

INSIDE THIS  
ISSUE:

LAY LEADER

FINANCE

EVENING  
CIRCLE

MOXIE DAY

AND MUCH  
MORE!

Hear the beautiful words of Psalm 8:

<sup>1</sup> O LORD, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens.

<sup>2</sup> Out of the mouths of babes and infants you have founded a bulwark because of your foes, to silence the enemy and the avenger.

<sup>3</sup> When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established; <sup>4</sup> what are humans that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them?

<sup>5</sup> Yet you have made them a little lower than God and crowned them with glory and honor.

<sup>6</sup> You have given them dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under their feet, <sup>7</sup> all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field,

<sup>8</sup> the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas. <sup>9</sup> O LORD, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

As this psalm begins and ends, the psalmist addresses God as “our Sovereign.” This acknowledges that God is in all and above all, creating all that is and all that will be.

In his book, *A Wesleyan Spiritual Reader*, author Rueben P. Job speaks to God’s sovereignty when he writes,

*“In a world of almost instant communication and graphic story-telling about the tragedy and pain of the world, it is easy to forget this ancient truth: God is sovereign and therefore God is able to care for and provide for all of creation.*

*Once we lose the concept of God as sovereign, our prayers, our faith, and our very souls begin to shrink. To believe in a severely limited God takes the heart out of reverence and out of prayer.*

*From the very beginning, Methodism’s founder John Wesley was clear about the sovereignty of God. He never doubted God’s ability to care for and provide for all that God had created. Because God is sovereign, then we can pray confidently and boldly for the redemption of the world, the conversion of evil to good,*

Continued on Page 3

## EMAIL, ANYONE?

If you are receiving our monthly newsletter via the US Postal Service but have an email address, we'd love to send you our newsletter electronically. As costs for postage and paper increase, receiving the newsletter this way would be a savings for the church. Our bigger editions are costing nearly seventy-five cents each to mail.

If you wish to switch to email, please share your email address with us in one of these ways:

- By sending Pastor Elizabeth an email: [pastor@lisbonumchurch.org](mailto:pastor@lisbonumchurch.org)
- By leaving a voicemail at the church: 353-4982

Thank you for your consideration as we work to be good stewards of our resources!

*"It is for freedom that Christ has set us free."*

*~Galatians 5:1*

## IT'S TIME FOR ICE CREAM!

Back by popular demand, our church family is invited to gather for ice cream and fellowship as we've done in summers past. The dates are July 23 at Smiley's and August 20 at the Big Dipper. Gathering at each of these locations helps us support both businesses in our community. We'll gather at 6:00 pm so have an early supper perhaps and then ice cream for dessert—or make it easy and have ice cream for supper! Hope to see you there!

## SUMMER SERMON SERIES: ONLY BY GOD'S GRACE

As I began to ask for your favorite hymn suggestions for summer worship when our choir has a well-deserved break, I also began to think how fun it might be for me to choose the Scriptures that were my favorites through the years to preach on this summer. Thus, I started organizing a four-week summer sermon series for July 2, 9, 16, and 23.

As I chose the Scriptures we'll hear, the overall theme is my personal cornerstone: God's grace; then weekly themes fell into place: our covenant with God, our call to mission, God's love for us and our love for others. I'm looking forward to gathering my thoughts on these topics; I hope you will join us and allow God to speak to you through this series.

## SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE

The Evening Circle will be collecting back to school items during the months of July and August to help children be ready for the start of the new school year. If you happen to see some of these items, while shopping, please help us out.

**Pencils**

**Crayons/Markers**

**Notebooks**

**Glue Sticks**

**Folders**

**Rulers**

**Pencil Cases**

Please no backpacks, as Food City supplies those.  
Thanks for your help!

## FROM YOUR PASTOR, CONT.

*the transformation of a timid church to a faithful church, the renewal of a morally bankrupt society to one of justice and mercy, and the salvation of our own troubled souls."*

Keeping God's sovereignty in the forefront of our minds helps us to navigate the often times crazy world in which we live. When we question how humanity can fail to care for one another, when we pray for areas where natural disasters have occurred and places of war to be made whole, when we give thought to the social problems that seem so huge, it helps us to remember that God is in control. The answers may not be ours to have but God knows them. So, keep praying for all that is in your heart, knowing that God hears and answers – in God's own time as our Sovereign and Beneficent God!



God's blessings,

*Pastor Elizabeth*

## LUMC SCHOLARSHIPS

Due to the generosity of members of the church family gone before us, our Finance Committee is pleased to remind you that we have a small scholarship to offer to the college students in our community of faith.

If you or a family member is pursuing their secondary education, please have them contact Pastor Elizabeth to receive an application. Scholarships are awarded in the second semester of the student's current school year.

## EVENING CIRCLE

Evening Circle will not be meeting during the month of July, due to the holiday and Moxie Day, we will resume in August.

## FINANCE NEWS

<b><u>Newsletter Finance Information - as of June 2023</u></b>		
Annual Budget Amount for Operating Expenses	\$	138,160.00
Monthly Budget Amount for Operating Expenses	\$	11,513.33
Total June 2023 Income	\$	5,102.46
Total June 2023 Expenses	\$	7,434.96
Total YTD Income	\$	81,483.28
Total YTD Expense	\$	60,444.68

## FROM YOUR LAY LEADER/LAY MEMBER OF N.E. ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Here is my report from the NEAC 2023 (part one)

Theme: **Draw the Circle Wider Still**

Scripture: Philippians 4:4-9

**4** Rejoice<sup>[a]</sup> in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.<sup>[b]</sup> **5** Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. **6** Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. **7** And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

**8** Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about<sup>[c]</sup> these things. **9** As for the things that you have learned and received and heard and noticed in me, do them, and the God of peace will be with you.

Here are the recaps from annual conference. I will keep this brief. If you want more detail, you can contact me. I will be sharing some of the worship, bible studies, and sermons on July 30th when I will be leading worship while Pastor Elizabeth is on vacation.

**Wednesday June 7th:** Laity and Clergy sessions

**Thursday June 8th:** Worship by the Conference Committee on Native American Ministries

Episcopal Address by Bishop Peggy Johnson

Offering for JFON

Monitoring Report by COSROW

**Legislation**

**Adopted the organizing motions**

**RS-23-209 (page 79) — Approved**

**Disaffiliations to be taken as a single motion**

Thursday morning, the body approved a temporary rule change that pertains only to the

## LAY MEMBER TO NEW ENGLAND ANNUAL CONFERENCE REPORT, CONT.

resolutions on church disaffiliations. The body approved a substitute motion for **RS-23-221** that calls for all the disaffiliation resolutions to be taken as one motion. This replaced the original resolution (also RS-23-221) that had set time limits on the debate of each disaffiliation (taken separately).

The text of the original appears on page 94 of the Pre-Conference Materials. The substitute motion, also [RS-23-221](#), can be found by clicking the link.

*The following churches brought resolutions to disaffiliate from The UMC:*

Ballardvale United Federated, Andover, MA

Brownsville (VT) Community UMC

Bryantville UMC, Pembroke, MA

Christ UMC, Lawrence, MA

Cressey Road UMC, Gorham, ME

CT Central Korean UMC, East Hampton, CT

Exeter (NH) UMC

Faith Community Church, Plymouth, MA

Lyndonville (VT) UMC

North Woolwich UMC, Woolwich, ME

Nueva Vida UMC, Chelsea, MA

South Middleboro UMC, Middleboro, MA

Vida Abundante, Providence, RI

Wesley UMC, Wareham, MA

During the post-dinner session, members continued the work on the resolution around disaffiliations. The resolutions brought by the 14 churches were voted on in one motion, which was overwhelmingly approved by the body. The Appointive Cabinet offered a prayer following the vote.

Bishop Johnson reminded the body that the disaffiliations were not complete until each of the church's met the obligations outlined in the agreements. They have until Dec. 31, 2023 to do that. The church members and clergy as still part of the annual conference until that happens. The bishop read the churches' names and offered a prayer.

**RS-23-220 Resolution Proposed by Chilmark Community Church — page 92 — rejected**

The motion required a 2/3 vote because it involved a change in conference policy.

**RS-23-236 Closure of the UMC portion of South Royalton (VT) UMC page 584 —**

## LAY MEMBER TO NEW ENGLAND ANNUAL CONFERENCE REPORT, CONT.

### Recognitions

Bishop Peggy Johnson took a moment to recognize and thank Rev. Ashely Johnson, who served as Director of Connectional Ministries from July 1, 2021 to Dec. 31, 2022. Johnson is not able to attend on Saturday, when the incoming Cabinet members, new DCM will be recognized.

Acting Treasurer and Director of Administrative Services Clare J. Chapman, spoke about some of the changes in the conference's administrative structure. The seven part-time district administrative assistant positions will become four full-time positions with the title Regional Administrator.

Three of the current District HAs will take the following positions:

Phyllis Riviere — Granite and Green Mountain districts

Lori Umberhind — Katahdin and Many Waters districts

Allyson Printz — Commonwealth East and West districts

The fourth position, covering the Seacoast District and providing support to the Director of Connectional Ministries, has not yet been filled.

### Memorial Service

Rev. Carol Lakota Eastin, an elder from the Illinois Great Rivers Annual Conference and Native American leader in the denomination, was guest preacher for the Memorial Service.

### Foundation report

**Friday June 9 Friday's opening worship service was led by the Asian and Pacific Islander Commission and the Korean Caucus.**

### 2023 Service of Ordination and Commissioning

I have broken this report into two parts. The second part will be in August's newsletter.

Peace, Sue White

### *LUMC Mission Statement:*

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

## **MOXIE FESTIVAL**

This year's Moxie Festival, 3 Days of Peace, Love and Moxie, is almost here.

Plans are being finalized for this year's MoxieFest. Volunteers are lined up, books are being sorted and set up with help from the newly re-organized Friends of the Library, shirts have been tie-dyed, plenty of Moxie has been purchased or donated, and the strawberry fields are now opened for picking.

Snacks are needed to sell on Saturday. Brownies, cookies, rice krispie treats, no bake cookies are all great sellers. Too hot to bake – put together some cereal mixes. Popcorn, Chex mixes, cereal mixes all make great snacks for folks walking by. Even baggies with celery sticks and carrot sticks with containers of peanut butter are great for those who prefer a healthier snack. Snacks can be dropped off at the church Friday, July 7<sup>th</sup> from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. If you have any questions please call Margaret, 353-8990.

If you don't want to shop, monetary donations are always welcome.

If you have any questions, please give me a call. Thanks for all your help!



### **Lisbon United Methodist Church**

#### **~Moxie Day 2023~**

##### **Starting Friday Night:**

Book Sale, 5-7 p.m.

##### **Starting Saturday at 9:00:**

Book Sale

Strawberry Shortcake

##### **Starting Saturday at 10:00:**

Hotdogs, baked goods, and cold drinks

(With fresh Maine strawberries!)



**Be sure to visit Izzy's Stuffed Zoo & Emporium located right at the church!**

Find them on Facebook to learn more about creating your own special stuffed furry friend!



## BIRTHDAY WISHES

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

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



6th: Nate Rioux

9th: Connie Earle

10th: Erica Soiett

11th: Mark C. Stambach

Susan White

18th: Caitlin Ramsay

19th: Verne Ricker

23rd: Dave McCusker

27th: Glenys Gardner

28th: Charlie Stambach

29th: Monica McCusker

30th: Erika Moore

## EVENING CIRCLE MISSION PROJECTS

On May 22nd, the Evening Circle hosted a lunch with the quilting ladies from our neighbors at MTM. They had graciously offered to help us with a mission project, pre Covid, and we were just now able to get together with them to show our appreciation. As you can see with the smiles, we all had an enjoyable time. There were 19 of us, who enjoyed a good lunch and conversation.



## NEW ADDRESS!

Barbara Reid has moved to Avita of Brunswick; her new address is 88 Admiral Fitch Avenue, Brunswick 04011.

Let's send her cards to share the love and prayers of the church family with her. Please identify yourself in the card as a member of Lisbon United Methodist Church.



# July 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2-Worship in person & Virtually w/ Holy Communion, 9:30a.m  Summer Sermon Series: <i>Only By God's Grace</i>	3	4-Happy Independence Day!!	5	6	7-Moxie Festival: Book Sale & Hot Dogs, 5:00-7:00 p.m.	8-Moxie Fest: Kitchen opens @ 10:00 Book Sale: 9-2
9-Worship in person & virtually, 9:30 Summer Sermon Series: Only By God's Grace	10-Widows fellowship, 11:30 a.m.	11	12	13-Red Cross Blood Drive, 1:00-6:00	14	15
16-Worship in person & virtually, 9:30 Summer Sermon Series: Only By God's Grace	17	18	19	20	21	22-Eat In/Take Out Bean Supper, 4:30 p.m.
23-Worship in person & virtually, 9:30 Summer Sermon Series: Only By God's Grace  Ice Cream @ Smiley's 6:00 p.m.	24-Pastor Elizabeth on Vacation	25-Pastor Elizabeth on vacation	26-Pastor Elizabeth on vacation	27-Pastor Elizabeth on vacation	28-Pastor Elizabeth on vacation	29-Pastor Elizabeth on vacation
30-Worship in person & virtually, 9:30 Pastor Elizabeth on vacation	31					

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

**Office Hours:** Monday 9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon, Thursday 1:00 p.m.-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: Monday 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.*

*Thursday 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.*

*Other times available by appointment*

*Friday is the Pastor's Sabbath day*

**Important Contacts:**

Pastor: Rev. Elizabeth J. Bachelder Smith

[pastor@lisbonumchurch.org](mailto:pastor@lisbonumchurch.org)

**Organist & Choir Director: Debbie Greim**

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