

MARCH 2024

FROM YOUR PASTOR: *As Jesus Did For Us*

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NURTURE

FINANCE

BREAKFAST WITH THE BUNNY

LAY LEADER

AND MUCH MORE!

As these Lenten days move us ever closer to Easter morning, the Scripture stories, in Holy Week in particular, remind us yet again of the great sacrifice of Jesus for each of us. In ways that we perhaps don't think much about during the rest of the year, the Lenten season is a time for reflecting on the gift of God's only Son and all that he did so that we might live fully in this world and then inherit the gift of eternal life in the world to come.

Last fall when UM churches in New England celebrated their annual conference, we shared words which made me stop and think about that sacrifice; I share an adaptation of them with us now as we give thanks to God this gift of unmerited grace; may they be another Lenten reflection for you to read and pray over. While these words reference being together for a meeting, may you read them contemplating how we go out from our gatherings to be the church of Jesus in the world:

Presider: We have taken Jesus into us. We now go out into the different directions to be the hands and feet of Jesus. We go out to correct what we did wrong, what others did wrong, and to sometimes take the blame for another's mistake as Jesus did for us. We go out to stand up for the powerless, the voiceless, and those invisible. Gracious God, let your mercy and grace fall on us and give us courage to follow in the footsteps of Jesus.

People: Creator God, as we walk from this place with renewed strength for the journey before us, let us follow the path of Jesus, as the Spirit guides our steps. Help us to make wise choices in the days ahead, to serve those in need, and to remember our place in the circle of life. Remind us to....respect one another and all creation. As we wait for the day when we will be reunited with you and those who have gone before us, keep our hope alive and our footsteps on the path toward home.

Presider:Remember, Creator God was here before we came and will be here after we depart. Creator God came in with us and will stay with us when we depart. We are all connected to one another and to our Creator. All praise to Creator God! Amen.

May you continue to remember the great gift of Jesus that makes worthwhile the life you live in his name.

God's blessings,

Pastor Elizabeth

UMCOR SUNDAY

The Fourth Sunday in the season of Lent (March 10th 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, floods, and earthquakes, 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.

"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 2024</u>		
Annual Budget Amount for Operating Expenses	\$	139,560.63
Monthly Budget Amount for Operating Expenses	\$	11,630.05
Total February 2024 Income	\$	5,741.30
Total February 2024 Expenses	\$	8,524.81
Total YTD Income	\$	12,178.84
Total YTD Expense	\$	20,084.12

LUMC Mission Statement:

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

NEWS FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Finance Committee would like to take a moment to thank each of you for your continued generosity over the past year. Whether it was through your pledge, taking a tag from the generosity tree, helping with custodial duties, supporting one of our fundraisers or making a financial gift to the church we appreciate it and are very grateful for your gifts.

At our February 25th meeting we recommended a 2024 budget that will be sent to the Church Council for final approval. The recommended budget is \$143,068.22. While we have a “bare bones” budget this is an increase of \$4,907.59 over the 2023 budget. Many of the increases are due to fixed amounts such as mission shares, the pastor’s salary and insurance that we have no control over and are set by the New England Conference.

At our church conference last November, our district superintendent recommended we set up a meeting with the District Finance Team who may be able to help to us develop a more stable financial picture. We are waiting to hear back from Jeff Toothaker, our contact person.

Fundraisers have become a necessity in helping us met our budgetary obligations. We have set a tentative schedule for our 2024 fundraisers and need a chairperson for the Spring Fling as well as the Moxie Festival. Together these two fundraisers netted a profit of over \$5,000 last year! Being chairperson does not mean doing all the planning, organizing and preparation of the event alone; but a chairperson is necessary to bring all the pieces together for a successful event. If you are interested, please speak with one of the finance committee members. Without a chairperson there’s no guarantee that these fundraisers will happen.

Trudy Duval, Finance Committee Chairperson

BISHOP’S VISIT TO MANY WATERS DISTRICT

Our Bishop, the Rev. Peggy Johnson, is visiting each of the districts in the New England Conference for a “meet and greet” again this spring. Our turn on the Many Waters District will be on Saturday, March 16 beginning at 1:00 pm at the Brunswick UMC; light refreshments will follow.

The event is hybrid; please join by checking into the Brunswick UMC Facebook live stream.

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

GREETINGS FROM YOUR LAY LEADER

*May you fast from hurting words and say kind words
Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude
Fast from anger and be filled with patience
Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope
Fast from worries and trust in God
Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity
Fast from pressures and be prayerful
Fast from bitterness and fill your heart with joy
Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others
Fast from grudges and be reconciled
Fast from words and be silent so you can listen*

Sue White

HONOR FLIGHT MAINE

Last fall Pastor Elizabeth attended a gathering of local non-profit organizations to learn ways in which we could help each other. One of the organizations in attendance was Honor Flight Maine.

Honor Flight Maine is a non-profit, all-volunteer program that provides Maine Veterans with free guided group trips to Washington D.C. to tour, experience and reflect at their memorials. The organization serves all Maine Veterans, men and women, regardless of what branch of service they were in or where they served. Each flight is a quick but lasting memory for every one of the participants.

On the flight home the Veterans are surprised with a Mail Call. Each Veteran receives a collection of cards, letters, drawings and other messages from family, friends and community members expressing their thanks and appreciation for their service and sacrifice. This is a nostalgic reminder of the mail they received when they were deployed.

This year there are four Honor Flight trips planned; the first being on April 12th. We can help with this special part of the trip by writing letters, cards or having our kids or grandkids draw pictures that express our thanks to our Veterans. A collection box will be in the Narthax for your contributions.

If you have any questions please speak with me.

Trudy Duval

UPCOMING BLOOD DRIVE



**American
Red Cross**

The need is constant.
The gratification is instant.
Give blood.™

redcrossblood.org | 1-800-RED CROSS

Lisbon United Methodist Church

14 School Street, Lisbon Falls

Thursday, March 14th

Noon – 4:30pm

Sponsor Code: Lisbon UMC

DATE CHANGE:

Last month's newsletter asked you to save a date in May when the Rev. Wes Palmer, executive director of the Preacher's Aid Society, will be with us to preach and tell us about the exciting ministry of PAS. Wes needed to change that date so he will be with us on May 26th. We know this is Memorial Day weekend but hope that you will plan on being present for worship to give Wes a warm LUMC welcome.

DIRECTORY CORRECTIONS

When our new church family directory of names, physical and email addresses, and phone numbers was recently handed out, we knew that periodic changes would be necessary. Those changes can be found in our newsletter when they occur, such as the following:

- Lola Carlson lives in Bowdoin, not Bowdoinham as listed;
- Bud Cherry has a new landline: (207) 407-4122; and
- Please note that Barb Underwood passed away in February
- Phyllis Greim's address should be 10 Cynthia Drive, Lot 27

Lisbon Falls, ME 04252

Please pass along changes as they happen to Pastor Elizabeth and she will make sure they are shared with the church family.

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 will be available in the coming weeks; please confirm if you wish to have flowers again this year; if you wish to change your listing, please contact Gwen directly ASAP by phone 353-6814 or by email at gwenrioux@gmail.com. The list will be printed on Easter Sunday, March 31st.

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



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NURTURE COMMITTEE

Thanks to everyone who participated, helped and or attended the February Pot Luck luncheon! The feedback was that a good time was had by all! The food, fun, games and fellowship brought many smiles as we head into spring.

Mark your calendar for the Membership Luncheon on April 21st, at 11:00 a.m.

Menu: Seafood Chowder, Corn Chowder and Chicken Noodle Soup, Rolls, Muffins, Crackers, Tossed Salad and Dessert.

A sign up sheet will be in the narthex on April 7th if you would like to bring rolls, muffins, biscuits or crackers. Any kind will be great!

We want to thank all of the LUMC committees for taking on the task of conducting coffee hour. It is working beautifully and appreciated by everyone in our committee and our church family. Lots of yummy food and fellowship is lovely. Thanks for your time in this busy world to treat each other with sharing good treats and good conversation!

Love from Besty Crowell, Chairperson

BREAKFAST WITH THE BUNNY

Breakfast with the Easter Bunny will take place on March 16th from 8:30-10:00. Kids of all ages are invited to come and enjoy this fun event. We are in need of complete pancake mix, apple juice and candy. If you can help with any of these items, please let me know. Thank you in advance!

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

17th- Maddy Cornish

19th- Scott Ramsay

22nd- Hannah Cornish

Robert Kazimer

29th- Annmarie Owens

31st- Carolyn Dobson

FEBRUARY POTLUCK PICTURES

A great time and great meal
enjoyed by all!



March 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3-3rd Sunday in Lent w/ Holy Communion in person & virtually Nurture, 11:00	4	5	6-Choir rehearsal, 6:45 p.m.	7	8	9
10-4th Sunday in Lent, worship in person & virtually-UMCOR Sunday Evn. Circle	11	12	13-Choir rehearsal, 6:45 p.m.	14-Red Cross blood drive, 12:00 -4:30 p.m.	15	16-Breakfast with the Bunny 8:30-10:00 a.m.
17-5th Sunday in Lent- Worship in person & virt.	18	19-First day of Spring!	20-Choir rehearsal, 6:45 p.m.	21	22	23-Dine In/ Take Out Supper, 4:30 p.m.
24-Palm Sunday-Worship in person & virt. 9:30 Finance, 11:00	25	26	27-Choir rehearsal, 6:45 p.m.	28-Maundy Thursday service of worship w/ Holy Communion, 7:00 p.m.	29	30
31-Easter Sunday worship w/ Holy Communion in person & Virtually, 9:30 a.m.						

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

Office Hours: Monday 9:00 am-noon at Pastor's Home, Thursday 1:00-3:00 pm

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

Important Contacts:

Pastor: Rev. Elizabeth J. Bachelder Smith

pastor@lisbonumchurch.org

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