

*Closer Than We Think*INSIDE THIS
ISSUE:

LAY LEADER

FROM YOUR
PASTORFINANCE
COMMITTEE

PLANT SALE

AND MUCH
MORE!

Martin, the Cobbler, is Leo Tolstoy's story about a lonely shoemaker who is promised in a dream that Christ will come to visit his shop. The next day Martin rises early, gets his shop ready, prepares a meal and waits.

The only one who showed up in the morning was an old beggar who came by and asked for rest. Martin gave him a room he had prepared for his divine guest.

The only one to show up in the afternoon was an old lady with a heavy load of wood. She was hungry and asked for food. He gave her the food he had prepared for his divine guest.

As evening came, a lost boy wandered by. Martin took him home, afraid all the while he would miss the Christ. That night in his prayers he asks the Lord, "Where were you? I waited all day for you."

The Lord said to Martin:

"Three times I came to your friendly door,
Three times my shadow was on your floor.
I was a beggar with bruised feet.
I was the woman you gave to eat.
I was the child on the homeless street."

Tolstoy's story is a good reminder that, if we pay attention, we will find Christ in one another on any given day. As we continue to pray for the families in the recent tragedy in Bowdoin and shooting in Yarmouth, we realize just how precious life is and how God calls us to care for one another, to make life a little easier for each other for we don't know what any given day will bring.

So, watch out – with all diligence and prayer – for Christ may be closer than you can imagine.

God's blessings,

Pastor Elizabeth

MOXIE FESTIVAL

The application has been completed and submitted, books are being gathered for the book sale, donations are being requested and prices are being compared as we prepare for the Moxie Festival. Our first committee meeting will be held on May 16th at 6:30. I hope to see lots of you there as we review plans for this fun event.



"Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends"

~John 15:13

WANTED UNUSED OFFERING ENVELOPS

If you normally donate weekly and take a new box each year; yet, end up with some envelopes left over – Don't throw them away! Earth Day brought to mind that, as stewards of God's beautiful world, there may be some "extra" offering envelopes out there that could be re-purposed, so-to-speak, and used until our next supply arrives (supply chains being somewhat slow these days). If you have some partial boxes of envelopes that you're not using, bring them to church and either put them in the collection box that will be located near the elevator or give them to me.

In the meantime, if you give monthly, and don't wish to use the same box of envelopes for 4 or 5 years, take one of the bundles of unnumbered envelopes. The current supply has cheerful rainbows on them! Just remember to write your name on the envelope and I'll take care of the rest!

Thank you to everyone who supports our church.

Yours in Faith,

Monica McCusker, Finance Secretary

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

<u>Newsletter Finance Information - as of April 2023</u>		
Annual Budget Amount for Operating Expenses	\$	138,160.00
Monthly Budget Amount for Operating Expenses	\$	11,513.33
Total April 2023 Income	\$	7,447.07
Total April 2023 Expenses	\$	6,601.55
Total YTD Income	\$	46,033.15
Total YTD Expense	\$	39,845.77

LUMC Mission Statement:

"The Lisbon United Methodist Church welcomes, nurtures, and serves all

people with the love of Christ."

SPRING FLING

MAY 13, 2023 TIME: 9AM – 2PM

Plant & Bake Sale

New this year we'll be serving: Lunch to go from 11 am – until sold out

Chicken BBQ

Lisbon United Methodist Church

14 School St., Lisbon Falls



Featuring:

**Perennials, annuals, vegetable seedlings, houseplants,
Garden crafts and baked goods**

FMI: Dawn King 353-2242

Please consider helping at the plant and bake sale!

The following helpers are needed:

Friday May 12th, we will be at the church starting at 10:00 a.m. to repot plants and to put cemetery baskets together.

Saturday we will need people to help pick up plants at Bush's Bushes starting at 7:30 a.m. We will also need people to help with the bake sale, setting up plants, selling, and clean up.

If you have a few hours to spare, please contact Dawn and sign up for a time slot!

Your willingness to help will help to ensure a successful fundraiser!

FROM YOUR LAY LEADER

As I write this I am looking at the buds on my rosebush outside my window. Spring is coming even if there is still a chill in the air. It's time to come out of hibernation and look forward to some new activities. Spring also means that it's time to prepare for annual conference. I'll be attending via zoom this year. There will be a pre conference meeting, also by zoom, which I will attend or watch the recording. There are so many things to do: attend my granddaughter's college graduation, celebrate birthdays with my mother and mother-in-law, sing in a spring concert, celebrate mother's day, and join in with the church's spring fling.

I had the privilege of attending a time of welcome for our interim bishop, Peggy Johnson. Bishop Johnson has come out of retirement to serve our conference for a year and a half. She is an energetic, loving, and brilliant person, with the gift of good administration added in. Bishop Johnson spoke to us about going back to basics, serving the community, and loving the unlovable. She gave us a list of her accomplishments since she took office in January. She has done a lot to get our conference organized. Bishop Johnson has served as a bishop in Maryland, Delaware, and Pennsylvania. She also led a deaf church for many years. She gave us buttons with the sign for I Love You on them. She has written a wonderful book called *The Ever Expansive Spirit of God: Hope for All Who Feel Left Out*. I have read it already and passed it on to the congregation. I hope you will read it when it makes its way to you. The book is a memoir of Bishop Johnson and her ministry. She also explains about the journey of the Methodist Church in a clear and concise way. Those of you who have questions and those who don't know what the questions are yet will definitely benefit from this book. I look forward to conference with her presiding in her loving way.

My book report for this month is *Silent Compassion; Finding God in Contemplation*, by Richard Rohr. Rohr is a Franciscan priest who has written many books. I found this book a bit difficult in some places, and helpful in others. The book reminds us that there are some themes, or truths that are the same for all religions, no matter what they are named. In 1 Corinthians Paul says "There is a variety of gifts, but it is always the same Spirit. There are all sorts of service to be done, but always to the same Lord, working in all sorts of different ways in different people. It is the same God working in all of them." 12:4-6.

As the title hints, God can be found in silence. Silence precedes and grounds creativity. As Americans, we tend to think we need stimulation. Rohr says that silence around a thing adds meaning. Without it, we are just reacting instead of thinking. Spiritual silence calls us to be present in the moment. Instead of taking sides, silence allows contentment and enrichment. True prayer or contemplation is a leap into community. Contemplation leads you to have simple clear eyes, common-sense faith, and loving energy that makes whatever you say quite

FROM YOUR LAY LEADER, CONT.

compelling. I think Rohr would agree that as Bishop Johnson says, spiritual silence leads us to “love the unlovable.”

May God’s Blessings and Peace be with you all,
Sue White

BREAKFAST WITH THE EASTER BUNNY

Thanks to all who made Breakfast with the Easter bunny such a big success. As always, the kitchen crew did a great job cooking pancakes and sausage. Everyone enjoyed seeing the Easter bunny; even the shy kiddos who kept their distance but waved to the bunny while eating. We served 41 kids, 55 adults and 10 volunteers. We also collected over 25 pounds of pet food, toys, treats and blankets that were donated to the Greater Androscoggin Humane Society. This is such a great community event that grows every year.



JUST SENIORS

After canceling twice due to bad weather, a representative from Springworks Farm located right here in Lisbon, presented a very informative program to 16 attendees on April 17th. Springworks Farm is the largest aquaponics greenhouse in New England, and has recently secured funding to build a fourth greenhouse. This greenhouse of 120,000 square feet will be their largest one yet. With this expansion, their work force will add 40 new jobs, produce 5,000,000 heads of organic lettuce and 315,000 pounds of tilapia each year! They are hoping that after the greenhouse is up and running they will once again be able to give tours of their facility, which the attendees of the program are looking forward to. We appreciate the Lisbon Library for organizing this program and look forward to others.



SPRING FLING BAKE SALE

Please help make our bake sale a success! We are asking for your help by donating baked items.

Barbara and Ginny will be at the church on Friday, May 12th, from 12:30-4:30 so that you may drop off your baked goods. This will allow us time for organizing and pricing. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to one of us and ask!

BIRTHDAY WISHES



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

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

7th: Gwen Rioux

18th: Bobby Jean Logan

8th: Ralph Day

Piper Logan Charpentier

10th: Chris Hall

19th: Debbie Crosman

17: Harry Grinder

29th: Stephanie Stambach

STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

We're off to a great start! I have received 22 pledges as of Sunday, April 23rd, with a projected pledge total of \$37,984.00 – on the first day! THANK YOU!! for “Giving from the Heart.” I'll post updates as more pledges are received...

The Narrative Budget in the campaign mailer illustrates the breakdown of expenses covered by the annual budget. Our bare-bones operating budget for 2023, totaling \$138,160.63, is paid with your pledged (& unpledged) gifts, fundraisers and special donations. Your pledges help the Finance Committee plan ahead and prepare for any budgetary shortages -- making it an important decision for each of us. Increasing one's pledge by just one dollar a week helps a LOT with keeping the heat on in winter, retaining a full-time minister, and continuing our community missions. Just think -- how many ways would our community be impacted if our church wasn't here?

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 boxes of offering envelopes, if needed.

GENEROSITY TREE

I thought you might be interested in knowing how generous folks have been with the extra donations toward specific expenses. In 2022, especially after Shane's Mission Moment presentation about the tree tags, \$1,135.00 was given. So far, this year, over \$950 has been generously given... and that doesn't even count the anonymous donations of copy paper, stamps, envelopes, coffee and ????. THANK YOU!!

May 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1-Pastor Elizabeth on Vacation Widows' Fellowship , 11:30 p.m. Blood Drive, 12:30-5:00p.m	2-Pastor Elizabeth on Vacation Choir rehearsal, 6:30 p.m.	3-Pastor Elizabeth on Vacation	4-Pastor Elizabeth on Vacation	5	6-Girl Scouts 1:00-3:00 p.m.
7-Worship in person & virtually w/ communion 9:30 Evening Circle after coffee hour	8-Bible Study, 10:00 a.m.	9-Choir rehearsal, 6:30 p.m.	10	11	12	13-Spring Fling, 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
14-Mother's Day Worship in person & virtually, 9>30 a.m.	15-Bible Study, 10:00 a.m.	16-Reader's Anonymous book club, 6pm Choir, 6:30pm Moxie Meeting 6:30 p.m.	17	18	19	20
21-Worship in person & virtually, 9:30 a.m.	22-Bible study, 10 a.m. Evening circle w/ quilters, 11:30 a.m.	23-Choir rehearsal, 6:30 p.m.	24	25	26	27-Dine IN/ take Out church supper, 4:30 p.m.
28-Pentecost worship in person & virtually, 9:30 a.m.	29-Memorial Day 	30-Choir rehearsal, 6:30 p.m.	31			

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

Friday is the Pastor's Sabbath Day. Other times available by appointment

**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: Hours 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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