

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

“Why do bad things happen to good people?”

Have questions about evil haunted you? Have you seen good people have to deal with ugly situations and wondered where God is? As we see evil unfold in our world, we often wonder where God is in all of this. Does He not see the evil in this world? Does He see it and He is unable to conquer it? Does He see it? He is able to act, but He doesn't care? Where is God in this evil?

We will host a guest speaker to discuss these types of questions.

On Sunday, October 7, we will host Doctor Michael Peterson, professor of Philosophy at Asbury Theological Seminary, Wilmore, KY. (Yes, he has told me numerous times to stop calling him “Doctor”. Some habits are hard to break.)

Doctor Peterson will lead both of our worship services on Sunday morning. He will also host a teaching session at 2:00 that afternoon. The title for the worship service is, “Where Is God When It Hurts?” In the afternoon his plans include, “Session 1: A Christian Understanding of Evil and Suffering. Session 2: The Problem of Suffering in the Book of Job”.

I am excited about the approach he will use to cover this topic for us.

“Why does evil come so naturally for us?”

I asked Doctor Peterson for a book suggestion that we could read before we meet him. He suggested we read through the Old Testament Book of Job. He reminds us to not get bogged down in the Jewish repetitive dialog, but to read through the book to see what the author says about evil. We should pay close attention to see how Job responds to the evil surrounding him.

I followed up by saying we would like to get to know him a little better through his writings. He pointed me toward his classic book, “Evil and The Christian God”. My copy is dated 1982 (ISBN 0-8010-7070-8). He said that there are updated versions of this book which are available from on-line book sellers.

I will admit, and he admitted that this writing - as well as most of his works - are focused on the academic community. He uses terms and arguments common in these arenas. He wanted us to be prepared before we jumped into the pages.

“Job replied, ‘Shall we accept good from God and not trouble?’” (Job 2:10, NIV).

There is no charge to attend any of these sessions. Come and learn with us. You may recall that, from money donated from his estate, we established The Tom Clawson Teaching Series. Our first in that series was last spring as we hosted a pair of guest speakers teaching on internet security and identity protection. This is the second installment of this series. We are in negotiations with the third session for next spring.

All of these teaching sessions are Tom Clawson's gift to us and to our community. They are free to attend. Come and learn about good and evil. Bring a friend who has questions about God's power and goodness. Bring a friend to these teaching sessions.

“Why do evil people prosper while good people suffer?”

Make plans to understand good and evil a little better from Doctor Peterson on October 7.

Pastor Rick

September Sunday Sermon and Scripture Schedule

September 2 ~ Communion Sunday

Scripture ~ John 21:1-17

Sermon Title ~ *'Do You Love Me?'*

September 9 ~

Scripture ~ 1 Peter 3:13-22

Sermon Title ~ *'Suffering Can Be Good'*

September 16 ~

Scripture ~ 1 Peter 4:1-11

Sermon Title ~ *'What Friends Might Say'*

September 23 ~

Scripture ~ 1 Peter 4:12-19

Sermon Title ~ *'What Enemies Might Do'*

September 30 ~ World Communion Sunday

Scripture ~ 1 Peter 5:1-13

Sermon Title ~ *'What Believers Might Expect'*



September Worship News

*"Come worship the LORD, for we are His people,
The flock that He shepherds."*

(From a Michael Card song based on Psalm 95)

When we gather for worship in September, there will be an opportunity to choose an early (8:00) time or a later (10:30) time. However the styles and hospitality of both services will remain the same. Our greeters, ushers, and acolytes can serve at either service. But, we will need additional help to keep our hospitality strong. Please consider serving our flock as a greeter, as an usher, or as an acolyte at either the 8:00 or the 10:30 service one Sunday a month. Make a note on the card we fill out Sunday mornings, or call or email me. Also, please feel free to hand out cookies to visitors. The cookie plates are stored in the small upright freezer in the library.

We really appreciate the men's group who handled setting up for the summer park service. They are a dedicated group!

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 September:

- Sept 2:** Greeters: Bev Johnson, Carol Olson, Marie Woolfolk, Martha Farney, Amy Nichols
Ushers: Lynn Bochart, Elaine DeVine, Dennis Olson
Liturgist: 8:00: Rick Bachman 10:30: Rick Bachman
Children's Time: Paige Corning
- Sept 9:** Greeters: Linda Snell, Maryrose Lynch, Darion Kidwell, Jackie Mansfield
Ushers: Don Bales, Sharon Sanders, Tom Stoner
Liturgist: 8:00: Lynne Haberlin 10:30: Becky Crabb
Children's Time:
- Sept 16:** Greeters: Kathy Nelson, Gisela Peterson, Jenny Nichols, Phyllis Moser
Ushers: Charlie Haberlin, David Perry, Dennis Olson
Liturgist: 8:00: Cheryl Jones 10:30: Ellen Rosengard
Children's Time:
- Sept 23:** Greeters: Anita Childress, Amy Nichols, Sandy Villa, Nina Wilson, Dennis Olson
Ushers: Luan Brown, David Perry, Scott Beier
Liturgist: 8:00: Deb Kelley 10:30: Bev Kussy
Children's Time:
- Sept 30:** 8 & 10:30 Greeters/Ushers: United Methodist Women
Liturgist: 8:00: Don Bales 10:30: Rachelle Bernard
Children's Time:



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!

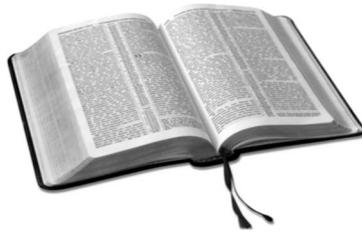
Below are the speakers, themes, and cooks for the month of **September**:

Sept 6 ~ Speaker: Susan Wells Cook: Cheryl Jones & Susan Wells
Theme: *'National Mushroom Month'*

Sept 13 ~ Speaker: Pastor Rick Cook: TBA
Theme: *'Library Card Sign Up Month'*

Sept 20 ~ Speaker: Dee Dee Benshoof Cook: Susan Wells
Theme: *'International Peace Day'*

Sept 27 ~ Speaker: Ellen Rosengard Cook: Cheryl Jones
Theme: *'National Bake & Decorate Month'*



Sunday School for All Ages: Where to be on September 9 @ 9:15

LOWER LEVEL (basement)

Children ages 4 – Grade 5 Meet with Paige Corning and her teaching team in 2 classrooms -- one for ages 4-Grade 2, one for Grades 3-5 for the exciting new 'DIG IN' program. Children's classes will last for one hour from 9:15-10:15.

In addition, following the children's sermon in the 10:30 service, children will go downstairs for singing and Bible stories while their parents continue to worship in the sanctuary.

TOP FLOOR (third floor)

Youth in Grades 6 – 12 Meet with Cheryl Jones in room 303 for *Face Time* to share the concerns and joys you have had during the week and talk about how God can work in any situation.

Adults of all ages Choose one of the short-term studies being offered. You do not have to 'join' a class. You may rotate between groups throughout the year to participate in the studies that interest you. Adult classes will last for 45 minutes, from 9:15-10:00.

Room 300 Join Al Martin for a six-week DVD study called "The Forgiveness of Jesus". Presented by six Biblical experts you will meet six people that Jesus met and set free and gain a deeper understanding of the reason Jesus sacrificed his life on the cross

Room 301 Join in studying the Book of Esther in the Bible study led David Schoon.

Room 304 Join Don Bales for a study by Max Lucado called "Finding Calm in a Chaotic World". Take a close look at seven admonitions from the Apostle Paul in Philippians 4:4-8 that lead to one wonderful promise: The peace of God which surpasses all understanding.

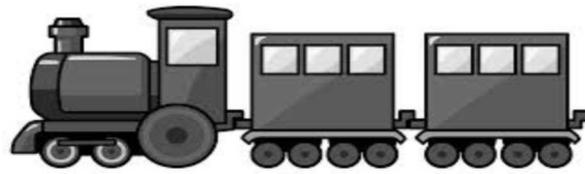
SANCTUARY LEVEL (second floor)

Infants and Toddlers Age 1-3 Our youngest will be cared for in the Nursery while their parents attend an adult study group or assist with the children's or youth classes.

Martha's Coffee House Our library will be open with coffee, hot water for tea, lemonade and baked treats from the time the 8:00 service ends (approximately 9:00) until the start of the 10:30 service. Volunteers will host this time of fellowship. You may sign up in the library on Sunday mornings.

For those needing a cup of coffee prior to the 8:00 service, the (Keurig) Café at the south end of the lower level (Fellowship Hall) is always available.

So... where will you and your family be at 9:15?



SONShine Express

The school year has started, and we are following close behind. I am very excited for the new academic year to start and for Sunday school to begin. This year we have some changes starting with a new curriculum. The curriculum the Children’s Council chose is DIG IN by Group. It is a hands-on curriculum that provides the kids with multiple avenues to learn more about our faith. The children will be learning about the Bible in one year through Bible lessons, crafts, high energy games, low energy games, object lessons, music videos, talk-about videos, and deeper Bible points. DIG IN is developed for both of our age groups to help them at their developmental level. As well as the curriculum changing, we also have a few changes to the rooms. We have had two flat screen TV’s donated that are mounted to the walls. This allows for more room in the classrooms for activities. In the early elementary classroom, we have a new word collage sticker on the back wall of the classroom. In the older elementary classroom, the office/storage room is currently still being worked on and will be finished by the start of Sunday school. Please feel free to go down into the rooms and see the changes for this year.

As the church goes through the change in times and developments, I am grateful that the children will now have a complete hour to be able to learn more about our faith in Jesus Christ. We are blessed with many volunteers this year who will be teaching in the two classrooms. I am excited for these changes and the impact that they will have in the children’s lives. In addition to the Sunday school hour from 9:15am-10:15am, starting September 9, we also will be having SONShine Singers during the 10:30am church service for all the children. If you have any questions, or want to know more or how to volunteer in our Children’s Program, please feel free to stop me at church on Sundays or email me at paigevw2017@gmail.com.

Paige Corning, Children’s Director



Face Time Revived!

Calling all youth, grades 6-12!!

Did you have a bad week at school? Did you break up with your boyfriend or girlfriend?
Did you have a disagreement with your best friend? Does life just seem too hard?

Come to Face Time each Sunday at 9:15 in the youth room at
First United Methodist Church beginning September 9.

We will talk about our week and the struggles and joys we have had.
We will talk about how God is working or can work in the situation.
Come enjoy fellowship with others that deal with the same issues.

Hope to see you there!!
Cheryl Jones



Stewardship

By Tom Stoner

The kiddos are back in school. The chill of autumn will soon be back in the air again. The fields will soon be harvested, and we will soon be freed from all signs of summer.

As 2018 begins its final descent toward the New Year, it is time to begin thinking about your giving plan to your church in 2019.

For almost 100 years we have laughed as friends. We have learned as faithful students. We have gone out as obedient servants. We have shared and pulled together as family. We have hosted countless worship services, weddings, funerals, baptisms, classes, meals, bridal showers and sessions of VBS. We have seen talent shows while discovering and enriching our talents to God's glory. We have seen members go on to lead congregations of their own. We have seen youth grow up in our church and then raise their families here. In short, we have been the church to you, your friends, your family and your neighbors.

It is time to build upon this history as we look into the future. What new ministry opportunities will arise in 2019? How will current ministries grow? How will our history shape our future? How will we reach out to those in our community?

While we may not know what the future holds for each of us and for our church, we can be certain that God sees the future, and He is calling us to faithful ministry for that future.

We are also certain that we can only build upon our history as we all faithfully give to our church. It is through our commitment and sacrifice that this church will be faithful in her calling.

How will each of us plan to express our faith through our service to our church? How will we actively participate in our worship services? How will we share our gifts with the ministries of our church?

We hope that you will give at least 10% of your income to the General Budget of our church. This will fund the ministries of the church. We hope that you will give an additional amount toward our Capital Project Fund. This will fund the building and maintenance items we have deferred through the years.

In late September you will receive a letter in the mail from your Stewardship committee. In that letter will be a commitment card asking about your plan for giving to your church in 2019. These cards will be returned during one of our worship services on Sunday, October 14, or Thursday, October 17.

As summer transitions into September, begin to dream about new ways you can push your spiritual limits. As October begins to unfold, dream about creative ways you can give to our church to God's glory.

The 'Nurse Is In'

Keeping tabs on your blood pressure? With the new worship schedule in effect, the nurse will be available from 9-9:15 and also from 10-10:30 on the first Sunday of the month to check blood pressures. Look for the nurse in the office area.



PICTORIAL DIRECTORY

from Cheryl Jones

It's been said a picture is worth a thousand words, and what a true statement. People come and go in our lives, but we can always hold on to the memory of that time through a picture.

It's been 10 years since the last pictorial directory at this church. Families have changed greatly in that time.

Lifetouch will be here in our building Tuesday, September 18, through Saturday, September 22. From Tuesday through Friday pictures will be taken 2:00-8:30 pm. On Saturday, pictures will be taken 10:00 am-4:00 pm. They will be taking pictures of you and your family. You will receive a free 8 x 10. Of course they will try to sell you other pictures, but please don't let that detour you from having your picture taken. The purpose of the directory is to bring us, the church, closer together as a family. If you see someone you don't know on a Sunday morning, you can pull out your handy directory and put a name to the face.

It is easy to sign up. You can go directly to the church website or Facebook page and click on the link that we have posted. The link will take you to the page where you can choose the date and time for your family to be photographed. You can also sign up at church on Sunday, September 9 and 16. If all of this is too confusing, please call the church office and have Kim sign you up.

Please come and have your picture taken for this project. Pictures are priceless.

Project brought to you by the United Methodist Women.



Add YOUR Voice to the Chancel Choir!!!

Our Chancel Choir welcomes new members to our new season starting Thursday, August 30. If you love to sing you will enjoy making music with this wonderful group of people! Weekly rehearsals are held in the sanctuary on Thursday evenings starting at 7 pm. Want to learn more? All of these are "open" rehearsals, so you are welcome to come to watch and listen at any time. When you are ready to commit, please contact Michelle Mishlove (219-718-9393) to set up a very brief "voice placement" interview.



You are important to the Lakota people!

Our team is known as “the blanket people” to the White River United Methodist Church on the Rosebud Indian Reservation in South Dakota. When it was announced we were coming, the Lakota asked “is that the blanket people?” One foster mom took home 7 blankets with her 7 children and most had made blankets last year, still enjoying them. After making his blanket, one little boy played, hiding under his blanket with a team member. Some children made extras to take home to parents and siblings. We had enough for children who had not come the first day to make a blanket on the second day. Then 3 finished blankets and 3 or 4 unfinished ones went to the White River Nursing Home for our team to help the residents finish for themselves. These blankets are possible because **you** donated blanket materials, money for blankets, and your time to get the blankets started.

The creativity in decorating their pillows was wonderful again this year; and stuffing them with already made inner pillows was so much easier! The children and adults knew the help we had before we came because they didn't have to sew their pillows shut. **You** were important that day!

Even though we changed our Kid's Club time (due to scheduling conflict) to a more unpopular morning time, the children were still glad to come and participate. Most of the children had come in previous years so it was good to continue to build relationships.

The director of Tree of Life, Linda Garriott, was very glad to receive the generous check from UMW! This is money that many of **you** have helped make possible.

Because the director saw me sewing, she asked me to teach three young ladies how to sew. They were work release from the local jail during the day and being taught skills they could use at other times. The director even had sewing machines to give to each of them. They made an apron and 2 potholders and were working on pow-wow shawls. What a pleasure to work with them and get to know them! Because **you** were praying, God was especially near many times! So whether you bought blanket kits, helped prepare blankets and/or pillows, donated money, and/or prayed, realize that **you are important** to the Lakota people!

Thank you!
Becky Crabb



Movie Night

Our next FREE movie night is Friday September 14, at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. We will be viewing the movie “Amazing Love”. You may carry in your supper or bring along a snack to share. Any questions, contact Darion Kidwell



Upper Room Devotionals

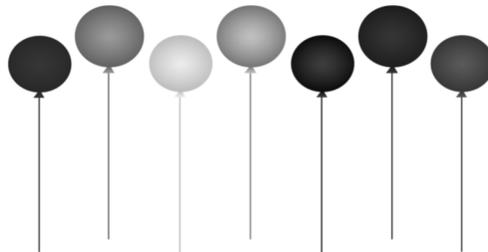
The September/October issues of The Upper Room are available on the cabinet in the Narthex. Both regular and large print editions of the devotional are available.



Open House
Join us to celebrate the 85th birthday of
Paula Tilton

First United Methodist Church
Saturday, September 15
1:30 pm - 4:00 pm

Paula requests no presents; your presence is gift enough!



IT'S A BIRTHDAY PARTY!!

Celebrate your birthday with the UMW!
Come enjoy an evening of food, fellowship, and entertainment!! The tables will be decorated by birthday month. Find out who shares your birthday month.

This event is free and everyone is welcome.

Monday, September 17 @ 6 PM
Fellowship Hall

RSVP: Cheryl 765-430-2965, Or
First United Methodist Church 219-696-9219

Entertainment provided by Christian Ventriloquist
Beth Cummins



THE LADIES UNITED IN MISSIONS CIRCLE
IS SPONSORING AN

***ITALIAN SUPPER CLUB
AND
DESSERT AUCTION***

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

5:30 - 7:30 PM

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO MISSIONS

DON'T FORGET TO BRING YOUR APPETITIES! CIAO!



You Can Be a Part of Congregational Care's 'Caring Ministry'

Would you enjoy calling on one of our shut-ins? Several of our members who are no longer able to attend worship services would really appreciate having a visit from one of our church family. This would brighten their day and give them something pleasant to think about for the week. It would make them feel reconnected with their church.

If you are interested in this ministry call Paula Tilton at 696-0832.

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)

September 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3 Labor Day/Office Closed	4	5 UMW Executive Meeting 4:30	6	7	8
9	10 Staff/Parish 6pm Tri-Kappa 6pm (basement) S. Wesley 7p (lib.)	11 Trustees 6:30p Missions 7p (library)	12	13	14 Movie Night 6pm 'Amazing Love' (basement)	15 Birthday Party
16	17 UMW Birthday Party 6pm (basement)	18 Pictures taken for directory	19 Pictures taken for directory	20 Pictures taken for directory	21 Pictures taken for directory Retreat at Donaldson	22 Pictures taken for directory Retreat at Donaldson
23	24 Administrative Council 6:30p	25	26	27	28	29 Italian Supper Club Dinner and Dessert Auction
30 World Communion Sunday						