



Lower Light

May 2024

LOWER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

IN THIS ISSUE

Dreams and Visions

by Rev. Yosub Namgung



Joel 2:28, ““And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions.”

When you were young, you might have had dreams. Dreams like becoming a doctor, nurse, teacher, or pilot. You might have thought about becoming a successful businessperson to earn lots of money. Perhaps you've also thought about helping poor and lonely people. Or maybe you dreamed of living near water. I had a few dreams too. One of them was flying in an airplane. I loved airplanes. Sometimes, as I watched planes soar through the sky, I thought how amazing it would be to fly in one of them. That dream came true when I was 18, during a school field trip. It

was a short 40-minute flight, but I still remember the moment I boarded the plane vividly.

Having dreams is precious. When we have dreams, we have hope. Our lives gain meaning and purpose. We set goals to strive for. We become active participants in life by taking risks. However, if we have no dreams, our lives become dull. We lose sight of any purpose or direction. We want to stay only in a safe and comfortable zone. Life feels monotonous, lacking meaning.

The same goes for a church. Without sharing dreams and visions, we lose purpose, direction, and energy. Finding meaning in why we exist becomes difficult.

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Therefore, God desires our church to have dreams and visions. As mentioned in Joel 2:28, God allows us dreams and visions through the Holy Spirit. As we draw closer to the Spirit, we discover God's dreams and visions. And as we share and pursue them together, we live out God's dreams and visions.

What are the dreams and visions for Lower Church? What dreams and visions does God have for our church? What does God want to accomplish through our church? It would be great if we could discover, discuss, and share these together so that we may see and run for the same goal and direction.

May Worship Services

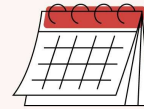
- 5 "We Love One Another"
Acts 10:44-48, 1 John 5:1-6
- 12 "We Share Christ"
Psalm 1, Acts 1:15-17, 21-26
Mother's Day
- 19 "These Bones Will Live"
Ezekiel 37:1-14, Acts 2:1-21
Pentecost Sunday
- 26 "All Consuming Presence"
Isaiah 6:1-8, Romans 8:12-17
Trinity Sunday
Communion



Communion – May 26th

CHURCH COUNCIL PLANNING RETREAT

Saturday, May 11
9:00 - noon



The church council and committee chairpersons of Lower UMC will hold a planning retreat on **Saturday, May 11th from 9:00 to noon**. The purpose of the retreat is to plan the future mission and ministry of the church. If you have been invited by a committee chair or member of the council, please prayerfully consider participating. Do you have an idea for mission or a passion for ministry that you would like to see happen at Lower UMC? Please plan to attend! Be a part of moving forward with God at Lower UMC.



Cinderella Project Update

by Margaret Montgomery

Our school nurses have been appreciative of the monthly items that our church brings to their students during the school year. In response Amy Neal at Middlesex Elementary writes to our congregation, "Thanks for your willingness to serve". Bonnie Wells from Middlesex High writes, "Thanks you for this service! I've had several students comment that they appreciate being able to come to the clinic and get the things they need".

May will be our final deliveries this school year. Their requests are for:

NutriGrain bars
 "Juicy Juice" Juice boxes
 Filled plastic water bottles
 Beef jerky sticks for diabetics.

Notice from Staff-Pastor-Parish Committee



The annual Pastor and Staff Evaluation period is underway during the March-May and is being conducted by the Staff Pastor Parish Relations Committee (SPPRC). This evaluation is for celebrating pastoral strengths and developing pastoral growth.

Members of the Congregation are invited to provide written comments to any member of the SPPRC by **May 19**. All comments are considered as confidential.

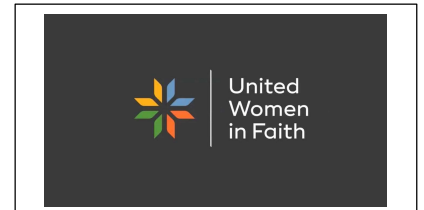
SPPRC Members: Stan Coloff, Chairman, E G Fleet, Rob Brooks, Jon Sears, Margaret Montgomery, or Susan Thomas.

United Women in Faith

by Margaret Montgomery

Martha Sarah Circle of United Women of Faith will meet May 14 at 10:00 in the Fellowship

Hall. Donna Will will be sharing a devotional followed by our planning and business meeting. Please bring items for the Cinderella project. Other service ministries will be discussed as we spread God's love in the community. Please plan to join us. Everyone is welcome!



"Her mouth is full of wisdom; kindly teaching is on her tongue."

Proverbs 31:26



April Council Meeting Notes

Finance Update - The Finance Committee met on April 1st. Kristie reviewed the financial status as of 3/25/24. The operating fund balance is 11,695.82. The giving deficit is 11,167.89. The expenses for the first quarter were 44,316.96, and income was 39,822.87.

At the March council meeting reduction of apportionment payments was approved by the council and referred to the Finance Committee to determine the amount to pay per month. The Finance Committee recommended paying half of the monthly amount for the short term. The motion to pay half apportionments was made, seconded and passed. Rosabeth and the Finance Committee will issue a letter to the congregation to inform them of the current financial status of the church and ask them to consider their giving.

SPPR and Preschool Committee – Kelly's request to provide health insurance for full time preschool employees is still being studied and discussed.

Cemetery – Johnny Fleet stated the completion of the process to form a cemetery association as a separate entity may be complete as early as June. There will possibly be a fundraiser for perpetual care. Formation of a group to help maintain gravesites and gravestones is being discussed.

Planning Retreat – The date and time for the upcoming Church Council Planning Retreat was set as Saturday, May 11th from 9:00 a.m. to noon.

The next Church Council meeting will be on **Tuesday, May 7, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.**

May Birthdays

Michael Carey	7
Maryann Grubbs	7
Susan Thomas	7
Joyce Fetterolf	15
Peyton Lambert	15
Amber Holland	24
Dutch Beukenkamp	25
Janet Hoferkamp	26
Jon Sears	27
Chyrel Coloff	30



May Anniversaries

Madonna & Terry Frisch	8
Debbie Holloman & Bob Walker	12

Congratulations, Tammie!

Our beloved Miss Tammie is retiring from her preschool teaching position when the school year is over this month. Tammie has worked in early childhood education her entire career – and has been with Buoy and Gulls Preschool since 2015. In preparation for retirement, she and Wayne have purchased an RV and they plan to travel as well as enjoy time at Grey's Point. We will miss seeing her smiling face at preschool and wish her well in this next chapter.



Lower United Methodist Church

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April 15, 2024

Dear Members of Lower United Methodist Church,

Grace and peace be with you!

As we journey together through this season of renewal and growth, I am filled with immense gratitude for each and every one of you. Your unwavering support, dedication, and love for our church community have truly been a beacon of light, guiding us through both challenges and triumphs.

I write to you today with a heart full of hope and excitement as we embark on a new opportunity to further support the mission of our beloved Lower United Methodist Church. It is with both humility and urgency that I share with you the current financial situation we find ourselves in. Due to a \$1300 weekly shortfall in our current giving, we are presented with a unique chance to rally together and strengthen our commitment to the work of God in our midst.

Despite this challenge, I am continually inspired by the spirit of generosity and volunteerism that permeates our congregation. From the tireless efforts in facility repairs to the generous donations supporting special music and our cross-project ministry, it is evident that the love of Christ is alive and active within each of you. Furthermore, the dedication and talents offered by our lay church leadership serve as a testament to the incredible depth of our community's gifts.

As we reflect on the blessings we have received and the blessings we have to offer, I invite each of you to prayerfully consider how you are called to support our church during this time. Whether through financial contributions, volunteering your time and talents, or lifting us up in prayer, every act of support plays a vital role in furthering God's kingdom here on earth.

Together, we have the power to overcome any obstacle that stands in our way. With faith as our guide and love as our compass, I am confident that we will emerge from this season able to meet our current financial needs and also leaning forward to serving more deeply.

May we continue to walk hand in hand, trusting in God's abundant grace and provision, as we fulfill our mission to spread the light of Christ in our community and beyond.

In Christ's service,

Lower United Methodist Church Finance Committee















Stan Coloff, Johnny Fleet, Ceil Rector, Sally Gayle Revere, Susan Thomas, Rosabeth Ward

Lower United Methodist Church

SUNDAYS:

CHOIR PRACTICE at 9:00 a.m.

WORSHIP at 10:30 a.m.

May 2024						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<p>1 5:00 – 6:30 p.m. Prayer Meeting</p>  <p>Scholarship Application Deadline</p> 	2	3	4
5	6	<p>7 6:00 p.m. Council Meeting</p> 	<p>8 5:00 – 6:30 p.m. Prayer Meeting</p>  <p>6:30 p.m. Worship Committee</p>  <p><i>Worship Committee</i></p>	9	10	<p>11 9:00 – noon Church Council Planning Retreat</p> 
<p>12 Mother's Day</p> 	13	<p>14 10:00 a.m. United Women in Faith</p> 	<p>15 5:00 – 6:30 p.m. Prayer Meeting</p> 	16	17	<p>18 Comments due to SPPRC Sunday, May 19th</p> 
<p>19 Pentecost Sunday</p> 	20	21	<p>22 5:00 – 6:30 p.m. Prayer Meeting</p> 	23	24	25
<p>26 Trinity Sunday Communion</p> 	<p>27 Memorial Day – Office Closed</p> 	28	29	30	31	

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Contact Us
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Email Us
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Check Us Out on the Web
www.lowerumc.org

And on Facebook, X and Instagram



Sunday Worship

10:30 a.m.

Office Hours:

Monday – Thursday

9:00 to 12:00