

The First United Methodist Church of Lowell Tele-Christian ~ November 2017 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.....

We were in a store in early October. I couldn't believe the Christmas display they had set up. I know that this fall has been unusually warm. This seemed way too early to even think about that Big Holiday. A few days later I ordered a Christmas gift for our grandson. Guess it is not as early as I think.

Since Christmas is knocking on the door, let me remind you that I would again like to dedicate our Christmas Eve offering to our Good Samaritan Fund.

Our Good Samaritan Fund is the account that we draw from when folks ask for emergency assistance. They may need help with their rent or a utility bill. Many people need a few gallons of gas to make it through the rest of the week. It is nice to have this pot of money on hand to draw from for these kinds of needs.

At the end of September our church has used this fund to pay out more \$5,400 in assistance into our community. That is a lot of encouragement to families who were not sure where to turn for help. Dedicating our Christmas Eve offering to this fund helps supplement the church budget by supporting this account.

Again, this year, I challenge to you to consider making a donation to this fund as if it is a member of your family.

Many families generally have some idea of how much they plan to spend on gifts for each family member during the Christmas season. We might budget \$5.00 for each of our children and "the moon" for each grandchild.

I ask you to consider making our Good Samaritan Fund one of your children or grandchildren this year. You might even consider this fund that eccentric uncle that you don't talk about, but you know you must buy him something. Whatever you allot for that family member, would you consider giving that amount in our Christmas Eve offering?

We collected \$2,802.00 in this mission in 2016. As we are thinking about it a little earlier this year, I am sure we can collect a little more in 2017.

We will dedicate our offering at both our evening services on Christmas eve to this fund. If you are not able to attend either of these services, you may place it in the offering plate at any time as you clearly mark it "Christmas Eve." Or you may give through our electronic giving system and mark it "Christmas Eve".

When we purposefully think beyond ourselves and use creative ways to help the poor among us, we help take commercialism out of Christmas. I hope you are able to donate to your church this season.

Pastor Rick

November Sunday Sermon and Scripture Schedule

November 5 ~ Communion Sunday

Scripture ~ Romans 1:13-17

Sermon Title ~ *'Faith Doesn't Add Up'*

November 12 ~

Scripture ~ Romans 4:1-8

Sermon Title ~ *'Faith Does Add Up'*

November 19 ~

Scripture ~ Romans 6:15-23

Sermon Title ~ *'Working Class Guy'*

November 26 ~

Scripture ~ Matthew 7:24-27

Sermon Title ~ *'Wise Builders'*



Worship News

Michelle Mishlove & Charlene Grant, Co-chairs

Sunday, November 5 Daylight Savings Time Ends!

Please remember to change your clocks. FALL BACK!!

Food Collection Has Been Moved

For the last few years we have thanked God for our many blessings with a food collection on the Sunday before Thanksgiving. Pastor Rick and the Worship Committee have decided to move this outreach to the Lenten season 2018. We look forward to gathering food items to support our local food pantries at a time when they are in greater need of donations. Please stay tuned for more details in the coming year.

Decorating the Building! Many Hands Needed

All are welcome to join us as we prepare for the season of Advent.

Please join us on Wednesday, November 29, at 9 AM.

Poinsettia Orders

Please help us brighten the sanctuary with these festive plants! Look for an ordering envelope in your bulletin on Sunday, Nov. 26, Dec. 3 and Dec. 10. Cost is \$10 per plant. The deadline to order is Sunday, Dec. 10.



A NEW LOOK

The church year is marked with traditional colors adorning the altar area of our sanctuary--paraments. Thanks to memorial gifts, we have been able to order three new sets of paraments. Two sets (the green and the white) have been ordered and will arrive within a couple months. The Advent set has arrived and will be displayed this December. It is deep blue, with the theme, 'Prince of Peace'. The other sanctuary decorations will be adapted to compliment the new theme. Therefore, our beloved angels will be retired. The angels, along with the other decorations no longer being used, will be available to anyone who wishes to have them. Please talk to me if you are interested. The worship committee thanks those families who are remembering their loved ones with these lovely gifts.

Charlene Grant
Worship Co-Chair

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

9:15 a.m. Service

November 5:

Greeters: Bev Johnson, Barb Potter, Carol Olson, Marie Woolfolk, Martha Farney
Ushers: Lynn Bochart, Bob Savich, Elaine DeVine, Dennis Olson, Rick Bachman
Liturgist: Kathie Stoner **Children's Time:** Paige Van Wolde

November 12:

Greeters: Virginia Kasparian, Maryrose Lynch, Amy Nichols, Linda Snell
Ushers: Don Bales, Jack Foss, Sharon Sanders, Tom Stoner, Kathy Nelson
Liturgist: Becky Crabb **Children's Time:** Becky Crabb

November 19:

Greeters: Gisela Peterson, Phyllis Moser, Jenny Nichols, Carolyn Savich
Ushers: Charlie Haberlin, Wayne Wietbrock, Dave Perry, Darion Kidwell, Tom Brown
Liturgist: Paula Tilton **Children's Time:** Pastor Rick

November 26:

Greeters: Anita Childress, Nina Wilson, Sandy Villa, Dennis Olson
Ushers: Luan Brown, Gladys Weaver, Scott Spry, Ken Bisacchi, Bill Bubness
Liturgist: Lynn Bochart **Children's Time:** Kim Newlin

10:45 Worship Leaders:

November 5: Rachelle Bernard **November 12:** Kim McGinley
November 19: Susan Wells **November 26:** Al Martin

If you would like to join this group of volunteers,
please contact the church office at 696-9219.



Thursday BRD4Life (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 2 ~ Speaker: Scott Spry
Theme: *First Radio Broadcast in 1920*

Cook: Sharon Sanders

November 9 ~ Speaker: Al Martin
Theme: *Fall of Berlin Wall in 1989*

Cook: Tracy Seitzinger

November 16 ~ Speaker: Rick Bachman
Theme: *Great American Smokeout Day*

Cooks: **Everyone!** Pot-Luck

November 23 ~ Thanksgiving Day/No Bread for Life

November 30 ~ Speaker: Ellen Rosengard
Theme: Wellness Day

Cook: Kevin Corie



Finance Committee
Don Bales, Finance Chairperson

Stewardship 2017

Over the past few weeks our Stewardship campaign has been highlighting our 2018 giving patterns to our church. On October 15, we collected pledge cards as a part of this program. Sincerely, thank you to everyone that has been able to turn in their pledge card. Pledge commitments guide the Finance Committee in determining how to move forward with the next year's budget.

We also want to extend an attitude of gratitude to the weekly "Three-Minute Speakers", who graciously shared their faith journey as they determined their giving to God's church.

If you have not turned it in a pledge card, we ask that you return it as soon as possible so the Finance Committee can continue to evaluate and plan for the future of our church.

Budget 2018

As the Finance Committee looks over the current totals that have been turned in so far, it seems that we may be able to maintain our church where we are. But, we need to ask ourselves if that is OK with us. Or, are we serious in our mission to grow our church with a goal of becoming an even better church in the future.

God wants us to give because it shows that we recognize he is truly the Lord of our lives. The practice of tithing provides a regular reminder of our dependence on God. In good times, tithing helps to remember that God is the source of all blessings, and it allows you to demonstrate your gratitude for His care. In hard times, tithing motivates us to remember God's faithfulness, and it enables you to demonstrate trust in God to provide all needs.

Giving is an expression of our thankfulness and praise to God. It comes from a heart of worship that recognizes that everything we give already belongs to the Lord.

As you prayerfully consider or even reconsider your pledge, the Finance Committee would like to challenge each of you to stretch your giving just a little with a vision of surpassing and not just maintaining the ministries of our church. Even greater things can happen when we all work together toward this goal.

Giving is meant to be a joyful expression of thanks to God from the heart. The value of our offering is not determined by how much we give, but how we give.



Gift Cards for Christmas

From the Finance Committee

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 4 and December 11.

Cards are usually available to be picked up on the Thursday following the order date. Happy shopping!



It's Christmas Clothesline Time!

From the Missions Committee

The Christmas Clothesline, a long-time tradition in our church, will be hanging in the Narthex beginning Sunday, November 13. The cards hanging on the Clothesline represent children from local families with financial needs. These children attend Lowell elementary schools, and some cards represent their 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 each child in the family is 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, you are certainly welcome to take another card and share your generosity with more than one child.

*** Return the unwrapped items you purchase in a brown paper 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!!

*** **Clothesline gifts must be returned on or before Friday, Dec. 8.** Please honor this deadline so sorting and delivery can be completed in time to meet the schools' delivery deadline.

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. Donations of less than \$50 are also welcome. We can put those toward a child and go shopping when donations combine to a \$50 amount.

Thank you in advance for helping God's church make a difference for local families this Christmas.



Operation Christmas Shoebox ~ Samaritan's Purse Mission

Ethel Devine is still accepting shoeboxes. Delivery dates for the shoeboxes are November 13-20. Please contact Ethel at 616-6676 with any questions.



CONGREGATIONAL CARE

The Congregational Care Committee will again be remembering our shut-ins this holiday season with breads and Christmas cards. If you can bake a small loaf of bread or help with the delivery, please call Paula Tilton at 696-0832.

We will bring the breads to the church. Wrapping and cards will be there with the names of those to receive them. You will be informed of the date and time for meeting. Delivery can be made at your convenience.



VETERAN RECOGNITION



We will be honoring our veterans at the 9:15 service on Sunday, November 12, 2017. **Each veteran is asked to wear his/her dog tags** to let others know of his/her service. Others may wear the dog tags of a loved one to display pride and gratitude for his/her service. (If you don't have tags from someone you love, there are web sites where you can order replacements.) Boutonnieres will be passed out to veterans before the service as well.

Members of the congregation are invited to enjoy conversation and cake with veterans in the library following the 9:15 service.

We encourage those new to our church who are veterans to contact Laura Hutchison (696-0321) so our list of veterans is accurate.

Lowell High School Theater presents Anne of Green Gables

As colorful, autumn leaves dot the countryside, it is time once again for the fall play at Lowell High School. Anne of Green Gables by Sylvia Ashby is based on the internationally best-selling novel written by L. M. Montgomery. Perhaps you have seen the Emmy Award winning mini-series on television. The story is about the enchanting life of the imaginative and fiery-tempered orphan, Anne Shirley. This wholesome tale takes place in a world where things were much simpler in the early 1900's. The setting is the Cuthbert farm in Avonlea, on Prince Edward Island, in Canada. As the plot unfolds, Anne is given the chance to be wanted, to thrive and grow and not have her spirit corrupted by the harshness of reality. Even prayer is introduced into her life.

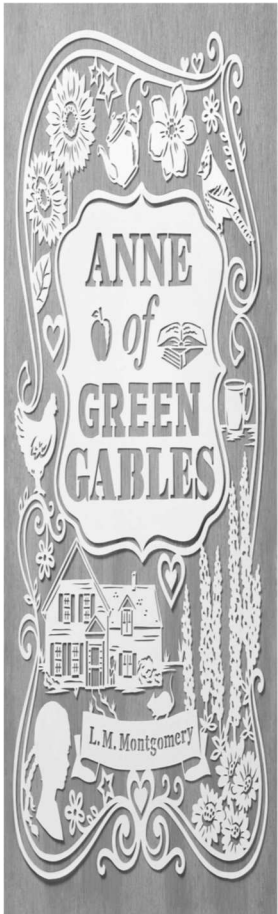
Anne of Green Gables seems to capture all that is wonderful and real about the human condition in such a relatable and endearing way.

One hundred students, including both cast and crew, are working to make this production their own. A member of our church, Kristen Newlin, has a starring role, as Anne's passionate and dramatic schoolmate. She creatively brings humor and emotion to the stage. We are grateful to Kim Newlin, serving as our Parent Liaison, and all the bakers of our congregation that are contributing goods for our intermission concession stand.

The first show is Thursday, November 9, at 9:00 a.m., followed by Friday evening Nov. 10 at 7:00 p.m. Saturday, November 11, offers a matinee at 1:00 p.m. and a closing evening performance at 7:00 p.m. Ticket prices are \$5 each for a group, \$6 for Seniors and Students and \$8 for Adults. Tickets can be purchased at the door.

Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to see good literature brought to life on stage!

Patrice Martin, Director



Ladies United in Missions Circle

Our annual rummage sale will be held on Saturday, November 25, from 8 a.m. until 3 p.m. in the church basement. If you have any items that you would like to donate to this cause, please take them to room 303 on the top floor of the church. Place your donated items at the north end of the room by the ping pong and pool tables. ****No clothing please.** If you need help with your donations, please contact Rachelle Bernard at 743-2136.


Also, we will sell hot chocolate during the Parade of Lights on November 25, from 5-7 p.m. These activities support our missions. As always, thank you for all of your support.

WEEKLY EVENTS

Sunday - *Worship* ~ 9:15 and 10:45 (Sanct.) *Adult Sun. School* ~ WINGS, 8 a.m. (rm. 300), F.O.M., 10:30 a.m. (rm. 301), FRIENDS, 10:30 a.m. (rm.304) *Children's Sunday School* (during 9:15 service)
Monday - A/A 12 p.m. (rm. 300)
Tuesday - Household Pantry 9-12 and 5-6 (1st and 3rd Tuesday), Guitar 6 p.m. (rm. 300)
Wednesday - Weight Watchers 6 p.m. (rm. 300), Praise Practice 7 p.m. (Sanctuary), A/A - 8 p.m. (basement), Al/Anon - 8 p.m. (library)
Thursday - *BRD4life* dinner 5:30 p.m., Worship 6:15 p.m. (Fellowship Hall), Godsbells 4:30 p.m. (balcony), Chancel Choir 7 p.m. (Sanctuary)

November 2017

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

			1 <i>Full: Bible Study</i> 10:30 (library)	2 Cub Scouts 6pm (300 &303)	3 Alpha/Barbara Circle 1pm (library)	4
5 	6 Staff/Parish 6pm Tri-Kappa 6pm (basement)	7 <i>Basics Bible Study</i> 6pm (301) <i>Slaying Giants</i> 7pm (300)	8 <i>Full: Bible Study</i> 10:30 (library)	9 Naomi Circle 1:30 p.m. (library)	10 Movie Night 'The Encounter' 6 p.m. (basement)	11 Veteran's Day
12 Veteran's Day Recognition	13 Susanna Wesley Circle 7pm (library)	14 <i>Basics Bible Study</i> 6pm (301) <i>Slaying Giants</i> 7pm (300) Trustees 6:30pm Missions 7pm (library)	15 <i>Full: Bible Study</i> 10:30 (library)	16 UMW Exec. Mtg. 1pm (library) Cub Scouts 6pm (300 &303)	17	18
19 Charge Conference @ Crown Point UMC 4 p.m.	20	21 <i>Basics Bible Study</i> 6pm (301) <i>Slaying Giants</i> 7pm (300)	22 Finance 5:30 p.m.	23 Thanksgiving Day/Office Closed	24 Office Closed	25 LUMC Rummage Sale 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Hot Chocolate Sale 5-7 p.m.
26	27 Administrative Council 6:30 p.m. (basement)	28 Alzheimer Support Group 6pm (library)	29 Decorate for Christmas 9am	30		