

FROM YOUR PASTOR:
Just Be You

INSIDE THIS
ISSUE:

LAY LEADER

FROM YOUR
PASTOR

FINANCE
NEWS

MOXIE DAYS

AND MUCH
MORE!

In days gone by, the month of June was the one chosen by many a bride and groom for their wedding. While that's not necessarily the case any longer, here is a story about a married couple that you might enjoy:

Thomas Wheeler, the former Chief Executive Officer of the Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company, told a good story on himself. He said that while he and his wife were out driving he noticed they were low on gas. So he pulled off at the first exit and came to this dumpy little gas station with one pump. There was only one man working the place, so he asked the man to fill it up while he checked the oil. He added a quart of oil, closed the hood, and he saw his wife talking and smiling at the gas station attendant. When they saw him looking at them, the station attendant walked away and pretended as if nothing had happened. Wheeler paid the man and he and his wife pulled out of that seedy little station. As they drove down the road, he asked his wife if she knew the attendant. Well, she admitted she did know him. In fact, she had known him very well. For it seems that they not only had gone to high school together, but they dated seriously for about a year. Well, Wheeler couldn't help bragging a little and said, "Boy were you lucky I came along. Because if you'd married him you'd be the wife of a gas station attendant instead of the wife of a Chief Executive Officer." His wife replied, "My dear, if I had married him, he'd be the Chief Executive Officer and you'd be the gas station attendant."

While it's fun to read this story and have a laugh at Mrs. Wheeler's clever response, it's also a story that makes us think about who we are as God's beloved. God has made us in God's own holy image, each one of us created to give God thanks and praise. As followers of Jesus, we are called to live out our faith using the gifts that God has bestowed upon us.

Many and varied are those gifts and, when we each use them to the best of our ability and for the building of the Kingdom of God, then we live our best lives.....no matter if we are the CEO of a company or the gas station attendant who fills our tank (well, that used to be the way gas was pumped!).

While it's easy to look back and think about the many "what ifs" in life, I hope we can each look back and realize that we have been our own best authentic selves, the selves God has created us to "just be" in this world as faithful disciples for Jesus.

I remain grateful to share this journey with each one of YOU – unique, gifted, grace-filled, and faithful!

God's blessings,
Pastor Elizabeth

NEW ENGLAND ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION

The annual conference session of the New England Annual Conference will be held beginning with the clergy session on Wednesday, June 7 and concluding on Saturday, June 10. Both our Lay Member, Sue White, and the pastor will be attending virtually.

Our Lay Leader/Lay Member’s report in this newsletter outlines some of the many items of business we will deliberate. We anticipate long days and covet your prayers for this time for our Bishop, the Rev. Peggy Johnson, and all the lay and clergy delegates from around NE.

“Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends”
 ~John 15:13

THANK YOU, LOLA

Many thanks to Lola Carlson who, once again this year, brought roses to worship on Mother’s Day for each one of the moms, grandmothers, and great grandmothers in our sanctuary! We appreciate you and your kindness and thoughtfulness!

THESE ARE A FEW OF MY FAVORITE HYMNS!

We have begun to make a list of your favorite hymn suggestions for our use in worship this summer when the choir is on its well-deserved break. These selections can come from our *United Methodist Hymnal*, from *The Faith We Sing*, or from another source.

If you have favorites that are not in our two hymn books, please make sure to note that on your hymn form (available at worship) so that our organist, Debbie Greim, or Pastor Elizabeth can find them for our use this summer.

FINANCE INFORMATION

<u>Newsletter Finance Information - as of May 2023</u>		
Annual Budget Amount for Operating Expenses	\$	138,160.00
Monthly Budget Amount for Operating Expenses	\$	11,513.33
Total May 2023 Income	\$	8,740.82
Total May 2023 Expenses	\$	8,850.13
Total YTD Income	\$	57,643.39
Total YTD Expense	\$	51,555.63

MANY THANKS!

We were totally taken by surprise at the lovely “grandparent shower” which you had for us on May 21st. Thank you so much for the abundance of generous gifts, baby cards with their lovely messages, the food, the balloons, and, most especially your presence with us as we celebrate the arrival of Sterling Bennett in our lives.

Special words of thanks are offered to the Evening Circle for their participation and, most especially, to Betsy and Mark Crowell for all that they did to organize, “pull off,” and help out in many ways.

We’ve long known that it is our extreme privilege to be a part of this church family and you prove that to us over and over. Please accept our deep gratitude and love.

Gram E. (i.e. Pastor Elizabeth) and Gramp V. (Verne)



THANK YOU!!!!

Thank you to all the donors that came out on May 1st to donate blood. We surpassed our goal and had two 1st time donors! We'll be hosting another blood drive in the fall so be looking for that information in the months to come.



Lisbon United Methodist Church

Sponsor Group

May 1st, 2023

Date of Drive

29 Total Number of Donors	2 First Time Donors
16 Type O Donors	24 Units Collected

**One single blood donation can help save more than one life.
Thank you for supporting our lifesaving mission!**

LUMC Mission Statement:
“The Lisbon United Methodist Church welcomes, nurtures, and serves all people with the love of Christ.”

GREETINGS FROM YOUR LAY LEADER

What a beautiful May day! As I write this I am enjoying the sunshine, and by the time you read this it will be June! I am so grateful to God that summer is almost here. I pray I will remember not to complain during those hot days. It seems like we wait soooo long for them.

In this newsletter article I begin to serve you and the church in my role as Lay Member to Annual Conference. Once a year all the United Methodist Churches of New England send representatives, lay and clergy, to the annual conference. We work on many things, including the budget, appointment of clergy, ordination of new clergy, and philosophical debates. We also hear reports from each part of the church work that is happening, not only in New England, but throughout the globe. So far I have attended the pre-conference meeting, which reviewed some of the items that will come before us at the conference on June 8-10. I will do my best to attend (remotely via zoom) most of the sessions. I can listen to recordings of things I miss in real time, plus there usually is a daily summary I can use. I will report back to you on what is discussed. I may spread this over two newsletters, July and August, so my reports are not too lengthy. If there is anything I think you should know right away, I will relate those items as soon as I can.

Here are the things that were discussed at the pre-conference meeting:

A Report From the Vision Forward Team

This is a lengthy report, and I can try to answer questions about anything that you would like to get into depth about. Basically, the team is working on ways that we can come together and move forward in the midst of church decline, closures, and disaffiliations, and in the midst of denominational instability. The team has held conversations about diversity, disaffiliation, decline, disconnection, deployment of clergy and lay leadership, and deepening our story. The goal is to be a conference in which local churches are valued, empowered, and equipped to connect strengths and assets to build God's beloved community. The team will be proposing five resolutions as priorities of the New England Conference. The resolutions address cooperative parishes and sharing of resources, not in a forced way, but with the consent of the churches involved.

Bishop Johnson reminded us of offerings that will be taken to support camps, justice, and education. She asked us to listen carefully, tell the truth, and be kind to one another.

Nancy Bishoff and Ralph Howe spoke about the budget resolutions that will be voted on.

Nancy also explained the process of replacing our treasurer, John Cardillo. Sadly, John passed away in December of 2022. His interim replacement has agreed to take the position permanently. Her name is Clare Chapman.

Ralph talked a little about the proposed budget, in which some funds were increased and some were cut. Crystal Gardner told us that fines for non reporting

FROM YOUR LAY LEADER, CONT.

statistics will no longer be fined, and previous fines will be refunded. Laverne Randolph stated that the valuation increases for insurance purposes will be spread over four years. We Hyun Chang explained a change in conference Staffing. In future, we will be sharing our administrative assistant with other districts. This will save on the cost of office space, and allow the position to be full time with benefits.

Our conference secretary stated that we have 64 resolutions to consider. Bishop Johnson has indicated that she intends to run the conference in an efficient manor while being fair to all participants.

There are 14 resolutions on disaffiliations that will be taken up on Thursday afternoon.

The Bishop plans on 20 minutes per disaffiliation, so that we can end the day in a timely manner. Bishop Johnson pointed out that the churches involved have done the hard work, along with the District Superintendents, and should be shown respect during this painful time.

The Director of Congregational Development position is open at this time. We Chan will fill in until what is needed in this position can be clarified.

There will be much more information to come!

I did have a little time to do some reading this month. The book I read is called The Intersectional Environmentalist by Leah Thomas. The main theme of the book is that when we talk about saving our planet, we are not only talking about animals and agriculture. We are also talking about how marginalized people are affected by climate change and pollution. For example, chemical dumping tends to happen in low income neighborhoods. Green space in those neighborhoods is taken over by commercial development and creation of roads. Ms. Thomas calls for fair treatment of all people in regard to their environment. We, as people of privilege, need to speak up when we see our peers harming others. We need to genuinely listen to people who are living in harm's way. Notice where the products we purchase are coming from. Are labor practices fair in those places? Are we transferring our waste, pollution, and environmental degradation to exploited countries? Can we help purify drinking water for all people? Vote with your dollar. Support and promote companies and products that are transparent with their ingredient lists and are made safe by design. Don't be afraid to be an activist in some small way. Shop local.

Thanks for reading this. I am encouraged by your reactions and discussions with me when I write these articles. Continue to use those beautiful brains God has given you.

Peace,
Sue White

BIRTHDAY WISHES



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

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

1st:	Mark Rogers	16th:	Phyllis Greim
2nd:	Sarah Moore	18th:	Olivia Shaw
	Breanna Soiett	22nd:	Sandy Stultz
5th:	Daniel Millson	30th:	Megan Hall
8th:	Alexandria Shaw		

SPRING MUSIC SUNDAY

Please join us for worship on Sunday, June 11 when we celebrate a "SPRING" Music Sunday. Traditionally we share Music Sunday on the Sunday prior to Thanksgiving. We always enjoy it so much that folks say we should have more than one each year. So, we will! Come to enjoy many of your favorite hymns and songs - with our choir especially before their well-deserved summer break begins.

3 DAYS OF PEACE, LOVE AND MOXIE

This year's Moxie Festival is fast approaching. The town wide event will take place on July 7th, 8th and 9th. Our activities will include the delicious summer treat of strawberry shortcake, hot dogs, a huge book sale in conjunction with the Lisbon Library department, Izzy's Zoo and Emporium and of course lots of ice, cold Moxie. As the time gets closer we will be looking for a couple of volunteers to pick and prepare strawberries and sort books. I'll keep you posted on the dates and if you have a couple hours to spare, we'd love to have you join us. We're also looking for a couple of volunteers; one or two that would be able to help in the kitchen Friday night; this would be the perfect opportunity for those who may not want to deal with traffic and parking issues on Saturday. We're also in need of a couple of volunteers for Saturday; selling snacks, helping in the kitchen and cleaning tables. In keeping with the theme we will also be tie-dying tee shirts. For those of you who have already ordered, we'll set a date to gather at the church for this fun activity. Each shirt will be one of a kind and unique!! For those of you who may want a shirt but did not order one, we can still get them, but there would be an increase in price. If you have any questions at all or would like to help in any way, please let me know.

Trudy Duval

Moxie Chairperson

June 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4-Trinity Sunday w/ Holy Communion in person & virtually, 9:30 a.m.	5-Widow's Fellowship, 11:30 a.m.	6-Choir rehearsal, 6:30 p.m.	7-Virtual session of NE Annual Conference	8-Virtual session of the NE Annual Conference	9-Virtual session of the NE Annual Conference	10-Virtual session of the NE Annual Conference
11-Worship in person & virtually, 9:30 Spring Music Sunday Evening Circle, 11:00 Finance Comm, 11:00	12	13-Choir rehearsal, 6:30 p.m.	14	15	16	17
18-Father's Day Worship in person & virtually, 9:30	19	20	21	22	23	24-dine in/ Take out bean supper, 4:30 p.m.
25-Worship in person & virtually, 9:30 w/ special membership celebration	26	27	28	29	30	

Office Hours: Wednesday: Hours Vary, Thursday: 1:00-3:00 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: Hours Vary

Thursday 1:00 p.m. to 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

Organist & Choir Director: Debbie Greim

576-8527 dmusicnote@myfairpoint.net

Lay Leader: Sue White

sdwhite071154@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor: Erica Soiett

212-3713 esoiett@roadrunner.com

Custodian: Shane Soiett

212-8316 ssoiett@roadrunner.com

Public Relations & Web Info: Monica McCusker

754-9569 mainefyfer@yahoo.com