

FROM YOUR PASTOR: *God's Grace Given: Our Lenten Journey*

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LAY LEADER

AND MUCH MORE!

On the First Sunday of Lent on February 26, those in person in worship were given two gifts: a small, blank notebook and a heart-shaped prayer stone. These gifts were shared by the Worship Committee so that we may keep the theme of our Lenten journey in mind throughout the week when we are not together in worship.

As we watch for signs of God's grace given to us, we hope that you will use the small notebook to jot down those experiences where you find God's grace. This can be the gift of an answered prayer or a sense of being forgiven for a moment of sinfulness or the blessing of a kind stranger. Nothing is impossible for God and God's amazing grace abounds so please open your heart to the experiences of it in this holy season.

The second gift of a heart-shaped prayer stone was given to us by Liz and Barry Doyle. (Thank you!) We asked people to choose the stone that spoke to them and hope you will keep them close through this forty-day journey of reflection and repentance as we "re-turn" to God in prayer.

(Both of these items are still available at the church; please make sure to pick yours up or ask a church friend to bring them to you.)

Our Lenten theme continues as we hear lengthy readings of the gospel in the next three weeks: the story of the woman at the well, the story of Nicodemus, and the story of the raising of Lazarus. Several people will participate in the reading of these stories each week to bring them to life.

The season of Lent is an annual gift to us; using its days well helps us to arrive at Easter morning with the sense that we have journeyed with God and grateful for the new life that we receive in Jesus Christ. May it be a sacred journey for each of you as you live in God's grace given to you.

God's blessings,

Pastor Elizabeth



WARMING CENTER

The calendar may say March but old man winter isn't done with us just yet. Some of you may remember the snow storms that occurred in April of 1982 and 2011. Both storms left us shoveling out from under a foot of heavy, wet snow that brought down power lines leaving many in the dark.

At a recent Administrative Council meeting a discussion was held regarding using the church as a warming center when folks are experiencing power outages. The town of Lisbon offers a warming center at the police station when power outages occur for an extended period of time and if necessary the high school is opened up. Both facilities are equipped with generators.

While we are not equipped to be a warming center for the public, if you find yourself without power for an extended period of time, reach out. The church will always be available to you for warming up, providing freezer space or whatever else your needs may be.

"But we are citizens of heaven, where the Lord Jesus Christ lives. And we are eagerly waiting for him to return as our Savior."

~Philippians 3:20

FINANCE INFORMATION

<u>Newsletter Finance Information - as of February 2023</u>		
Annual Budget Amount for Operating Expenses	\$	138,160.00
Monthly Budget Amount for Operating Expenses	\$	11,513.33
Total February 2023 Income	\$	4,681.53
Total February 2023 Expenses	\$	7,658.42
Total YTD Income	\$	11,962.50
Total YTD Expense	\$	17,837.82

LUMC Mission Statement:

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

UPCOMING BLOOD



LUMC Blood Drive
Monday, May 1st
12:30pm – 5pm

Lisbon United Methodist Church
14 School Street
Lisbon Falls, ME 04252

Register online: redcrossblood.org

Sponsor Code: **Lisbon UMC**

or call: **1-800-RED-CROS**

Please reach out to Gwen Rioux
(353-6814)
if you'd like to register for this
upcoming blood drive.

JUST SENIORS

On March 13th at 1 p.m., representatives from Springworks will be on hand to tell us all about Lisbon's fastest growing business. Tell your friends and let's fill the Hunnewell Room for this very informative presentation.

GREETINGS FROM YOUR LAY LEADER

Greetings to you all during this reflective time of Lent. Easter is next month. I look forward to celebrating the risen Christ with you and the coming of spring! I have been reading a book called *The Cross in the Midst of Creation*. I haven't finished it, so I will report on it next month. So far I have learned of the many ways to view the crucifixion of Christ. I look forward to sharing with you.

Speaking of sharing, don't forget our Bible study on Monday mornings starting March 6th. We will be taking a spiritual journey together. The good news is that there is no preparatory reading to do. Through God's grace we will enrich each others' spiritual lives.

I receive a lot of newsletters and emails from our denomination and conference. I am sharing some of these with you this month.

The United Women of Faith (previously known as the UMW) has monthly podcasts about various topics that deal with issues in our world. The most recent one was called *Faith and Justice; What does the Lord Require of You?* Various speakers shared their journeys of faith and some words of wisdom.

Elizabeth Chun Hye Lee is an environmental activist who feels her obedience to God is through her work. She says, "if I choose not to speak, what are the implications?"

Joanne Lawson talked about corporate greed and environmental racism.

Jay Godfrey asked for prayers for Palestine, Ohio. He suggested that we connect in faith through scripture and then talk about social issues.

In February there was an extra Faith Talk on black history month. It is evident that systemic racism still needs to be addressed.

Clara Ester, a deaconess from Alabama, reminded us that we should learn about black history throughout the year, not just in one day or month. She talked about sex trafficking, slavery, and the mistreatment of veterans. She said that we are all children of God, and in the Bible creation story God is no respecter of persons. That means that all means all, no matter who they are and what they look like.

Garlinda Burton, from the General Council of Race Relations spoke about equitable access in our church. She said that the Methodist Church is at a crossroads, and we need to speak out. Silence from our church leaders is not acceptable. Our church is 93% white, and we need to address racism and justice.

January's Faith Talk was on climate justice. The UN COP 27 conference was held in November 2022, and there were United Methodists in attendance.

Ilka Vega, a specialist in climate and immigration, was one of those who was there. She said there were **35,000** people there. In the news we only hear about world leaders and politicians taking part, but there were lots of negotiations and side events happening. Some of those

GREETINGS FROM YOUR LAY LEADER, CONT.

negotiations included the Loss & Damage Fund for those who experience damage due to climate change, the phasing down and out of fossil fuels, and early warning systems for tsunamis. The impact on communities include, rising oceans for island populations, droughts and the displacement caused by them in Central America, and the effect of greenhouse gasses. Regina Q. Banks is a lawyer for the Lutheran Social Services. She also attended COP27. Her specialty is housing security. She spoke of a world's fair, booths for nations, businesses, groups, and education.

The General Board of Church and Society has set their priorities for 2023. They are focusing on racism, climate, health, and poverty. They have communicated these goals to congress. They feel that inaction is not an option for us and our government leadership. For us as individuals, we have things we can do. If you go to the GBSC website, you will find form letters that you can sign and send to our senators and representatives. I tried this process and found it very easy. I also heard back from senators Collins and King, and representative Golden. Our voices can be heard as the congress works on legislation regarding the issues listed. The webinar I watched is available on the website also. I won't go into details about all the legislation the church is supporting or questioning, but I can answer questions if you are interested.

During Lent we are talking about God's grace and how we experience it. One of our United Methodist podcasts talks about listening as a means of grace. I hope that we can share that grace with one another. We can practice active listening, waiting for the speaker to express his/her thoughts before responding. We can prayerfully try to understand each others' point of view. I read a post on facebook that reminded me that all our limitations and fears are different, and we experience the world around us in different ways. Another post suggested that if we are feeling hurt, pretend the other person has already apologized, then let it go. You never know where you will find words of wisdom.

The United Methodist Men have developed a prayer calendar for Lent. You can find it on their website, or create your own. Get in the habit of praying every day for someone or something specific. Examples are: teachers, pastors, first responders, the unhoused, those facing addiction, our world leaders, or someone who is dear to your heart.

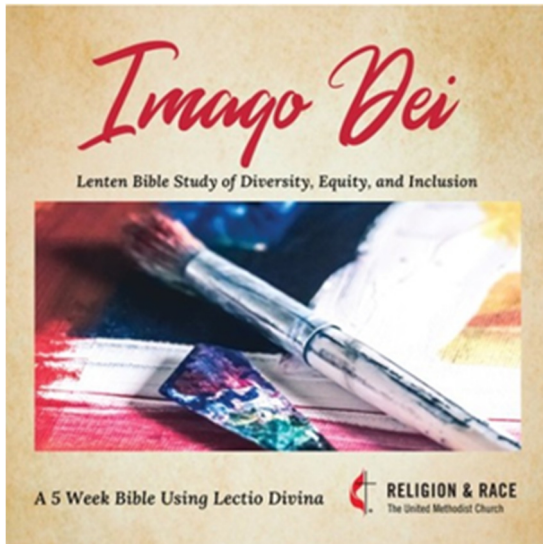
UMCOR continues to send aid to Turkey and Syria for earthquake relief. They also continue with help for Ukraine and other war torn countries. If you are interested in giving you can do it through our church or directly through UMCOR.

I hope that you have found something in this article that is helpful to you. Please don't forget that the church is here to support and help you anytime you have a need. Through God's grace we can take care of one another.

Peace,

Sue White

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY: IMAGO DEI



Please join us each Monday at 10:00 am in the Hunnewell Room for five weeks from March 6 to April 3. No homework required!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS GIFTS

Thank you for the generous gifts you shared in the offering we took in February for the two families in our neighborhood who were victims of the fire that totally destroyed their homes. Along with the gift of a beautiful LLBean queen-sized quilt for each family, we were able to give them a check totaling \$300 for each family as well.

Thank you to the individuals who shared from their abundance and also to the Evening Circle who gave from their treasury, to the Outreach Committee who allocated funds from the Patsy Stevens Memorial monies, and to those who contributed to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund.

Our gifts were gratefully received and will be put to good use as these two families work to rebuild their lives and homes.

NUTURE NEWS

Our first "Sweet Treat" Sunday was held on Feb. 12th and 45 treat bags were handed out to the congregation. The treats were delicious and enjoyed by all.

Save the dates:

April 9th – Easter Breakfast at 8:30 before worship

May 1st - Blood drive to be held in the dining room

More information will follow.

UMCOR SUNDAY

The Fourth Sunday in the season of Lent (March 19th this year) has long been designated as the annual Sunday on which a mission offering is taken for the UMC. UMCOR stands for United Methodist Committee on Relief, the mission arm of our denomination.

Please remember that not one cent of your special offering is used for administrative costs. Those costs are borne by our mission shares which means that 100% of your gift is used for mission work in many places in God's world – such as offering aid to the victims of tornadoes and floods in this country and for the victims of the recent earthquakes in Turkey and Syria, to name just a few of the many disasters where UMCOR dollars are put to work.

Special envelopes will be included in the worship bulletins that day; thank you in advance for your generous gifts.

BREAKFAST WITH THE BUNNY

The Easter Bunny is once again ready to greet families on April 1st and enjoy a delicious breakfast of pancakes and sausage. This is a free community event where families can come and have their photos taken with the Easter bunny and the kiddos will leave with some special treats. Last year we served 85 adults and kids. We would greatly appreciate donations of complete pancake mix, plastic eggs, wrapped candy and orange juice. Let me know if you are able to help out in any way.

Trudy Duval



BIRTHDAY WISHES



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

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

4th- Jacob Morse

9th- Matt Wile

Joe Wolfe

10th- Sue Ramsay

Marcus Wile

11th- Lilyette Cornish

17th- Maddy Cornish

19th- Scott Ramsay

22nd- Hannah Cornish

Robert Kazimer

29th- Annmarie Owens

31st- Carolyn Dobson



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March 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5-2nd Sunday in Lent, Worship in person & virtually w/ Holy Communion, 9:30 a.m.	6-Lenten Bible Study, 10:00 a.m.	7-Choir rehearsal, 6:30 p.m.	8	9	10	11
12-3rd Sunday in Lent, Worship in person & virtually, 9:30 Evening Circle, 10:45 a.m.	13-Lenten Bible Study, 10:00 a.m. Just Seniors, 1:00 p.m.	14-Choir rehearsal, 6:30 p.m.	15	16	17-Happy St. Patrick's Day!	18
19-4th Sunday in Lent: UMCOR Sunday Worship in person & virtually, 9:30 a.m.	20-1st Day of spring! Lenten Bible Study, 10:00 a.m.	21-Choir rehearsal, 6:30 p.m.	22	23	24	25-Dine In/ Take Out Bean Supper, 4:30 p.m.
26-5th Sunday in Lent, Worship in person & virtually, 9:30 a.m. Finance, 11am	27-Lenten Bible Study, 10:00 a.m.	28-Choir rehearsal, 6:30 p.m.	29	30	31	

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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