

APRIL 2023

FROM YOUR PASTOR: *No Madness with Jesus!*

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MORE!

As I write this monthly newsletter article, many of us who follow college sports – basketball, in particular – enjoyed a few days of March Madness in the journey toward the Final Four last weekend with the anticipation of more games for the upcoming weekend. All this as the forerunner to the championship game for Division One basketball early in April. As long as I can remember, this has been a fun pastime for me as winter (thankfully!) begins to wind down and spring makes its arrival.

Already in the games played since the tournament began, there have been – as there always are – upsets, dashed hopes, and disappointments for the teams that were confident in their success. Those experiences are as hard for coaches, fellow students, and families to watch as they are for the athletes that endure them - especially, when on the same court, there is another team rejoicing in their success.

These games are a good reflection on our lives. We can't all be winners all the time. That's the way life works and, although the lessons are hard ones to learn, they are invaluable. They help us appreciate the "wins" of life and make the "losses" (no matter what form they come in) perhaps a little easier to weather.

Perhaps knowing that this scenario happens so often in everyday life is one of the reasons we look forward to spring and also Easter with such enthusiasm. Spring is nature's way of triumphing over the deadness and dullness of winter; likewise, of course, Easter is our celebration of life's victory over death. One of the comforts of these celebrations is that they ALWAYS occur. No matter how long and challenging winter has been, spring always arrives; no matter how much we realize about ourselves in the Lenten days of reflection and repentance, Easter always comes and we rejoice that Christ is risen, risen indeed!

There will be more disappointments and also unexpected wins as March Madness continues; the same can be said for our lives as well. But, one thing is for certain, God's grace will be given to us in ALL circumstances.



There will be something for us to learn and something for us to give thanks for in all experiences – just as good coaches help their athletes understand.

As Easter Day dawns upon us, may we rejoice in the gift of new life which Jesus' resurrection offers us. May we celebrate God's grace given to us in the Risen Savior!

God's blessings,
Pastor Elizabeth

OUTREACH

The Outreach Committee has not met since January. However, we were in phone contact because of the assistance we provided for the local fire victims. Outreach voted to donate \$100 to the Church's collection for them.

We also wanted to share that currently the monies collected in the communion baskets is still going towards the Church's missions shares.

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

Just a gentle reminder that we need folks to volunteer to provide items for coffee hour. A cup of coffee or tea always tastes better when you have a light snack to go with it; muffins, donuts, cookies, etc. We appreciate your help.



Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believe in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die."

~John 11:25-26

EASTER BRUNCH

Our annual Easter Brunch will take place on April 9th, at 8:30. If you have volunteered to bring a dish or other item please have it at the church by 8:15 so we'll be ready to serve at 8:30. Any questions, speak to a nurture committee member. Thank you.

EASTER FLOWERS

It will soon be time for our sanctuary to be decorated with beautiful spring flowers in memory of those you love. Gwen Rioux will once again graciously create our flower list for inclusion in the Easter bulletin. A copy of last year's list has been available for the last few weeks; if you have not yet confirmed or changed your listing if you wish to have flowers again this year, please contact Gwen directly ASAP by phone 353-6814 or by email at gwennierioux@gmail.com. The list will be printed on April 7.

If you are not attending in person but wish to have a plant in our sanctuary anyway, please contact Gwen as well.

LUMC Mission Statement:

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

BISHOPS VISIT TO MANY WATER DISTRICT

Our new interim Bishop, the Rev. Peggy Johnson, is visiting each of the districts in the New England Conference for a “meet and greet” this spring. Our turn on the Many Waters District will be on Saturday, April 15 from 2:00 – 4:00 pm at the Auburn UMC; this will be hybrid event as well with a link to be sent later.

As a church in the Auburn/Lewiston area, please come to meet our bishop and bring her greetings from LUMC.

EVENING CIRCLE

NOTE, change of date for our April meeting. We will be meeting after church on Palm Sunday, April 2nd for our monthly meeting.

Carolyn Jones
President

JUST A REMINDER

Lights are being found left on in our church building. If you are the last person to leave a room or area, please pay attention and turn the lights off! Let's be good stewards of our expensive electricity!

BLOOD DRIVE REMINDER!

Just a reminder about the upcoming Blood Drive on Monday, May 1st. You can register online at redcrossblood.org using the sponsor code Lisbon UMC, or by calling 1-800-RED-CROS. Any questions, call Gwen at 353-6814. Your donation could save a life!

FINANCE INFORMATION

<u>Newsletter Finance Information - as of March 2023</u>		
Annual Budget Amount for Operating Expenses	\$	138,160.00
Monthly Budget Amount for Operating Expenses	\$	11,513.33
Total March 2023 Income	\$	4,446.25
Total March 2023 Expenses	\$	9,089.71
Total YTD Income	\$	37,114.45
Total YTD Expense	\$	29,729.77

GREETINGS FROM YOUR LAY LEADER

Greetings to you all during this time of Lent. God has granted me the grace of reading. I just completed a book that is perfect for this season. It is called *The Cross in the Midst of Creation; Following Jesus, Engaging the Powers, Transforming the World* by Sharon Delgado.

Ms. Delgado begins the book by talking about the cross and the crucifixion and what that means to Christians. She asks the question, “Did God send Jesus into the world to die or to show us a new way of life?” Her perspective is that the crucifixion is ongoing while the world suffers and creation is destroyed. At the same time, the resurrection is also ongoing as people rise from despair and take courageous actions for the sake of the world. Ms. Delgado proposes that people of all faiths and philosophies work together to seek a more hopeful world.

The author shows that the powers in our world are not different from the powers during the time of Jesus. We see leaders using religion to justify violence and racism. When Jesus challenged the powers of his time, they killed him for his insurrection. Leaders of our time have been assassinated for the same challenges. Gandhi, Martin Luther King Jr., and others are examples. The dominant worldview of our time is based on the pursuit of status, wealth, and worldly power, much the same as it was during Jesus’ time. As we read the scripture for lent with the lens of this idea, the actions of the Romans and the Pharisees become familiar. We recognize the abuse, oppression, violence and plunder around us.

All this seems depressing until we remember the resurrection. We can follow Jesus today by embodying what he taught, creating inclusion, justice, and the transformation of the world. Hope can come through new leadership and voices, such as Greta Thunberg. Her passion inspires us to act upon the hope of the resurrection.

Ms. Delgado spends some time explaining the different beliefs and perspectives surrounding the cross. During Jesus’ time the idea of a crucified messiah was offensive. The messiah the Jews hoped for was one who became a king, like David. This is why Paul talks about the message of the cross seeming weak and foolish to the Corinthians. He teaches the Corinthians about the power of the spirit instead of the power of the government or king. Tragically, the words of Paul and Jesus have been distorted to support hierarchical governments and the accumulation of wealth.

Over the years the cross has been viewed as a satisfaction or punishment for our sins. This view depicts a wrathful God instead of a loving and forgiving one. Persecution of those who are not saved is a result of this thinking. Other models of the atonement are the moral influence theory, a view of a loving God, and Christ the Victor of a cosmic drama. Franciscan thought teaches that God did not need or demand the sacrifice of Jesus to love and forgive us.

One of the hardest things for us to understand is that God is beyond the world and also in the world. That is why God sent Jesus to us. The crucified Christ embodies God’s solidarity with all who suffer. Note the similarity of the cross to the lynching tree.

God’s solidarity also extends to all of the created earth. Our earth has become so small that a

GREETINGS FORM YOUR LAY LEADER, CONT.

global pandemic can happen. God weeps with us as the earth and its creatures are suffering. Psalm 104 offers a vision of interrelated ecosystems in which God provides sustenance. Living with modern conveniences has let us forget how peoples' lives are embedded in the cycles of nature. As a church we engage in the struggle for environmental and climate justice. I have touched on just a few points that were made in this book. If you decide to read it, I suggest you take your time with it. I spent almost two months with it. I hope my report will give you some insight through this Lenten/Easter season.

Peace,
Sue White

JUST SENIORS



BIRTHDAY WISHES



Happy Birthday to the following church members celebrating a birthday in April!!
(f you know someone to be added to our list please let Erica Soiett know)

2nd:	Sam Cornish	14th:	Bob Packard
	Addison Soiett	22nd:	Paul Belmain
5th:	Lana Hower	22nd:	April White
	Greg Shaw	23rd:	Rick Rioux
	Jessica Wile	24th:	Debbie Greim
8th:	Carol Day		Hilary Hall
9th:	Carolyn Jones	27th:	Susan Wile
10th:	Larry Baldiga	29th:	Carol Pulsifer

COMING SOON

Be on the lookout for stewardship campaign letters coming out soon! If you have any questions about this years stewardship campaign, or any other financial matter regarding the church, please feel free to contact a member of the Finance Committee.

MOXIE DAYS

July may be three months away but it's not too early to be thinking about Lisbon's annual Moxie Festival. This year's festival will take place on July 7th, 8th and 9th. Due to ongoing road construction the committee has decided, once again, to hold all of Saturday's activities at the MTM Center. Our participation in this festival is a great fundraiser for the church, even though we have had to make changes due to lack of volunteers and the expense of lobster meat. Last year we were very successful selling strawberry shortcake, hot dogs, selling snacks and beverages, partnering with the library for a big book sale and the addition of Izzy's Stuffed Zoo & Emporium. We will once again be allowed to sell Moxie so if anyone would like to donate a case or two, we would greatly appreciate it. Watch and listen for Moxie updates in the coming weeks.



April 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1-Breakfast w/ the Bunny, 8- 10a.m..
2-Palm Sunday in person & virtually, 9:30 Evening Circle after worship	3-Lenten Bible Study, 10a.m. Widows', 11:30a.m. Outreach, 1:30	4-Choir re- hearsal, 6:30 p.m.	5	6-Maundy Thursday ser- vice in person & virtually, 6:30p.m.	7	8
9-Easter Breakfast, 8:30 Worship in per- son & virtually, 6:30 p.m.	10	11-Choir re- hearsal, 6:30 p.m.	12	13	14	15-Bishop's Visit to Many Waters Dis- trict, 2:00 p.m.
16-Worship in person & virtu- ally, 9:30 a.m.	17-Just Sen- iors w/ Spring- works, 1:00 p.m.	18-Choir re- hearsal, 6:30 p.m.	19	20	21	22-Dine In/ Take Out bean supper, 4:30 p.m.
23- Consecration Sunday in per- son & virtually, 9:30 a.m.	24-Pastor Eliz- abeth on vaca- tion	25-Pastor Eliz- abeth on vaca- tion Choir rehears- al, 6:30 p.m.	26-Pastor Eliz- abeth on vaca- tion	27-Pastor Eliz- abeth on vaca- tion	28-Pastor Eliz- abeth on vaca- tion	29-Pastor Eliz- abeth on vaca- tion
30-Pastor Eliz- abeth on vaca- tion Worship in per- son & virtually, 9:30 a.m.						

NOTE: All meetings are held in the Hunnewell Room, unless otherwise noted
Office Hours: Monday, 9:00 a.m.-12 noon at home, 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: Monday 9:00-12 noon at Home

Thursday 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Other times available by appointment

Friday is the Pastor's Sabbath day

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