

Sunset Sky

INSIDE THIS
ISSUE:

IMPACT

HOLIDAY
FAIR

LAY
LEADER

AND MUCH
MORE!

Every day is a gift from God and its weather has a great effect upon our functioning – what we accomplish and sometimes even how we feel. This summer’s weather left a LOT to be desired, to say the least: rain, tropical dew points, and sunshine sometimes. But now we have entered what is for me the BEST time of year with October its highlight. This poem by Henry David Thoreau expresses how many feel about this favorite month:

"October is the month of painted leaves.
Their rich glow now flashes round the world.
As fruits and leaves and the day itself
acquire a bright tint just before they fall,
so the year near its setting.
October is its sunset sky;
November the later twilight."



May your October days be blessed as you pause to reflect on the brilliance of God’s creation and give thanks for each new day.

God’s blessings,

Pastor Elizabeth

IMPACT

Shortly after the pandemic began in 2020, the Discovering the Possibilities recognized that many senior citizens in our community were isolated due to COVID. We began delivering light lunches to several senior citizens in our community, that were not affiliated with our church, as a way to reach out to these folks and provide them with not only a lunch but a friendly visit. Although it was decided to end this program earlier this year I have continued to visit my very special seniors twice a month. Has it made a difference in their lives? It certainly has. One of my lunch recipients is 96 years old, lives alone and enjoys the goodies and visits. Each time I visit she'll ask me what **she** can do for me. I assured her that I enjoy the visits as much as she does. Earlier this month when I stopped by she said that even though she couldn't do anything for me, she could for my dog and gave me four bags of doggie treats, which Phineas loved. Then there are the dear sisters in Lisbon Center; one 81 and the other 71 who suffers from Parkinson's disease. Last weekend when we felt the effects of Hurricane Lee, they lost their power for a short period of time. We were fortunate on this side of town, because the power wasn't affected at all. But I received a phone call from them wanting to make sure we were okay and if they could do anything to help **us** if we were without power. During the past year the number of my recipients has dropped from seven to four, due to their passing's, but every day I am grateful for the time I did/do spend with these very special individuals and so thankful for the stories of the lives that they shared with me. I have impacted their lives and they certainly have impacted mine.

Trudy Duval

POTLUCK BRUNCH

On Sunday, October 15 we will celebrate our annual Laity Sunday during worship. Our Nurture Committee thought this would be a good day to also begin our potluck brunches once again.

Please bring a dish to share – a breakfast casserole, a pastry, a tea bread or something similar. A sign-up sheet can be found in the Narthex.

“Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves”

~Philippians 2:3

HOLIDAY FAIR AND SILENT AUCTION

Fall has arrived! The days are getting shorter, the air is getting cooler, the leaves are turning beautiful, bright colors and pumpkins and apples are ready to be picked. The start of fall also means it's time to start planning our annual Holiday Fair and Silent Auction. This event is our largest fundraiser of the year! Last year our profit was approximately \$4,200. The fair and auction will take place on Nov. 10th and 11th. To make this more successful than last years' fair, we need help from everyone!!!

Crafts, with a special emphasis on gifts for our pets, baked goods which will include jams, jellies, and relishes, books and puzzles, plants and, a great silent auction will all be offered.

How can you help? If you aren't crafty we'd love to have the following items to work with:

| | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| <i>cookie cutters</i> | <i>bags of rice</i> | <i>modge podge</i> |
| <i>any size cellophane bags</i> | <i>wax (even used candles)</i> | <i>Epsom salts</i> |
| <i>cat nip</i> | <i>potpourri</i> | |
| <i>new jigsaw puzzles</i> | <i>ground cinnamon</i> | |

A tote will be in the Narthex for your donations. **DO NOT** bring any item not listed until you speak with either me or Betsy Crowell.

If crafting doesn't interest you maybe you'd like to donate an item for our silent auction. Gift cards are always popular. The auction is where we make the majority of our profit.

You will be receiving a call regarding the bake sale. Items can be dropped off Thursday, Nov. 9th from 5-6 p.m. and Friday, Nov. 10th **BY** 2:30 p.m. We'd love to see the shelves filled with pies, breads, muffins, desserts such as apple crisp and bread pudding, whoopie pies, etc.

Gift baskets are also great sellers. Need an idea? Several are listed below:

| | | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| <i>Kid's craft</i> | <i>baking</i> | <i>art</i> | <i>teenage boy</i> |
| <i>Grilling</i> | <i>movie night</i> | <i>stationery</i> | <i>teenage girl</i> |
| <i>College survival</i> | <i>outdoor fun</i> | <i>relaxation</i> | <i>tea/coffee</i> |
| <i>Snow day</i> | <i>auto care</i> | <i>sleepover</i> | <i>shut-in</i> |

On Thursday, Oct. 5th at 1:00 p.m. we'll gather to work on some projects for the fair; materials will be provided. If you have something you're working on, bring it along! The more – the merrier!

A huge thank you to Betsy Crowell for volunteering to be my co-chairperson!!! I appreciate her help. If you have any questions regarding the fair or auction, please speak to one of us.

Trudy Duval and Betsy Crowell, Co-chairpersons

LAY LEADER REPORT

Happy fall! The air is crisp, the foliage is turning, and the church is getting busy! What a beautiful time of year.

For this month I have (another) book report. The book is *Who Do We Choose To Be? Facing Reality Claiming Leadership Restoring Sanity* by Margaret J. Wheatley.

This book has lots of science, philosophy, sociology, and theory in it. I admit some of it went over my head, but I did find a few good nuggets.

Basically Ms. Wheatley believes that our current society is in decline and we need to form what she calls “islands of sanity” to make it through. The book feels a bit negative, but does offer some practical ways of thinking about what is going on in our world.

The book is directed to people in leadership roles, but I feel that we are all spiritual leaders as children of God. We can use our positive energy to spread the word.

The book talks of civilizations at the end of their life cycle, i.e. Rome, Babylon, and the Ottoman Empire. The powerful defend the status quo because it is the source of their power and privilege. Ms. Wheatley feels that we cannot influence those in power, but we can move on in new directions. She calls us spiritual warriors, leading without aggression or fear. She says that sane leadership is the unshakable faith in people’s capacity to be generous, creative and kind.

Martin Luther King said, “The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice. Ms. Wheatley acknowledges Dr. King as a spiritual warrior. With the leadership of people like Dr. King, we get a second chance at a new civilization.

Ms. Wheatley notes that our climate and immigration crises have arisen because we have evolved trying to be over, rather than interact with the earth and its peoples. We wonder why 65 million people have fled their home countries. We are not addressing peoples’ needs for home, community, contribution, good work, and safe children. Technology has taken precedence over people, land, and animals. We can choose to lead well, in relationship with others, creating islands of sanity.

Ms. Wheatley says that we are living in an age of decadence. Celebrity culture has turned our focus to individuals such as politicians, tv stars, musicians, and athletes. Many of these “stars” do not live in community, ignoring the needs of human beings such as intimacy, thinking, listening, meaning making, and being present. The Oxford Dictionary says we are living in a “post truth” era. Ethics are not a priority and facts do not shape public opinion as much as emotion and personal belief. Thanks to social media, many are focused inward, rather than outward toward the care of others.

We have to be dedicated to the cause of sane leadership for long periods of time. It took South Africa nearly 100 years to abolish apartheid. John Lewis spent his entire life on the path of struggle. We have to keep our eyes wide open and on the prize.

Human perception and cognitive dissonance can close our eyes to the truth. Ms, Wheatley

LAY LEADER REPORT, CONT.

gives the example of the Weapons of Mass Destruction that turned out to be imaginary. Political leaders wanted the weapons to exist in order to justify war, and they continued their claims. Conspiracy theories fall into the same category. One example is the Holocaust deniers. They call themselves “truthers”, but they aren’t really looking for the truth. Ms. Wheatley reminds us of Einstein's definition of stupidity: doing the same thing twice and expecting different results. As spiritual leaders, we can look to diversity to pull us out of untruths. We can look to others for their perceptions. We are all in this together.

The book points out that life doesn’t change the way we want it to. Life changes through emergence, the sum of individual parts mixed up and making something new. I love the example Ms. Wheatley gives of the chocolate chip cookie: First consider the ingredients: flour, butter, eggs, water, salt, chocolate chips. None of them taste the way the cookie does. Yet, when they are all put together in the right proportions, you get a delicious cookie. If you have never tasted the cookie, you would not predict the result. Once the cookie is baked, you can’t take it apart. If the recipe doesn’t work, you just have to start over and move on.

Once connection is experienced, there is joy and grace in communion. We transcend our personal needs and work together. As things are collapsing, we come together as spiritual warriors. Think of all the helpers (as Mr. Rogers would say) who came together during 9/11. Out of violence comes compassion and insight, with people vowing never to use aggression and fear to come together. We stand for human goodness. We choose our actions wisely. Ms. Wheatley quotes Teddy Roosevelt: “Do what you can with what you have, where you are.” Who knew TR was a Methodist?! These words are the philosophy of John Wesley.

No matter what, we have unshakable confidence and unquestioned humility.

In conclusion, I think this book takes a dark, but realistic look at what is happening in our society today. As Christians, we can provide places of peace and “islands of sanity”. I can’t agree with Ms. Wheatley’s idea of giving up on our current leaders. I still believe in democracy and hope that our country and world can be mended.

God’s peace be with all of you,

Sue White

LUMC Mission Statement:

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

SPECIAL OFFERING ON WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

We will celebrate World Communion Sunday on October 1st as we join with millions of Christians around the world in this sacred Sacrament. There will also be a plate available at the back of the sanctuary for your offering taken at this time each year.

According to the UMC website, “Your donations support racial and ethnic students in achieving their educational goals and transforming communities. In 2021, World Communion Sunday offerings awarded 242 scholarships and grants. Your generosity continues to provide scholarships, grants, mentoring and training for leadership development.”

Thank you for the generous gifts you will give on October 1st.

CUSTODIAN NOTE

Our church family wants to express its thanks to Shane Soiett for his good work as our janitor over the last few years. Shane has resigned this position with our best wishes.

We will not be filling this position until the Staff/Parish Relations Committee meets to discuss the way forward. In the meantime, let’s pitch in to take care of our building; if you see a need for cleaning, please take care of it – if you are able. If you can’t, please let Pastor Elizabeth know of your concern. If you are a chairperson of a committee that uses the church, please make sure everything is as you found it; if you generate any trash, please make sure that it is disposed of.

If you have concerns about this, please speak with Pastor Elizabeth.

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR BISHOP DEVADHAR

Our annual conference will celebrate the life and ministry of Bishop Sudarshana Devadhar on Saturday, October 28 who died unexpectedly in July just six months into his well-deserved retirement. The service will be both in person at Wesley UMC in Concord, NH and online. The online link will be shared when it becomes available.

LOOKING AHEAD: ANNUAL CHURCH CONFERENCE

Our annual church conference will be held in person on **Sunday, November 12, 2023 at our church from 1:30 to 3:30 pm.** The good folks of the Brunswick UMC will be joining us. We will worship together to begin and end our conference but separate into church groups for our individual business.

PLEASE NOTE: Our annual reports need to be filed online in a new format this year; Pastor Elizabeth will contact you if you are a committee chair whose report is required. These reports will be printed for our usual church conference booklet.

REMINDER: Our Staff/Parish Relations Committee will meet with the DS at 6:00 pm via Zoom on Wednesday, November 8 either from their own homes or from the Hunnewell Room.

BIRTHDAY WISHES



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

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

| | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|
| 2nd: Sean Wile | 11th: Caliyah Duncan |
| 6th: Alex Hall | 30th: Art Stambach |
| 10th: Elizabeth J Bachelder Smith | 31st: Chad Cornish |



LUMC Blood Drive
Monday, October 9th
11:30am-4pm

Lisbon United Methodist Church
14 School Street
Lisbon Falls, ME, 04252

Register online: redcrossblood.org
Sponsor Code: **Lisbon UMC**
or call: **1-800-RED-CROS**

Please reach out to Gwen Rioux
(353-6814)
if you'd like to register for this
upcoming blood drive.

Harvest Supper

To-Go

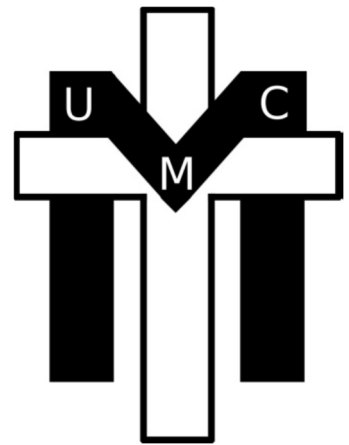
Sunday, November 5

from 12:00 to 3:00 p.m.*

Camp Mechuwana Dining Commons

92 Holmes Road, Winthrop

\$5.00 per meal for adults & children



This year's Harvest Supper is once again a to-go meal that includes: chicken, potato, veggies, & dessert...all for just \$5!

(Additional donations are welcome)

RSVP by phone (207.377.2924) or email (mechuwana@fairpoint.net) by Thursday, October 26 to order your meals.

When you arrive on Nov. 5, staff will direct you to and around the Commons where you can pay for and pick up your meals drive-thru style.

All money raised will go toward new roof on the Commons.

**Please note that Nov. 5 is the end of Daylight Saving Time. Please make sure to "fall back" an hour so that you are picking up your meals at the correct time.*

October 2023

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|-------------------------------|-----|---|-----|--|
| 1-Worship in person & virtually w/ Holy Communion for World Communion Sunday, 9:30 a.m. Nominating Committee, 11:00 a.m. | 2-Widows' fellowship, 11:30 a.m. Outreach Committee, 1:30 p.m. | 3-Choir rehearsal, 6:30 p.m. | 4 | 5-Bible Study, 10:00 a.m. Fair crafting day, 1:00 p.m. | 6 | 7 |
| 8-Worship in person & virtually, 9:30 Evening Circle, 11:00 a.m. | 9-Red Cross Blood Drive, 11:30-4 | 10-Choir rehearsal, 6:30 p.m. | 11 | 12-Bible Study, 10:00 a.m. | 13 | 14 |
| 15-Laity Sunday worship in person & virtually, 9:30 w/ potluck | 16 | 17-Choir rehearsal, 6:30 p.m. | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22-Worship in person & virtually, 9:30 SPRC, 11:00 | 23 | 24-Choir rehearsal, 6:30 p.m. | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28-Memorial for Bishop Devadhar, 1:00 Bean Supper, 4:30 |
| 29-Worship in person & virtually, 9:30 a.m. | 30 | 31-Choir rehearsal, 6:30 p.m. | | | | |

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

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

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: 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:

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

Public Relations & Web Info: Monica McCusker

754-9569 mainefyfer@yahoo.com