

A Prayer for Our Children

While gathered together for a recent meeting, the Bishop and members of the New England Conference Cabinet learned of the fatal shooting at a Texas elementary school. They offer this prayer for Texas and for our nation.

"A voice is heard in Ramah,
mourning and great weeping,
Rachel weeping for her children
and refusing to be comforted,
because they are no more."
— Jeremiah 31.15, NIV

We receive the news of another school shooting of our children and those called to teach them perpetrated by someone who was barely past childhood himself, and the ancient words of suffering erupt from us: "How long, O Lord?"

We grasp for words to describe this atrocity — children "horrifically" and "incomprehensibly"* killed — and we know that they fall short; for the enormity of this violence and loss exceeds the power of language to describe. The ancient words of suffering erupt from us: "How long, O Lord?"

We are reminded by the best data that guns are the leading cause of death for children and teenagers in this country since 2020 — that there were 26 school shootings in the US last year— that active shooter attacks in this country have doubled since the beginning of the coronavirus; and we witness our legislators battling over rights and control. The ancient words of suffering erupt from us: "How long, O Lord?"

How long, O Lord? How long must we mourn and weep for our children who are no more? How long must we fear sending our children to school? How long must we watch our young people become filled with pain, fear, and hopelessness so that the only answer that makes sense to them is to desperately and fatally inflict their experience on others? How long will our prayer lists be populated by the families and friends of victims of gun violence?

Cont. on Page 4

INSIDE THIS
ISSUE:

LAY LEADER

FROM YOUR
PASTOR

FINANCE
SECRETARY

PLANT SALE

MOXIE DAYS

AND MUCH
MORE!

EVENING CIRCLE

June meeting, 6/12 after coffee hour, please mark your calendars and plan to attend.

EXCITING NEWS REGARDING OUR SUPPERS

After much discussion and planning, we have decided to open up our dining room, starting in June for suppers. We will continue to offer meals to go, but, for those who wish to come inside, we will be open. There will be a few changes, because of lack of staff, we will no longer offer family style dining. There will be a buffet line, where you will be served, of course, you can come back for seconds if you wish. There will be a slight increase in the cost of tickets, we will be charging \$9.00, starting at the June 25th supper. The hours will be 4:30 p.m. until we are sold out.

Also, our supply of bags is getting low so we are encouraging our customers to bring their own reusable bag for their take out meal. Thank you!!

*"God is able to do
far more abundantly
than all that we ask
or thing"*

~Ephesians 3:20

CELEBRATING OUR GRADUATES!

On Sunday, June 26 we will recognize the high school grads in our church family who are being given our scholarships to pursue their higher education. We will also have an ice cream social along with cake following worship. More details to follow in the weekly worship bulletins but please put this date on your calendar as we celebrate together!



FINANCIAL SECRETARY-STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN UPDATE

I'm writing to let you know how we're doing with Stewardship pledges for the 2022-23 fiscal year. You may recall reading the Narrative Budget in the campaign mailer breaking down the expenses covered by the annual budget. Our operating budget totals \$133,042.34 that is paid with your pledged gifts, fundraisers and special donations. Pledges help the Finance Committee plan ahead and prepare for any budgetary shortages. I have received 26 pledges as of Sunday, May 22nd, with a projected pledge total of \$49,460.00.

This is a good start! – Last year, we received 30 pledges totaling \$65,960.00.

If you haven't submitted your pledge card yet, it isn't too late to send it in! There are extra pledge cards available in the Narthex, along with Offering envelopes, if you need one.

Thank you to everyone who pledged to support our church.

Yours in Faith,

Monica McCusker

PLANT AND BAKE SALE

The weather cooperated on May 21st and a very successful plant and bake sale was held. Thanks to the hard work of the chairperson of this event, Dawn King, we received many, many wonderful donations of plants. In addition to all the greenhouse plants sold we also sold \$1,100 worth of shrubs, perennials and hanging baskets from Bush's Bushes in which we received a commission of 20%. Special thanks to Bonnie and Kelly Fallon. Kelly provided 50 beautiful plants that Bonnie transported from Massachusetts to Maine. Once again, the craft ladies had some cute, whimsical garden crafts for sale. Overall the sale was a success with a total profit of over \$2,300, which is almost doubled from past years.

THANK YOU, LOLA

Many thanks to Lola Carlson who brought roses to worship on Mother's Day for each one of our moms and grandmothers in our sanctuary! We appreciate you and your kindness and thoughtfulness!

LUMC Mission Statement:

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

FROM YOUR PASTOR CONT.

Hear our cries, O Lord.
Listen to our prayers ...
Lead us to the Rock that is higher than us.
— Psalm 61.1-2 adapted, NIV

Cleanse us of our pain and our sin. Fill us with your hope. Show us how to love. Show us how to change this world for Christ's sake so that your kingdom will come and your will *will* be done on earth as it is in heaven. Let us not finish this prayer with an Amen until what we pray for is fully realized through the power and transformation of your resurrection.

**Words used by Texas Governor Greg Abbott during a press conference today.*

We continue to pray for all of the families, school families, law enforcement personnel, and anyone effected by these senseless acts of violence. May God show us the way toward a better future.

God's blessings,

Pastor Elizabeth

PENTECOST SUNDAY

June 5th this year is when we will celebrate the Day of Pentecost and remember the coming of the Holy Spirit upon God's people. Please join us for worship on this special day and **WEAR RED** in remembrance of the Spirit!!

FARWELL FOR DS KAREN MUNSON

Our current DS, Karen Munson, will be concluding her six-year term at the end of June. The district will be having a farewell gathering for her (in person and on Zoom) on Friday, June 17 from 6:00-8:00 pm. All are welcome!

BIRTHDAY WISHES



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

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

1st: Mark Rogers	16th: Phyllis Greim
2nd: Sarah Moore	18th: Olivia Shaw
Breanna Soiett	22nd: Sandy Stultz
5th: Daniel Millson	30th: Megan Hall
8th: Alexandria Shaw	

THANK YOU, TRUDY

Many thanks to Trudy Duval who recently weeded and mulched the church's flower garden beside the back door. We appreciate you and your good work! The garden looks wonderful.



MOXIE NEWS

On May 12th folks gathered in the church dining room to start making plans for the Moxie Festival, which will be held in town on July 8, 9 and 10th. Those in attendance were given an overview of why we can no longer continue to do all we have done in the past during the festival. With the dwindling number of volunteers and the high cost of lobster it is necessary to come up with plans that will allow us to still be part of the community event and able to have enough volunteers to make our participation in the festival a success. After some discussion the committee decided to sell strawberry shortcakes, hot dogs, "grab and go" type of snacks and beverages. I'm excited about this change and think the strawberry shortcakes will be a great addition to the various food trucks that will be at the MTM Center. I've been told that no other vendor is doing any type of dessert and already have had folks tell me they look forward to enjoying this summer treat.

Instead of the usual yard sale we will be having a book sale. We will be expanding our partnership with the Library Department who will provide many books that have been removed from the shelves. Along with the books we currently have and those that folks will be donating after cleaning off their own book shelves customers will have a wide variety of reading materials to choose from. Proceeds will be split between the library and the church. The library's proceeds will be used to support the Children's programs. This partnership is a win-win for both the church and the library.

We will also be renting tables for local individuals who may want to sell crafts, handmade jewelry, plants, etc. We will provide the tables; the renter will provide their own canopies, etc. I currently have 2 tables reserved for rent.

This plan is very different from past years but I am excited and look forward to the festival. I see many "pros" to this plan; the number of volunteers needed will be considerably less, much of the work can be done prior to the 9th, less baking will be required, we have provisions for inclement weather and the town's Moxie Festival committee will provide advertising.

While you may not be able to help on the day of the event, there are still ways you can help us. Donated cases of Moxie and Diet Moxie would be appreciated as well as monetary donations towards the expenses we'll incur for strawberries, biscuits, cream, hot dogs, rolls, etc. We welcome your donated books BUT do not want any medical books, textbooks, encyclopedias or books that are old and smell.

If you have any questions or comments let me know. The committee's next meeting is on June 16th. If you missed the first one we'd love to see you at the next one.

Trudy Duval , Chairperson

FROM YOUR LAY LEADER

Greetings! As we wrap up the month of May, I would like to share with you some information on American/Asian/Pacific Islanders. May was the month to celebrate them and their heritage.

I also have a book report for you on *The Land is Not Empty* by Sarah Augustine.

I hope you find these tidbits interesting and we go into the month of June.

The information I have on AAPI peoples are from zoom calls with our friends from Rolling Ridge. Full disclosure: I tend to view the recordings after the calls. Sometimes this is due to scheduling conflicts and sometimes for mental health reasons. Taking a step back is a strategy for me to relieve my anxiety.

The first call was titled: An Asian in New England.

I found inspiration from the Asian perspective and looking back to my own experiences working with people of color, I realized some mistakes and assumptions I made. Perhaps you have felt the same. I expected pastors from different cultures to be assimilated into the New England way of doing things. I could have learned so much more from them if I had kept a more open mind and asked questions.

The first time Asian people came to New England was in 1870. (This information comes from the Chinese Historical Society in Boston.) Chinese laborers were transported by train from San Francisco to N. Adams, Massachusetts in order to break the union in shoe manufacturing. The contract was that the men would work for 10 years and then be sent back to San Francisco, all expenses paid. When the Chinese reached N. Adams, the members of the union met the train armed with rocks and sticks. After seeing the Chinese depart from the train, the strikers changed their minds, and there was no violence. The shoe company fulfilled the contract, and most of the Chinese returned to San Francisco to continue to earn money to send to their families in China. According to the census at the time, 75 Chinese people remained in Massachusetts, and the seeds of the Chinese community in New England were planted. Despite their excellent work ethic, it became nearly impossible to find work anywhere in the U.S. because of the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882. Note: The current mayor of Boston is Chinese! Her name is Michelle Wu.

A Pacific Islander named Sela Rousseau spoke to us about her experience as an immigrant from Tonga. Tonga is an island in the South Pacific. She came to Arizona for education and also became what we call climate refugees because of a volcanic eruption in Tonga.

Sela ended up in Worcester, MA, looking for work in her field which is banking. This was the first time she experienced a sense of otherness. She was passed over for promotions and raises due to sexism and racism. She speaks of this experience as a blessing and part of God's plan. She learned to have empathy for others in her position, and took complaints to the human resources department at her bank. She has been able to share her heritage, culture, tradition, values, and Christian faith. Sela has encountered racism in the church. She notes that there needs to be fair representation in our church, and people must speak up. She views her coming

FROM YOUR LAY LEADER, CONT.

to New England as a blessing. She says that God is using her to teach people not to be victims, to move forward, and to celebrate our differences.

The second call I want to share was on Chinese New Year-the Year of the Tiger. I actually listened to this a few months ago, but it is still interesting to learn about other cultures. Due to war, migration, colonization, and immigration, Chinese people are a diverse group. Cantonese is spoken in Hong Kong and Taiwan, Viet Nam, and Laos. In mainland China, Mandarin is spoken. As a result, a Chinese person you encounter may come from a variety of countries and cultures.

Chinese New Year is one thing that most Chinese celebrate. The calendar is based on the zodiac, pairing years with animals. You can look up your birth month and find out what your characteristics might be. People born in 2022 are in the year of the tiger, and have lots of energy and confidence. February 1st is the beginning of the Chinese New Year. During the month fifteen days are celebrated. This is because the 15th is the full moon. Chinese households decorate their homes and wear red. Flowers adorn their homes, and trees such as plum and tangerine are displayed. Their homes are cleaned for two days in preparation for the new year. They greet each other using traditional language, blessing one another. They visit one another's' homes, giving gifts of money. Family visits are important. There is a schedule made so that all the inlaws, cousins, uncles, and aunts get their visits. The blessing for the year of the tiger is Kung Hei Fat Choy.

Family traditions call for the children to give respect to their parents. The parents give gifts of money-laisee. These gifts are also given to servers, and employees. The children also give laisee to their parents.

Traditional food is also shared. There is candy, cookies, and dried mushrooms. A special food is the new year cake. There is also turnip cake, melon seed, dried fruit, dumplings, chicken, fish, and dried oysters.

Some traditions are thought to bring good luck. Some of these are: don't wash your hair for three days, don't sweep the floor for three days, don't say any unlucky words like death, and no visiting on the third day because this may cause quarreling.

Public activities include fireworks, dragon dances done in costume, and going to the temple. The Land is Not Empty; Following Jesus in Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery by Sarah Augustine

I highly recommend this book if you want to understand the world through the eyes of an indigenous person. I have not finished it yet, but I would like to share some thoughts with you. The Doctrine of Discovery is a five hundred year old policy that allowed explorers and missionaries from one country to take the land of the indigenous peoples. The title comes from this idea that once the indigenous peoples have been moved from their homes, the land is empty and ready for other uses such as mining, farming, and ranching. This philosophy is opposite from the indigenous view of the land that calls to preserve what creation has given the

FROM YOUR LAY LEADER CONT.

people. If you read this, try to have empathy with Sarah. Sometimes her words are harsh, but maybe that is what we need to hear.

Sarah, I can call her that because I met her on a United Women of Faith zoom call, is not only an indigenous person from this country, but has spent many years working with the indigenous people in Suriname. You may want to get out a map to see where Suriname is. Hint: look south.

Sarah has come to believe that her feelings about herself as an indigenous person come from past hurts toward her culture. She has felt worthless and hopeless because of the attitude passed down from her conquered people. She also feels that all people must work together and mutually seek repair. The Doctrine of Discovery functions because indigenous people are considered subhuman and inferior. I have used the present tense because this doctrine is still being practiced around the globe.

Sarah gives history about how the reservation system came to be and about the separation of families. Children sent to boarding schools do not know about their culture. A school in Pennsylvania stayed open until 1990. The policies of the church have been interwoven with the policies of the government. The termination era, 1940-1961, was a time in which the U.S. policy was to end the Native American Identity. Later, in 1988, This was reversed and a set of rules was established by which tribes could be recognized. Of course, when you read the rules you find that this is next to impossible because of past government actions separating indigenous peoples from one another. *Recently Governor Mills referred to this 1988 resolution when she did not allow the Wabenaki full autonomy.* For example, the tribe/entity must have existed as a community from historical times to the present.

Sarah weaves scripture into the facts and stories she relates in her book. She believes that Jesus taught us to live together as neighbors, not what we think of as traditional missionaries. The story of Jacob and Esau illustrates the relationship between the have and have-nots and their birthrights. Sarah relates to Esau as an indigenous person, living in the open country, tricked by his scheming brother.

I hope this report has piqued your interest. It is always good to look at the world through a different lens. Sarah is not looking to blame our ancestors for our not so great behavior, but to open a dialogue based on truth and understanding.

One other note: Annual Conference is coming soon. I plan to attend virtually, and I will pass on what occurs. So far I have been to one pre-conference meeting, giving us a sort of road map to what will be happening. The date of the conference is June 7-11. I include the seventh because that is the day of the Celebration of Laity. Please pray for me, Pastor Elizabeth, and the whole conference as we do God's work and the work of the church.

Blessings and prayers for all of you and for those in this world who need peace,
Sue White

June 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4-Faye Russel memorial service w/ reception, 11:00 a.m.
5-Day of Pentecost, wear red! Worship in person and online w/ Holy Communion, 9:30	6-Widows' Fellowship, 11:30a.m.	7-Outreach Committee	8-Just for Seniors, 1:00 p.m. New England Conference session	9-New England Conference session	10-New England Conference session	11-Norm Palmer memorial service w/ reception, 11:00 a.m. NE Conference Session
12-Worship in person and virtually, 9:30 a.m. Evening Crl 10:45 am	13-Church Council, 6:30 a.m.	14	15	16-Moxie meeting, 6:30 p.m.	17-Farwell for DS Karen @ Aburn UMC, 6:00-8:00 p.m.	18
19-Worship in person & Virtually, 9:30 Silver Sunday Father's Day	20	21	22-Just for Seniors, 1:00 p.m.	23	24	25-Dine in/ Take out public supper, 4:30 p.m.
26-Worship in person & virtually, 9:30 a.m. Scholarship recognition & ice cream social	27	28	29	30		

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**

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Lisbon Falls, Maine 04252

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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

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