, the professor used the Old Testament book of Job as an overview of the problem with evil in our world. He pointed out that Job was looking for justice in his suffering. In the New Testament we hear God answering Job that he suffered in this world as well.

Overall, it was a great teaching session. I hope you learned much and enjoyed this teaching time. I again thank Tom Clawson for his gift to our church. I thank the church leadership for allowing me to use this gift to broaden our education. We will have two more teachings opportunities in 2019. Stay tuned.

Pastor Rick

November Sunday Sermon and Scripture Schedule

November 4 ~ All Saints Sunday, Communion

Scripture ~ Mark 2:1-12

Sermon Title ~ *'Welcome Home, Saints'*

November 11 ~

Scripture ~ Joshua 22:1-6

Sermon Title ~ *'Welcome Home, Veterans'*

November 18 ~

Scripture ~ Psalm 84:1-12

Sermon Title ~ *'Welcome Home, In God's House'*

November 25 ~

Scripture ~ Acts 2:42-47

Sermon Title ~ *'Welcome Home for the Holiday'*



November Worship News

Daylight Savings Time ends November 4. Remember to set you clocks back one hour.

Special Days in November

November 4—All Saints Day—We will remember our loved ones who have passed away in the last year.

November 11—Veterans Day-We will honor our veterans.

November 18—Thanksgiving Sunday

November 28 at 9:00 am—WE WILL DECORATE THE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS!
Please come help!

Are you available to spend one Sunday morning a month to be part of our hospitality ministry? If so, see Charlene Grant or Charlie Haberlin to become an usher, a greeter, an acolyte, or a host for Martha's Coffee House.

Do you enjoy cooking? If so, we would love to have you be part of the cooking team for Thursday night Bread for Life meals. See Cheryl Jones for more information.

Fall Worship Schedule

Worship is at 8:00 and 10:30 with Sunday School for all ages at 9:15.

Martha's Coffee House is open in the library from 9:00-10:30.

Bread for Life is every Thursday. Dinner at 5:30, worship at 6:15.

Charlene Grant,

Chairperson

671-1044

granttc@sbcglobal.net

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

- Nov 4:** Greeters: Bev Johnson, Carol Olson, Mark and Barb Lindemer
Ushers: 8:00: Lynn Bochart, Bob Savich 10:30: Elaine DeVine, Dennis Olson
Liturgist: 8:00: Rick Bachman 10:30: Rick Bachman
Children's Time: Paige Corning
- Nov 11:** Greeters: Linda Snell, Maryrose Lynch, Amy Nichols, Virginia Kasparian
Ushers: 8:00: Don Bales, Kathy Nelson 10:30: Sharon Sanders, Tom Stoner
Darin and Tammy Champanois
Liturgist: 8:00: Peggy Hendricks 10:30: Tom Stoner
Children's Time: Becky Crabb
- Nov 18:** Greeters: Gisela Peterson, Jenny Nichols, Phyllis Moser, Carolyn Savich
Ushers: 8:00: Charlie Haberlin, Wayne Wietbrock 10:30: David Perry, Scott Beier
Liturgist: 8:00: Cheryl Jones 10:30: Ellen Rosengard
Children's Time: Pastor Rick
- Nov 25:** Greeters: Anita Childress, Jenny Nichols, Sandy Villa, Nina Wilson, Dennis Olson
Ushers: 8:00: Bill Bubness, Scott Spry 10:30: Luan Brown, Ken Bisacchi
Liturgist: 8:00: Lynne Haberlin 10:30: Bev Kussy
Children's Time: Becky Crabb



Thursday BRD4Life Dinner/Worship Service (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 **November**:

November 1 ~ Speaker: Susan Wells Cook: Kim McGinley
Theme: *'Go the Extra Mile'* Day

November 8 ~ Speaker: Al Martin Cook: Tracy Seitzinger
Theme: *'Chaos Never Dies'* Day

November 15 ~ Speaker: Pastor Rick Cook: Linda Hayden
Theme: *'Evaluate Your Life'* Day

November 22 ~ **NO BREAD FOR LIFE, THANKSGIVING DAY**

November 29 ~ Speaker: Rick Bachman Cook: Linda, Candy, Bonnie 3
Theme: *'Peanut Butter Lover's'* Month

A Moment of Great Gratitude!

We each have different motivations and capacities for giving, and every gift and pledge is gratefully received. The Finance Committee's one hope is that your support for our ministries comes from a profound sense of gratitude and joy for all you receive through a RELATIONSHIP with God and the members of our church.

As we enter the doors of the Lowell United Methodist Church, we are surrounded by a building that has been blessed by the presence of God in our lives. Our church has ministered faithfully for more than 80 years – not because members give year after year out of duty, obligation, or fear. Such motivations can't sustain an institution for over eight decades. NO, our church is still here, still strong and vibrant, because generation after generation of members have counted themselves blessed and therefore supported the missions of our church with generous gifts of gratitude and joy.

The worship opportunities, fellowship, study, faith-sharing groups, service opportunities, building integrity, employees' commitments and more are all inclusive in growing a family congregation. Your generous gift commitment will enable the Finance Committee to make visionary decisions that will build the web of "caring" and "community for all." We are blessed. We share a strong faith with each other. We celebrate the joyful events in each other's lives and comfort each other in times of trial and sorrow.

We are closing in on the date where the Finance Committee will need to review all the totals of pledge commitments. Please keep our church in your prayers as we seek the answers to a balanced budget, one that will continue to change the lives of people in our community through our ministries.

Reflect on the many ways you can count yourself blessed and how you have made a pledge commitment that was given gratefully, generously, and joyfully.

Finance Committee



Gift Cards for Christmas

Due to the popularity of giving gift cards at Christmas time, we are bringing back the Scrip Gift Card program just for the holiday.

Order forms will be in the Sunday worship bulletins during November and December and will be available in the office. Payment is due with the order form.

Orders will be placed on two Mondays: December 3 and December 10. Cards are normally available to be picked up on the Thursday following the order date. Happy shopping!

MINISTRY IN ACTION

IT'S CHRISTMAS CLOTHESLINE TIME! From the Missions Committee

The Christmas Clothesline, a long-time mission project of our church, will be hanging in the Narthex beginning Sunday, November 18. The cards hanging on the Clothesline represent children from local families with financial needs. These children attend Lowell elementary schools or are younger and older siblings. This mission project provides Christmas gifts of needed items to children in our community.

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

*** Select an I.D. card 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 needed or desired items listed on the card. We ask that you limit your spending to about \$50 per child. We are trying to assure that the children in each family are treated equally. If \$50 is more than you can give, join together with a friend or two to complete a bag for a child. If you wish to spend more than \$50, take a second I.D. card and share your generosity with two children.

*** Return the unwrapped items that you purchase, with gift receipts, in a paper or plastic bag with the child's I.D. card securely attached to the bag. The card is needed to deliver the bag to the correct school, and it is needed by the school to deliver the bag to the correct family. *Please, do not lose the card!!*

*** Return your Clothesline gifts to the church on or before Sunday, Dec. 9.

Would you like to support this mission, but cannot do the shopping? No problem! You may make a monetary donation, and we will find a 'shopper' to do the leg work for you. Mark your donation "Clothesline" and place it in the offering plate, or take it to the office.

Together we can touch the lives of 60 children this Christmas!



Prayer Blanket Ministry

In September, our church family prayed over 17 blankets during worship. These blankets can now go out into the community to those who are hurting physically, emotionally and spiritually.

Congregational Care encourages everyone to be a part of this ministry. This ministry works when YOU take a blanket to someone you know who is hurting.

HOW?

1. Identify someone who needs to feel God's love.
2. Choose from the blankets located in the church library.
3. Follow the posted sign out procedure.
4. Deliver the blanket!

Sharing God's love is that easy!

Any questions, contact Trudy Corning @ 219 613-1787 or the church office



Ladies United in Missions Circle

By Rachelle Ruge-Bernard

Thank you to all who attended the Italian Supper Club Night and Dessert Auction on Sept. 29. Thank you also to those who donated desserts. The money was put into our Missions Fund. The fund has been used for our Crockpot Cooking Class.

Nine middle schoolers and two adults learned to cook and feed themselves and their families. Everyone has learned a lot. One of the best days for our circle members was the day we took the kids in the garden. They really enjoyed the garden and then went to play in the empty lot. Kids were hanging out, playing Red Rover and having fun. Nice to see the kids so happy. They were loud, but really liked learning. Linda Hurley came from the Purdue Extension and discussed food safety and the kids were quieter than mice.

It has been another good experience. The Lord continues to bless us with helpful people.



Adult Study Opportunities for November

Each Sunday morning at 9:15 members of your church family meet together to grow in their knowledge and understanding of God's word. **ALL ARE WELCOME** to join in any of these friendly discussion groups.

Room 300 Join the WINGS study group as they continue a DVD series "The Parables of Jesus". This Bible Study will give you new insights into these marvelous stories so you can appreciate more deeply their relevance for your life. Al Martin facilitates this class.

Room 301 The book of Daniel is the current subject of the FOM Bible Study class led by David Schoon.

Room 304 The FRIENDS discussion group is continuing a study on "Spiritual Warfare." Facilitated by Don Bales, this class is examining the greatest threats to our faith, families and church.

Drop in for a visit to any - or all - of these classes! You likely will find friends there!



Cheryl and I thank the church family for celebrating Pastor Appreciation Month. As this month coincides with my birthday, it is always a great time of encouragement. We thank each of you for your kind words, good gifts and timely notes of your love for us.

Pastor Rick



The church kitchen has received a generous gift of gold colored tablecloths from Tom Sufana. He also donated two racks that hold all the cloth tablecloths including the new ones. We all appreciate this gift!!

CHURCH EVENTS

Our Military Ministry From Laura Hutchison

On Sunday, November 11, the Congregational Care committee will be hosting a time for our church family to thank the veterans in our church family for their service to our country. Everyone is invited to join our veterans for conversation, coffee, cake and other refreshments during our regular Martha's Coffee House fellowship time, which is 9:00-10:30 a.m. in the church library.

If you are a veteran who is new to our church, please contact Laura Hutchison @ 696-0321.

In the past, we have sent boxes to service men and women serving abroad. Currently, we have three people serving but only one, Troy Pate, who has a published address. There will be a box for donations on the table of the Narthex for Troy and a list of suggested items to donate on the bulletin board above that table.

Save the Date!!

Our Mystery Dinner Theatre will be January 19, 2019.

Watch and listen for information about when tickets will go on sale.

Mark your calendar now for this annual fund-raiser for the Household Pantry.



Movie Night

Our next movie night will be on Friday, November 16, at 6 p.m. in the church Fellowship Hall.

We will show the movie '*Do You Believe?*'

Everyone is welcome. Bring a snack to share.



Lowell High School Theater

Ninety-one Lowell High School students are working extremely hard to produce their own version of *Arsenic and Old Lace*, a madcap American classic, written by Joseph Kesselring. We travel back in time . . . 1941 to a Victorian house next to a cemetery, and discover that the kind, elderly Brewster sisters have a nasty habit!

Our own, John Yelkich is bringing his organizational management ideas and creative offerings to the Costume Crew. We greatly appreciate the members of Tri-Kappa that are providing baked goods for our concession stand.

This uproarious farce will open on Thursday, November 8, at 7:00 p.m. The Friday and Saturday performances, Nov. 9 & 10, are also at 7:00 in the evening. There will be a matinee on Sunday, November 11, at 2:00 p.m. Tickets are sold at the Auditorium door and are \$7 for Students & Seniors and \$9 for Adults.

Don't miss the opportunity to see the product of such dedicated efforts and hear what is said in the play about **Methodists**. You will enjoy this merry mayhem!!

Patrice Martin, Director

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)

November 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 <i>Cub Scouts</i> 6:30 p.m. (303)	2 <i>Alpha/Barbara</i> <i>Circle 1:00 pm</i> <i>(library)</i>	3
4 <i>Daylight Sav-</i> <i>ings time ends</i> <i>All Saints</i> <i>Sunday</i>	5 <i>Staff/Parish</i> 6pm <i>Tri-Kappa</i> 6pm (bsmt)	6 <i>Children's</i> <i>Council 7 p.m.</i> <i>(library)</i>	7 <i>UMW Execu-</i> <i>tive Meeting</i> 4:30 p.m. (301)	8 <i>Naomi Circle</i> 1:30 p.m. <i>(library)</i>	9	10
11 <i>Veteran's Day</i>	12 <i>Susanna</i> <i>Wesley Circle</i> 7 p.m. (library)	13 <i>Trustees 6:30</i> <i>Missions 7</i> <i>p.m. (library)</i>	14	15 <i>Cub Scouts</i> 6:30 p.m. (303)	16 <i>Movie Night</i> <i>'Do You Be-</i> <i>lieve' 6 p.m.</i> <i>(basement)</i>	17
18	19	20	21	22 <i>Office Closed/</i> <i>Thanksgiving</i>	23 <i>Office Closed</i>	24
25	26 <i>Finance 5pm</i> <i>Charge Confer-</i> <i>ence 6:30pm</i> <i>Ad-Council</i> 6:45pm (bsmt)	27 <i>Alzheimer sup-</i> <i>port Group 6</i> <i>p.m. (library)</i>	28 <i>Decorate the</i> <i>Church 9 a.m.</i>	29	30	