

# The First United Methodist Church of Lowell Tele-Christian November 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.....*

Thanksgiving is on its way. We have an opportunity to give thanks for what we have. We also have an opportunity to share our blessings with others. The following is a story that shows how we can give forward the blessings we have. God bless!

“Once there was a family of very modest means. They lived in a small country house. On Thanksgiving night they all sat down for dinner, and there was a knock at the door. The father went to the door and opened it. There stood an old man in old torn clothes, with ripped pants and missing buttons. He was carrying a basket full of vegetables. He asked the family if they wanted to buy some vegetables from him. They said sure and invited him to spend Thanksgiving with them, but he kindly declined, as he had many more vegetables to sell...

Over time, the family and the old man became friends. The man brought vegetables to the family every week. They soon found out that he was almost blind and had cataracts on his eyes. But he was so friendly that they learned to look forward to his visits and started to enjoy his company.

One day as he was delivering the vegetables, he said, "I had the greatest blessing yesterday! I found a basket of clothes outside my house that someone had left for me." The family, (knowing that he needed clothes, left the basket of clothes outside his house), said, "Really, How wonderful!" The old blind man said, "The most wonderful part is that, I found a family that really needed the clothes."

Ironic isn't it. A poor man who is almost blind, sees the blessing of giving to those less fortunate...paying it forward...and yet, in a world of plenty, nearly one billion people are hungry. Twenty-five thousand people die every day due to malnutrition. Every six seconds a child dies from starvation.

Let us, on this Thanksgiving, praise God's name proudly, each in our own unique ways. But let us never lose sight of our common responsibilities toward one another and toward the rest of humanity. Let us work together for healing, for justice, and for peace.

Have a Healthy and Happy Thanksgiving!"

## *Pastor Mark*

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Dear First Church, Thank you for all the many ways you reached out and showed your appreciation to Lori and I. You really know how to make us feel loved. Mark Berg



## **Invite a Friend to Church**

Throughout November, you are encouraged to invite someone to come to church with you. If you haven't been back to church since the pandemic, we want you back! If you notice someone's been missing, November is the month to invite them to come with you! If you have family, friends, coworkers, neighbors or strangers who don't have a church home invite them to come with you! Spend a little time this November inviting others to be in church with you.

## November Sermon and Scripture Schedule

### **November 7 ~ All Saints Sunday**

Scripture ~ John 11:32-44

Sermon Title ~ *'If You Were Here!'*

### **November 14 ~ Veteran's Sunday**

Scripture ~ II Samuel 22:2-4

Sermon Title ~ *'Saved From My Enemies'*

### **November 21 ~ Christ the King Sunday**

Scripture ~ Revelation 1:4-8

Sermon Title ~ *'The King of Kings'*

### **November 28 ~ First Sunday of Advent**

Scripture ~ Luke 2:8-14

Sermon Title ~ *'The Witnesses: The Shepherds'*



### **Worship News**

Trudy Corning & Linda Hayden, Co-Chairpersons

During the month of November there are many special Sundays we will be recognizing through our worship services.

#### **November 7 -- All Saints Day**

We will be honoring those loved ones who have passed away with the lighting of candles and ringing of bells.

#### **November 14 -- Veterans Day**

We will be honoring those who have served our country.

#### **November 21 -- Christ the King & Thanksgiving**

We will be celebrating Christ our King and giving thanks.

#### **November 28 -- First Sunday of Advent**

Watch for the date and time for Hanging of the Greens!



### **Join us for our Thursday night LYFT Service**

Thursdays at 6-7 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall

Worship/Bible Study/Friends/Music/Communion

November topic: God knows and Loves us. This is a four week study.

Week 1: God Knows All

Week 2: God Sees All

Week 3: God Creates All

Week 4: God Loves All

\*\*There will be no LYFT Service November 25: Happy Thanksgiving



The Lay Leadership team met on Sept. 20 and prepared for changes to our Covid protocols should the Lake County Weekly Metric move from 2.0 (where it was at that time) to 2.5. Surprisingly - and thankfully! - that did not happen! Instead the Weekly Metric improved to 1.5, and, as of this writing, has remained there. At the Lay Leader meeting on Oct. 25, it was decided to keep the mask protocol the same. That is, masks are optional for the vaccinated but required for the unvaccinated. With the flu season approaching, we request that those with any symptoms of Covid or the flu please stay home. Frequent hand cleansing and social distancing continue to be very important.

One protocol that has changed as of Oct. 25 is that food may be served in the church. We hope to resume Martha's Coffee House for Advent and then L.Y.F.T. meals in January. Simplified funeral luncheons will resume as needed. Those using our church for social events or meetings are asked to serve food with safety in mind. The suggested best practices are:

- 1. Plate the food or have servers dishing out the food.**
- 2. If doing self-serve, provide hand sanitizer and/or gloves for those accessing the food.**
- 3. Seat no more than 6 persons per round table.**



### **Long-Term Covid Effects**

Some people who got Covid are having long-term side effects. But it's not just people experiencing this. Churches, including ours, are also struggling with the long-term effects of having to close their doors for many weeks during the early months of the pandemic. Our church has reopened and returned to our normal worship and Sunday school schedule. But not everyone has returned to join us. Some of you are missing!! And you are missed!!

This Facebook post by Michael Carl addresses this situation: *"As church attendance numbers fade across the nation and online services become very convenient, it's important to remember why church attendance for you and your family matters so much.*

*You can't serve from your sofa. You can't have community of faith on your sofa. You can't experience the power of a room full of believers worshipping together on your sofa.*

*Christians aren't consumers. We are contributors. We don't watch. We engage. We give. We sacrifice. We encourage. We pray by laying hands on the hurting. We do life together.*

*The church needs you. And you need the church."*

We look forward to seeing you back in church!!



# Music Notes

Michelle Mishlove, Chairperson

Do You Hear What I Hear?

It's the sound of our faithful Chancel Choir practicing a new Christmas cantata! We are very excited to bring back one of our favorite traditions this year. Christmas Cantata 2021: "Sing a Song of Christmas" by Michael Barrett & Joseph Martin

Please note... This cantata will be divided into 2 parts and will be presented as follows:

**Part 1 Advent -- December 5 at the 8:00 AM service**

\*A Song of Christmas \*Come, Emmanuel \*Prepare the Way

**Part 2 Christmas -- December 19 at the 10:30 AM service**

\*Call the Baby Jesus \*Sleep, Little Lamb \*Come, Hear the Music \*In Bethlehem \*Christmas Songs of Joy medley

Please take this opportunity to invite family, friends, and neighbors to join us!

Here are our plans for the month of November....

Sunday, November 7 Chancel Choir in person at the 8:00 AM service

Sunday, November 14 Godsbells at both services

Sunday, November 21 Chancel Choir at the 10:30 AM service

Sunday, November 28 Praise Team at the 10:30 AM service

\*\*\*\*Reminder to all Music Committee members: We will meet again on Wednesday, November 10 at 7:00 pm. Please plan to join us and mark your calendar now!



Thank you to all who requested favorite hymns this past summer. After a slow start, and an urgent request on my part, you were great!

When I use someone's request, I change the color of the requesters' name in my data base from black to red. Then during the second half of the summer I look for names that are still in black and only pick from that group. This summer at the mid-point there were no black names left. In past years Dee Dee and Don Benshoof regularly requested 50 or more hymns. This summer I think their record was broken! My data base (homemade) does not permit me to list by requesters, so I cannot list our champion requesters. If I were to try I know I would offend someone by omission, so I will give a big thank you to everyone, but especially to those who "voted early and often"! **Thank you!**

Dave Schoon



## All God's Children Choir News



Attention parents of children in K- 5th grade:

Practices for our children's choir, *All God's Children*, began in October. The children who have been attending practice during the 10:30 service will be singing on November 7 at the 10:30 service. The children will do a short Christmas program in December and we will then take January and February off. Children's choir will resume practices on Sunday, March 6, 2022.

I hope to see your kids in November and December!

Nancy Lain  
*All God's Children* Director

# MINISTRY IN ACTION



Our Operation Christmas Child ministry with the shoe boxes ENDS October 31.

Please return your shoe box on or before this date, and please pray over your box. My daughter Kathy will be delivering the boxes to Lake Hills Baptist Church and we need to go through them before they are delivered. THANK YOU to all for making this ministry a success. We are sending the love of Jesus all over the world!

Ethel Devine (219 617 6676)      Kathy Taylor (219 712 8080)



## **News from the Missions Committee**

Thanks to everyone who filled a shoebox for "Operation Christmas Child"!

As I write this, it just doesn't seem possible to already be talking about Christmas and that it is time for our annual "**Christmas Clothesline**" to get underway!!!

Tags will be available in the Narthex beginning November 14. Gifts will be due back to the church on or before December 5. This year we have increased the limit to sixty dollars per student, a ten dollar increase from previous years. We are excited to be able to continue to serve families in the Tri Creek School Community. It is because of your heartfelt generosity that this mission project continues each year.

Further details will be available when the tags are hung.

In Christ's Love,  
Susan Wells, Missions Chairperson



## **Congregational Care: College Care**

Our College Box Ministry reaches out to our college students to support them as they end their school semester and take finals. A box of goodies including snacks, items needed to study, encouraging notes and prayers is mailed from our church arriving in time for finals giving the students extra support needed during a stressful week.

You can each be a part of this ministry!

1. You can donate an item for the college boxes
2. You can sponsor the mailing (postage) of a college box
3. You can write notes of encouragement to be placed in the college boxes
4. You can pray for the college students, the college boxes and this ministry

Sunday, November 7 donation cards, sponsorship information and names of the college students will be available in the Narthex.

Any questions, contact the church office or Trudy Corning



The American legion in Lowell will have a luncheon to honor our Veterans on Sunday, November 7 at 12:00 p.m.

Don DeFrance will be there to take pictures in front of the American Flag.

Please sign up on the sheet in the narthex as they are requesting a head count, or let Phyllis DeFrance know 219-696-7774.



Lauren Jansma & Trudy Corning

The **Nurse Is In** checking blood pressures the first Sunday of each month in between the worship services. What is blood pressure and why check it?

Blood pressure is the force of your blood pushing against the walls of your arteries. Each time your heart beats, it pumps blood into the arteries. Your blood pressure is highest when your heart beats pumping the blood. This is called systolic pressure and is the "top" number. When your heart is at rest, between beats, your blood pressure falls. This is called diastolic pressure and is the "bottom" number in a blood pressure reading.

When your blood pressure stays high overtime, it causes the heart to pump harder and work overtime possibly leading to serious health problems such as heart attack, stroke, heart failure and kidney failure. Treatments for high blood pressure include heart healthy lifestyle changes and medicine. You will work with your provider to come up with a treatment plan. It may include life style changes such as heart healthy eating and exercise, which can be very effective. But sometimes, the changes do not control or lower high blood pressure, then you may need to take medication.



### Finance Committee Message Thoughts on Faith and Giving

Glenn Howell, Director of Development United Methodist Foundation of Indiana shares the following: *"How does God look at resources (time, treasure, talent)? Faith says they aren't even really our resources, but resources God grants for our using and building a world that God imagines. Simply moving from "our" to "God's" is a huge shift in seeing. The idea that life is "on loan" to us changes everything." Mr. Howell goes on to say, "Seeing and acting in faith releases miracles of abundance. The eyes of stewardship see more than what is in front of us. They also see the power within us."*

Our church community leadership continues to tell "our story" of how we are using God's resources to impact lives through inspiration, hope, and faith. We are closely listening to our church community to discern where to apply the resources. And as we do, we ask each and every one of our faithful, "Are we walking with God closely enough that we trust his divine presence to provide us the trust to guide us in our commitment to stewardship?"

Currently the Church's Finance Committee is building a 2022 budget based upon the resources our faithful congregation will have provided. We ask each and all to pray for God to give you the wisdom and discernment to guide you in your stewardship commitment.



### GIFT CARDS FOR CHRISTMAS



Due to the popularity of giving gift cards at Christmastime, we will have the Scrip Gift Card program for the holiday season. This program is a fund-raiser as the church receives a percentage of each card value.

An order form is attached to the newsletter and will also be available in the church Narthex and in the worship bulletins on December 5 and 12. **Payment is due with the order form.** All paid orders must be in the office by 10 a.m. on either **Monday, December 6** or **Monday, December 11**. Cards are usually available to be picked up 3-4 days following the order date. The office will contact anyone who ordered and let them know their cards are in. If you have questions please call Kim in the church office.

# Education Opportunities

## **Advent Bible Study**

We'll be offering a four-week Advent Bible Study this year. It will be offered at two different times. On Sunday evening, we'll meet at the parsonage at 6 pm (Nov 28, Dec 5, 12 and 19). On Monday morning, we'll meet in the church library at 10 am (Nov 29, Dec 6, 13 and 20). It will be a study by Lee Strobel entitled, "The Case for Christmas." Strobel is a famous Christian writer but started as an atheist. He was building a case for why the Bible had to be wrong about Jesus and ended up convincing himself that it is all true. The Case for Christmas will invite you to look beyond the familiar traditions of the season, challenge you to examine the evidence for yourself, and consider why Christmas really matters.

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## **Confirmation Class**

We have started our Confirmation Class. All youth 6<sup>th</sup> grade through high school are invited to take part. We meet on Sunday morning at 9:15 am in the youth Sunday School classroom on the third floor. The class won't meet on October 31, but we'll have regular youth Sunday School that day. They'll also take off November 28 and have a regular Sunday School class that day.

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## **Adult Study Opportunity**

The FRIENDS class will begin a new study on Sunday, October 31<sup>st</sup>. This 5-session DVD study features Adam Hamilton as he breaks down 5 popular sayings using Scripture and story with practical applications. These common sayings sound Christian -- like something you might find in the Bible. They capture some element of truth, but Adam Hamilton shares his search for the whole truth by comparing them to the wisdom found in Scripture.

- Everything Happens for a Reason
- God Helps Those Who Help Themselves
- God Won't Give You More Than You Can Handle
- God Said It, I Believe It, That Settles It
- Love the Sinner, Hate the Sin

The FRIENDS class meets upstairs in Room 304.



## **"Surviving the Holidays"**

The session entitled "Surviving the Holidays" will be offered on Tuesday, November 16 from 1:00-3:00 PM in Room 304. This will be for those who have lost loved ones (parents, spouses, children, other family members) during the past year and will not be with them physically this holiday season. The session will be limited to 10 participants.

Please contact me if you are interested in attending.

Nancy Lain, Grief Share Facilitator  
219-696-9226  
hnlain@gmail.com



## 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.

The Chancel Choir, Bell Choir, Praise Team and All God's Children Choir have done a great job this Fall providing music for our services. I can tell how hard they work to make beautiful music. Say a special thank you to the directors. They do a great job!

The Mission Committee is at it again. They have the shoeboxes out for Samaritan's Purse. They have their tasks down to a science. In no time at all they can build a big display for the shoeboxes and get the advertising out. Thank you Missions!

Don't you love the art work on the Global Prayer Focus board in the sanctuary. Tom Sufana has great talent and creates those behind the scene.

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



### **Monthly Income**

Monthly income needed: \$28,050  
Monthly income for September: \$22,020

## WEEKLY EVENTS

**Sunday - Worship** ~ 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. (in Sanctuary), *Sunday School 9:15:* WINGS (300), F.O.M. (301), FRIENDS (304), Children (basement) **Monday/Tuesday** - A/A 12 p.m. (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. (balc.) *LYFT* Worship 6:00 p.m. (Fellowship Hall), Chancel Choir 7pm (sanctuary) **Saturday** - A/A 11 a.m. (303)

# November 2021

**Sun                      Mon                      Tue                      Wed                      Thu                      Fri                      Sat**

	<b>1</b> Tri-Kappa 6pm (bsmt)	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> UMW Exec. 4:30pm (bsmt)	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Alpha/Barbara May 1:30pm (library)	<b>6</b> Girl Scouts 9am (bsmt) Mommy's Haven Auction Pick-Up Site 9am
<b>7</b> Daylight Savings Time—Fall Back  All Saints Sunday  The Nurse Is In 9am (conf. rm.)	<b>8</b> Susanna Wesley Circle 1pm  Congregational Care 6pm (bsmt)	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Girl Scouts 3:30pm  Trustees 6pm (conf. rm.)  Music Mtg. 7pm (300)	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>   **countertop tear-out and install in library**	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> Veteran's Day Sunday	<b>15</b> Lay Leader Meeting 9:30am (301)	<b>16</b> Household Pantry 9-12 & 5-6 (curbside)	<b>17</b> Finance 5:30pm	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Tele-Christian Articles Due!	<b>20</b> Girl Scouts 9am (bsmt)
<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> Ad-Council 6pm (bsmt)	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Girl Scouts 3:30 (bsmt)	<b>25</b> Happy Thanksgiving/ Office Closed  	<b>26</b> Office Closed	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>				