

FROM YOUR PASTOR:

Lord, In Your Mercy, Hear our Prayers....

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ISSUE:

HOLIDAY
FAIR

OUTREACH

CHURCH
CONFERENCE

WREATH
SALES

AND MUCH
MORE!

Our service of worship on Sunday, October 29 began with a special time of remembrance and prayer following the horrific events in Lewiston and Lisbon on October 25-27. We lit a candle and shared the names of each person whose life was lost in the mass shooting before sharing this time of prayer:

A Prayer for the Victims of the Lewiston Shooting
by our Many Waters District Superintendent, Rev. Arlene Tully
(adapted)

God of the brokenhearted, our world has once again been shaken by violence and gunfire – this time in the last place we expected – right here in our own backyard. We are in shock, grieving, and confused.

We pray for the loved ones of the 18 people whose lives were taken – the loved ones whose lives will never be the same. We pray that the presence and power of your Holy Spirit will companion them, comfort them, strengthen and support them – that you would work through caring friends and family to provide a reassuring hug, a listening ear, a shoulder to cry on. And we pray that in the days to come you will work through the clergy, chaplains, and grief counselors who offer a safe space for survivors to process their grief and begin the long road to healing.

God of the innocent, we pray especially for the children who were bowling one moment and fleeing from bullets the next. Bind up their wounds, whether physical or emotional, and enable them to recover fully from the trauma. God of compassion, we give thanks for the courageous first responders who rushed to help the victims – for police officers, firefighters and EMTs, and all those whose duties brought them face to face with the carnage of gun violence. We thank you for the doctors, nurses, and other medical specialists who were in the places where they were most needed. We praise you for unknown bystanders who gave of themselves to care for the injured

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LAITY SUNDAY THANKS

Words of gratitude are expressed to those who participated in our Laity Sunday service of worship on October 15. Many thanks to our Lay Leader, Sue White, who organized the service and preached for us as well as to Verne Smith, Ella Mae Packard, Bob Packard, Don Wile, Debbie Crosman, Carolyn Jones, Jen Farrin, and, as always, our organist, Debbie, and our wonderful choir who participated that day.

LUMC wouldn't be the active, vibrant church it is without the faith and dedication of our lay persons. Well done, to all of our good and faithful servants!

"Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever!"

~Psalm 107:1

ALL SAINTS' CELEBRATION

We will celebrate the lives of our saints who have died in the last year on Sunday, November 5th. If you have names of loved ones which you would like on our memorial list for that day, please make sure that Pastor Elizabeth has them by November 2nd.

ANNUAL CHURCH CONFERENCE

Our annual church conference will be held on Sunday, November 12th from 1:30 to 3:30 pm. We will welcome the laity and pastor of the Brunswick UMC to our church as we worship together and then break into separate church groups to do the business of the conference.

Please make this meeting a priority as we celebrate the past year and look ahead to the next.

WREATHS FOR SALE

As a "fun fundraiser" again this year, our Finance Committee will be offering Christmas wreaths and kissing balls for sale at our November public supper on Saturday, November 25 and also at our annual Breakfast with Santa on Saturday, December 2.

Please plan now to purchase your Christmas decorations in support of the church's general fund; we hope you'll share the word with family and friends as well!

ADVENT DECORATING

Celebrating Christ the King Sunday three days after Thanksgiving this year allows us an extra week prior to the beginning of the Advent season. This means that we are able to gather during the week to decorate our sanctuary for the holy times of Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany.

Please mark your calendar for Wednesday, November 29 at 10:00 am. With the many hands of those who are able to gather mid-week, we'll be finished in no time. Join us for the fun!

NEW BEGINNINGS: HOLIDAY DRIVE FOR HOMELESS YOUTH

In keeping with a wonderful LUMC tradition, our Outreach Committee will once again this year be collecting gift cards for the holiday care packages that New Beginnings will be creating for homeless youth in our area.

Please consider donating one or more of the following gift cards:

Dunkin Donuts (\$5 or \$10) or Walmart (\$20)

Or in any amount to:

| | | |
|------------|-------------|---------------|
| Hannaford | Shaw's | Subway |
| McDonald's | Burger King | Game Stop |
| Bull Moose | Dollar Tree | Family Dollar |

If it is easier for you to make a monetary donation, please give the money to Pastor Elizabeth who is happy to purchase cards for you. The deadline for donations will be **December 10th**. THANK YOU for your generosity to this important ministry!

FINANCE INFORMATION

| <u>Newsletter Finance Information - as of October 2023</u> | | |
|---|----|------------|
| Annual Budget Amount for | \$ | 138,160.00 |
| Monthly Budget Amount for | \$ | 11,513.33 |
| Total October 2023 Income | \$ | 4,563.41 |
| Total October 2023 Expenses | \$ | 9,444.99 |
| Total YTD Income | \$ | 111,402.92 |
| Total YTD Expense | \$ | 101,509.10 |

LUMC Mission Statement:

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

GREETINGS FROM YOUR LAY LEADER

Hello everyone. As you may know, I have been leading a Bible study on Thursday mornings. I know that the time is not convenient for everyone. I totally understand. In order to share what we are doing, I have been leaving copies of the study in the Narthex. Feel free to take one for your own use at home.

Our study is by Ann Voskamp. She wrote the study to expand on her book, *One Thousand Gifts*. A friend dared her to start counting one thousand things she loved. She took the dare and began a blog about gifts/graces. Since then, thankfulness to God changed her. This book is one of the results.

Since this is the season of Thanksgiving, I am sharing some thoughts of one of her devotions. It is called hammering grace.

Seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you...Therefore, everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. Matthew 7:7, 24.

Martin Luther said, "A nail is driven out by another nail; habit is overcome by habit."

I am sad for all that would have changed if I only had.

There is a way to live the big of giving thanks in all things. It is this: to give thanks in this one small thing. The moments will add up.

And give thanks for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 5:20

Slapping a sloppy brush of thanksgiving over everything leaves us deeply thankful for very few things. Life-changing gratitude does not fasten to a life unless nailed through with one very specific nail at a time.

The habit of discontentment can only be driven out by hammering in one iron sharper. The sleek pin of gratitude.

Some days, ones with laundry and kids and dishes in the sink, it is hard to think that the insulting ordinariness of this truly teaches the full mystery of the all most important, to be thankful, eucharisteo.

Learning requires practice. C.S. Lewis said, "if you think of this world as a place intended simply for our happiness, you find it quite intolerable; think of it as a place of training and correction and it's not so bad." Practicing gratitude is the hardest part of learning, and training is the essence of transformation. It might save your life.

Prayer: LOrd God, Your son took the ringing of the hammer and the pounding of the nails to buy my salvation. Right now I offer You up my open hands. Drive out the nails of habitual grumbling with the nails of habitual gratitude. I long to be fixed to You. Amen.

May you celebrate this time of thanksgiving with God's love,
Sue White

GREETINGS FROM YOUR PASTOR, CONT.

God of transformation, we pray for the perpetrator – that he has received the healing of his heart and mind. And for his family, who are suffering a different kind of grief, and who are also in need of comfort and care.

Gracious God, as you weep for the pain of your children, so let us weep for the pain of one another. Give us empathy, that our hearts do not become desensitized to violence or hardened by indifference. Help us to rise above our fear that nothing can be done and empower us to work to change this broken world. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayers. Amen.

May God's strength and peace be with us all.

God's blessings,

Pastor Elizabeth



HOLIDAY FAIR AND SILENT AUCTION

Where did October go?? We are just days away from our Holiday Fair and Silent Auction which is our biggest fundraiser of the year. The fair/auction will take place on Friday, Nov. 10th from 5-7 p.m. and Nov. 11th from 9-2 p.m.

We have had a couple of successful craft afternoons; thanks to all those who attended. If you are donating crafts you have made at home please price them yourself. You are the only one that knows what the cost of materials and your time is worth. You will soon be receiving a phone call for baked goods, jams, jellies, relishes, etc. Once again, if you have made any type of canned goods please price them yourself. We would love to see our tables loaded with pies, breads, muffins, desserts such as apple crisp, etc. Last year we made over \$1,000 on this table alone. All items, either baked goods or crafts, can be dropped off on Thursday, Nov. 9th from 5-6 p.m. or Friday, Nov. 10th by 2:30 p.m.

Last year our silent auction consisted of 52 items with the highest bids raising \$2,000! We have received some great donations this year as well; Maine Art Glass Studio, Bush's Bushes, Yeung's Chinese Restaurant, Wallingford's Fruit House, and YMCA of Lewiston-Auburn along with many more items. If you would like to donate an auction item please let us know right away so we can prepare the bid sheet.

We will be setting up for the fair/auction on Thursday, time to be determined. If you have a few free hours and would like to help please let me know. Also if you are available to help Friday evening or during a time of Saturday we would appreciate your help.

If you have any questions at all, please give me a call or speak to me on Sunday.

Trudy Duval, Event co-chairperson

BIRTHDAY WISHES



Happy Birthday to the following people who celebrate a birthday in November!

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

1th- George Morgan, Jr

19th- Benjamin Millson

5th- Sean Moore

20th- Jackson White

7th- Dean Logan

23rd- Harvey White, III

15th- Trudy Duval

29th- Clyde Cavender

Phyllis Sterling

OUTREACH

Outreach is now beginning to plan for our Christmas projects. We will again be collecting gift cards for New Beginnings. There will soon be a list of stores that they recommend. We recently made a \$50 donation to Sugg Middle School's soccer and track teams for Kick for a Cure. This will benefit the Maine Children's Cancer Program.

Our next meeting is November 13th at 10:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Earle,



November 2023

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|--|--|--|
| | | | 1 | 2-Bible Study, 10:00 a.m. | 3-Girl Scouts | 4 |
| 5-Worship in person & virtually w/ Holy Communion & All Saints' Day celebration, 9:30 a.m. | 6 | 7-Choir rehearsal, 6:30 p.m. | 8-Staff/Parish Relations Committee w/ DS 6:00 p.m. via ZOOM | 9-Bible Study, 10:00 a.m. Fair/Auction set up, time TBD | 10-Holiday Fair & Silent Auction, 5-7 p.m. | 11-Holiday Fair & Silent Auction |
| 12- Worship in person & virtually, 9:30 w/ Veterans' Prayer Church Conf. 1:30-3:30 p.m. | 13-Outreach Committee, 10:30 a.m. | 14-Choir rehearsal, 6:30 p.m. | 15 | 16-Bible Study, 10:00 a.m. Girl Scouts | 17 | 18 |
| 19-Music Sunday in person & virtually, 9:30 Finance 1:00 | 20 | 21-Choir rehearsal, 6:30 p.m. | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25-Bean supper, 4:30 Wreath & Kissing Ball Sale |
| 26-Chris the Kind Sunday in person & virtually, 9:30 a.m. | 27 | 28-Choir rehearsal, 6:30 p.m. | 29-Advent/ Christmas decoration 10:00 a.m. | 30-Bible study, 10:00 a.m. Girl Scouts | | |

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

**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

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