

## FROM YOUR PASTOR: SYMBOLS OF ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS: The Chrismon Tree

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One of the reasons that the Advent and Christmas seasons are so cherished throughout the world is the symbols of this special time which have deep meaning for us. The Advent wreath and the Christmas tree come readily to mind as do the decorations in your home resplendent with meaning particular to you and your family - that certain ornament put on the tree each year or that handmade ornament from a child or grandchild. For many Christians it is the Chrismon tree that holds great meaning. Thanks to Barbara Underwood (Monica McCusker's mom), our church has a beautiful Chrismon tree which greets us each time we come to worship. Here is a little background about this special tree and its symbols:

The name Chrismon is a combination of the words 'Christ' and 'monogram' and means just that: a monogram of Christ. The objects tell the story of Jesus symbolically and are made in combinations of white (the liturgical color for Christmas, which refers to the Lord's purity and perfection), and gold (the color of Jesus' majesty and glory). These symbols, used by the early church, were used to share the faith and identify themselves to one another. Here is the meaning of some of the symbols in the box:

Chi Rho - The 'X' and 'P' is a combination of the first two letters of the Greek word 'Christos,' the oldest monogram for Christ.

Fish Bearing a Basket of Bread - The fish was a popular symbol for Jesus and used to identify one another as his followers. The fish with the bread is a recollection of Jesus feeding the 5,000.



Dove - The dove is a symbol of peace; it is depicted in flight and pointing down to represent the Holy Spirit which appeared over the Jordan when Jesus was baptized.

IHS - The first three letters of Jesus in Greek.

## HOLIDAY FAIR & SILENT AUCTION

This year's fair and silent auction saw several changes; even a name change, but even with all the changes the event was very successful! Thank you to everyone who embraced the changes and saw the potential for what the fair/auction could be with the changes that were made. The decision to eliminate the wreaths and not do the beef stew luncheon was met with mixed feelings. These changes were made out of necessity due to the decline in volunteers. The good news is even with these changes the profit was more than it was in 2021!! Money is still trickling in for a couple of silent auction items but the profit will be approximately \$4,300! Methodists being such wonderful cooks stepped up and filled the tables with delicious breads, pies, jams, donuts, cinnamon buns, whoopie pies, muffins, cupcakes, nut rolls and cakes that were enjoyed by shoppers. The bake sale table sold over \$1,000 worth of items – up from \$650 from 2021. The silent auction offered bidders a variety of 52 items to bid on. Every item had at least one bid. The highest bid on 10 items was the value of the item, the highest bid on 9 items was within \$5 of the value of the item and the highest bid on 7 items exceeded the value of the item! A bidding war between 4 bidders took place for Mac's Gourmet Popcorn with the highest bid being \$60.85! The total profit for the auction was \$2,000! The 4 vendors who rented tables were pleased with their sales and look forward to next year and the Lisbon Library was happy with the many books and puzzles which were sold.

Thanks to everyone who helped make this year's Holiday Fair and Silent Auction a success.

Trudy Duval, Chairperson

*"Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel."*

*~Isaiah 7:14*

## ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS DECORATING

Many thanks to those who gathered to make our sanctuary festive for the Advent and Christmas seasons: Betsy and Mark Crowell, Trudy Duval, Barbara Grinder, Carolyn and Randy Jones, Margaret and Dean Logan, Deano Logan, and Sue White.

Your hard work and creative touches were appreciated! Happy Advent and Merry Christmas!

## MID-COASTERS 4H CLUB

The Mid-Coasters 4H Club will be holding two wreath making fundraisers at the church on Friday, December 2nd. The first class is at 5pm and the second class is at 6:30pm, the cost is \$35, Campbell's Floral Design will be conducting the class with the 4H members assisting. All the proceeds of this event will benefit the educational needs of the Midcoast 4H kids. You can find the event on Facebook by searching "Wreath Making Class 4H Fundraiser" or reaching out to Gwen at 353-6814.

## HELP NEEDED

My niece, Haley Morse, a recent graduate of the University of Maine in Farmington, is currently doing her student teaching at Walton Elementary School in Auburn. Haley was thrilled when she was assigned to Walton because she attended the school as a student. Mike Davis, who you may remember as the elementary music teacher in Lisbon several years ago, has been the principal at Walton Elementary for several years and was the principal when Haley was a student there. But much has changed over the years. The neighborhood has fallen on hard economic times and Walton Elementary School is the poorest school in the district. On a recent Friday 90 kids were given bags of groceries to get them through the weekend. With a student population of 150 this is more than half the students. Kids are coming to school daily without winter coats, socks, hats, and gloves. Some kids are living in homeless encampments. Many kids are living with relatives other than their parents. All these obstacles these kids face on a daily basis affect their learning and test scores. Haley has helped us out with many different events; working on suppers, helping with Breakfast with Santa, the Easter Bunny breakfast and the Moxie Festival. Now she needs our help. As she completes her student teaching she would like to give back to the school that has given her so much. She'll be collecting hats, socks and gloves that will be given to the school nurse for those kids who come to school unprepared for colder weather. Any donations would be greatly appreciated and can be given to me and I'll see to it that Haley gets them.

Thanks for your help.

Trudy Duval

### ***LUMC Mission Statement:***

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

## ALL SAINTS' CELEBRATION

On Sunday, November 6th we celebrated All Saints' Day and remembered those we have loved and lost in the last year. Please continue to give God thanks for the life and love of these our saints:

Carol Archambault

Audrey Madigan Bailey

Florence Brewer

Chris Earle

Betty Sue Underwood Graham

Mark Grondin

The Rev. Lynne Josselyn

Norman Palmer

Pearl Roberts

Faye Russell

Tracy Sautter

Ruth Upham

Pam Wolfe

## CHRISTMAS EVE AND DAY SERVICES OF WORSHIP

Our church family will gather to celebrate the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ at 4:00 pm (PLEASE NOTE CHANGE IN TIME) on Saturday 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*.

Then, with Christmas Day on a Sunday, we will gather to continue our celebration of the Savior's birth at 4:00 pm (ANOTHER CHANGE IN TIME) and sing the carols of the season together.

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.

Both services will be live streamed over our Face Book page as well.

## LOOKING AHEAD TO THE NEW YEAR

We will gather for worship at our regular time of 9:30 am on Sunday, January 1 to ring in the new year together and share the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Then on January 8 we will gather to celebrate Epiphany and the visit of the Wise Men to draw another holy holiday season to a close.

As always, both services will be live streamed on our Face Book page.

## A WINTER REMINDER

Don't forget that, if we must cancel worship on a Sunday morning for weather or other reasons, the cancellation will be found ONLY on WCSH, Channel 6.

## BRUNCH, ANYONE?? A DATE FOR YOUR WINTER CALENDAR

Please mark the date of January 15 on your calendar and join us for a potluck brunch following our service of worship. This will be an opportunity for fellowship and conversation along with a nice, warm meal with others in our church family. We haven't done this since the pandemic and this experience will be good to start in the new year.

More details will follow after the first of the year but please note the date.

## FROM YOUR PASTOR, CONT.

Oil Lamp - The symbol of Jesus as the Light of the World.

Fleur-De-Lis - This is the lily which is the flower of the Virgin Mary and a symbol of the annunciation of Jesus.

The Four Crosses - The crosslet is made by combining four crosses, the symbol for the spread of Christianity to the four corners of the earth.

The Anchor - This cross was used by early Christians as a symbol of their faith when they had to avoid being recognized as Christians in order to escape persecution.

The Cross and Crown - This symbolizes the rewarding life for Christians as one's death; it also symbolizes Jesus as the King of Kings.

Three Entwined Circles - These circle symbolize the eternal quality of the Trinity since the circle has no apparent beginning or ending.

Please look closely at the Chrismon Tree in our Narthex the next time you enter for worship. As you find these symbols, think about their meaning as they celebrate our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ and help us transcend the centuries to remember the faithful followers who paved the way for our journeys of faith.

God's blessings,

*Pastor Elizabeth*

## GREETINGS FROM YOUR LAY LEADER

I hope this finds you in good spirits as you prepare for the Christmas season. I hope that you can take time out to relax and enjoy the upcoming holiday. To that end, I am giving you some excerpts from Larry J. Peacock's book, *The Living Nativity; Preparing for Christmas with Saint Francis*, published by Upper Room Books.2022.

Larry is director of the Franciscan Spiritual Center in Milwaukie, Oregon. He served as executive director of Rolling Ridge Conference Retreat, which is where I first encountered him. He is a kind, gentle man with an open heart. I hope you will enjoy his words.

Saint Francis is credited with creating the first living nativity, a reenactment of the birth of Jesus in a Bethlehem stable. Larry says, "I like to think of Saint Francis creating this second manger in a cave with hay and animals so that we would know the humbleness of the first manger and the Child who enters into the ordinary, common, and simple world of humanity."

In preparing for the birth, Larry offers this prayer:

Holy One, into such a world as ours and such a time as this, you chose to enter.  
Again and again, you visit us in the darkest times of life. Again and again, you surprise us in the midst of hectic schedules, tense cities, world crises, and worried lives.  
Loving God, help us keep alert in this Advent season. Help us to slow down for prayer, to stand up for justice, to breathe deeply your love each day. Open us and make us ready for you. Amen.

Here are some guides for the Sundays of Advent:

First Sunday/week: Jeremiah 33:14-16; Psalm 25:1-10; Luke 21:34-36

Saint Francis came from a well-to-do family and became a soldier. He was imprisoned and became ill. He entered a time of prayer and confession and experienced a mystical encounter with a leper. God told Francis to "repair my house.." Francis then turned his life toward compassion for all, especially the poor.

Second Sunday/week: Malachi 3:1-4, Luke 1:68-79, Ogunuouabs 1:3-11, Luke 3:1-5

One night in Greccio, Italy, where Francis gathered the townsfolk for the reenactment of the Bethlehem moment, the men, women, and children prepared Candles and torches to light up the night. The holy man told of the birth of the poor King who would bring light, joy, and peace to the world. In that dark corner of the world, those in attendance experienced a festive night of light.

Third Sunday/week: Zephaniah 3:14-20, Isaiah 12:2-6, Philippians 4:4-7, Luke 3:7-18

## GREETINGS FORM YOUR LAY LEADER, CONT.

Saint Francis would have understood the poverty and humiliation of having to give birth in a stable. He embraced poverty as a follower of Christ and crossed the barrier to the outcasts when he embraced a leper. It was a conversion moment for Francis, and it happens for us every time we remember our kinship with all creation. We embrace Christ when we care for the least, the lost, and the forgotten.

Fourth Sunday/week: Micah 5:2-5a, Luke 1:46b-55, Psalm 80:1-7, Hebrews 10:5-10, Luke 1:39-45

A Christmas Eve prayer:

Can one night make a difference? Can one star outshine all others? Can one Child shake up the world? Yes, a thousand times, yes!

Was ever there such a night, when stars shone bright, when angels formed a Heavenly chorus and shepherds quaked? Was ever there such a birth, when a Baby's cry meant that God is now here? Was ever there a moment like now, when we draw closer to family and God, when we sing with deep feeling and 'Overflowing joy? Oh, this is the night, this is the night.

Oh, that our tongues were like bells to ring out the joy and that our hands were like drums to sound out the beat of new life. Oh, that our voices sounded like the heavenly choir and that our hearts could hold the wonder of it all. Oh, that our knees were strong enough to kneel forever in awe and that our eyes could open wide enough to see glory shining in every star and in every person. Amen.

First Sunday after Christmas Day Psalm 148; Colossians 3:12-17; Luke 2:41-52; Matthew 2:13-23

Saint Francis authored a book call The Rule, a guide on how to live as disciples of Jesus. He included a chapter of instructions for friars living between Muslims and other non Christians. He said to respect their beliefs, religion, and culture, and to only preach when circumstances permit. They were to live as peacemakers. The prayer "Lord, make me an instrument of your peace" is attributed to him.

A prayer for entering the new year from Saint Francis:

Most High, glorious God, enlighten the darkness of my heart and give me true faith, certain hope, and perfect charity, sense, and knowledge, Lord, that I may carry out your holy and true command. Amen.

I wish you all a blessed and happy Christmas season,

Sue White

## 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 | 23- | Bud Cherry |
| 4- | David Wile    | 28- | Ryan Moore |
| 5- | Randy Jones   |     |            |

## CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

It's that time once again when lovely poinsettias and other flowers will adorn our sanctuary. Please share your plants with us for one or all of our services of worship on December 18<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, and 25th If you would like your flowers in memory of or in celebration of loved ones, please complete the form below PRIOR TO DECEMBER 15. Thanks!

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Yes, I will be bringing flowers to worship

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

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

\_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_

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



# December 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2-Midcoast 4-H wreath making in dining room, 4:30 p.m.	3-Breakfast with Santa & Wreath Sales, 8:30 a.m.
4-2nd Sunday of Advent worship in person & virtually, w/ communion, 9:30 a.m.	5	6-Choir rehearsal, 6:30 p.m.	7	8	9	10
11-3rd Sunday of Advent worship in person & virtually, 9:30 a.m.  Evening Circle after worship  Deadline for New Beginnings donations	12-Just Seniors Christmas presentation , 12:30 p.m.	13-Choir rehearsal, 6:30 p.m.	14	15	16	17
18-4th Sunday of Advent worship in person & virtually, 9:30 a.m.	19	20-Choir rehearsal, 6:30 p.m.	21	22	23	24-Christmas Eve worship in person & virtually with communion & candlelight, 4:00
25-Christmas Day worship in person & virtually, 4:00 p.m.	26	27	28	29	30	31

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

**Office Hours: Wednesday: Times Vary, Thursday 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.,**

**Friday is the Pastor's Sabbath Day**

**Other times available by appointment**

**Every Thursday: Girl Scouts, Hunnewell Room, 6:30-7:30 p.m.**

**B U S I N E S S   N A M E**

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: Wednesday: Times Vary*

*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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