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*Walk in the Way of His Cross*

As we journey through this Lenten season, we are following the theme: *Walk in the Way of His Cross*. This phrase reminds us that, as disciples of Jesus Christ, we are called to consider the ways that he lived out his faithfulness to God. As he did so, Christ called us to live out those ways, too, in words that were straight-forward and honest, as in these verses from Mark's gospel (8.34-35)

"If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it.

But what do those words mean for us in concrete terms. Author Brett Younger offer these possible suggestions:

"Our day-to-day decisions are not likely to lead to martyrdom, but each day we have to decide if we will give away our time and attention. Giving our lives away may mean turning the other cheek, standing with the people who are losing, doing good that will receive no applause, sitting in a home where someone has died, treating discarded people as children of God, shopping for someone else's groceries, baking cookies that we won't eat, reading stories to someone else's children, taking flowers to someone who's not our type, visiting someone else's mother in the nursing home, watering someone else's plants, washing dishes we didn't dirty, discussing current events that don't interest us, talking about faith when we would rather be silent, doing good for people who will do no good to us in return, weeping when others weep, praying not for an easier life but for strength to give our lives away, and *discovering that if there's nothing for which we would die, then we don't have enough for which to live.*"

Those are powerful words. What would you add to this list from the ways you have been in ministry as a disciple for Christ? Or, perhaps more importantly, what would you add to the list of things you are feeling called to do? As you walk in the way of Jesus' cross and lose your life for his sake, how will you truly live as his disciple?

In this season of reflection and repentance, may we give careful, prayerful thought to our responses and our discipleship for Jesus, our Savior.

God's blessings,

*Pastor Elizabeth*

## DISCOVERING THE POSSIBILITIES UPDATE

While not meeting in person due to the ongoing pandemic, the ministry of the Discovering the Possibilities and, likewise, the church has continued. Twice-monthly lunches have been delivered to our special friends and our very successful card ministry has continued.

We did meet virtually in January with our coach, the Rev. Rick McKinley, to review our two years of work with him. Grateful for his good advice over this time, we brought our coaching to a conclusion. He does remain available to our church should we have questions as we continue to reach out into our community and form partnerships for ministry. As the pandemic lessens and life becomes “normal” once again, the DTP will become more active once again. Please keep the work of the team in prayer.

Its members are: Trudy Duval, Dean Logan, Monica McCusker, Martha Palmer, Sue White, and the pastor. Any of us would be happy to talk with you about our work on your behalf.

*Humble yourselves,  
therefore, under  
God's might hand,  
that he may lift you  
up in due time.*

*1 Peter 5:6*

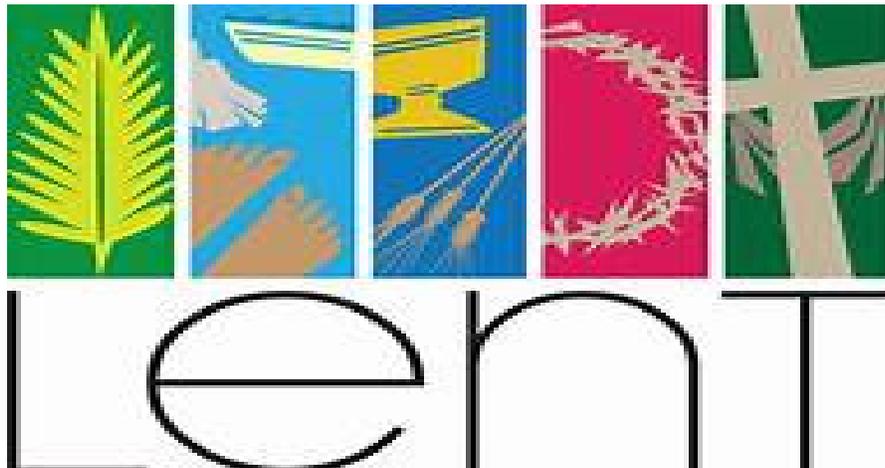
## EVENING CIRCLE

Unfortunately our Circle is getting smaller, as we have lost 3 members in the last year, Cynthia Bonsey, Dot Rice and Patsy Stevens, we give thanks for their service to our group over the years. With that said, we will be depending on all of the church family to help us with projects like the bean suppers. The officers decided to try another drive-thru bean supper on March 27th, starting at 4:30. Please pass the word to friends and neighbors along with the news that we are introducing homemade pies back onto the menu, heads up, you might be called to bake a pie.

With more and more people getting vaccinated, hopefully the public will feel comfortable getting out to pick up one of our delicious suppers!

Thank you in advance for supporting this fundraiser.

Carolyn Jones  
President



## PLANT SALE NEWS

With a day like today, where the temperature hit 50 degrees, who can't help but think of spring? And when I think of spring, one of the first things that come to mind is flowers and plants. I'm pleased to report that LUMC will once again have a plant/shrub sale this year.

In the past we have received generous donations from local greenhouses in the area. We don't know what kind of a financial impact they have had due to the pandemic so we may have to rely on other sources for our plants. How can you help? Now's a great time to start seeds in your house; in a few weeks they'll be ready for transplanting. If you need pots, let me know. We have lots and lots of pots to be used.

Indoor plants have sold very well in past years. I have been "babysitting" eight African Violets since August and can say, that they are still healthy and blossoming, but would love to find new homes for them. Maybe you have an indoor plant that needs to be split; we welcome all donations.

More information will be coming in next month's newsletter.

Trudy Duval



## UMCOR SUNDAY WITH SPECIAL OFFERING

The Fourth Sunday in the season of Lent (March 14th this year) has long been designated as the annual Sunday on which a mission offering is taken for the UMC. You may know it historically as One Great Hour of Sharing Sunday. Now we call it UMCOR Sunday which 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 here at home and in other places in God's world. We are grateful for this ministry as the needs are great: earthquakes, hurricanes, floods, freezing weather, and more.

Because we are not yet back to in-person worship, please include any UMCOR offerings in with the gifts and offerings you generously mail to or drop off at the church and have them clearly marked.

### *LUMC Mission Statement:*

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

## FROM YOUR LAY LEADER

Hello to all of you. I miss seeing you in person and spending time with you, but hope is on the horizon. I hope that many of you are in the process of being vaccinated. I am still waiting, but have heard from the pre-registration people at Maine Health that they will keep me updated. My mother and mother-in-law have had their first doses and my hubby has had both. I believe that we can trust in God to keep us on the path to recovery.

I have been attending a book group via zoom on climate change. One of the questions we have been asking ourselves is: what are we willing to sacrifice to save our planet and provide a safe future for our children and grandchildren? Are we willing to stop using fossil fuels? Find alternative heating sources? Drive more efficient cars? We agreed that one thing the pandemic has given us is creativity in communicating with our families and friends who live too far away to visit often. A year ago when the world went into lockdown did you notice how clear the skies became? Climate change is complex and requires some serious thinking, for sure.

I also have been attending the conference weekly lenten study via zoom. It is called Roll Down Justice and includes beautiful music by Mark Miller. Mark has provided music for many meetings and annual conferences. The study group is large, but we break into small groups to share thoughts and ideas.

The first week was based on Romans 8:37-39

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.  
For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Mark's song was "You are a Child of God". Our discussion was based on the question, "who are the out-groups and in-groups in your church and community?" One person said that we are meant to be angels to all, especially those who are on the outside of church. Another person said that we must heal divisiveness through prayer and practice. Some other thoughts were that we must listen to one another, show God's unconditional love through example, do a ministry of presence, embrace a new work of justice, and stand for what is right.

The second week was based on Psalm 137. Mark's song was a lament: "How long O Lord". The Psalm is the one that begins, "By the waters of Babylon we sat and wept". I recommend that you read it in its entirety. Some of the words are hard to hear, but express the grief and sorrow that some of us feel and our reaction to injustice in the world. We talked about the despair of waiting, feeling abandoned, and making a life in a foreign land. Some comments were: We work while waiting, making disciples; Waiting is an act of faith; Verse 9 is difficult. Does God condone violence?; A foreign land can be a change of community, feeling ostracized because of poverty, a sense of not belonging; Vengeance and violence seem to be condoned by some; The grief of hanging up our harps is real during the pandemic; we can bring our dark

## FROM YOUR LAY LEADER

thoughts to God in prayer; It is human to plot revenge; We are waiting for justice for people of color; God is always with us.

We were then asked to write our own psalms of lament. Some people read theirs for the group. The grief and pain were hard to hear. From my own white privileged perspective, I feel so blessed that my ancestors were not bought and sold, and that I don't have to worry that I may be arrested for just being myself. The group's psalms cited those things, referring to knees on necks and driving while black. Here's my attempt at a psalm:

O Holy One, filled with wisdom and love,  
Our world is full of hatred and violence.  
Mean behaviour that springs from the fear of  
losing one's place in the world surrounds us  
In the media and on the streets.  
We confess that we try to control our world  
All the while knowing that you are in control  
And that it will always be so.  
Deliver us from this dark time of grief and pain.  
Let your loving kindness and wisdom  
Fill the hearts of your people.  
We praise you for all you have done  
And all that you will do for us.  
Amen.

God's blessings on all of you and those around you, God's beloved people.

Sue White

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The word "MARCH" is written in large, bold, green capital letters. The letters are filled with a pattern of smaller green and yellow flowers, giving it a textured, floral appearance. The word is centered on the page.

## 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  
5th- Marie Russell  
Courtney Brooks  
9th- Matt Wile  
Joe Wolfe  
10th- Sue Ramsey  
Marcus Wile  
11th- Lilyette Cornish

12th- Peg Cherry  
17th- Maddy Cornish  
19th- Scott Ramsay  
22nd- Hannah Cornish  
Robert Kazimer  
29th- Annmarie Owns  
31st- Carolyn Dobson

## PLANT SALES OF THE PAST



**Lisbon United  
Methodist Church**

14 School Street  
Lisbon Falls, Maine 04252  
(207)353-4982

**Sunday Worship Service**

Sunday Worship and Sunday School  
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*

*Office Phone Number: 353-4982*

*Parsonage Phone Number: 407-4406*

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