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LEADER

AND MUCH  
MORE!

## A PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR

As a community of faith that believes strongly in the power of prayer, it seems very important to me that we begin the new year with a prayer for all of the days ahead. While I encourage us to use these words as the new year begins, it is a beautiful prayer that can be offered throughout the year with some slight editing. *Vinita Hampton Wright is the author*; I hope you find its words meaningful.

**God of all time, help us enter the New Year quietly, thoughtful of who we are to ourselves and to others, mindful that our steps make an impact and our words carry power.**

**May we walk gently. May we speak only after we have listened well.**

**Creator of all life, help us enter the New Year reverently, aware that you have endowed every creature and plant, every person and habitat with beauty and purpose.**

**May we regard the world with tenderness. May we honor rather than destroy.**

**Lover of all souls, help us enter the New Year joyfully, willing to laugh and dream, remembering our many gifts with thanks and looking forward to blessings yet to come.**

**May we welcome your lavish love and amazing grace.**

**In this new year, may the grace and peace of Christ bless us now and in the days ahead. Amen.**



May the new year ahead be filled with much love and happiness for each of you and may God continue to bless our community of faith in our ministry as disciples for Jesus.

God's blessings,

*Pastor Elizabeth*

## EVENING CIRCLE NEWS

As we say good-bye to 2022 and look forward to 2023, we have seen many changes. First of all, our membership has dwindled, but in spite of that, church members have stepped up to help us with our monthly bean suppers. I don't know what we would do without all our volunteers, so to that, thank you!.

In March, we started the suppers up again after a couple of months rest, strictly drive thru only, but in June, we decided to open up inside dining as well as take out, not knowing what to expect. The layout was a little different, we no longer offered family style dining, and went to buffet style, that allowed us to put on the suppers with fewer volunteers. Our patrons responded, with no complaints, slowly more and more people are coming back, but it has been a long haul. Again, thanks again to all who stepped up to help and also to our loyal patrons who have continued to support us.

Our January luncheon/meeting will be held at Angelo's in Lisbon, on January 8th at noon. If you would like to attend, please give me a call, so we can have some idea how many to plan on.

We look forward to the New Year and all that it has to offer!

Carolyn Jones  
President  
353-8691

## NUTURE COMMITTEE

The Nurture Committee needs your help. We all enjoy the coffee hours after we worship together but they can't happen without your help. Volunteers are needed to provide light refreshments; donuts, muffins, cookies, fruit or cheese and crackers and **help** with the clean-up. Clean-up includes wiping down the tables, putting away any leftovers, emptying and unplugging the coffee maker and maybe washing a couple of dishes. Your help will enable us to continue our fellowship hours throughout 2023. If you have any questions, talk with a Nurture committee member. Thank you.

*"And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every-one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit"*

*~Acts 2:38*

## **LUMC Mission Statement:**

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

## BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

December 3<sup>rd</sup>, once again saw the dining room filled with kids, parents, grandparents, great-grandparents and friends as we held our 7<sup>th</sup> annual Breakfast with Santa. A disaster was averted after receiving a phone call from Mrs. Claus Friday evening reporting that Santa was ill!! Did we panic?? No, well maybe just a bit, but a phone call was made to a very special person who agreed to fill some very big "boots" and be Santa's helper. The breakfast went off without a hitch! 50 kids and 67 adults enjoyed pancakes and sausage that were cooked to perfection by the awesome elves in the kitchen. Thank you Dean, Deano and Tim. We're grateful for the Portland Radio Group who once again awarded us \$400 from their Christmas is for Kids program which enabled us to purchase books so that each child could go home with an age appropriate books. The kids also went home with a tree ornament and a goodie bag filled with surprises including a mini-cookie card from Lil' Jam Cookies. Over 100 pair of socks and mittens were collected from the attendees and delivered to our local schools. Thank you to all that make this free community event possible. If you have never attended mark your calendar for Dec. 2, 2023! It will certainly put you in the Christmas spirit!!

## JUST SENIORS

On Dec. 12<sup>th</sup> the Just Seniors gathered in the Hunnewell Room with a special program presented by the Lisbon Homeschoolers. The seniors enjoyed stories read by three of the kids, received instructions on making a tree ornament and enjoyed brownies provided by one of the students. A good time was had by all. As the kids were leaving several of them asked if they could come back! Stay tuned for more programs by this group of kids and other programming provided by the Lisbon Library Department.



## TIME TO “UNDECORATE”

With the celebration of Epiphany on January 8, we will draw our Advent/Christmas/Epiphany celebrations to a close for another year. This means it will be time to “undecorate” our sanctuary, giving thanks for the beautiful space in which we have worshipped since late November.

Please join in the fun to pack away these decorations for another year; many hands will make quick work! We’ll gather at 10:00 am.

## BRUNCH, ANYONE??

Please join us for a potluck brunch following our service of worship on January 15. 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. We’ll share some trivia fun with questions from the 1980s!!

A sign-up sheet is being circulated during worship for you to note the item you’d like to share but, if you missed signing up, come anyway with whatever you’d like to bring!

## CHRISTMAS THANK YOU

Verne and I wish to thank each of you for the lovely Christmas cards, gifts, gift cards, and, most especially, the beautiful peace plant and monetary gift we received from many individuals and from you as a church family. You richly bless our lives each Christmas in such generous ways; we are touched by your many expressions of love for us.

We are grateful for each one of you and the ministry we share together. May you enjoy a new year of good health and much happiness.

God’s blessings,

Pastor Elizabeth

## FINANCE COMMITTEE

On behalf of the Finance Committee we thank all those who have donated towards the Church’s generosity tree so far.

Also a huge thank you to everyone who purchased a wreath this year. A profit of nearly \$700 was added to the church operating budget towards general expenses.

## OUTREACH

On behalf of the Church, the Outreach Committee again partnered with the Lisbon Schools to help provide Christmas dinner to school families in need. We provide the potatoes, carrots and turkeys. Various student community organizations help with the rest of the meal. I have been asked by a school representative to thank our congregation for their help with this project and to share how grateful they are with our partnership.

Outreach will soon be filling and delivering the holiday fruit baskets. We voted to donate socks to the Breakfast with Santa sock drive. These will be given to our local schools. We were able to purchase 70 pairs of socks for this project.

A special thank you to Ron for picking up the potatoes and to Randy for juggling the frozen turkeys so that they could all fit in the freezers. It was quite the task!

Our next meeting will be scheduled in early January, weather permitting.

Connie Earle,  
Chairperson



## NEW BEGINNINGS THANK YOU!

On behalf of the Outreach Committee, please accept our sincere thanks for the AMAZING gift I was able to deliver to New Beginnings, the agency for homeless youth which LUMC supports each holiday season.

Your selfless generosity helped us collect \$750 in gift cards to eight different locations! This was our biggest gift yet, surpassing last year's total of \$400. Special thanks to our Evening Circle who donated their year-end mission monies of \$160 to this effort as well as to the many individuals who donated actual gift cards or gave monetary donations for their purchase; we purchased \$400 gift cards to Wal Mart alone!!

The LUMC church family can ALWAYS be counted on to respond when a need is shared; this is the meaning of true discipleship for Jesus who asks us to care for one another.

With extreme gratitude,

Pastor Elizabeth

## GREETINGS FROM YOUR LAY LEADER

I hope that your holiday season has been a good one. Now we are ready to move on to a new year! I pray that God blesses each and every one of you with a wonderful year.

I'm back to a book report for this month. I have read the bishop's recommendation; *Protest at Midnight; Ministry to a Nation Torn Apart* by Peter Storey. Published by Cascade Books, 2022. In this book, Reverend Storey tells of his ministry in South Africa during apartheid. He was integral to the ending of apartheid and ministered to the people of South Africa and its leaders. He was a chaplain to Nelson Mandela during Mandela's imprisonment and protested with Bishop Desmond Tutu. Reverend Storey not only spoke out against the violence and evil of the times, but he also preached forgiveness of the perpetrators; the South African Government and the police.

In the introduction Reverend Storey says that if we do not do something about our current racism we are at risk of a global form of apartheid, government driven prejudice and hate. He also calls for the church to not be silent. He goes so far as to say, "a silent church is no church at all."

While Reverend Storey served the Methodist Church in South Africa, he was assigned to segregated white churches. He preached to them about the injustice of apartheid. He based his preaching on four principles: to be a gospel truth-teller, exposing the lie of apartheid, to bind up the broken, standing with the victims of injustice, to shape congregations that would live in contradiction to apartheid, and to join Jesus in working nonviolently to end the evil system and bring justice, equity, and peace.

The book is a memoir that gives the details of how Reverend Storey accomplished his goals and principles. Some of the descriptions of what went on are horrific-full of violence and injustice. Reverend Storey created community centers, safe housing, and schools for all South Africans. At one point the government tore down homes and moved the residents to shacks in ghettos. These were the people that Reverend Storey ministered to.

Reverend Storey details how the Methodist changed and grew in order to minister to the victims of apartheid. The churches made space in their buildings for those in danger. In one moving passage Storey tells of how he brought gangs into dialogue to end violence. They left their weapons at the door and came together. Storey says, "Because of Christ the blood has already been shed; we need not, we should not, we dare not shed each other's blood."

Reverend Storey explains what happened to Winnie Mandela with great kindness and forgiveness. She became a leader of a violent group and her relationship with her husband Nelson ended. Storey gives both sides of her story including the abuse she suffered while her husband was in prison. Storey somehow manages to be pastor to both Nelson and Winnie during a chaotic time.

In 1990 Reverend Storey participated in the National Peace Accord. Thirty thousand citizens marched peacefully with Archbishop Desmond Tutu to City Hall. Here began the end of



## GREETINGS FROM YOUR LAY LEADER, CONT.

apartheid in South Africa. Of course, peace did not happen overnight. There were negotiations, amnesties, and times of violence. Eventually some guns were turned in and there were gun free zones. Shorey feels that trust in violence is addictive and should be seen as a public health issue. The new nation wondered, is it possible to both remember and forgive? Without truth, no peace, without forgiveness, no future. Such was the healing task of Reverend Shorey. He trusted the healing to something essentially spiritual, beyond the law and its retribution. Shorey tells us as Americans, we need to see the parallels to South Africa. He rebukes us for our attraction to the philosophy of abundance seen in mega churches and televangelists. He gets into politics to explain what happened when the Obama administration led to the election of Trump. He says that people who were enraged to see a black family in the white house were led to more racism and intolerance.

Reverend Storey calls on the Methodist Church to come together against racism. We must reconnect with the poor. We are called to be peacemakers. We must be an inclusive church. We must seek the forgiveness and restoration of creation. In order to make these principles work we need to proclaim God's word, bind up the broken, embody hospitality and inclusion, and work humbly with all.

As you can see from my last few paragraphs, Reverend Storey is an amazing preacher and organizer. You may not agree with all his points, but he makes them eloquently in his book. I would like to share a tiny bit from the devotional book I used for Advent by Larry Peacock; If God could and does bend low to be with us, I can share thanks and blessings with others. Think about bending over a crib to lift a baby as an image of God's tender embrace of you and for all of creation. God is also the infant needing care. How do you hold the image of God Most High and God Most Humble?

Loving God, source of Joy and Peace, stir us to be people of peace. May our words and deeds reflect your desire for peace and justice. May our words be kind, our thoughts be hopeful, our actions be gentle, and our commitment be strong.

Happy New Year!

Sue

## BIRTHDAY WISHES



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

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

2- Adrianna White

9- Gladys Carville

5- Liliana Dudar

18- Tori Wile

Margaret Logan

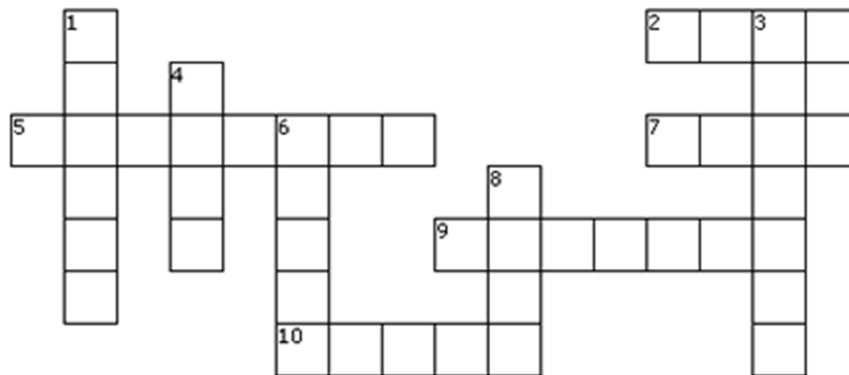
19- Omari Koumou-Netg Shaw

6- Norah Morgan

26- Ella Mae Packard

# The Prayer of Faith

Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective. James 5:16 (NIV)



### ACROSS

2. To be physically ill
5. Having great strength
7. To perform songs with your voice
9. A time of difficulty or need
10. Enjoying pleasure, satisfaction, or joy

### DOWN

1. To pour oil on someone during a religious ceremony
3. To admit that you have sinned
4. To make a person well
6. To believe and trust in God
8. To speak to or make requests to God

trouble	sing	heal	confess	powerful
happy	pray	sick	faith	anoint



# January 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1-New Year's Day worship w/ Holy Communion & Covenant Renewal Service	2-Holiday Observed	3-Choir rehearsal, 6:30 o.m.	4	5	6	7
8-Epiphany worship in person & virtually, 9:30 a.m.  Evening Circle @ Angelo's 12 noon	9	10-"Undecorated" the sanctuary, 10:00 a.m.	11	12	13	14
15-Baptism of the Lord worship in person & virtually, 9:30 w/ potluck to follow	16	17-Choir rehearsal, 6:30 a.m.	18	19	20	21
22-Worship in person & virtually, 9:30  Finance 1:00	23-Just Seniors, 1:00 p.m.	24-Choir rehearsal, 6:30	25	26	27	28-Church Supper-Dine in -Take Out, 4:30 p.m.
29-Worship in person & virtually, 9:30 a.m.	30	31-Choir rehearsal, 6:30 p.m.				

**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.**

**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: 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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