

*"I Will Strengthen You..."*

INSIDE THIS  
ISSUE:

LAY LEADER

CELEBRATE  
MAINE

NURTURE

YARD SALE  
UPDATE

AND MUCH  
MORE!

"Do not fear, for I am with you, do not be afraid, for I am your God;  
I will strengthen you, I will help you." - Isaiah 41.10.

When the pandemic became a reality for our lives fifteen months ago, I turned to the Scripture to find words of comfort that could guide our lives and our faith for what was to come. What that would be was unknown to any of us; since that time we've experienced death, illness, anxiety, loss of income, loss of security, and on and on. I don't need to say more about all that we experienced in what turned out to be – we hope – a once-in-a-lifetime occurrence; you know it all too well.

So much of the Scripture would have been appropriate to relate to our circumstances. Two stories readily come to mind: the story of the Israelites wandering in the wilderness for forty years, and the story of God's people in exile in Babylon where they asked, "How can we sing the Lord's song in a foreign land?" Certainly we lived out both of those stories in many ways since last year.

The passage that I chose to hold before us came from the prophet Isaiah in the words you read above. As we waited to see how the pandemic unfolded, we needed a good word from God, specifically the reminder not to fear or be afraid because God would be with us through it all. "I will strengthen you, I will help you," our God promised. And as always, God did not shirk from that promise. I turned to God often in that harrowing time, asking for calm and peace in the time of unknowing. I am hopeful that you did the same, receiving the assurance that you and those you love were not alone.

The news about the pandemic grows better with each passing week; we are not out of the woods yet, of course, but the numbers of individual cases, hospitalizations, and deaths have been trending in the right direction for weeks now. I'm so very grateful that we are on the backside of it all!

However, I know that, whatever confronts each one of us next, God is already there, ready to love us through it, ready to enfold us in God's grace and mercy. While there is much from the last fifteen months that we want to forget, I pray that your experience of God's love and comfort through it all is something that you will never forget. May we continue to hold fast to the promise that God is with us; we need not be afraid.

God's blessings,

*Pastor Elizabeth*

## LACO

Thank you to everyone who baked for the LACO Car Show at Shiloh on Saturday, June 5th. We raised \$3300 from the food sales, tee shirts, and admission fees donated by the Yankee Cruisers Car Club.

We are now back to paying for most of our food at Good Shepherd as the federal grant moneys are ending. The food from Feeding America is still free to us.

LACO is open Wednesdays from 2-5 and Saturdays from 8-10. We are still serving outside the MTM building. The LACO Board of Directors will meet on July 13th as we are only meeting quarterly. The clothing bank is still closed and is half full of boxes of food for the large number of people we are serving.

Pastor Elizabeth, Mary, and Carol

*"It is for freedom  
that Christ has set us  
free."*

*~Galatians 5:1*

## NUTURE COMMITTEE

We'd like to remind folks that we have prayer shawls. If you know anyone who would like one; just get in touch with Pastor Elizabeth or myself. Nurture will be meeting July 18th after service, in the Hunnewell Room. We hope to see you all back in church soon.

God Bless,

Margaret Logan

## OUTDOOR HYMN SING DATES

Last summer our community of faith enjoyed a couple services of worship outdoors. We're going to try that again this summer simply for the fun of singing together. Please mark the dates of Sunday, July 18 and August 15 on your calendars. These are proposed dates at the time of this printing; they will be confirmed as the dates near, especially in case of inclement weather. We'll begin at 4:00 pm each time; please bring your chairs so that we can be on the lawn between our church building and the MTM where there will be plenty of shade. We'll share some Scripture and be in prayer with one another but, most of all, we'll sing, sing, sing!



## SUMMER REMINDERS

- Per the vote of the church council at its May 18 meeting, our worship time will remain the same this summer at 9:30 am
- And, again upon vote of the church council, we are printing only the bulletin inserts for worship since the entire service is displayed on the screen. However, if it would be easier for you to worship with a regular bulletin, one can be made available for you each week. Please just speak with the pastor about this.
- As discussed with and approved by the Staff/Parish Relations Committee, the pastor's office hours for July and August will be by appointment; she will be doing the work at home instead where it is cooler than the very warm office. Please do not hesitate to contact Pastor Elizabeth if you would like to or need to chat and would prefer to be in person.

*(From Pastor E: As a rule, I go into the office to print the "at home" worship materials for mailing as well as to prepare the bulletin inserts on Wednesday; office visits/outdoor visits can be arranged for that day.)*



### *LUMC Mission Statement:*

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

## LAY MEMBER TO NEW ENGLAND ANNUAL CONFERENCE REPORT

The Theme for the 2021 New England Annual Conference was “Building Beloved Community”. The scripture was Psalm 137:4 How can we sing while living in a foreign land?

The conference was virtual, using the zoom platform. It went from Wednesday, June 9th through Saturday June 12.

The clergy session was held on Wednesday.

On Thursday we began with a worship service followed by the Episcopal Address from our Bishop Devadhar. He spoke about the Tulsa massacre, the Palestinian situation, and treating First Persons in the US with dignity. He also reminded us that June was pride month, and we would be celebrating Juneteenth. He said we must stand together in solidarity or fall apart. He assured us that God will lead us to still waters even though we are weary of the pandemic, violence, isolation and doubt. This is our foreign land. As Jeremiah brought words of hope to the Babylonians, we can, with God’s help, look to a future beyond our dreams and imagining. The Bishop proposes the formation of a vision team of eight to include clergy and laity. He also mentioned budget reductions due to shared ministries. He proposed a respite care plan for clergy with medical needs and crises.

We then voted on the Consent Calendar. It included the minimum cash salary resolution, health insurance, and pension for clergy. It also included the apportionment formula. Churches to close were Round Pond, Waldoboro, Good Shepherd, and Simple Church Grafton and Worcester. All these items and a few more were approved.

A motion was made to approve the vision forward team proposed by the bishop. The team was approved.

The trustees and the conference treasurer have worked hard to go through the budget line by line. As a result, we should see a reduction of mission shares.

The pension plan was approved.

Thursday afternoon a memorial service was held, led by Rev. Dr. Charlotte Pridgen-Randolph. She encouraged us to question, own, and acknowledge the spirit in us. We listened to hymn #525 “We’ll Understand it Better By and By”.

## LAY MEMBER TO NEW ENGLAND ANNUAL CONFERENCE REPORT, CONT.

Thursday evening I attended the Laity Session. We heard from some of the district lay leaders who gave short meditations on the scripture and theme of the conference. Bonnie Jean Rowe spoke of sharing ourselves. Dan Jones reminded us to be the hands and feet of Jesus. Stephanie Cyr spoke about welcoming foreigners.

We heard reports from the United Methodist Women, United Methodist Men, Deaconesses, and Lay Servant Ministries.

Friday Morning we heard the Laity Address given by Heather Josselyn-Cranson. She has written a book called "The Reason We Sing". Her message was that we will be whole in diversity.

We then watched as the ordination class answered the historical questions found in our Book of Discipline.

The rest of Friday was taken up in discussion and motions of three disaffiliating churches. The day was very emotional with many speeches for and against. We heard from the pastors of the three churches and had access to the documents that were presented. The disaffiliation process took about two years for each church to complete. Originally the agenda planned for the vote to be taken together, but the body decided to vote separately for each church. The first church we looked at was the Chebeague Island Church submitted by Melissa Yosua-Davis, pastor. Some people wanted to postpone the vote until after the General Conference meets or at least until we can meet in person. That motion was defeated. The vote was taken and the resolution for Chebeague was approved.

The next church under consideration was Hope Gateway in Portland. The resolution was approved. After this vote people discussed white privilege and questioned how best the Portland area would be served.

The next church under consideration was Tuttle Road in Cumberland. By this time emotions were high, with people wanting the church to stay and fight discrimination from within, people who felt their feelings were not validated as gay people of color, questions of clergy status, and fear for the ministry of the Portland area. Throughout the day the issue of money popped up. In the end, the body voted to allow the disaffiliation.

Friday night we heard the state of the church report. This is the report from the cabinet on the districts of our conference. We heard from the Preacher's Aid Society which awarded the Taylor Fellowship Award to four retired pastors and their spouses.

## LAY MEMBER TO NEW ENGLAND ANNUAL CONFERENCE REPORT, CONT.

Saturday morning we heard a message from Rev. Rae Fraumann, the recipient of the Ziegler Preaching Award. Her sermon was on resolving conflict and listening. She sang verses of “There is a Balm in Gilead” throughout.

We voted to approve a resolution honoring missing and murdered indigenous women. May 5th has been recognized as a national day of awareness by the US congress. The second Monday in October we acknowledge and celebrate Indigenous Peoples’ Day.

We approved a resolution confronting harm and discrimination on the basis of sex or gender. We committed to creating a Sex/Gender-Based Crisis Response Team for the support of lay and clergy.

We approved an amendment to the maintenance and repairs of conference-owned residences (parsonages) in order to be able to make repairs in a timely manner.

We approved an amendment to the equalization process in the policies and procedures.

We heard a report from the delegation going to the General Conference and the Jurisdictional Conference given by Rev. Jay Williams. They will be holding consultations with various groups in order to listen to their needs and views on conference issues.

A resolution was presented allowing the conference to remain in friendship with disaffiliated churches. It was approved.

We voted to approve the nominations to the Board of Ordained Ministry.

The appointment of Ashley Johnson as the connectional ministry director was announced. The current director, Erica Robinson Johnson, is moving out of our conference.

After much discussion and various motions, we voted to provide grant money and support the Rainbow UMC in Portland in order to continue our presence and ministry in the greater Portland area.

On Saturday afternoon there was a service of Commissioning and Ordination. The Bishop gave an address reminding us not to give up the fight for justice and peace, serving our Creator.

**LAY MEMBER TO NEW ENGLAND ANNUAL CONFERENCE REPORT, CONT.**

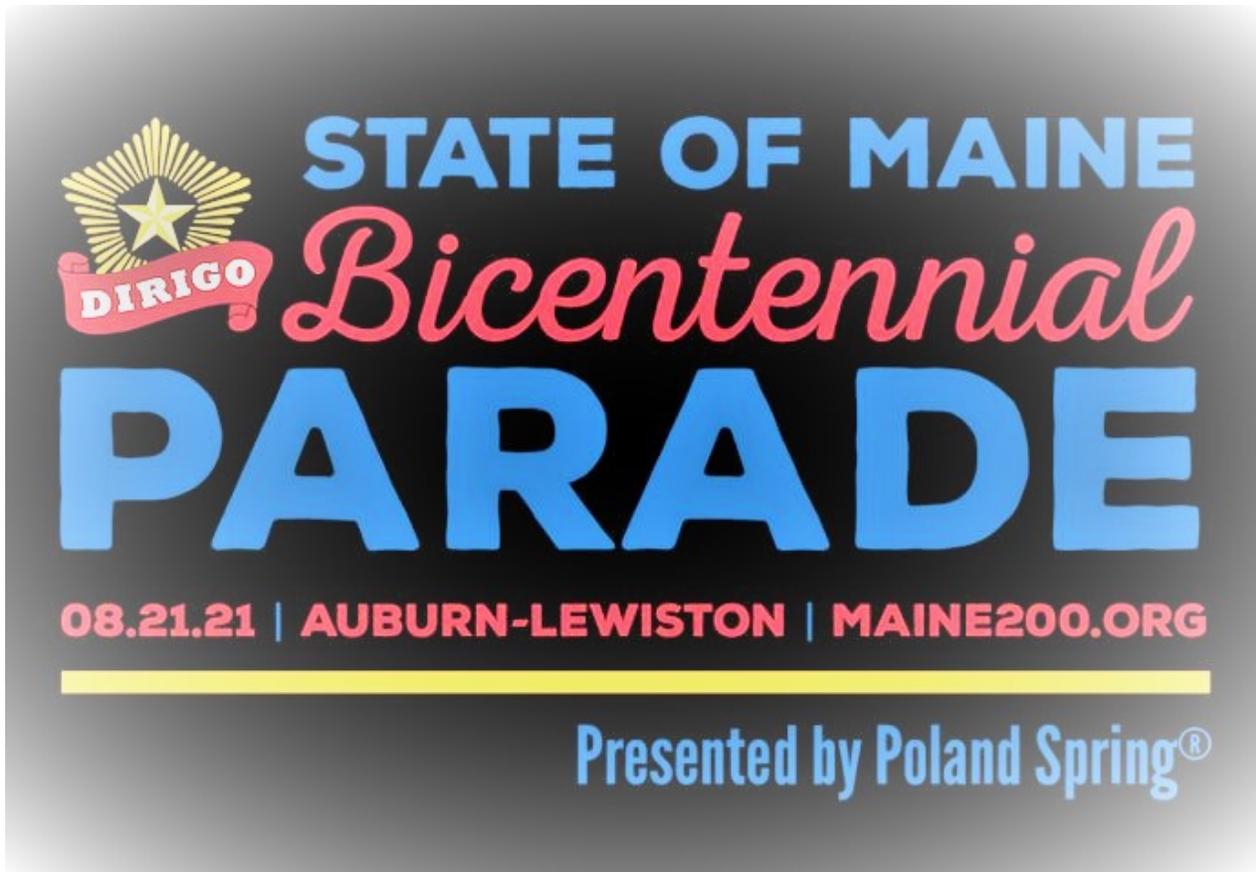
*Please bear with me as I submit this report to you. I tried to remain objective, reporting what happened at the conference. If I have not managed that, you have my apologies.*

Please continue to pray for our conference, our leaders, districts, churches, pastors, and laity. This has been a challenging year.

If you have any questions feel free to contact me.

Your Lay Member to Annual Conference,  
Sue White  
Cell 207-577-8921

**CELEBRATE MAINE!**



**Mark your calendars for August 21st and celebrate Maine's history!**

**For more information regarding the parade please go to:**

**<https://www.maine200parade.com>**

## BIRTHDAY WISHES

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

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



6th: Nate Rioux

9th: Connie Earle

10th: Erica Soiett

11th: Mark C. Stambach

Susan White

18th: Caitlin Ramsay

19th: Verne Ricker

23rd: Dave McCusker

27th: Glenys Gardner

28th: Charlie Stambach

29th: Monica McCusker

30th: Erika Moore

## FINANCE NEWS

With the Moxie Festival having been cancelled two years in a row, maybe you have “junk” in your garage, attic, basement and shed that you would like to find another home for. Well, we have good news!!! At the recent Finance Committee meeting, the decision was made to hold a yard sale. While the date hasn’t been finalized yet, it will be held sometime in August. If you have items looking for a new home, there is plenty of storage space in the church so you can bring them anytime. If you have lots of items and need help getting them to the church, let us know. We can arrange to have a truck pick them up. Remember – we do not want clothes, old electronics that no longer work, old, outdated research and text books. As the saying goes, “One man’s junk is another man’s treasures.” Speak to anyone of the finance committee members if you have any questions.



# July 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4-Worship in person & virtually w/ Holy Communion, 9:30 a.m.	5-Widows fellowship, 11:30 a.m. Outreach Comm., 1:15pm	6	7	8	9	10
11-Worship in person & virtually, 9:30 a.m. Coffee fellowship to follow	12	13	14	15	16	17
18-Worship in person & virtually, 9:30 a.m. Nurture Comm, 11:00 a.m. Outdoor Hymn Sing, 4:00.p.m	19	20	21	22	23	24-Drive through bean supper, 4:30 p.m.
25-Worship in person & virtually, 9:30 a.m.	26	27	28	29	30	31

**NOTE:** All meetings are held in the Hunnewell Room, unless otherwise noted

**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

**LISBON UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCH**

14 School Street

Lisbon Falls, Maine 04252

(207)353-4982

**Sunday Worship Service**

Sunday Worship

(In Person and Live Stream on Facebook)

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*

**Important Contacts:**

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