

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

On May 25, 2020 George Floyd died while being arrested by Minneapolis police officers. This event has sparked off a nationwide (and even worldwide) protest over racist attitudes. Some protests have been peaceful but many have devolved into anarchy, rioting, looting, and acts of arson. Whole city blocks have been overtaken for days and weeks, and voices across the country are calling for the defunding of police departments. As always, these examples of the racial tension currently present are being politicized. All are asked to have a conversation on our personal racial attitudes.

Beginning, Thursday, October 8 we will use our Bread For Life time at 6:15 to do a six weeks study/conversation about race. We will use a recommended book, Anxious to Talk About It, by Carolyn B. Helsel.

Our topics will be:

- 1) The Way We Think about Race.
- 2) Feeling White.
- 3) Mapping Racial Identity Development.
- 4) Listening to Different Stories about Race.
- 5) Expressing Gratitude.
- 6) Spiritual Practices for Race Talk.

This will be a safe place to discuss a highly contentious issue. We are all at different places in our understanding of race. No opinion will be labeled or rejected. Our goal is to grow together and examine our own attitudes and prejudices. Each week of the study will be relatively independent of the others, so if you know you will miss one week, plan on coming to the rest.

Again, this will be during Bread For Life at 6:15 pm on Thursday Nights beginning October 8. Come prepared to share and to listen to the hearts of others. Be praying for the racial tension in our country and around the world as we approach this important study.



## **World Communion Sunday**

Sunday, October 4 is World Communion Sunday. On this one day of the year, Christians from most denominations across the globe kneel down to receive the Communion elements. We will share in Communion this day with sealed elements at the 8:00 am service in the park and the 10:30 service in the sanctuary. For the online worship have a small amount of bread and a small drink of juice available ahead of the service.

## October Sermon and Scripture Schedule

### **October 4 ~ World Communion Sunday**

Scripture ~ Zechariah 9:9-10

Sermon Title ~ *'The King is Coming'*

### **October 11 ~**

Scripture ~ Malachi 3:8-10

Sermon Title ~ *'Test the Lord'*

### **October 18 ~**

Scripture ~ Matthew 22:15-22

Sermon Title ~ *'Giving to Whom It is Owed'*

### **October 25 ~**

Scripture ~ Matthew 22:34-40

Sermon Title ~ *'The Greatest Command'*



### **Worship News**

Trudy Corning & Linda Hayden, Co-Chairs

It is great to gather together again to worship in the church! We are blessed to have so many options to worship our Lord and Savior.

Recently Pastor Mark dedicated the Christ Candle and book stand, which holds a historic Bible on the altar. We will enjoy both when we come together to worship. In addition, we have cloth bookmarks for our Bible which match the paraments.

Thank you to Patrice Martin who coordinated the purchase of the Christ candle, and thank you to Linda Hayden and Paige Corning for their skill and expertise in assembling and embroidering the Bible bookmarks.

### **8:00 Service Reminder**

Weather permitting, the 8:00 service will continue to be held at Evergreen Park on Oct. 4 and 11. Beginning Oct. 18 the 8:00 service will be held in the Fellowship Hall, with social distancing and face masks required.



### **Music Notes**

Michelle Mishlove, Music Chair



I have good news to share! We are slowly starting to see the return of our music groups to the sanctuary! This month both the Praise Team and the Sonshine Singers will resume on a regular basis. You can hear the Praise Team on the 1st Sunday of each month at the 10:30 service. And you can look forward to hearing the Sonshine Singers on the 3rd Sunday of each month, also at the 10:30 service.

We are also making plans for the return of GodsBells and the Chancel Choir! I will share more in the coming months.

Psalm 104:3 *As long as I live, I will sing and praise you, the Lord God.*



**October is Pastor Appreciation Month**

October is Pastor Appreciation Month and we will be celebrating Pastor Mark on October 11 during both services. When researching the definition of “appreciation” Merriam Webster says it is “the recognition and enjoyment of the good qualities of someone.” So, what can you do to celebrate and recognize Pastor Mark this month? 2020 has been an unusual and difficult year. Let’s take some time this month to show how much we appreciate having Pastor Mark as our “shepherd” during this time.

Thank you from the Staff Parish Relations Committee



**COVID Safety Procedures Continue**

The FUMC plan for keeping our congregation safe as we returned to in-person worship was sent out to the entire church family in August. Our safety practices also appeared in the Sept. Tele-Christian. Those practices are still in place. Pastor Mark and members of our church leadership are continuing to monitor statistics in Lake County and locally, and are staying informed of CDC and state guidelines. Our main concern continues to be making FUMC a safe place for ALL of our church family while the pandemic continues. If/when any changes are made to our safety procedures, you will be informed of those changes in multiple ways... in announcements, emails, and the newsletter.

Currently Pastor Mark and the leadership have made a blanket rule that no food is to be served in the church. This includes funeral dinners, Martha’s Coffee House, Bread 4 Life dinners, parties or showers and circle meetings. Individuals are allowed to bring their own beverage in a container with a secure lid. Social distancing determines the number of people that can safely gather in any of our building spaces. Groups are assigned a room to use based on the number of participants in the group. The Fellowship Hall limit has been set at 20 persons for non-worship activities. The exception to this will be for the 8:00 service beginning Oct. 18. Since family units can sit together we hope to be able to accommodate 30 +/- safely for that service. We appreciate your understanding of our efforts to keep our church family as safe as possible at all times and in all areas of our building.

## **Giving Moments --- What Your Giving Makes Possible**

In the recent weeks members of various church committees have been sharing “Giving Moments” by video that tell the story of a committee’s ministry, programs, work and outreach. We are learning what FUMC has accomplished BECAUSE YOU GIVE. Here are the most recent “Giving Moments”.

### **From Julie Donovan for the Household Pantry**

Our Household Pantry team is 20 compassionate servants with varied and multiple talents, whose hearts lie in serving those in our community who need assistance. Each month our families are able to come into a warm, welcoming atmosphere to get the much-needed products. But sometimes they need our listening ears and prayers, so we do our best to serve these needs. We are humbled to be able to serve these families.

Because you give...

We can provide families with 12 products each month, provide comfort to hurting people, and provide diapers to struggling mothers.

We are planning to add additional products such as toothbrushes and hair conditioner.

We hope to continue serving those with needs in our community by providing basic products for many years to come. Even when our church was closed, we continued the household pantry curbside.

We would like to thank you for your continued support of our pantry! How fortunate we are to have such generous people in our church family. Thank you very much from the bottom of our hearts.

### **From Susan Wells for the Missions Committee**

Because you give...we support UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief), which is an international humanitarian disaster relief mission specific to the United Methodist Church. 100% of every dollar given supports this mission.

Because you give...we established the Good Samaritan Fund, which helps people in our area who need help with gas, utilities, and rent. It also occasionally helps people passing through town with gas or food vouchers.

Because you give...we support Mommy’s Haven in Lowell, which offers single pregnant women, with no means of support, the opportunity to choose life for their unborn baby, while they decide to parent or adopt.

Because you give...we support Kokomo Urban Outreach, a mission established by our own former Pastor Jeff Newton, which helps young people transition into adulthood with the necessary life skills to be successful.

Because you give...we support Africa University, Habitat for Humanity and Rebuilding Together, which helps people in need with home improvement projects.

Some of our missions happen around Christmas time. The Christmas Clothesline helps families and children in our Tri-Creek area with gifts of clothing, necessities, and toys. We support Samaritan’s Purse international mission “Operation Christmas Child” by filling shoe boxes with school and art supplies, personal and hygiene items, and small fun items.

Because you give...we are able to support missions for our Lowell community, our national community and our world community with the love of Jesus Christ.

### **From Carol Goodrich for the Outreach Committee**

Because you give, Outreach is able to host our continental breakfast during the Labor Day Parade. We offer coffee, juice, milk and muffins. We serve a lot of hungry people on this day!

Because you give, Outreach hosts a Family and Friends afternoon at Buckley Homestead. Hot dogs, s'mores, music, hayrides, a campfire and fellowship is what can be expected at this event. We mustn't forget the bees that like to visit as well!

Because you give, Outreach is able to host an Evening of Trivia, along with a plated meal served to you. It is a wonderful evening. All proceeds from this event help our Household Pantry.

Because you give, Outreach offers a Kidz Karnival in the summer. Horseback riding, jump houses, Art in the Park, carnival games, bingo, food, drinks, prizes, the fire dept., police dept. and DNR are also at this event. We serve over 500 kids and parents at this event.

Because you give, our church is now the proud owner of a community playground. Leaps and Bounds preschool is loving every minute of it! You may also see families from the community and our own church family stopping by to swing on a swing or slide down a slide.

Some of Outreach's events take a village to help run. We are very grateful that you give your gift of time whenever we are in need. We would not be able to reach out to our community without your gifts of prayers, time and tithe. Thank you all for your continued support.

### **From Sharon Sanders for the Board of Trustees**

This group of people volunteer their time and labor to oversee the safety, planning and maintenance of the church's property. This group not only oversees the church and its grounds, but also the parsonage and the rental property. Our budget not only pays the electric, heat and air conditioning bills for the church and parsonage, but also pays the taxes and upkeep on all three properties.

*BECAUSE YOU GIVE:* The church obtained a new roof, our sanctuary was cleared of the falling plaster and completely repainted, a new sound system and computer for podcast was added, our beautiful stained glass windows were repaired with new coverings. Rooms throughout the church have been repainted. The Fellowship Hall got new chairs. The parsonage had a new garage door installed with a new cement garage apron and front sidewalk. The rental garage had its sagging building supported, repaired and repainted. The roofs of the rental home and garage were replaced. We are now in the process of getting new gutters, downspouts, and a new front storm door for the rental home.

*BECAUSE YOU GIVE:* The safety inspections of our church for the elevator, fire alarms, water intake are done, and repairs are completed if needed. The electric, heat, taxes, telephone, internet, and fire and security alarms are paid for each month. The church grounds are maintained, and beautiful flowers are planted every year. The outside brick is tuck pointed and sealed as needed. The toilets and drains are kept functioning. The doors are kept sealed properly. A playground has been built for the children. The snow is removed in the winter. Six hand sanitizers have been purchased and mounted throughout the church for your safety. The list goes on and on. Why is this done and why do the trustees volunteer their time and labor? Because this is God's house...a place where we come to worship our magnificent God and our savior Jesus Christ, and a place of gathering to share His word and to support each other as needed.

*BECAUSE YOU GIVE:* All these things will be continued and maintained, but it costs a large amount of money to do this. In the future we will need a new furnace to replace our incredibly old boiler. We have dreams of expanding our parking lot. Our dreams are endless. But they will come true because of God's blessings and because you give.

**From Tom Stoner for the Adult Education Committee**

Each year when you give so freely of your tithes and offerings you help fund the different opportunities we have for adult education. We have three different adult Sunday School classes that offer different Bible Studies throughout the year. Retreats and Disciple Bible Studies are subsidized through your giving.

On a personal note, I have been in different adult classes, but I will always remember my time going through the Disciple Bible Study. Kathie and I both did it when we offered all four of the classes. I feel like we grew so much spiritually during that time. I have even had the opportunity to lead a class of adults through Disciple 1. I feel as though I may have learned as much, if not more, during that time than the participants did.

Adult Education may be a small percentage of what your offerings support: however, to those that lead and learn because of it, it is huge.

Thank you and God bless you all!



**Faithful Giving**

What do the following all have in common? Household Pantry... Good Samaritan... Resale Shop... Kokomo Urban Outreach... Mommy's Haven... Caring Ministry... Vacation Bible School

Each is one of the many ministries to which our church family gives. We have been sharing all those ministries through this past year's "Giving Moments." We told "Our Story." All this is shared without our church family being focused on a church budget.

Thank you! People don't give to budgets. People give because they have set aside "the moments" where the spiritual discipline of giving - which is tied to our love, relationship, and commitment to God - becomes our "moment" to transform the world into the image of God.

So, the question isn't "What is in the budget?" It is "What picture do people imagine when they think of our church? What story can WE point toward that reminds us how God is working?"

*Our most gracious and heavenly Father, Thank you for guiding and encouraging our people, those of the Lowell United Methodist Church, to faithfully give to your story.*

Finance Committee



**A message from the Finance Committee...**

**Are you over 70 ½? Do you have a traditional IRA?**

*You can do non-taxable distributions from your IRA, save federal and state income taxes and contribute to your church...ALL at the same time!!!*

There are specific guidelines to follow, so when you see your tax preparer/accountant this year to file your taxes discuss the items listed below:

What is my RMD (Required Minimum Distribution)?

How can I gift my RMD and/or more to my church?

How can I send monthly tax-free withdrawals to my church?

How does it save federal and state income taxes?

How can I prepare for my 2020/2021 taxes?

You can also discuss the procedures to follow with your investment counselor or IRA custodian.



## MINISTRY IN ACTION

News from the Missions Committee

### **Christmas Shoe Boxes Coming in October!**

Even as the entire world is experiencing the Covid-19 pandemic, Samaritan's Purse International Relief will still be flying shoe boxes to children in underdeveloped countries through their annual **Operation Christmas Child** ministry. This year is the perfect year to let children know that Jesus loves them and will never leave them, especially in a pandemic! These children need JOY more than ever. Here at FUMC we will be collecting filled shoe boxes and monetary donations for three weeks from October 4-25.

On October 4 the shoe boxes will be available in the church for you to take home. Inside each shoe box you will find all the information and materials you need to participate: directions on what to purchase and what NOT to pack (please follow these guidelines!), labels to direct your box to a boy or girl of a certain age, and an envelope for the \$9.00 donation to cover the shipping cost. We encourage you to participate any way you can! If you cannot go out shopping, a \$25 donation could cover the cost of filling a box and providing postage. A donation of \$9 to cover postage of a box will be helpful. The children receiving these boxes are not as privileged as we are. They get excited over socks, hats, sun glasses, dresses, baseballs, music toys, etc. Young children have been your favorites to fill boxes for in the past. We challenge you to consider filling a box for a boy/girl age 10-14. (Some suggestions are small tools, measuring tapes, nails in an empty prescription bottle, super hero dolls, shirts, caps, hair decorations, and material with needles, thread & scissors.) Be creative! We also encourage you to pay the \$9 postage online and get the label that allows you to track where your box goes. Go to the [samaritanaspurse.org](http://samaritanaspurse.org) website for details and even learn about contactless shoebox packing!

This ministry is not limited to our church family. Invite friends and neighbors to join you in reaching out to children around the world. For more information contact Ethel Devine at 219-616-6676 or Kathy Taylor at 219-712-8080.

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### **Household Pantry News**

Julie Donovan, Chairperson

We served 44 families curbside on September 14th! We have decided to continue holding the household pantry CURBSIDE for the remainder of 2020. The dates will be October 20, November 17 and December 15. The hours will remain 9 to 12 and 5 to 6.

Please pass the word! Stay healthy everyone!!



### **Card Shower for Pastor Rick Jones**



Pastor Rick is turning 60 on October 27!  
Cheryl would like to shower him with cards!

Their address is:  
2133 Heather Road  
Anderson, IN 46012



**The Nurses' Corner**  
Trudy Corning and Lauren Jansma

It is flu season. Don't forget to get your flu vaccine!

It is a myth that flu vaccines cause the flu. Flu vaccines can prevent the most prevalent flu of the season and, at the very least, lessen symptoms of the flu. Flu vaccine shots are available at any local drug store or call your primary care doctor.

Stay Safe! Stay Healthy!



**Volunteers Needed for Caring Ministries**

Congregational Care is looking for some individuals to assist with some of our caring ministries. We are in need of someone to send "Get Well" and "Thinking of You" cards to those who are ill, undergoing treatment, recovering from surgery or just dealing with a difficult time in their life. We also need someone to help us keep in touch with our members who are homebound and residing in care facilities. Both of these ministries can be done in the safety of your own home, involving primarily cards or occasional phone calls. Either of these ministries can be done by an individual or by a team of 2 or more. Please contact Ethel Devine at 219-616-6676 or Bev Kussy at 219-696-7045 for more information.



**Face Masks Are Still Required**

Face masks are a part of our daily life these days. Thanks to four of our ladies, we have homemade cloth face masks available on the table in our narthex for both adults and children. We thank Beth Bales, Nancy Lain, Kitty Peart and Cindy Maxey for sharing their gifts of sewing with us! These masks are available for anyone needing to replace a worn out mask, or just seeking a new 'look' in their face wear. A donation to the Good Samaritan Fund is suggested.





## 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.

I got so excited a few weeks ago. Number one, church started in the sanctuary again. I about fell out of my hole when I heard all those feet coming into the building. When I peeked out, everyone was wearing a mask and social distancing. It was so great to see things starting to get back to normal. Some of the committees and Sunday School classes that haven't met for six months have also started back. I've got to watch that my tail doesn't get stepped on.

I also noticed a commotion out in the yard. Mike Hayden, Garret Corning and Dan Eller were putting up the new swing set. The kids in the preschool and the kids in the neighborhood love it! I love seeing children on the church property.

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



"This church bulletin should be safe.  
I tried it on the crash test dummy."



"Never mind the colors. The only one thing they worry about is - does it make them look fat!"