

# The First United Methodist Church of Lowell

## Tele-Christian ~ September 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.....*

What do we need to do to live our faith? What should be different between a Christian and one who is lost? The New Testament has many suggestions on what we should be working on. Colossians 3 gives a list of "Rules for Holy Living." Listen to these verses. "Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator." Col. 3:5-10

Lists such as these can be daunting. It's easy to pick out those things that we definitely do not partake, and then slide over those areas that are a problem for us. It is also easy to not take these lists personally. It is much easier to use such lists as a weapon against others who are obviously failing in certain areas. Paul never says, "Make sure all around you are following these lists exactly!" No! What Paul is saying is continually evaluate your life and see how you are doing.

These kind of "Thou shall not" lists are difficult. It is hard for us to admit that we are dabbling in sin. I get angry, but at what point is it sinful? I have desire for things, but is it greed? Thou shall not laws can become oppressive to our spiritual life if it is all we focus on. We typically either go too far in beating ourselves up for our shortcomings or we don't go far enough, not seeing our sin in our life. That's why I like Paul. He normally adds some positive with the negative. A little sugar helps the medicine go down. Paul continues in Colossians 5:

"Therefore as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity."  
Colossians 5:12-14.

I can add some kindness to my life. I can forgive that woman who was rude to me. I can have patience with that slow checkout clerk at the store. It's much easier to add positive traits to your life and let them overcome the negative traits than to battle against the negative alone. Instead of saying, "I need to stop getting angry so easily." It is better to say, "Since I get angry so easily, I'm going to try to be kinder and more loving and forgive others more easily." The work is still there, but we can do it in a more positive vein. Read through the lists above. Where do you need to add some positive traits to overcome some of your negative ones?

*Pastor Mark*

## September Sermon and Scripture Schedule

### **September 6 ~ Communion Sunday**

Scripture ~ Habakkuk 1:1-4

Sermon Title ~ *'The Question of Judgement'*

### **September 13 ~**

Scripture ~ Zephaniah 3:14-17

Sermon Title ~ *'The King is With You'*

### **September 20 ~**

Scripture ~ Haggai 2:6-9

Sermon Title ~ *'The House of the Lord is a Place of Peace'*

### **September 27 ~ Al Martin speaker**

Scripture ~ Daniel 3:16-29

Sermon Title ~ *'Another in the Fire'*



## **Communion**

We will have our next Communion service on Sunday, September 6 at the park at 8:00 am and in the sanctuary at 10:30 am. We will have sealed Communion elements at a table to pick up as you arrive. For those worshipping online, have a small amount of bread and a small drink of juice available ahead of the service.



## **September Worship Opportunities**

*Choose the day & time to participate in-person or remain at home and worship virtually through our website. You have 4 opportunities each week!!*

**Sunday 8:00 am at Evergreen Park (thru Oct. 11)** – Bring your lawn chair, a face mask, and printed bulletin. In inclement weather the service will be cancelled.

**Sunday 10:30 am in the Sanctuary** – Wear your mask and enjoy being back in the sanctuary, although your favorite pew may closed due to social distancing...**be strong!**

**Thursday 6:15 pm in the Fellowship Hall** -- The Bread 4 Life service will include Communion each week but no meal will be served until further notice.

**Online @ your home** – visit our website at [www.lowellumc.org](http://www.lowellumc.org) and click on “Podcast”. Each week the sermon will be available on Sunday after the 10:30 service and all week.

*Outside? Inside? Upstairs? Downstairs? Church? Home?*

You choose!! We just want you to **Worship!!**



## OUR FUMC COVID SAFETY PROCEDURES

We know that no one in our church family would knowingly expose another person to Covid. Unfortunately one of the difficulties with this virus is that many people are positive, thus contagious, without having symptoms. Therefore, we ask that you adhere to our safety procedures each time you enter our building for worship, a meeting or any other reason. Together we can minimize, or even eliminate, the possible spread among our church family.

**STAY HOME** If you do not feel well, have been diagnosed with Covid, are waiting for Covid test results, or know you have been exposed to a positive person.

Everyone over the age of two is required to wear a face mask at all activities. We have a limited supply of disposable masks. We also have some homemade cloth masks available for a small donation to our Good Samaritan Fund.

You are required to sanitize your hands each time you enter the building.

Touchless dispensers are located by each entry, on the landings of the stairs down to the basement, in the narthex and in the Fellowship Hall. Pump bottles of sanitizer are available throughout the building.

You must practice social distancing of 6' in all areas of the building. Family units may sit together.

Refrain from shaking hands, elbow bumping, and hugging.

You are expected to sanitize the surfaces you have used after any church activity with provided disinfecting wipes.



## Music Notes

Michelle Mishlove, Music Chair

### Reminder to the Music Committee...

We will meet again on Wednesday, September 9 at 7:00 pm in the Wings Room upstairs. Please remember to wear a mask.

### Regarding Chancel Choir...

As long as a mask order is in place we have to abide by it which makes singing extremely difficult. We pray for the day when we can sing together again safely.

Special Thanks to all the talented musicians who have provided special music for the park services and the worship service recordings. Special thanks also to Paige Corning for her time and effort in making all the videos for on-line worship.

## ANNUAL CONFERENCE REPORT

### *DO NO HARM; DO GOOD; STAY IN LOVE WITH GOD*

For the first time in history, the Indiana Annual Conference was held primarily digitally on August 15, 2020. The abbreviated session covered “essential business” only.

#### **Plenary Session 1 Highlights**

The Rules and Structure document was amended and approved.

Two newly chartered churches were celebrated

Disciples Korean UMC (West Lafayette) – January 2020

Abundant Vida Nuevo UMC (Indianapolis) – December 2019

One of our Missional Offerings, Children Matter Most, was presented with a challenge for churches to make a difference in the lives of children.

Emerging Leaders reminded the Conference that every young person has a story worth listening to.

#### **Board of Pension and Health Benefits**

Wespath will cover 100% of COVID treatment through the end of 2020, even if deductible has not been met also churches **will be receiving a refund because of decreased medical expenses** thanks to digital consultations.

Whereas there is much discussion in the church about the possibility of separating into two or more expressions of Methodism; and

Whereas the possibility of these new expressions was to be presented to the 2020 General Conference (since cancelled) but will now be presented to the 2021 General Conference.

Therefore be it resolved that the Indiana Conference of the United Methodist Church at its second session of 2020 will receive a non-binding ballot three options.

#### **Missional Offerings**

Children Matter Most - \$913.97

Stuff the Bus - \$2088.98

Cabinet Emergency Fund - \$700.00

#### **The Business**

All petitions and reports may be viewed at: [inumc.org/acreports](http://inumc.org/acreports)

#### **Celebration of Ministry Worship Service Highlights**

4 persons were commissioned into the ministry as Deacon

1 person was ordained into the order of Deacon

9 persons were commissioned for the work of an Elder

12 persons were ordained into the order of Elder

2 persons were commissioned as Associate Members

#### **Plenary Session 2 will be held virtually on October 10 at 9:30 a.m. (ET).**

The 2021 budget will be adopted, celebrate legacy churches, and the Celebration of Life service will be held honoring the life of Bishop Michael Coyner. An additional report will be presented after that session.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nancy Lain

Lay Delegate to Annual Conference

## ***Helpful Tips to Reduce Stress***

Submitted by Charlie and Lynne Haberlin

Stress is a normal reaction to every day demands, which is especially difficult today with the COVID-19 pandemic and other social, economic, and political issues. We know that God is with us in this difficult time, and He hears our prayers. However, it is safe to say that not everyone perceives or deals with stress the same way. Here are some tips and resources to help you deal with this uncertain time. *The information in this article was published in the Mayo Clinic Health Letter of August 2020.*

Resiliency is the ability to withstand and bounce back from adversity. When you're resilient, you're able to recover from difficulties to continue functioning physically and mentally. Your problems may not go away, but it doesn't take long before you're able to adjust to them and find constructive ways to focus your energies, adapt, and move forward.

Enhancing your physical, mental, and emotional resiliency isn't like flipping a light switch. It can take time and effort, and results may not be immediately obvious. Still, it's worth working toward. Some simple steps listed below may help you improve resiliency to setbacks and stressful events:

Maintain social ties.  
Disconnect from media.  
Find purpose and joy.  
Exercise.

Practice relaxation.  
Get good sleep.  
Eat well.

Listed below are a number of mental health apps that may be helpful:

COVID Coach  
Happify  
SuperBetter  
Insight Timer

Breathe2Relax  
Mindfulness Coach  
Calm



This is a little poem that I received from someone in our church many years ago....  
I cannot remember who. I hope you enjoy it.

Betty Kelley



### **"Arithmetic"**

**Count your garden by the flowers,  
Never by the leaves that fall;  
Count your days by golden hours  
Don't remember clouds at all.  
Count your nights by stars,  
not shadows,  
Count your years with smiles,  
not tears,  
Count your blessings,  
not your troubles,  
Count your age by friends,  
not years.**

**---Author unknown**

# Finance Committee Report

Submitted by Don Bales

Church life has been affected by the COVID crisis. But there is so much that can be done for so many as our congregation becomes the voice of hope and encouragement. One of the main reasons people give to any charitable organization is “Belief in the Mission.” We have been sharing through the “Giving Moments” how our missions have helped others, renewed spirits, and re-shaped lives that have been nurtured and been influenced by giving.

Life in the church is about Biblical Generosity. We focus on the need to give to individual lives; place spiritual goals as primary; encourage prayer between individual and God; prioritize spiritual development of people rather than the need of the church; speak to a relationship with God.

The Finance Committee will soon be looking at the committee budgets for 2021. One of the main influences in determining a budget to address proposed ministries are the pledge commitments that are submitted after a person’s prayer time with God and the answers God has provided.

The following is a perspective on our current pledge commitments. At the end of July we were through 58% of the current calendar year giving. The general fund had realized an income commitment of 54% of the initial pledge commitment and the capital fund had 56% of the original pledged income commitments.

Pretty great, right? But a reminder: A portion of our income comes from church attendees who forgo pledging but give when in attendance. This income source has been cut back through the COVID crisis due to the initial postponement of on-site worship services.

We were able to secure a payroll protection plan grant that helped to fund \$30,500.00. Without this grant we would have had a deficit of \$8,500.00.

We will center our decisions around the ministry of our church. Will you join us?



## Giving Moments

Greetings from the Stewardship Committee!

We hope you have been enjoying the “Giving Moment” snippets. It is our way of telling our church family’s story. These “moments” are our way of reminding our church family how your generous giving is reaching members of our congregation, the local community, and beyond. We thank you for your dedication through these challenging times. May God Bless You Abundantly!

### **From Paige Corning, Children’s Ministry Director, for the Children’s Council**

Hello Everyone! First off, I wanted to thank everyone for their faithful giving!

*Because you give...* The children can have events like Vacation Bible School, Christmas program, Easter Event, and many more *AND* the children have mission opportunities to serve through our Valentines and Halloween events.

*Because you give...* The children have the opportunity to express their God-given talents through things such as children’s choir *AND* the children can have a curriculum that teaches them about Jesus Christ.

*Because you give...* The kids can have supplies to help them learn more about Jesus in a fun and exciting way that engages them *AND* we are able to teach the children of our church more about Jesus Christ so they can have a more personal relationship with him.

*Because you give...* Many children have accepted Jesus Christ as their personal Savior.

### **From Rachelle Bernard for the United Methodist Women**

We are a group of about 50 women who, of course, give our tithes and offerings as you do. Besides tithes and offerings we also give our time to help the Church, the local community, state, national, and international missions.

Of course our biggest giving besides our time is the Resale where many of you donate items. We go through them and put out the items. What we cannot store we donate to the Salvation Army. We try to put out the very best.

Those items are sold and the money goes toward Missions. We also give vouchers to people in the community who are in need, whether financial or had a fire or some sort of emergency.

So, in my moment of giving I want to let you know that everything you do to help us allows us to help you, the Church, and the community.

I hope you are safe and I hope you are all happy. I am glad you're still giving your pledges and so are we, the UMW. Hopefully, in better times we'll get to see each other. We're hoping our first big fundraiser will be our Cookie Walk in November.

Hopefully, things will be a little more normal and much safer. God Bless.

### **From Bev Kussy for Congregational Care**

Our mission is to provide opportunities for you, the church family, to demonstrate God's love to others in our congregation. Some of the opportunities you have embraced are: funeral dinners, the prayer chain, prayer blankets, the special birthday cards you sign for our most senior members, and cards sent in times of illness or loss, or during the isolation of the Coronavirus pandemic. You make these ministries happen by your generous giving of your time and gifts. We are so grateful!

Also **because you give...**

We reach out to support our college students at exam time, sending love to them through care packages and gift cards.

We celebrate our graduates and send them off to begin their next chapter with a gift to remind them that God will always be with them.

We recognize and honor our Veterans each November – in the past with a breakfast or luncheon, this year in a different way.

We welcome new lives born into our church family and make a visit to the home with gifts for the newborn.

We provide the Upper Room Devotionals and the CareNotes booklets that offer guidance and hope for the various challenges life may bring us.

Because you give, God's love is felt by many in our church during times of loss, illness, stress, joy, celebration and even during a pandemic. Thank you so much!

# MINISTRY IN ACTION

## HOUSEHOLD PANTRY NEWS

Julie Donovan, Chairperson

We served 51 families during a curbside pantry held on August 18! We will continue serving curbside until we feel it is safe to allow families back in the church. Our next pantry will be held SEPTEMBER 15 so spread the word!! STAY SAFE!!



## College Ministry

Kim Newlin & Trudy Corning

Well it's that time again. Going back to school. This year is different for all of those going back. The College Ministry team would like to ask for prayers for all of our students, no matter what age. Here is a list of our college students: Madison Lacey, Megan Snell, Terra Kelley, James Nadolski, Lauren DeVine, Kristen Newlin, Bryce Hayden, Caleb Bernard, Brooke Hayden. Please help us keep our information up to date. If you have a college student, living locally or away from home, please contact Kim Newlin at 219-669-9078 or email her at [kdnewlin4@gmail.com](mailto:kdnewlin4@gmail.com) with their school and address information. Also please let Kim know if you have a high school senior. It's hard to keep track of our on-the-go young adults. Thanks for your help!



## The Nurses Are In

Lauren Jansma and Trudy Corning

It's finally here! Starting September 6 at 10:30, we will again worship in the sanctuary! It will look a little different than what we are accustomed to. We plan to worship safely and keep our congregation healthy as the pandemic continues.

What can you do to help keep yourself and others healthy?

### 1. Wash your Hands... Often!

When available use soap and water and wash for at least 20 seconds. If you sing Happy Birthday twice while washing your hands, this is approximately 20 seconds. When soap and water are not readily available, use hand sanitizer. You will see automatic hand sanitizer dispensers throughout the church for your use.

### 2. Cover your Cough

When coughing or sneezing, do so in the bend of your arm. Avoid touching your face. If you do not feel well, STAY HOME.

### 3. Wear your Mask AND wear it properly

Your mask should always cover your mouth **AND** nose. Please refrain from pulling it down to talk and remember to maintain social distancing.

Stay Healthy!

## Sunday School Resumes Sept. 6 @ 9:15

There's something for all ages! Everyone is welcome!

Children in grades K-5 will meet with Paige Corning on the lower level

Youth in grades 6-12 will meet with Pastor Mark in the conference room (office area)

F.O.M. class will meet with David Schoon in Room 301, top level

F.R.I.E.N.D.S. will meet with Don Bales in Room 303 (youth room, top level)

WINGS will meet with Al Martin in Room 300 (center, top level)

### ***A preview of the WINGS study from Al Martin:***

The Wings Sunday school class will resume on September 6, 2020. We will begin a new DVD series entitled, "The Life of Jesus". The class is 6 weeks long and is taught by six Biblical experts in the field of Theology.

What are we supposed to do when the new life promised by Jesus doesn't seem so abundant?

Sometimes we need a fresh reminder of the incredible power of Jesus. The study explores the major events in Jesus' life, to try and understand what made him so extraordinary and to help us tap into the power that can transform our lives if we believe in Him as Lord and Savior.

### ***An introduction to the F.R.I.E.N.D.S. study from Don Bales:***

We live in a world where we all have to deal with the realities of stress, failures, crisis, loneliness, and change. The F.R.I.E.N.D.S. Sunday class will explore a six-session study authored by Rick Warren. Rick will take us into the Bible to discover answers to six of life's toughest questions. Examples from different biblical characters who faced the same issues will be shared for insight in order to move past everyday struggles and experience a life of purpose, peace, and significance.

Come join us as we begin the study on Sunday, September 6, at 9:15 a.m. in the youth room. We will have the room arranged for social distancing, ask that masks be worn, will furnish Lysol wipes, and have an air purifier for the room.



Dear Church Family,

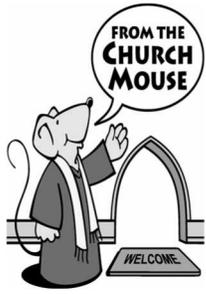
I would like to thank you for your prayers and cards, it has been so appreciated. I am having chemo again, one day a week for two weeks and then one week off to recover and get my strength back. I get so very tired and nauseated.

I had another CT scan this past week to compare with the one I had at Mayo Clinic in June. Please pray that the tumor has shrunk, we are continuing to pray for a miracle.

We miss seeing everyone, but I can not risk getting sick because my immune system is so compromised from the chemo.

Thank you,  
Patty Bubness





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.

Dennis Olson has installed six hand sanitizer units around the church. They are touchless. I'd appreciate it if you use them, and be sure to thank Dennis.

Your Lay Leaders and other leaders in the church have been working hard making decisions about reopening the sanctuary. They have spent many hours discussing so many factors. I can't begin to tell you what they talked about (I always fall asleep in my hole as they meet). If everyone cleans their hands, wears a mask and keeps six feet from others, I'm excited about everyone coming back into my home here at the church and we can be safe together. Your lay leaders are: Don Bales, Bev Kussy, Kirk McQuiston, Patrice Martin, Charlie Haberlin, Lynne Haberlin and Tom Stoner.

The other leaders helping make decisions are Laura Eller, Kim McGinley and Michelle Mishlove. Thanks to all of you for doing such good work.

Terry Donovan, Susan Wells, and Kim McGinley have taken the tables down in the basement and have set the chairs for social distancing down there. We are ready for Bread for Life and the 8:00 am worship service (after we leave the park) now.

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

# September 2020

Sun                  Mon                  Tue                  Wed                  Thu                  Fri                  Sat

		<p>1 Lay Leader Meeting 1 p.m. (Fellowship Hall)</p> <p>Nominations Meeting 6 p.m. (F.H.)</p>	<p>2 UMW Executive Meeting 4:30 p.m. (library)</p> <p>A/A 8 p.m. (FH) AI/Anon 8 p.m. (library)</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4 Alpha/Barbara Circle Meeting 1:30 p.m. (library)</p>	<p>5 Baby Shower 12 p.m. (F.H.)</p>
<p>6 Worship 8 a.m. at Evergreen Park 10:30 a.m. in Sanctuary 9:15 a.m. Sunday School for all ages</p>	<p>7 Office Closed/ Labor Day</p>	<p>8 UMW Resale Clean-Out/Lunch (F.H.)</p> <p>Staff/Parish 5 p.m.</p> <p>Trustees 6 p.m.</p>	<p>9 Pre-School Starts Music Meeting 7 p.m. (rm 300)</p> <p>A/A 8 p.m. (FH) AI/Anon 8 p.m. (library)</p>	<p>10 Bread for Life Worship 6:15 p.m. (F.H.)</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>
<p>13 Worship 8 a.m. at Evergreen Park 10:30 a.m. in Sanctuary 9:15 a.m. Sunday School for all ages</p>	<p>14 Staff/Parish 5 p.m.</p>	<p>15 Household Pantry 9-12 &amp; 5-6 (Curbside)</p>	<p>16 Finance 5:30 p.m. (F.H.)</p> <p>A/A 8 p.m. (FH) AI/Anon 8 p.m. (library)</p>	<p>17 Meadowbrook POA 430 p.m. (300)</p> <p>Bread for Life Worship 6:15 p.m. (F.H.)</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19 UMW Zoom Meeting</p>
<p>20 Worship 8 a.m. at Evergreen Park 10:30 a.m. in Sanctuary 9:15 a.m. Sunday School for all ages</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23 A/A 8 p.m. (FH) AI/Anon 8 p.m. (library)</p>	<p>24 Bread for Life Worship 6:15 p.m. (F.H.)</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>
<p>27 Worship 8 a.m. at Evergreen Park 10:30 a.m. in Sanctuary 9:15 a.m. Sunday School for all ages</p>	<p>28 Ad-Council 6 p.m. (F.H.)</p>	<p>29 Children's Council 7 p.m. (F.H.)</p>	<p>30 A/A 8 p.m. (FH) AI/Anon 8 p.m. (library)</p>			