

The First United Methodist Church of Lowell

Tele-Christian October 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.....

The following is an article written by Rob Moll for the Wall Street Journal. Rob is a hospice worker who in this article reflects on death and dying around Halloween.

"Halloween, also known as "All Hallows Eve," and All Saints Day (on Nov. 1) offer a rare opportunity in the Christian calendar to reflect on death. The holidays were intended to celebrate the communion of the saints, the spiritual unity of all—living and dead—who trust in Christ and await the eventual resurrection of their bodies. This is the hope on which Christians stake their lives. But in a culture with deep fears of death and dying, even many of the faithful would rather avoid talking about the grave.

Until the 20th century, the idea of the physical resurrection of our bodies shaped how Christians practiced the rituals of death. They used to see the end of life as the most important opportunity to engage their faith and live fully in the presence of God. Following the 14th century's Black Plague, Christians developed the *ars moriendi*, the art of dying. With so many people perishing alone, as family and friends either died or fled, an anonymous priest created a book illustrating (with woodcut pictures) the temptations faced by the dying, and how they might be overcome. The images allowed illiterate Christians to die with the guidance of the church. Copies of the book spread throughout Europe and were used for more than a century.

Martin Luther built on this in his "Sermon on Preparing to Die," in which he advised his followers to trust in the image of Jesus on their deathbeds. John Wesley, founder of Methodism, asked any follower who was near death, "Do you see Jesus?" All expected that Jesus would fulfill his promise, in John 14:3, to "come back and take you to be with me."

By the 19th century, English and American Methodists called the tradition the "happy" or the "beautiful" death. While death was as unwelcome then as it is today, people knew to expect it, so they prepared themselves throughout their lives.

The Christian death is meant to mimic Jesus' own. Before his death, Jesus prepared through prayer in the garden of Gethsemane, offered instruction, and said farewell in the last supper. From the cross, Jesus even arranged his worldly affairs by asking a disciple to care for his elderly mother. He gave up his own life in the hope of defeating death forever. Old tombstones in America's earliest graveyards express this hope: "Here I lie," they say, "awaiting resurrection."

These early Americans believed in the basic elements of the beautiful death. In it, family, friends and neighbors surrounded the dying person. He asked forgiveness for wrongs he had committed and forgave those of others. He confessed his love for each person and offered last words of advice or encouragement. Lastly, the dying person expressed his belief in life eternal and sometimes even described visions of that future realm. Loved ones—whether family, neighbors or church friends—were expected to be present as comforters and witnesses.

Contrast this with modern scenes of hospital patients hooked up to machines for months or years, so bruised and broken that some family members can't bear to watch. The Christian tradition of the art of dying doesn't eliminate these difficult circumstances, but it does offer a framework for end-of-life care, and goals to guide choices in our final days.

If learning to die must begin during life, there's no better time to start than Halloween and All Saints Day. There already exist appropriate nursery rhymes and grammar primers: Think of "Now I lay me down to sleep. . ." Such guidance can lead children toward the knowledge that they too can celebrate the communion of all the saints."

Mr. Moll, a hospice volunteer and the author of "The Art of Dying: Living Fully into the Life to Come" (IVP Books, 2010)

October Sermon and Scripture Schedule

October 3 ~ World Communion Sunday

Scripture ~ 1 Corinthians 11:23-29 Sermon Title ~ *'Share! In World Communion Sunday*

October 10 ~

Scripture ~ Acts 10:36-43 Sermon Title ~ *'Share! Some Basics'*

October 17 ~

Scripture ~ Ephesians 4:4-7 Sermon Title ~ *'Share! The Graceful Pattern'*

October 24 ~

Scripture ~ Romans 10:9-13 Sermon Title ~ *'Share! The Roman's Road'*

October 31 ~

Scripture ~ 1 Samuel 28:5-14 Sermon Title ~ *'Ghosts and Ghoulies'*



Worship News

Linda Hayden & Trudy Corning, Co-Chairpersons



World Communion Sunday is October 3. It is the day we celebrate our oneness in Christ with all our brothers and sisters around the world. This year we are supporting a special mission on World Communion Sunday. It is Kokomo Urban Outreach which is led by Jeff Newton, a former pastor of our church. A letter to Jeff will be available for the congregation to sign but you can also write your own letter of support to Jeff at: Kokomo Urban Outreach, 1701 Locke Street, Kokomo, IN 46902. Also, there will be a donation basket for those who would like to support KUO financially. Come and celebrate communion together at the 8:00 or 10:30 in the sanctuary.

The 8:00 summer service at Evergreen Park has been great, but fall is here and we are moving the 8:00 service back into the church. "Thank you" for the hard work the set-up crew did to make the park service possible.



On Thursday, October 7 we will have a special LYFT (Live Your Faith Today) Service (LYFT replaced Bread For Life). From 6 pm to 7 pm we will have a time of worship in the midst of grief. Many in our congregation have lost loved ones in the last couple of years and even in years past. We will spend this worship time focusing on grief and loss (This will be totally different from our All Saints service, which is a time to remember those who have died in the previous year.) We need to give ourselves permission to grieve before God. Grief can and should be an act of worship. Whether you have loss in your life or not, plan on coming to this special service.

Confirmation Class



We will be having a Confirmation Class this Fall. All youth in 6th grade through high school are invited to take part. We'll meet on Sunday, October 10 at 9:15 am in the youth Sunday School classroom (room 303) on the third floor. We'll decide the best day and time to meet and discuss the timeline of the class. If you can't make it on the 10th be sure to let Pastor Mark know so that you may be included in the information on the class.



Pastor Mark would like to start a new members class. If you are interested in becoming a member of the church or have any questions about being in a membership class, please contact the office 696-9219 or talk to Pastor Mark.



Music Notes

Michelle Mishlove, Music Chairperson

***Thanks to the members of the Music committee who met last month to approve the 2022 budget request.

***The various music groups of our church will be in full swing this month!

October 3 Chancel Choir at 8:00 AM service
October 10 Godsbells
October 17 Chancel Choir at 10:30 AM service
October 24 Praise Team at 10:30 AM service
October 28 Praise Team at LYFT Worship Service starting at 6:00 pm
October 31 Chancel Choir at 10:30 AM service

***All God's Children (our KIDS Choir) will meet on Sunday, October 3, during the 10:30 AM Service. All children K- 5th grade are welcome!



MINISTRY IN ACTION

The Nurses' Corner

Trudy Corning & Lauren Jansma

How's your Blood Pressure? Maybe high? Not sure? Have not checked it lately? Let's find out ...The Nurse Is In!!

Starting Sunday, October 3, the nurse will be "in" the first Sunday of each month after the 8 am service and before the 10:30 service. The nurse will be located in the church office conference room.

In light of COVID restrictions, only one person at a time will be in the conference room with the nurse and, while waiting your turn, please practice social distancing.

See you Sunday and stay healthy!



Congregational Care

It's that time again when we start thinking about our college students and sending out care boxes each semester. If you have a college student please call the office or Trudy Corning – (219)-613-1787 - with their name and address.

We would also like to know those students who are seniors in high school this year.

Thank you!



NEWS FROM THE HOUSEHOLD PANTRY

Julie Donovan, Chairperson

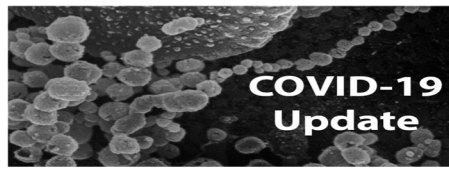
The Household Pantry continues monthly every third Tuesday from 9 to 12 and 5 to 6. We are averaging 35 families a month! I am so grateful to be able to serve these families each month. None of this would be possible without the generous donations and contributions from ALL OF YOU. THANK YOU FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART!!!!



The mission of **Operation Christmas Child** is to demonstrate God's love to children in need around the world in a tangible way. Through this project, Samaritan's Purse partners with local churches worldwide to share the Good News of Jesus Christ and make disciples of the nations. Ours is one of the churches participating in this international mission.

The Missions Committee will be collecting boxes in October. The boxes and instructions will be available in the narthex by Oct. 6. Filled boxes should be returned by Oct. 31. All boxes will be delivered to a collection center in mid-November. There is also an option to participate online. Go to www.samaritanspurse.org.

Call or text Ethel Devine at (219) 616-6676 or Kathy Taylor at (219) 712-8080 for further information.



FUMC and COVID-19 Update

At the time of writing this, the Weekly Metric for Lake County remains at 2.0. Masks are required for unvaccinated individuals inside of our building. We encourage masks for anyone who feels the need of that protection for themselves or to protect those around them. Food is not being served in the building, water fountains remain closed, and parties are not being scheduled.

As the 8:00 service returns to the sanctuary, we want to remind everyone to continue to practice social distancing as you visit with others in the narthex and as you seat yourselves in the sanctuary. Please space yourself a safe distance from anyone not in your household.



Modeling Generosity

Why does generosity matter? Giving turns our focus outward. Generous people keep their minds instinctively fixed on whatever is good and positive in the world around them. They are not bent on being in front but practice the art of humbleness. Generosity is changing one's focus from self to others.

Giving adds value to others. U.S. President Woodrow Wilson said, " You are not here merely to make a living. You are here to enable the world to live more amply, with greater vision, with a finer spirit of home and achievement. You are here to enrich the world, and you impoverish yourself if you forget the errand."

There are a lot of insights about money contained in the Bible. Believe it or not, the Bible has more teachings about money than about prayer! We are often reminded of this teaching "where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

The way people handle their money colors their attitude about many aspects of their lives. Wherever your money is, that's where your attention goes. If you give money to a church or favorite charity, you care about how the money is used and whether the organization succeeds. When you are giving you are saying "I care about people".

We soon will be asked to share our commitments to the world in and out of our church. As you always have done, prayerfully seek God's guidance on how you may choose to give to the lives of others as Christ would ask each of us to do.

Finance Committee



Hello Church Family,

I will be offering a program from Grief Share called "Loss of A Spouse". It will be one session on Tuesday, Oct. 19, at 6:00 PM. It will take place on the third floor of the church and will be approximately 2 hours long. It will include a video and the use of a participant's book. I have 10 participant books. (If some have a preference for a day-time session, I may be able to do a daytime session in addition to the evening session if the combined attendance does not exceed 10.) This program is open to anyone who has experienced losing their partner, whether recently or in the past.

If you are interested in attending, write SPOUSE on your worship attendance card with your phone #. You may also call or text me at 219-696-9226 for more information or to sign up for the program.

Your Sister in Christ,
Nancy Lain



Dear church family,

Bill and I have decided to move to Indianapolis near Katie and Kristen. Our family would like to say thank you for all the love and support that our church family has given to us. When Bill and I were married 36 years ago in the church we had no idea how much love and support we would receive. After joining the church we immersed ourselves in what the church had to offer. We quickly found our calling in Vacation Bible School! Both Katie and Kristen loved going to and later when they were older helping! The church has helped us in so many ways we were truly blessed! Thank you again and God Bless.

With Love and Blessings,
Bill, Kim, Katie and Kristen



Thank you for the prayer blanket! I'm sure it has helped me, emotionally, mentally and physically!

Dick Bochart



The family of Marion Nelson would like to express their sincere gratitude to Pastor Mark, David Schoon, and Peggy Hendricks and all who sent cards or flowers, prayed, donated to the Good Samaritan Fund in Marion's name and/ or attended the funeral service. But most of all, we would like to thank everyone for taking her into your hearts and making her feel so welcome. It truly meant so much to her and to us.

Kathy Nelson



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.

Boy, I couldn't believe my eyes on Labor Day. There were over a thousand doughnut holes in the church kitchen. I thought I was set for life! They ended up giving them all away. Rachelle Ruge-Bernard did a great job organizing and running everything. It was amazing how many volunteered to help. All ages from children and youth to our senior citizens worked together for everything to run smoothly.

Speaking of youth, didn't Hannah Mishlove do a great job as worship leader on Sunday the 19th? She was asked a minute before the service started and had no time to prepare. Thanks, Hannah!

Bev Kussy does a great job keeping us all informed of what's going on around the church. She created a beautiful bulletin board outside the office in the narthex. Thanks for all you do, Bev!

Be careful when you do good work for the church. I'm watching and just waiting to share that gossip.

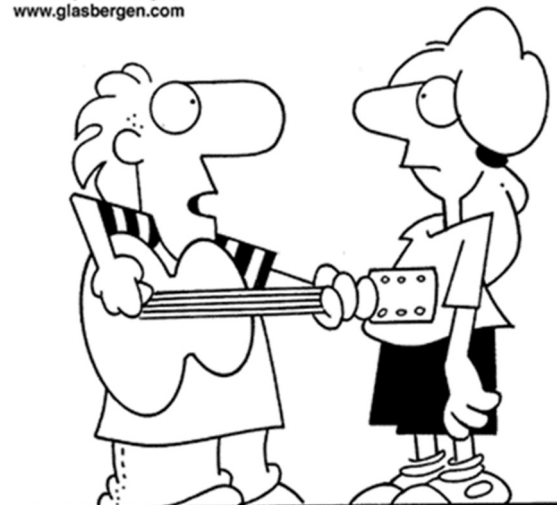


Pastor's Comic Corner

In case you haven't noticed, I love humor.
Below are a couple of comics that I've come across. Enjoy! Pastor Mark



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"Writing hymns is harder than I thought!
I can't think of anything that rhymes with
'Hallelujah' except 'glad I knew ya'
and 'we'll tattoo ya!'"

WEEKLY EVENTS

Sunday - Worship ~ 8 a.m. and 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)

October 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Alpha/Barbara May Circle 1:30 pm (library)	2
3	4 Tri-Kappa 6pm (basement)	5	6 UMW Exec. Meeting 4:30 pm (basement)	7	8	9 Girl Scouts 9am (basement)
10 UMW Sunday Charge Conference 3pm (Valpo FUMC)	11 Susanna Wesley Circle 1pm (@Nancy Lain)	12	13 Girl Scouts 3:30pm (bsmt) Trustees Mtg. 6pm (conf. rm.)	14	15	16
17	18	19 Household Pantry 9-12 & 5-6 (curbside) Grief Share 6pm	20 Finance 5:30 pm (bsmt)	21	22 Tele-Christian Articles Due	23 Girl Scouts 9am (basement)
24	25 Lay Leader Meet- ing 9:30 am (301) Admin. Council 6pm (bsmt)	26 Staff/Parish Mtg. 5:30pm (conf. rm.)	27 Girl Scouts 3:30pm (bsmt) Education Mtg. 7pm (300)	28	29	30
31						