

FROM YOUR PASTOR:

*“Blessed Are.....”*

INSIDE THIS  
ISSUE:

LAY LEADER

FROM YOUR  
PASTOR

EVENING  
CIRCLE

PLANT SALE

AND MUCH  
MORE!

Chances are good that those who are at least a little familiar with the Scriptures think of Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount when they hear the words, “Blessed are.....” We recognize this phrase as the opening words of the Beatitudes; in several verses, Jesus shares the current circumstances of those of whom he speaks: those who are poor in spirit, those who mourn, those who are meek, those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, and so on. In addition, however, he speaks of how their lives are blessed: with the Kingdom of heaven, with comfort, with the inheritance of the earth, and so on.

The author of our Lenten study series, *Mountaintop Moments*, asks us to imagine the reaction of those who first heard these words. Certainly they were incredulous. What was this new teacher talking about? This isn’t how society works! Those who are poor or mournful or meek or hungry or.....on and on are not blessed. That doesn’t make any sense!

Now think about those verses in our day and age. They certainly don’t compute – even more so than in Jesus’ day! We are taught to strive for more – more abundance, happiness, strength, satisfaction, success – all for ourselves, of course. We make these things our priorities in order to live a “fulfilling” life. (Here’s a good example of how worldly priorities work: when typing in the words “Easter clip art” in order to find the graphic below, all that came up were lots and lots of graphics of Easter bunnies; I actually had to type in “Religious Easter clip art” to find images of what this special day is really all about!!)

But the point Jesus was making was one which turned the world not upside down as we might think with our twenty-first century perspective but, rather, right-side up. Jesus is offering those who follow him a perspective that resembles heaven far more than what life on earth is like.

It sounds contrary to us when we fail to hear his words with faithful hearts.

We might like to hear all about fame and fortune, success and strength but Jesus tells us what we NEED to hear – all in words that begin with “Blessed are.....”

In this Easter season (these fifty days before the day of Pentecost on

May 23rd) may we truly take the Beatitudes to heart and look at them from Jesus’ heavenly point of view. May we see life in terms of the blessings we are given from the One who died and rose again that we might be given the gift of eternal life.



Easter blessings,  
*Pastor Elizabeth*

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Our community of faith welcomes its newest members – James and Corinne Goss. With the help of modern technology, they joined LUMC via Zoom on February 14. Their children, Josh and Alana, presented their membership certificates on behalf of Pastor Elizabeth and our church family. Welcome, James and Corinne. We look forward to that time when we can properly welcome you in person! God's blessings to you!

## EVENING CIRCLE

With church being back in house, it's time to get to work ladies. We will have a meeting directly after church on April 11th, one week later than usual, due to Easter being on the 1st Sunday of the month. I hope you will consider attending this meeting as we have some business to discuss. I would like to extend an invitation to anyone who might be interested in joining our group, our meetings are not long, and it's a good chance to get to know other ladies in the church.

*"Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?"*

*John 11:25-26*

## SENIOR CARE RESOURCES FOR COMMUNITIES IN MAINE

The primary focus of our Discovering the Possibilities team in the last eighteen months or so has been ministry to and with seniors. Our team members have been keeping their eyes open for resource information which we could share with our church family and others in our community.

A week or so ago an email from *caring.com* arrived in Pastor Elizabeth's mailbox which offered links to senior care resources in Maine communities. Just like that, it appeared! God's timing is always perfect and timing is everything!

If you are interested in researching available care options and programs that help individuals maintain independence and quality of life, please check out these websites:

<https://www.caring.com/senior-care/in-home-care/maine>

<https://www.caring.com/senior-care/in-home-care/>

### ***LUMC Mission Statement:***

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

## PLANT SALE NEWS

This week the signs of spring were evident all around us. With temperatures in the 60's, snow melting, flocks of robins and signs of tulips and daffodils popping up in our gardens we welcomed spring after the long winter months.

While it's still too early to get outside and dig in our gardens, it's not too early to start seedlings indoors for our annual plant sale. If anyone needs pots, soil or seeds let me know. I'll be happy to provide you with what you need to get you started.



More information regarding the plant sale will be in next months' newsletter. Stay tuned.

## THANK YOU

On behalf of the Discovering the Possibilities team, I'd like to thank each and every one of you who participated in our monthly card collections. Over 1,000 greeting cards were delivered to residents of long term care facilities over the past 10 months. The cards were greatly appreciated and enjoyed by the residents. With restrictions being lifted, family and friends are now being allowed to visit their loved ones, with precautions in place, at these facilities. The cards brought many smiles to the faces of our most vulnerable citizens during these trying times. Thanks again.



## FROM YOUR LAY LEADER

Hello! By the time you read this we will have worshipped together in the sanctuary of our church. It seems like winter has been a year long! Now we can come together and enjoy the spring and a new way of being together.

I have been participating in the conference Bible study called Roll Down Justice. It has been wonderful to share God's word with those all across our conference. I have met, via zoom, people of all ages, races, and genders. We all shared our struggles in faith and life together. I found out that we have more in common than we have differences. We share the important things: the love of God and a shared value system. Our commonalities lead us to pray and advocate for justice for all of God's children. We long for a day of equality of wealth, health, and respect for all.

Here is the final scripture lesson of our study:

The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom.

Like the crocus, it will burst into bloom; it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy.

The glory of Lebanon will be given to it, the splendor of Carmel and Sharon;

They will see the glory of the Lord, the splendor of our God.

Strengthen the feeble hands, steady the knees that give way;

Say to those with fearful hearts, "Be strong, do not fear; your God will come,

God will come with vengeance; with divine retribution God will come to save you."

Isaiah 35:1-4

We have come through a desert experience-the pandemic. We are experiencing a transformation of joy. Think about others that may still be in that desert. Those who feel the weight of oppression and prejudice. Those who fear for their lives even when they may be able to feel protected from the virus. Especially at this time, think of Asian/Pacific Islanders. They are victims of hate and the ignorance of others. All people of color experience living in the desert. One of the Bible study participants said that she feels cultural humility. As a physician she works to treat all of her patients equally. She understands that the empathy she feels for them does not fully encompass what they are feeling. We can only, through the love of God, try our best to eliminate oppression and fear. Another person pointed out that our joy can come from another's pain. He told the story of how smoke from a forest fire cooled the hot air, but wiped out someone's home.

We were asked, "What would it look like if peace with justice came to our community, church, or world?" Here are some of the dreams people thought about:

No one hungry

Rehab rather than incarceration

## FROM YOUR LAY LEADER, CONT.

Black lives will matter

Equality

Compassion

Responsibility

We were then asked to pledge to work for peace and justice by.....

Establishing trust

Making a commitment to peace

Truly listening

Stop making peace with injustice

Making the church a safe space for all people

Dismantling white privilege

Understanding those who have suffered

Stamping out racism and hate

These are big dreams that we can work towards. Bishop Devadhar reminded us that John Wesley taught us that the world is our parish. He also said that we should remember to see God in every face that we meet and see.

Mark Miller's song titled "The Day is Coming" reminds us that God promises a bright future. The flowers of Easter remind us that we are empowered to move forward and work toward God's kingdom. Amen!

Sue White

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## BIRTHDAY WISHES

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

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



2nd: Sam Cornish

Addison Soiett

5th: Lana Hower

Greg Shaw

Jessica Wile

8th: Carol Day

9th Carolyn Jones

14th: Bob Packard

22nd: April White

23rd: Rick Rioux

24th: Debbie Greim

Hilary Hall

27th: Susan Wile



# April 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1-Maundy Thursday	2-Good Friday	3
4-Easter in person & virtual with Holy Communion, 9:30 a.m.	5	6	7-Finance Committee, Hunnewell Room, 6:30 p.m.	8-Bible Study, Zoom, 10:00 a.m.	9	10
11-In person & virtual worship, 9:30 a.m.	12-Outreach Committee, Hunnewell Room, 10:00 a.m.	13	14-Bible Study, Zoom, 10:00 a.m.	15	16	17
18-In person & virtual worship, 9:30 a.m.	19-Patriots' Day Holiday	20	21	22-Bible Study, Zoom, 10:00 a.m.	23	24-Drive through public bean supper, 4:30 p.m.
25-In person & virtual worship, 9:30 a.m.	26	27	28	29	30	

## 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



**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:**

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