

From Your Pastor:

ON GRACE

As we continue our series *Creating a Community of Grace* throughout February, here are a few quotations on the topic of grace. I share them for your reflection:

“The grace of God means something like: Here is your life. You might never have been, but you are because the party wouldn’t have been complete without you. Here is the world. Beautiful and terrible things will happen. Don’t be afraid. I am with you. Nothing can ever separate us. It’s for you I created the universe. I love you. There’s only one catch. Like any other gift, the gift of grace can be yours only if you’ll reach out and take it. Maybe being able to reach out and take it is a gift too.”

— Frederick Buechner

“The will of God will not take us where the grace of God cannot sustain us.”

— Billy Graham

“Everybody can be great...because anybody can serve. You don’t have to have a college degree to serve. You don’t have to make your subject and verb agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love.”

— Dr Martin Luther King Jr

“Grace is the power of the Holy Spirit coming to us free of charge to enable you to do with ease what you could never do on your own with any amount of struggle and effort.”

— Joyce Meyer

“I am not what I ought to be, I am not what I want to be, I am not what I hope to be in another world; but still I am not what I once used to be, and by the grace of God I am what I am”.

— John Newton

May God’s grace surround you as your journeys of faith as disciples of Jesus Christ continue.

God’s Blessings,

Pastor Elizabeth



Inside this
issue:

Outreach

LACO
Information

Lay Leader

Afternoon
Circle

Evening
Circle

Worship
Committee

And MUCH
more!

L A C O

LACO would like to thank Lisbon Police Chief Mark Hagan for allowing his officers to grow beards for October and November that raised \$950 for LACO. Thank you also to the Lisbon High School French and Art Clubs who raised \$489.79 from their empty bowl dinner for LACO. Thank you to Jim and Nancy Lamson and their crew at L& B Electrical for their donation of \$2000 and \$600 in food. Thank you to Deluxe Corporation for their donation of \$98 from their employee dinner. Thank you to Priority Real Estate Group which built the Rustic Lantern Market in Lisbon Falls for again donating \$2500 to LACO. Thank you also to the employees at Liberty Mutual and Standard Insurance for their donations and their volunteer time.

A huge thank you to the Women's Evening Circle, Outreach Committee, and the people who supported the Long Range Planning Committee's Walk/Run for LACO and Warm Thy Neighbor heating program for all you did to help our families this year. Thank you to all the members of the church who have donated food and money this year to help our families. You have helped LACO provide a week's worth of food to 8870 people (5823 adults and 3047 children) in 2018. We had 297 families registered who made 3260 visits to the pantry. We served 1183 more people this year. LACO has delivered food to 19 different people in all three towns in 2018 who are on medical devices or suffering major illnesses and can't get to the pantry. Our volunteers donated 6698 hours in 2018 to run the food pantry and clothing bank.

LACO is open Wednesdays from 6-8, Thursdays from 10-12, and Saturdays from 8-10. People using the food pantry must show a current bill with proof of residency in Lisbon, Durham, or Bowdoin and a photo ID. They may come twice a month. The clothing bank is open to anyone, and is closed the second Wednesday of each month. Both the clothing bank and food pantry can use more volunteers.

We wish you all a blessed New Year!

Pastor Elizabeth, Carol, Dottie, and Jim

EVENING CIRCLE

Our February meeting will be held at the home of Trudy Duval on 2/5 at 6:30 PM.

Carolyn Jones
President

And now these three remain: faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is love.

1Corinthians 13:13

LUMC Mission Statement:

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

CRAFT GROUP INITIAL GATHERING

Do you enjoy crafting? Do you have some great craft ideas you'd like to share with others? Then please join our initial gathering after coffee fellowship time on Sunday, February 10 for what we hope may become a monthly gathering, perhaps making items for our Christmas fair in November. At this first session we'll share ideas and thoughts in the hope that we can work on the same project or various projects when we gather in March. Please bring a bag lunch if you wish and spread the word among family and friends. Please talk with Trudy Duval if you have questions.

FOR YOUR MARCH CALENDER

Please mark your calendars now for our Ash Wednesday service of worship on March 6th. We'll gather at 7:00 pm for a service of quiet reflection, Holy Communion, and the imposition of ashes to begin this sacred time of the Christian year on a holy note and set the tone for the remainder of the time that leads us to the Day of Resurrection.

SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE

This is just a reminder that our denomination will hold a special session of the General Conference (which usually meets every four years as the governing body of the UMC) on February 23-26, 2019. Lay and clergy delegates from annual conferences around the world will gather to discuss and hopefully vote upon full inclusion for the UMC.

We will say more about this in worship as the dates draw near but please make a note to keep our larger Church in prayer on these dates.

AFTERNOON CIRCLE

We had a very well attended potluck for our January gathering, thanks to all who participated and donated money for our mission shares. \$120 was collected. It was decided to do the same for the 3rd Wednesday in February (20th). All are welcome, bring something to share and enjoy a great meal with great company.

Any questions, give me a call at 353-8691

Carolyn Jones

FINANCE COMMITTEE

In 2018 over \$1,000 of additional revenues were generated from the Generosity Tree thanks to you. We appreciate these gifts, which are over and above your yearly pledge. These additional monies help to fill our budget gaps. For the month of February the tree will have a Valentine's theme. Be sure to check it out.



GREETINGS FROM THE WORSHIP COMMITTEE

By the time you read this, you will be well on your way to Creating a Community of Grace. I hope you have noted the new banner and the worship elements that go along with this theme. We have been studying and singing about Methodism and the Wesley traditions.

Here are some highlights to look forward to:

A puppet show! Debbie Greim has selected a script for Duke and Robbie.

New communion responses to sing. Our creative music leader has chosen new responses to help us celebrate communion with God's grace in our hearts.

Please notice the notes about the theme of grace in your bulletin. Feel free to take the bulletin home to use as a part of your devotions. (P.S. if you are a part of a couple and feel that you can worship with one bulletin for the two of you, please take just one bulletin. We are working to cut down on waste and expenses. God asks us to be good stewards of God's kingdom.)

Looking ahead, please note that March 3rd is Transfiguration Sunday. We encourage you to wear white in honor of this special day.

Ash Wednesday is March 6th! (Wednesday) We will be having a quiet, informal service with the imposition of ashes.

For the season of Lent, we will be starting a new theme. Creating a Community of.....

If anyone has an idea for our Community, please share your gift of creativity.

Many thanks to Dot Rice's daughter for her donation of artificial greens for next Christmas. We all know where her generous heart comes from.

Our next meeting will be February 17, 2019.

God's Grace be with you all,
Sue White

CELEBRATIONS WELCOME!

In the past, LUMC has included celebrations on the worship bulletin insert and those sharing them have given a small monetary gift to help offset the cost of paper. These might include birthdays, anniversaries, a memorial on or near a loved one's passing, or just because!

If you would like to include a celebration in your life, please use the form located in the Narthex so that the date and specific wording will be correct.

Your celebrations are welcome!

FROM YOUR LAY LEADER

Prayer and Meditation

As we get ready for the season of Lent, I recommend that we get into a routine of prayer and meditation. As we have learned, John Wesley was known for his spiritual discipline, earning the name “Methodist”, which we still call ourselves. We can own this label ourselves by creating a way of prayer and meditation.

Thomas Merton, a Trappist monk who lived from 1915-1968, might disagree with a method or system of praying. He said we should cultivate an attitude of prayer rather what he termed a “magical method”. I think we can still learn from him and cultivate an attitude or outlook toward our prayer lives. Here are the attitudes he says will unite us to God. I have added prayer and/or scripture to help with our daily devotions.

Faith : Matthew 17b:20 For truly I tell you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you.

Openness : Lord teach me to be open to your word.

Attention : Lord, help me to focus on your will.

Reverence : Psalm 89:5-7 Let the heavens praise your wonders, O Lord, your faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones. For who in the skies can be compared to the Lord? Who among the heavenly beings is like the Lord, a God feared in the council of the holy ones, great and awesome above all that are around him?

Expectation : Psalm 62:5 For God alone my soul waits in silence, for my hope is from him.

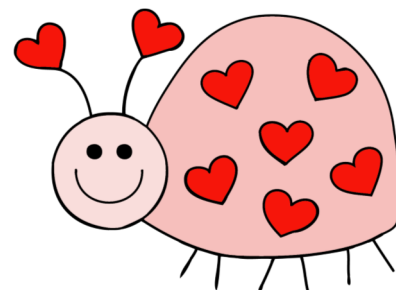
Supplication : Psalm 39:12 Hear my prayer O Lord, and give ear to my cry; do not hold your peace at my tears.

Trust: 2 Samuel 22:3 God of my rock; in him will I trust.

Joy : Psalm 5:11 But let all who take refuge in you rejoice; let them ever sing for joy. Spread your protection over them, so that those who love your name may exult in you.

May the grace of God be with you in your prayer life,
Sue White

Merton, Thomas. Contemplative Prayer. New York: Doubleday, 1969



BIRTHDAY WISHES



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

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

4-	Kadie Palmer	16-	Brenda Rogers
8-	Lola Carlson	17-	Karli Rogers
	Mark A. Stambach	18-	Pat Cavender
	Dana Dudley		Martha Palmer
	Cathy Strople	20-	Shane Soiett
9-	Ruth Upham		Rosalie White
12-	Peter Dudar	21-	Caroline White
14-	David Clark	22-	Dot Brooks
15-	Win Smith	23	Joan Stambach
			Dean Cornish

GET TO KNOW YOUR CONGREGATION

There will be a new feature article starting with our March newsletter! In an effort to get to know a little more about each other I will be showcasing a member of our congregation each month. Participation is completely optional. If you want to participate there will be forms available in the narthex. They can be returned to me in person, or put in the Sunday School mailbox in the hallway. If you'd like to submit a picture to go along with your biography, they can be emailed to me at esoiett@roadrunner.com.

OFFICE HOURS

Monday 9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon
Thursday 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.
Friday is the Pastor's Sabbath Day
Other times available by appointment



February 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2-Souper Bowl Deliveries, 11:00 a.m.
3-Creating a Community of Grace II Holy Communion Valentines for Veterans	4-Widows' group lunch, 12 noon Outreach, 1:30 p.m.	5-Choir rehearsal, 6:30 p.m. Evening Circle, 6:30 p.m.	6-Finance Committee, 6:30 p.m.	7-Bible Study @ Pam Wolfe's, 10:00 a.m.	8	9
10-Creating a Community of Grace III Craft group, 11:30 a.m.	11-Pre-Lenten gathering for clergy, No. Reading, MA No office hours	12-LACO Board meeting, 9:00 .m. Choir rehearsal, 6:30 p.m.	13-Bible study @ Pam Wolfe's 10:00 a.m.	14-District clergy at mechu-wana, 9:30 a.m.	15	16
17-Creating a Community of Grace, IV Worship Committee, 11:00 a.m.	18	19-Choir rehearsal, 6:30 p.m.	20-Afternoon Circle, @ church, 11:30 a.m.	21-Bible Study @ Pam Wolfe's, 10:00 a.m.	22	23-General Conference Special Session Bean Supper, 5:00-6:00 p.m.
24-Creating a Community of Grace, V General Conference special session	25-General Conference special session	26-Choir rehearsal, 6:30 p.m. General Conference special session	27	28		

**Lisbon United
Methodist Church**

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

Sunday Worship Service

Sunday Worship and Sunday School
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:

Pastor: Rev. Elizabeth J. Bachelder Smith
pastor@lisbonumchurch.org

Organist & Choir Director: Debbie Greim
576-8527 dmusicnote@myfairpoint.net

Lay Leader & Office Staff: Sue White
sdwhite071154@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor: Erica Soiett
212-3713 esoiett@roadrunner.com

Custodian: Shane Soiett
212-8316 ssoiett@roadrunner.com

Webmaster: Clyde Cavender
353-5906 ccavender1@roadrunner.com