

From Your Pastor:  
*Creating a Community of Joy*

“Then an angel of Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.” Luke 2.10-11

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more!

“Good news of great joy.” What a blessing those words must have been to those shepherds living in the fields and keeping watch over their flocks. All of a sudden an angel was before them; of course they were terrified, wondering what this appearance was all about. What did it mean? What would the angel say? Would it have an impact on their lives and livelihood?

Those are common, human questions in the face of something that disrupts our routine and causes us to be anxious. Our world is filled with so many disconcerting circumstances. We wonder how they will affect us and what we might do to make things better.

As a people of faith, it’s important for us to remember that, into the anxiety of the shepherds, comes this angel who says right away: “Do not be afraid.” If that didn’t help to calm the shepherds, then certainly the next words the angel spoke must have: “I am bringing you good news of great joy.” We love good news. And, more importantly, we love joy....real honest-to-goodness joy that takes away the conditions of the world, if even for a few moments or a few days.

As a community of faith, our Advent focus will be to “create a community of joy” for ourselves. This is the season of watching and waiting for the Savior’s birth, for God’s great gift to come into the world. It is both a world-changing event that we celebrate from over two thousand years ago AND a world-changing event which we anticipate when our Savior comes again. As we wait, God wishes for us an attitude of joy, a time to reflect and relax in God’s love and simply enjoy this holy season.

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## LACO

Thank you to everyone who cooked for the bake sale, and helped at the bottle drive and food drive at Food City in October. We raised \$1921.56 and received almost 8 full carts of food. Thank you also to everyone who made crafts or donated raffle items for the Christmas fairs at Lisbon High School and Holy Trinity Church. Thank you to the French and Art Students at Lisbon High School who did an Empty Bowl supper for LACO on November 30th. It was rescheduled from November 16th because of a snowstorm that cancelled school. The art students made bowls for the soup that each person got to take home. Thank you to the Lisbon Police Department who are making a donation to LACO to be able to grow a beard for the month of November. Thank you to the members of all of our churches who have donated items that are needed each month. Over 80% of the food we serve is now being purchased at local stores.

LACO food pantry is open to anyone living in Lisbon, Durham, and Bowdoin. They must show a photo ID and have a bill with their current address. The Clothing Bank is open to anyone regardless of the town they live in and is free of charge. LACO is open Wednesdays from 6-8, Thursdays from 10-12, and Saturdays from 8-10. Both the food pantry and clothing bank can use volunteers. We deliver to 10-15 elderly and disabled people twice a month.

We wish you all a blessed Christmas season and a Happy New Year.

Pastor Elizabeth, Dottie, Carol, and Jim

## AFTERNOON CIRCLE

In December, we will not be meeting for lunch. Stay tuned for plans for January.

Carolyn Jones

## EVENING CIRCLE

The December 4th meeting will be held at the home of Carolyn Jones at 6:30 PM. Please try to make this meeting, as we will be doing election of officers for 2019.

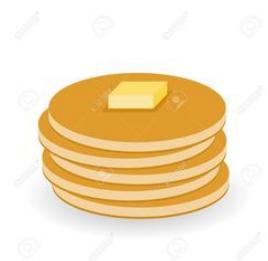
Carolyn Jones  
President

## DONATIONS NEEDED

Donations of complete pancake mix, milk and juice will be needed for Breakfast with Santa, please let Trudy Duval know what you can donate!

*I will give thanks to you, LORD, with all my heart; I will tell of all your wonderful deeds.*

*Psalms 9:1*



## CHRISTMAS FAIR UPDATES

With the snow falling outside, it certainly seems like Christmas is right around the corner. Now that the fair is behind us, I hope you all take the time to relax, reflect and enjoy the season of Advent.

Once again, thank you to all that made our annual Christmas Fair and Silent Auction a success. Receipts are still trickling in, but as of now our profit for the event is approximately \$3500! Thank you to Ginny Barden and her kitchen crew who served a delicious beef stew lunch. Thank you to Dot Rice who not only provided many warm quilts for sale, but set up and packed up all the remaining crafts. Thank you to Lois Wills for having that green thumb and always providing us with beautiful, healthy plants for sale. (There are a few spider plants left if anyone would like to “nurture” them until the spring plant sale!) A very special thank you to Connie Earle and the crew she had working with her making arrangements and decorating the wreaths. Thank you to Win Smith for getting the greens and decorating the dining room Christmas tree. Thank you to Dean and Margaret Logan and Carolyn Jones who put signs out and flyers in local businesses promoting the event. Thank you to our first time volunteers – Ray and Kay Richard and Connie Potter. Thank you to all the businesses and individuals who donated items for the silent auction. Thank you to all those who baked, provided crafts, helped with setting up and taking down, our cashiers, those who made purchases and all those others who worked to make the event successful. Our success is due, in part, because of our dedicated congregation.

This year we moved the date of the fair to the third Saturday in November. We’ll be meeting to discuss what impact, if any, the change of date made on our sales. New this year, was Friday night sales from 5:00 to 7:00. We received positive feedback on the Friday night hours and will be looking to expand the idea next year. Stay tuned.

It’s never too early to start thinking about next year’s fair/auction. If you have any ideas, we’d love to hear them. Send me an e-mail or jot it down. You MIGHT just have the perfect idea for next year!!

Merry Christmas,

Trudy Duval

## OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Just a reminder that we are still collecting new, unwrapped toys for the Toys for Tots program. The collection boxes are in the Narthex and the dining room. The pick up date is December 13th. There is still plenty of time for you to add your donation!

Food items for the Christmas food baskets can now be put in the dining room. The final date for food items is December 9th as we will be doing an inventory of the donations on the 10th. At that point we will purchase anything that is still needed.

The Outreach Committee thanks you in advance for your support of both of these projects and wishes you all a very merry Christmas.

Connie Earle,  
Chairperson



## WORSHIP COMMITTEE

The Worship Committee has been making plans for the Advent Season. Our theme is "Creating a Community of Joy". We invite you to join in sharing the joy of the season.

We will be decorating the church on Saturday, Dec 1st, at 4pm., followed by a potluck dinner.

This is open to everyone. Please come and share your creative and joyful gifts.

On December 2nd we will be worshipping with the carol communion.

We will celebrate the 200th anniversary of Silent Night either on Dec 23rd or on Xmas Eve.

Our Xmas Eve service will be at 6pm with candle lighting and communion.

On Dec 30th we will have the Wesley Covenant Service and introduce our next worship theme: Creating a Community of Grace. Looking ahead, the stewardship theme will be "Creating a Community of Generosity".

Joyfully Submitted,  
Sue White, Chair

## "HERE WE GO A-CAROLING" ... ..

The date has been set for our annual time of caroling. Once again this year we will visit The Lamp health care facility in Lisbon. Please join us on Sunday, December 23rd. We will meet at the church for 1:00 p.m. , so we can carpool to The Lamp for 1:30. We will share the songs and carols of the season and make the holiday's a bit brighter for the wonderful residents.

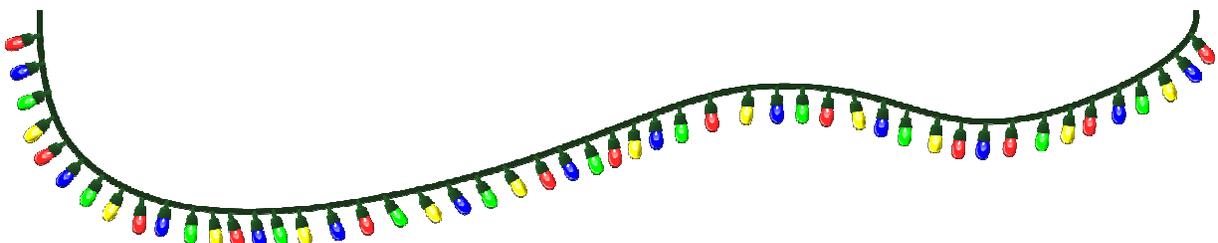
## CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE OF WORSHIP

Our church family will gather to celebrate the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ at 6:00 pm on Monday evening, December 24. The service will include the Scripture lessons of this holy time, the hymns and carols of the season, sharing the Sacrament of Holy Communion, and conclude with candlelight and the singing of *Silent Night*.

Please join us to pause in this hectic time of year to remember the very reason for the Christmas celebration and rejoice in God's gift of love.

## WESLEY COVENANT SERVICE

During our December 30<sup>th</sup> service of worship we will share a Wesley Covenant Service. This service, used by Wesley in his ministry in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, will help us renew our commitment to God as disciples for Jesus Christ as we reflect on our faithfulness in the past year and begin the new year on a holy note.



## LAY LEADER REPORT

*Faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. This is what the ancients were commended for.*

*Hebrews 11:1-2*

Paul's letter to the Hebrews reminds them (and us) to have faith. Look at what has happened before: Noah built the Ark, Abraham moved and began living in tents, Sarah had a child at an old age, (and that child became the ancestor of nations), and Abraham offered Isaac as an offering to God.

In our own history, we also have taken many leaps of faith: We merged two churches from two towns, we built an addition, we held a 5K to help the community, we helped homeless students, we have become supporters of LACO, and most recently we have asked a coach (Rick McKinley) to help us move forward.

All these things have come as acts of faith. Maybe we will not be around to see the full fruition of God's work, but, like the ancients Paul speaks of, God commends us to take that leap.

We are looking for a way to find the mission given to us by God. Like the ancients, and our more recent ancestors, we cannot rely on our own cleverness. God will show us the way.

Our faith leads us to try many things such as suppers, breakfasts, fairs, plant sales, and food baskets. We put our faith in God and the work God wants us to do when undertaking these projects.

We need to learn to listen to God's voice. It can come as inner inspiration or maybe the leadership of others. We need to notice the creativity of those around us and the voice that comes to us through worship, prayer, and Bible study. God puts things in front of us. We just need to attune ourselves and pay attention.

So, how do we tell if what we are hearing or noticing is God's word? The most practical answer would be, "If it doesn't work, it probably didn't come from God." We have to keep trying, never giving up. God does not give up on us. God will keep putting those inspirations in front of us. God loves us, and wants a good life not only for us, but for all of God's people. It is our job to help all people feel God's love through us.

Make a Joyful Noise in God's Name!

Sue White

### *LUMC Mission Statement:*

"The Lisbon United Methodist Church welcomes, nurtures, and serves all people with the love of Christ."

## BIRTHDAY WISHES

Happy Birthday to the following church members celebrating a birthday in December!

(f you know someone to be added to our list please let Erica Soiett know)



- |     |               |     |               |
|-----|---------------|-----|---------------|
| 1-  | Linda Baldiga | 22- | Amber Morgan  |
| 4-  | David Wile    | 23- | Bud Cherry    |
| 5-  | Randy Jones   | 27- | Brad Reed     |
| 9-  | Amy Dudar     | 28- | Ryan Moore    |
| 17- | Kevin Cheney  |     | Sean Marchant |
| 19- | Caitlin White | 31- | Bob Underwood |

## BREAKFAST WITH SANTA



**Come join us for breakfast with  
Santa!!!!!!**

**Saturday, December 8th**

**8:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m.**

**Come join us for pancakes and pictures!**



Bring a pair of child sized socks as well, to be  
donated to the Lisbon Community

School

**For more information please contact  
Trudy Duval**

## FROM YOUR PASTOR, Continued

After all, God's good news proclaimed by the angel, is reason enough to stop the busy pace and remember the true reason for this season.

Verne and I are remembering you and those you love in thought and prayer as we travel the Advent journey with you, watching and waiting for the Light of the World, our Savior and Redeemer, Jesus Christ. May your days be holy ones, filled with joy and rejoicing.

God's blessings,  
*Pastor Elizabeth*

*And the angel said unto them,*

FEAR  
NOT: FOR  
**BEHOLD,  
I BRING YOU  
GOOD TIDINGS  
OF GREAT JOY,  
WHICH SHALL BE  
TO ALL  
PEOPLE**

JESUSNATION\_

**GIVING THANKS, Submitted by Don Wile**

Summer's end is at hand, and the days are getting short.  
Temperatures are cooling, it's no longer too hot.  
The sun is setting sooner and the sunsets are red and gold.  
There is something in the air. Could it already be cold?  
Some days are bright with color while others are drab and gray.  
The wind is getting stronger making the tree limbs swing and sway.  
Every day grows cooler, the nights clear and cold. Finally, the leaves just give up and let go.  
Down they come in a colorful rain, and often times the wind picks them up again.  
If the weather is right and the air is heavy, we could get snow. Nah, no one is ready.  
This is the time of year when families make plans, to travel and visit the old homestead again.  
Mothers and fathers, sons and daughters are filled with excitement of seeing the others.  
Most of the time it's a trip to the country, where Grandma and Grandpa sit in chairs that are comfy.  
A few days before the holiday, the travelers arrive and the house is filled with memories that come alive.  
Cleaning and cooking fill the days and the evenings. Everyone working to give the holiday meaning.  
Finally, the day of "Thanksgiving" arrives, and we all give thanks to our "Father" for blessing our lives.  
Happy Thanksgiving and God bless.



**ANNUAL POINSETTIAS and OTHER FLOWERS**

It's that time once again when lovely poinsettias and other flowers will adorn our sanctuary. Please share your plants with us for our December 23rd and 24th services of worship. If you would like your flowers in memory of or in celebration of loved ones, please complete the form below PRIOR TO DECEMBER 19th. Thanks!

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Yes, I will be bringing flowers to worship for December 23rd and 24th.

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

In memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

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## A SOLDIER'S POEM, Submitted by Ginny Barden

Twas the night before Christmas, he lived all alone, in a one bedroom house made of plaster and stone. I had come down the chimney with presents to give and to see just who in this house did live. I looked all about, a strange sight I did see, no tinsel, no presents, not even a tree.

No stockings by mantle, just boots filled with sand, and on the wall pictures of far distant lands. With medals and badges, awards of all kinds, a sobering thought came to my mind. For this house was different, so dark and so dreary, the home of a soldier, now I could see clearly.

The soldier lay sleeping, silent, alone, curled up on the floor in this one bedroom home. The face was so gentle, the room in such disorder, not how I pictured a United States soldier. Was this the hero of whom I just read? Curled up on a poncho, the floor for a bed?

I realized the families that I saw this night, owed their lives to these soldiers who were willing to fight. Soon round the world, the children would play, and grownups would celebrate a bright Christmas day. They all enjoyed freedom each month of the year, because of the soldiers, like the one lying here.

I couldn't help wonder how many lay alone, on a cold Christmas eve in a land far from home. The very thought brought a tear to my eye, I dropped to my knees and started to cry. The soldier awakened and I heard a rough voice, "Santa don't cry, this life is my choice;

I fight for freedom, I don't ask for more, my life is my God, my country, my corps." The soldier rolled over and soon drifted to sleep, I couldn't control it, I continued to weep. I kept watch for hours, so silent and still, and we both shivered from the cold evening's chill.

I didn't want to leave on that cold, dark, night, the guardian of honor so willing to fight. Then the soldier rolled over, with a voice soft and pure, whispered, "Carry on Santa, it's Christmas Day, all is secure." One look at my watch, and I knew he was right.

"Merry Christmas my friend, and to all a good night."

*Written by, Lance Corporal James M. Schmidt*



# December 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1-Gingerbread House Making 3-4:30 p.m. Advent decorating/potluck, 4:00 p.m.
2-1st Sunday of Advent w/ Holy Communion Bishop's Day on the District @ Green St UMC, Augusta, 3:00 p.m	3-Widow's group lunch, 12 noon Advent study, 6:30 p.m.	4-Choir rehearsal, 6:30 pm. Evening Circle @ Carolyn Jones, 6:30pm	5-Outreach-wrap food boxes, 9:30 a.m. Finance Committee, 6:30 p.m.	6-Bible study @ Pam Wolfe's, 10:00 a.m.	7	8-Breakfast with Santa, 8:30-10:30 a.m.
9-2nd Sunday of Advent Toys for Tots deadline Ad Council, 11am	10-Outreach-fruit baskets, 9:30 a.m. Advent Study, 6:30 p.m.	11-LACOB Board meeting, 9:00 p.m. Choir rehearsal, 6:30 p.m.	12-Bible study @ Pam Wolfe's, 10:00 a.m.	13-Outreach-fill food boxes, 9:30 a.m.	14	15
16-3rd Sunday of Advent	17-Advent Study, 6:30 p.m.	18-Choir rehearsal, 6:30 p.m.	19	20-Bible Study @ Pam Wolfe's, 10:00 a.m.	21	22
23-4th Sunday of Advent Caroling @ The Lamp Nursing Home, 1:30pm	24-Christmas Eve service of worship with lessons, carols and candle-light, 6:00 pm	25 	26	27	28	29
30-Wesley Covenant Service	31					

Office Hours: Monday 9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon  
Other times available by appointment

Thursday 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.  
Friday is the Pastor's Sabbath day



**Lisbon United  
Methodist Church**

14 School Street  
Lisbon Falls, Maine 04252  
(207)353-4982

**Sunday Worship Service**

Sunday Worship  
9:30 a.m.

*Experienced people are ready to provide nursery  
care for infants.*

*Please speak with a greeter.*

*Office Hours: Monday 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.*

*Thursday 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.*

*Other times available by appointment*

*Friday is the Pastor's Sabbath day*

*Office Phone Number: 353-4982*

*Parsonage Phone Number: 407-4406*

**Important Contacts:**

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