

What Can You Do?

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And MUCH
more!

*Christ has no body on earth but ours,
no hands but ours, no feet but ours.
Ours are the eyes through which the
compassion of Christ
looks out upon the world,
ours are the feet with which he
goes about doing good,
ours are the hands with which he
blesses his people.*
—St. Teresa of Avila



This poem is attributed to St. Teresa of Avila, a sixteenth-century Spanish mystic. It is thought that St. Teresa sent this in a letter she composed to her nuns at the end of her life. Though five centuries old now, it has taken on a popular presence in Christian spirituality. It reflects what scholars call “incarnational theology,” that is, the idea that we are to be Jesus to the world. This theology reminds us that

God became incarnate – became flesh – in Jesus Christ to fully embody God’s love for the world. St. Teresa takes this one step further to call upon each of us to incarnate Christ in our own lives, to love the world as Jesus did.

I don’t know about you but such responsibility daunts me. We are the hands and feet of Christ?? That’s a tall order – and yet, that is exactly what Jesus wants for us and from us. And what Jesus asks is that we pay attention to those around us and reach out to share his love as best we can while using the gifts that God gives, gifts that make each of us unique. Some acts will be big ones where we really put ourselves out for others; some may be very small – but kind acts with a big result. No matter the specifics, the fact is that this is the kind of life that Christ calls us to live.

So, what if we asked each day, “What can I do to be the hands and feet of Jesus today?” We will be amazed at the opportunities for love and service that God presents to us if our eyes and our hearts are open to receive them. That’s a nice thought in this “Valentine month” when we focus on those we love. What happens if we focus on those that God loves, too?

I like this one sentence prayer that we might offer each day as we seek to incarnate the love of Christ: “Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, abide in me today.” Offering that prayer will open us up to chances and occasions to truly be the Body of Christ.

May God go with you as you work to be the hands and feet of Christ.

God’s blessings,

Pastor Elizabeth

L A C O

LACO has had a few changes. The new directors of the food pantry are Debbie Hill, Dick Coty, and Bob Couture. Karen Small is the new director of the clothing bank. The new hours for the food pantry and clothing bank are Wednesdays from 5-7, Thursdays and Saturdays from 8-10. The clothing bank is closed the second Wednesday of each month due to the Historical Society meetings.

Thank you for everything the church members have done to help LACO in the last year. The church's 5 K Walk/Run helps our families with food and heat for their homes through the Warm Thy Neighbor Program. Outreach has helped the summer food program with money to purchase juice for the summer vacation and school vacations. You have donated an amazing amount of food each month to fill in the monthly needs at the pantry. Your help with the baking for the June Car Show and the fall and spring bottle drive/bake sale/food drive are so appreciated. Our families appreciate everything you do to help them.

Thank you again, Dottie, for all you have done at the clothing bank and on the Board of Directors. You are an amazing woman, and you are missed by our families.

Carol and Pastor Elizabeth

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE OF WORSHIP

Please mark your calendars now for our Ash Wednesday service of worship on February 26. We'll gather at 7:00 pm for a service of quiet reflection, Holy Communion, and the imposition of ashes to begin this sacred time of the Christian year on a holy note and set the tone for the remainder of the time that leads us to the Day of Resurrection.

EVENING CIRCLE

Our next Evening Circle meeting will be held February 1st, at 11:00 after church. Please plan to attend, our meetings are not long, and if you are already at church, why not join us for this meeting?

Carolyn Jones
President

LOVE

*Bears all things,
Believes all things,
Hopes all things,
Endures all things.*

1Corinthians 13:7



AFTERNOON CIRCLE

God was good to us on Tuesday, January 2.1. We had a cold, but sunny day for our potluck. Twenty people attended a wonderful luncheon, and I think all would agree, we had a wonderful time. Along with a delicious lunch, we collected \$150.00 to go towards our Mission Fund debt to conference. A big thanks to all who helped make this happen, with your donations, staying to help with the cleanup and to Ginny who was my voice for the day, as I had laryngitis. Plans are to do the same thing for the February luncheon, which will be held on February 18th, 11:30, and we pray that God will give us another sunny, storm free day. Hope to see you all there.

Carolyn Jones



MISSING

While cleaning up after the Christmas Fair and auction, the magnetic sign that reads "Use other Door" was removed from the back door. Does anyone remember removing it or where it might have been placed? It was not returned to the Evening Circle closet and is used for the bean suppers. If you might know where this sign is, please let me know.



BIRTHDAY WISHES



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

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

4-	Kadie Palmer	16-	Brenda Rogers
8-	Lola Carlson	17-	Karli Rogers
	Mark A. Stambach	18-	Pat Cavender
			Martha Palmer
	Cathy Strople	20-	Shane Soiett
9-	Ruth Upham		Rosalie White
12-	Peter Dudar	21-	Caroline White
14-	David Clark	22-	Dot Brooks
15-	Win Smith	23	Joan Stambach

GENEROSITY TREE

We are in the middle of another Maine winter with the official first day of spring being less than eight weeks away. Recent winters have produced very icy conditions making very slippery parking lots and sidewalks. The trustees have been diligent this year in making sure the parking lot is well sanded for the groups meeting during the week and for Sunday morning worship. The cost of sanding the parking lot is \$35 each time a call is made. To help defray this cost, the current generosity tree tags are exclusively for this expense. Tags are of different amounts ranging from the full \$35 to whatever amount someone may be able to contribute. No amount is too small and we appreciate everyone's generosity.

Happy
Valentine's
Day

LUMC Mission Statement:

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

FROM YOUR LAY LEADER

Happy Valentine's Day! I hope God's love fills you up this month.

Our District offers many resources. Among these are webinars for church leadership given by our District Superintendent, Rev. Dr. Karen Munson. As your lay leader, I participated in the webinar for lay leaders. My article this month gives information I received during the webinar. I share this so that you can hold me accountable and so that you can help me do my job. Thank God we are a church filled with people who share their gifts.

“To one person the Spirit gives the ability to give wise advice; to another he gives the gift of special knowledge. The spirit gives faith to another, and to someone else he gives the power to heal the sick. He gives one person the power to perform miracles, and to another the ability to prophesy. He gives someone else the ability to know whether it is really the Spirit of God or another spirit that is speaking. Still another person is given the ability to speak in unknown languages, and another is given the ability to interpret What is being said.” (1 Corinthians 12:8-10 New Living Translation)

I have read two written resources for lay leaders; The New England Guide for Lay Leadership, and Lay Leader/Lay Member Guidelines from the Annual Conference. I am using these resources as well as the webinar in this article.

The United Methodist Church expresses that our shared mission is “to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world”. (The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church, paragraph 120) As a servant of the church, my role as lay leader is to work with the tools and resources available to do the work of transformation. The Discipline (par. 122) guides us to:

Reach out and receive people into the body of Christ,
Help people relate to Christ through their unique gifts and circumstances,
Nurture and strengthen people in their relationships with God and with others,
Send transformed people out into the world to lead transformed and transforming lives,
Continue to reach out, relate, nurture, and send disciples...

This seems like a big job. In order to do this work together, we invite Christ in, filling us with the fruit of the Holy Spirit:

Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and
Self-control (Galatians 5:22-23).

My responsibilities as lay leader are:

To interpret the actions and programs of the annual conference and the general church
To communicate the vision and needs of the local church to the annual conference and
general church
To link the local church and community

Continued on page 6

FROM YOUR LAY LEADER, CONT.

In order to do this work, I need to touch the entire breadth of our congregational life. This is where I need help. I welcome feedback and information. I will try to receive your information with love and openness. I ask that you hold me accountable and teach me to listen to you without judgement.

- I am the representative of you, the laity of our church.
- I foster awareness of your ministries, in the home, workplace, community, and world. I would love to hear about what you are doing so that you can be recognized and affirmed.
- I meet regularly with the pastor to discuss the state of the church and needs for ministry. I will honor your privacy, and ask if you want your need to be shared.
- I serve as a member of the charge conference, church council, committee on finance, committee on nominations, and the committee on staff/pastor-parish relations.
- I try to keep up on the ministry committees, i.e. nurture, outreach, etc. I love receiving the minutes of meetings. That is a huge help. Since I cannot always attend every meeting, I rely on you as committee members to communicate any needs I can help with.
- I am involved with study and training opportunities, either within our local church, or outside. I try to keep up with my personal devotions at home.
- I assist in advising the church council of community need. Currently this is happening through my work with the Discovering the Possibilities Team. I can really use your help letting me and the church know about community needs. The more "ears to the ground" the better.
- I inform the laity of training opportunities provided by our district and conference.

This is a lot of work for one person, so I ask for your help and support. I do my best to fulfill my responsibilities as lay leader, with your help. You are already doing so much! Keep up the great work you are doing in God's name. Don't be afraid to let people know that you are a child of God, and your caring is grounded in God's love. Be bold! (If you have been following the vision/mission statement the DTP is working on, you may recognize some of these words.)

"So Christ himself gave the apostles, prophets, evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up." (Ephesians 4:11-12)

In Christ,
Sue White
Boldly caring for our community
Grounded in God's love

February 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1-Souper Bowl Deliveries
2-Worship w/ Holy Communion 9:30 a.m. Worship Comm. 11a.m. Evening Circle, 11:00 a.m.	3-Widows' group, 12 noon Outreach Comm., 1:30 p.m.	4-Choir rehearsal, 6:30 p.m.	5-Finance Committee, 6:30 p.m.	6-Bible study @ Pam Wolfe's, 10:00 a.m.	7	8
9-Worship, 9:30 a.m.	10-Discovering the Possibilities, 6:30 p.m.	11-LACO Board @ Shiloh Chapel, 9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, 6:30 p.m.	12-Bible study @ Pam Wolfe's, 10:00 a.m.	13-District Ministry Day @ Oakland/Sidney UMC, 9:30 a.m.	14-Happy Valentine's Day! 	15
16-Worship, 9:30 a.m.	17	18-Afternoon Circle potluck@ church, 11:30 am.	19-Choir rehearsal, 6:30 p.m.	20-Bible Study at Pam Wolfe's, 10:00 a.m.	21	22-Bean Supper 5-6 p.m.
23-Worship, 9:30 a.m.	24	25-Choir rehearsal, 6:30 p.m.	26-Ash Wednesday service of worship, 7:00p.m.	27	28	29



Office Hours:

Monday 9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon

Thursday 9:00 to 11:00 a.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
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 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Other times available by appointment

Friday is the Pastor's Sabbath day

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