

# The First United Methodist Church of Lowell

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

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 5 ~ Communion Sunday**

Scripture ~ Mark 7:24-30

Sermon Title ~ *'Bread for the Dogs'*

### **September 12 ~**

Scripture ~ II Timothy 1:1-5

Sermon Title ~ *'Share! To the Children'*

### **September 19 ~**

Scripture ~ II Timothy 1:6-14

Sermon Title ~ *'Share! Without Shame'*

### **September 26 ~ Last Sunday at Evergreen Park**

Scripture ~ II Timothy 2:1-10

Sermon Title ~ *'Share! Despite Oppression'*



## Sermon Series

Our sermons in September will be a series entitled, "Share!" It is mainly from the book of II Timothy. It will talk about sharing our faith with others. The four weeks will be: Share! To the Children; Share! Without Shame; Share! Despite Oppression; and Share! The Good News. Join us through September and into October as we learn why we need to tell others about Jesus!



### **Worship News**

Linda Hayden & Trudy Corning, Co-Chairpersons

It may begin to feel like sweater weather, but we will continue our 8:00am worship service at Evergreen Park through the month of September. If it is too chilly, join us in the sanctuary for the 10:30 worship service.

See you on Sundays!



## L.Y.F.T.

Living Your Faith Today, formerly known as Bread for Life, will begin having meals again!! Our hope is to add a meal to the Thursday evening Bible study/worship experience starting in October.

Due to the current surge in Covid cases, we will be monitoring the status of Lake County closely. If Lake County enters Orange status, starting the meal will have to be delayed.

Once we are able to include the meal, the format for Thursday evenings will be a light meal served at 5:30, followed at 6:00 by the worship service with communion. With everyone's health and safety in mind we will not be serving "buffet" style. Meals will be individually plated, served or "box lunch" style.

Bottled water will be provided. You will be welcome to bring your own individual drink if you prefer something other than water.

We are looking forward to breaking bread with you once again as we continue to live our Faith!!

In Christ's Love

Susan Wells and Kimberly McGinley  
Co-Chairpersons, L.Y.F.T. Committee



### Music Notes

Michelle Mishlove, Chairperson

The Chancel Choir will continue singing on the 1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays of each month. They have enjoyed singing at several park services this summer. Chancel Choir's final park service for this season will be Sept. 5. On Sept. 19 you can hear them at the 10:30 AM service.

Godsbells will play on the 2nd Sunday of each month.

The Praise Team will continue on the 4th Sunday at the 10:30 service. You can also hear them at the LYFT service downstairs on the following Thursday evening (starting at 6:00 PM).

Special thanks to David Schoon for once again organizing our Favorite Hymns.

Thanks to Sam Conley, Craig Wilson and the A/V team who have handled the sound system set-up at Evergreen Park this summer.

A reminder to our Music committee: Please meet on Sept. 1 at 7:00 in room 300 (Wings) upstairs to plan and to work on next year's budget.



### A Reminder:

Godsbells, our hand bell choir, will begin rehearsals on Thursday, Sept. 2 at 4:30 pm in the balcony (third floor). We will prepare our musical offering for the second Sunday of each month.

New ringers are welcome! Contact Patrice Martin with any questions.

## FUMC and Covid-19 Update

The Lay Leaders met on August 25 to evaluate the current Covid status. Unfortunately, the national surge of cases caused by the Delta variant is being seen throughout our state and county. We expect Lake County Covid cases to continue to increase and prepared for that possibility by making the following decisions concerning Covid protocols for FUMC.

If Lake County moves to Orange, with a Weekly Metric score of 2 – no food will be served in the church. There will be no funeral luncheons, no LYFT meals, no snacks at meetings, no Martha's Coffee House. No parties will be scheduled in our building.

If Lake County moves to Orange, with a Weekly Metric Score of 2.5 – masks will be required for everyone inside the building. Sunday School classes, committees, and community groups may meet, but masks must be worn. Remaining seated while singing during worship may also be reinstated.

We want to thank our congregation for practicing social distancing at both the park and sanctuary services. Please continue to do so! Masks are required for those not vaccinated and encouraged for those who feel it is safer for themselves. Masks also protect others. Remember our children under 12 are not able to be vaccinated and some of our church family are caring for immune compromised loved ones.

For these last 18 months, all of the Covid protocol decisions made by Pastor Mark and the Lay Leadership Team have been focused on keeping our congregation safe. The health and safety of ALL of our church family & guests remains our highest priority.



Trudy Corning, Lauren Jansma

The FDA has recently approved the use of a 3rd dose of the Pfizer and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines for immunocompromised patients. Immunocompromised patients are those receiving chemotherapy or who have a low immune system from other chronic illnesses. It is anticipated that more individuals will become eligible for the 3rd dose of the COVID-19 vaccine in the future.

The CDC and many healthcare providers recommend the 3rd dose for those who are eligible and have received their first two doses of either Pfizer or Moderna. At this time, there is no additional dose recommended for those who have received the Johnson and Johnson vaccine. It is important, if you have been initially vaccinated with Pfizer, to follow through with Pfizer; likewise, if you have been initially vaccinated with Moderna, then follow through with Moderna.

Most important, if you have not been vaccinated, check with your health care provider for recommendations on receiving the COVID-19 vaccine.

## Finance Committee

We are on the cusp of developing our 2022 church budgets. Committees are being requested to pray, to seek guidance, to have plans that will encourage faith, sustain vital ministries, and inspire a growing relationship with God. Our stewardship chair, Rick Bachman is asking committee chairs to share “their story” on how God’s works are touching lives in and out of our church walls. We shall begin to hear those stories each week at our services.

We bring our church together in serving, lifting others, building a closer and more intimate relationship with our Lord and savior Jesus Christ. We are the stewards of God’s resources. A biblical world view of stewardship can be consciously defined as: **"Utilizing and managing all resources God provides for the glory of God and the betterment of His creation."** The central essence of biblical world view stewardship is managing everything God brings into the believer's life in a manner that honors God ... A Good Steward **Remembers We Work for God.**

A good biblical steward is always mindful that he or she works for God. God is the owner. “The earth and everything in it, the world and its inhabitants, belong to the LORD” (Psalm 24:1, HCSB). Good stewards take care of the gifts God has given them to manage.

The best way to cultivate a deep-rooted spirit of stewardship in our congregation is to actually make a plan to accomplish it. The Finance Committee is charged with a role to brainstorm what can be done throughout the year to communicate the church’s vision, regularly give feedback on how it is being accomplished, and give our church community opportunities to further participate.

Seek God’s guidance, feel His presence, listen to His Word as you pray for a deeper relationship so that you feel inspired by your stewardship commitment.

We also want everyone to know that the NEW projector for the sanctuary has been installed at **NO** cost to the budget. Due to generous giving all expenses were covered!



## **Trustees Report**

Dave Bauman, Chairman

It has been a busy summer for the Trustees!

- A new garage door and a new dishwasher were installed in the parsonage.
- A new projector was installed in the Sanctuary. The cost was covered by special donations.
- New park benches were installed and secured to a foundation in the church playground.
- The fence and railroad ties along the south side of the parking lot were leaning into the neighbor’s yard. A new cinder block retaining wall was installed to replace the old railroad ties.
- Bricks and mortar are cracking in the top 10 feet of the west exterior wall of the church, causing leaking in the stairwell. They are scheduled to be replaced soon.
- One of the air conditioners used for cooling the third floor was replaced. This involved the use of a crane for the installation and removal.
- Carpets in both the Parsonage and church were professionally cleaned.
- A piano was donated to the church by Charlie and Lynne Haberlin. It was moved from their house to the fellowship hall in the church.

Finally, we want to especially thank Laura and Dan Eller who have maintained all the landscaping outside the church this year.

## **Adult Education Opportunities**

**The Fishers of Men (F.O.M.) Bible study class** is continuing in the book of Daniel and then will be starting on the book of Revelation. We meet at 9:15 in room 301. All are welcome!

David Schoon

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**The Wings Study class will resume meeting on Sunday, September 12, at 9:15.**

The first 5 weeks will be a DVD study of Adam Hamilton's new book - Half Truths: God Helps Those Who Help Themselves and Other Things The Bible Doesn't Say.

Many of us have simple phrases that we have heard over the years that sound like something you might find in the Bible. They capture some element of truth, but they miss the point in important ways. They are half-truths. Adam Hamilton will lead us in the search for the whole truth by comparing common Christian clichés with the true wisdom found in Scripture.

September 12 - Everything happens for a reason.

September 19 - God helps those who help themselves.

September 26 - God won't give you more than you can handle.

October 3 - God said it, I believe it, that settles it.

October 10 - Love the sinner, hate the sin.

All are welcome to join us in Room 303 at 9:15 each Sunday!

Al Martin

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**The FRIENDS class will begin meeting again on Sunday, Sept. 19, at 9:15 a.m.**

We will begin a six-week study by John Ortberg called, "If You Want to Walk on Water, You've Got to Get Out of the Boat."

Through video clips and group discussion, John will guide us to a better understanding of the meaning of "Walking on Water."

- Facing your fears and choosing not to let fear have the last word
- Discovering and embracing the unique calling of God on your life
- Experiencing the power of God to accomplish what you would not be capable of doing on your own

The FRIENDS class meets upstairs in Room 304. Join us!

Don Bales

Calling all kids...

Sonshine Express is starting on Sunday, September 12th!

Sonshine Express is our children's Sunday School Program.

We meet downstairs at 9:15.

Kids from 4 years old to 5th grade are welcome to come, learn, and have a good time!

Join us downstairs for a fun-filled day. Bring a friend!



Then join us at the 10:30 church service on September 12 to receive a new bible.

All kids will receive a bible this year!

Do you like sharing your faith with children? We are always looking for volunteers to teach Sunday School or give the Children's Sermon during the 10:30 service. If you are interested in serving with the children, please contact Kathie Stoner @ [kmstoner85@gmail.com](mailto:kmstoner85@gmail.com) or 219-552-4485.



### **Hello Parents of Children K-5th Grade**

Our Children's Choir, which will now be called *All God's Children* (this name was picked by kids last year), will start meeting on Sunday, October 3, directly after the Children's Sermon at the 10:30 service. We will go downstairs and be in the Sunday School classroom until parents come down to collect their kids.

We lost a couple of great singers this year, so we encourage anyone that loves to sing to join us. We will sing, do activities, and have great fun together!

See you soon,

Nancy Lain, *All God's Children* Director



**\*\*A NOTE FROM OUR CONFERENCE SUPERINTENDENT\*\***

Dear Siblings in Christ of the North District:

A better life awaits each of us! Through the power of the Holy Spirit and our practice of the Spiritual Disciplines a new life for each one of us in Christ Jesus is before us. Will you step up and accept the this challenge?

I am calling you to join me during our upcoming FREE Spiritual Disciplines retreats on Saturday September 25th from 1:00-4:30 p.m. ET at the Firehouse Campus of South Bend Clay UMC (17646 Cleveland Road South Bend, IN) and Sunday September 26th from 1:00-4:30 p.m. CT at Valparaiso 1st UMC (103 Franklin Street Valparaiso, IN). Each retreat is identical, you only need to attend one.

Go here to register: <https://inumc.swoogo.com/sdr921>

During the retreats, participants will gain a basic understanding of what Spiritual Disciplines are; experience hands-on practices; practically apply the practices to everyday living; be encouraged and equipped to start/revitalize Spiritual Discipline groups in their local congregations; connect with others that practice Spiritual Disciplines; and reconnect with United Methodists from across the District.

COVID has made us lose the connection with each other. COVID has forced much on us we didn't want to bear. These retreats will reconnect us with each other AND empower us to take more responsibility in our individual Faith journey.

Your Pastor has more details, so make sure you are engaging them.

I look forward to seeing you next month!

Peace,

Rev. Dr. Marti G. Lundy  
Superintendent

**\*\*Please see the second attachment on this e-mail or call the church office for more details.**



Thank you for saving Styrofoam and cardboard egg cartons for me. They can be brought to the church and put in the bin by the mailboxes on the second floor. Just a reminder that Styrofoam egg cartons are not recyclable in the state of Indiana.

Thank you,  
Beth Bailey

Dear Friends at FUMC,  
With your book donations, Mommy's Haven was able to collect nearly 400 picture books! We want to extend the utmost thanks for your incredible generosity and support in bringing the joy of reading to the mothers and children of Mommy's Haven.

With Gratitude,  
Nicole at Mommy's Haven

Methodist Church,  
Thank you so very much for the beautiful prayer blanket. Not only is it beautiful, but I can feel the prayers covering me.

Sincerely,  
Shawna LaMar & Family (Kevin Corie's sister)





## 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.

Have you seen the new block wall on the edge of our parking lot? We've had railroad ties along south edge of the parking lot for years. They've pushed into the fence over the years and were actually pushing the fence over. The rotting ties were removed and a beautiful wall was added. The fence is now straight as well.

There's been a lot of noise outside this week. They've been knocking bricks out of the west side of the church that were broken. Some of these broken bricks were allowing water to get into the church. By doing tuck pointing up high on the west side we'll hopefully put an end to the leaks. (I hate seeing puddles inside after a hard rain.)

We had a new projector installed in the sanctuary. I was really squinting to see with the old one. We had a company come in and replace the old one. While we're talking of stuff being replaced ...did you see the crane at the church recently? They replaced a broken air conditioner unit on the roof. You never know what kind of equipment you'll see working around here.

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



## WEEKLY EVENTS

**Sunday - Worship** ~ 8 a.m. (at Evergreen Park) 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)

# September 2021

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 UMW Exec. Mtg. 4:30pm (FH) Worship Mtg. 6pm (300) Music Mtg. 7pm	2	3 Alpha/Barbara May 1:30 p.m. (library)	4 Girl Scouts 9 a.m. (FH)
5	6 Labor Day/ Office Closed	7	8 Trustees 6pm (conf. rm.)  Nominating 7pm (conf. rm.)	9	10	11 Tri-Kappa mum sale 9am (canopy)  Baby Shower 11am
12	13 Susanna Wesley 1 p.m. (library)  Tri-Kappa 6pm (basement)	14	15	16	17	18
19	20 Lay Leader Mtg. 9:30am (304)	21	22	23	24  **Tele- Christian Article Deadline	25 Girls Scouts 9am (FH)
26 Last Park Service	27	28	29 Education Meeting 7pm (300)	30		