

FROM YOUR PASTOR:

The Law of the Garbage Truck

INSIDE THIS
ISSUE:

MOXIE

NURTURE

FINANCE

LAY
LEADER

AND MUCH
MORE!

With special thanks to Connie Earle who shared this story at a recent meeting, here are some thoughts for us to ponder.....

One day I hopped in a taxi and we took off for the airport. We were driving in the right lane when suddenly a black car jumped out of a parking space right in front of us. My taxi driver slammed on his brakes, skidded, and missed the other car just by inches!

The driver of the other car whipped his head around and started yelling at us. My taxi driver just smiled and waved at the guy. I mean, he was really friendly.

So I asked, "Why did you just do that? This guy almost ruined your car and sent us to the hospital!"

This is when my taxi driver taught me what I now call, "The Law of the Garbage Truck." He explained that many people are like garbage trucks. They run all around full of garbage, full of frustration, full of anger, and full of disappointments. As the garbage piles up, they need a place to dump it and sometimes they'll dump it on you.

Here was his advice: don't take it personally. Just smile, wave, wish them well, and move on. Don't take their garbage and spread it to other people at work, at home, or on the streets.

The bottom line is that successful people do not let garbage trucks take over their day. Life is too short to wake up in the morning with regrets, resentments, anger, and frustration.

So.....love the people who treat you right. Pray for the ones who don't. Life is ten percent what you make it, and ninety percent how you take it!

Have a blessed, garbage-free day!

As the beautiful month of May dawns upon us and spring blossoms all around us, will you be someone whose garbage is all piled up inside, needing a place to be dumped, and causing negativity in your life and in the lives of innocent folks around you?? Or will you live with love and grace, praying for those who aren't having the best of days. May the Risen Christ walk with you as you continue the journey of life and faith!

God's blessings, *Pastor Elizabeth*

SPRING FLING

Please mark your calendars for Saturday May 17th for the Spring Fling.

This annual event will feature a Plant sale for gardening and decorative plants to adorn your yards.

We are still looking for donations of homemade dessert pies, Carolyn Jones will provide 9 in. pie plates to make sure all pies are uniform in size. Please deliver to the Church by Friday May 16th.

Also looking for volunteers to donate potato salad, Chicken thighs (with skin and bone in). Please verify with Verne before purchasing the chicken.

If you have any seedlings, outside plants that your are dividing or house-plants that would enjoy a new home please deliver to the Church Thursday or Friday May 15th and 16th from 12:00 noon to 4:00 p.m.

There will be a sign up sheet for volunteering during our Spring Fling event. Any time you provide will greatly be appreciated to make our annual Fund-raiser a success.

Any questions please reach out to Peggy and Greg Shaw @ 207-375-8645.

With God's Grace,

Peggy & Greg

"For love of country they accepted death, and thus resolved all doubts, and made immortal their patriotism and their virtue."

~ James A. Garfield

UMCOR SUNDAY... .. TAKE 2!

You might have noticed that the worship bulletin on March 30 did not include the special offering envelope for the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), our denomination's mission committee. So, we'll try this again on May 18! Your donations to missions throughout God's world will be appreciated with 100% of each gift put to good use for mission – not administrative costs.

PULPIT SUPPLY ON MAY 25TH

While Pastor Elizabeth is on vacation May 19-28, lay person Rich Hughen from South Portland will lead our service of worship. Rich, who served as the Lay Leader of the New England Annual Conference for many years, has extensive experience as a worship leader. Please be present to offer Rich a warm LUMC welcome.

LOOKING AHEAD TO JUNE AT LUMC

Here are some important dates for your June calendar:

June 1 Ascension Sunday worship with Holy Communion

Potluck brunch to follow worship

8 Pentecost Sunday - WEAR RED!

15 Father's Day

22 Spring/Summer Music Sunday

UNITED WOMEN OF FAITH: MISSION U

Pastor Elizabeth has once again been invited to teach a class for the New England Annual Conference United Women of Faith (formerly known as UMWomen) mission weekend called Mission U. This special event will be held on July 18-20 at Southern New Hampshire University in Manchester, NH; there will be an online option as well.

This year's very timely theme is *Practicing Hope as Resurrected People*.

Based on the resurrection stories in the gospels, we will consider what it means to live as God's faithful, hopeful people each day – even when life challenges us. Here is the link for further information:

<https://www.neumc.org/eventdetail/2022-mission-u-18831987>

If you are interested, please talk with Pastor Elizabeth who can share further information about the weekend filled with learning, community, music, and good food! Everyone is welcome!

SPECIAL LENTEN THANK YOU

Our Worship Committee chose the theme of *Cultivating and Nurturing New Life* for the Lenten season and we lived out that theme in a very real way. Special thanks are offered to Jennifer and George Morgan for helping us plant seeds – tomatoes, sunflowers, and marigolds – which they tended at home and brought to worship each week for us to enjoy and nurture.

On Easter Sunday folks were invited to take their seedlings home to continue to grow them prior to setting them outside. Please share photos with Verne for our screen in worship if you have lots of success with your harvest!

UNDERSTANDING MISSION SHARES

“Understanding Mission Shares” Webinar Tuesday, May 20, 2025 at 6:30 PM via Zoom

Every local United Methodist church is billed for Mission Shares, but many people have no idea why.

Are they a tax levied by the Annual Conference?

How are they calculated?

What are they used for?

Where does the money go?

How does it benefit us?

If you'd like to learn more about Mission Shares, plan to join DS Arlene for an informational webinar, including Q&A

Here is the link for more information: <https://www.neumc.org/eventdetail/understanding-mission-shares-webinar-19033518>

GREETINGS FROM YOUR LAY LEADER

Greetings! Now that the warmer weather has arrived, it becomes easier to break out of the winter doldrums. Finding ways to feed our souls and therefore more able to share God's love is more apt to happen when the sun is shining and we don't have to move the snow in order to get out of doors. We can celebrate the risen Christ with enthusiasm. I know that it is not easy to look forward when our lives seem to get more and more complex, but as Christians, we know that Jesus loves us and nurtures us through all our challenges. Here is what the late Pope Francis had to say about it:

Sisters and brothers, especially those of you experiencing pain and sorrow, your silent cry has been heard and your tears have been counted; not one of them has been lost!...The resurrection of Jesus is indeed the basis of our hope. For in the light of this event, hope is no longer an illusion...That hope is not an evasion, but a challenge; it does not delude, but empowers us.

-Pope Francis (1936-2025), "Urbi Et Orbi," Easter, 2025

Note that Pope Francis spoke these words on the day before his death. He certainly was feeling pain and sorrow, probably knowing the end was near. I hope that you can find inspiration from his words.

There are many ways to find evidence of God's love in the world around us. If you focus on the things that you love, you will find that evidence. I am so grateful for our church family and the way that we love one another. We show the generosity and love that comes from Jesus in our words and deeds. Sometimes it is a small thing like just being there to listen. Sometimes it is a bigger thing like sharing your gifts and talents.

As you may know, I find inspiration from reading. Here are the current books that I am working on:

[How We Learn to be Brave](#) by Mariam Edgar Budde, the Episcopal Bishop of Washington

Rev Budde's book is full of inspiration and is affirming for me. She encourages the reader to speak up and speak out when there is injustice.

she is not afraid to tell influential leaders how to lead with God's care and love.

[The Harmless Necessary Cat: A World War II Family Saga in Allied-Occupied Iran](#)

By Sephehr Haddad

If you are interested in finding out how the middle east got to where it is today this is the book for you. It gives the Iranian perspective, helping to understand how Iranians feel about Russia, England, and the US.

As you live the day to day joys and challenges this month, remember that Jesus is with you, strengthening and loving you.

My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.

2 Corinthians 12:9

May God's Peace Be With You, Sue White

IN APRIL WE CELEBRATED!!

April was a wonderful month of celebration for LUMC! (Photos included throughout the newsletter)

- * On April 6 Jennifer Morgan received the Sacrament of Baptism with seventeen family members and friends joining us.
- * Also on that day we celebrated the retirement of Greg and Peggy Shaw with a basket of cards, yummy cupcakes, and well wishes.
- * On Palm Sunday, April 13, Jennifer Morgan was confirmed as a new member of LUMC and Mary Ann Breden, Melissa Conwell, and Judy Rathbun joined upon transfer. Many thanks to Bud Cherry for the beautiful hand-made wooden crosses presented to our new members and to Gwen Rioux for the lovely purple flower corsages each new member wore that day.
- * Also that day our puppet friends, Duke and Robie, joined us to remind us the importance of Jesus' parade-like journey into Jerusalem.
- * On Easter Sunday, April 20 we gathered to celebrate the Resurrection of our Savior, Jesus Christ, with a beautiful display of spring flowers adorning our sanctuary.
- * In addition, we enjoyed this beautiful dish garden depicting the empty tomb created by Ella Mae Packard.

LUMC IS TRULY A SACRED PLACE OF CELEBRATION AND LOVE!

THANK YOU!

Many thanks to those that came out to donate blood on Monday, April 14th. Our goal set for the day was 22 units and we exceeded it with 25 units! Our next blood drive is scheduled for Thursday, July 17th.

NURTURE NEWS

Thank you to the Finance Committee for a very nice coffee hour on Easter Sunday. Everything was great & it was very well attended. Mark your calendar for May 14th t at 6:00 PM to come see the movie "Lost on a Mountain in Maine". I had the date wrong in the April newsletter. June 1st we'll have another Potluck Brunch after church service. Be thinking about what you'd like to bring. Coffee Hours are going very well. Remember it doesn't have to be a big spread, COFFEE is the key word. Coffee and fellowship.

Thank you all,

Margaret

CELEBRATIONS AROUND LUMC!

We were privileged to welcome these four remarkable women into our church membership and family on Palm Sunday, April 13th.

Top Left to Right: Susan White, Lay Lader and Pastor Ellizabeth

Bottom Left to Right: Mary Ann Breden, Melissa Conwell, Judy Rathbun, and Jennifer Morgan



The choir celebrated Choir Director and Organist, Debbie Griem's birthday with a special cake made by Ella Mae Packard in the shape of a piano! Happy Birthday, Debbie!

Beautiful flowers decorated the alter for Easter.





Greg and Peggy Shaw celebrated their well deserved retirement from LL Bean!



Cultivating and Nurturing New Life

Jennifer Morgan and family, along with Pastor Elizabeth celebrating Jen's baptism!



NOTICE FROM THE FINANCE SECRETARY

In 2024, Servant Keeper, the record-keeping software used by the church for many, many years made some significant changes in the way they do business with their client churches. This past January, we had to upgrade our localized program to a "cloud" program. The benefits are numerous for the people who record membership and financial giving data. Gwen and I have been getting used to navigating and learning about the various aspects of the information being "in the cloud" and feel that it was a change for the good.

That being said, I received notice this month from the Servant Keeper Online Giving Team that, at the end of June, their program will stop integrating with "outside" online giving platforms. Since 2020, the church has been set up with Vanco - Give+, a very good program for online giving services. We currently have 7 or 8 regular donors using the service, with several one-time gifts being received from people outside our church family. This notice is for general knowledge, but it directly affects the "regulars."

I have begun the process of getting the new Servant Keeper Online Giving page started and it may take some time for me to learn how to do it and complete it. According to the information I've learned from webinars and research, so far, it will be "easy" for donors to set up their accounts and continue to use the convenient service. Once the new page is set up and tested, I will send out a notice to our current users with instructions, as well as an update to the general congregation.

Don't fret - we have until the end of June.... however; prayers for a smooth transition are welcome....

Yours in Christ,

Monica McCusker

FINANCE INFORMATION

Newsletter Finance Information - as of 04/22/2025		
2025 Annual Budget Amount for Operating Expenses	\$	143,009.53
Income April		
Budgeted	\$	6,362.52
Actual	\$	7,686.42
Expenses April		
Budgeted	\$	8,912.41
Actual	\$	8,496.40

LUMC Mission Statement:

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

SUPPORT MECHUWANA!



The graphic features a central illustration of a grey school lunch tray. The tray is divided into five compartments: top-left contains a hard-boiled egg on a bed of red sauce; top-middle contains a white, fluffy cloud-like item; top-right contains a mix of green and orange vegetables; bottom-left contains an orange with slices; bottom-right contains a pink rectangular carton labeled 'MILK'. The background is a light beige color with abstract, wavy shapes in shades of orange and brown. Text is centered above and below the tray.

**Support Mechuwana's
Free Meals Program**

Help us feed kids at camp this summer!

Mechuwana has been notified that we will no longer receive Federal Summer Meals Program* funding. That is about **\$7,000 in lost funds**. Please consider a gift to help fill that gap. Any gift is greatly appreciated. **Thank you!**

*Even without the funding, Mechuwana will continue to provide the free meals. We continue the tradition of never turning away campers for financial reasons. That remains the same... because of generous gifts from people like you.

www.mechuwana.org

Help support Mechuwana this summer...
If writing a check please indicate "Food Program" in memo and mail to PO Box 277,
Winthrop, ME 04364
For those who wish to use your credit card, please visit
www.mechuwana.org/donate.
Thank you again.

MOXIE FESTIVAL UPDATES

Thank you to those who joined us for the first Moxie meeting of the season. The theme of this year's festival is "Hang Loose; Drink Moxie". Don your best Hawaiian shirt and join us on July 11th and 12th as we celebrate all things Moxie.

We are looking for donations to help offset our costs and maximize our profits. Donations of Moxie, or gift cards to Shaw's, Wal Mart, or Hannaford would be much appreciated. Cash donations can be made as well. If you purchase Moxie, please let Shane or Erica know so that they can keep track of how much has been purchased.

Our next planning meeting is Tuesday, May 20th at 6:30 p.m. Please consider joining us to help plan one of our biggest fundraisers of the year!

BIRTHDAY WISHES



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

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

7th: Gwen Rioux

18th: Bobby Jean Logan

8th: Ralph Day

Piper Logan Charpentier

10th: Chris Hall

19th: Debbie Crosman

17th: Harry Grinder

29th: Stephanie Stambach

STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

On behalf of the finance committee I would like to thank each of you for your support through the giving of your time, talents and gifts. We are blessed to have such a generous congregation. Last year when it became necessary to replace the singles on the church roof, we were fortunate to have funds at the foundation that we could borrow from with the intent to payback any borrowed funds. Members and friends received a letter explaining the campaign along with a 3-year repayment pledge card. Those funds are currently being paid back because of your commitment to LUMC!

In the coming weeks you will be receiving a stewardship letter and a pledge card for our yearly budgetary items. This year's budget is \$143,009.53, which is a slight decrease over last year's budget. As many of you know, our budget is "bare bones", but as with your own budgets, we have no control over such items as insurance costs, taxes and utilities.

Thank you for your generosity and support as LUMC continues to carry out our mission of caring for our community grounded in God's love.

Should you have any questions regarding the budget or the stewardship letter please speak to any member of the finance committee.

Trudy Duval

Finance committee, chairperson

"The Empty Tomb" dish garden, created
by Ella Mae Packard for Easter



May 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4-Worship in person & virtually, w/ Holy Communion 9:30 am Church council, 11:00 a.m.	5-Outreach Committee, 10:00 a.m.	6	7-Choir rehearsal, 2:30 p.m.	8	9	10
11-Worship in person & virtually, 9:30 Mother's Day	12	13	14-Choir rehearsal, 2:30 Lost on a Mt. in Maine, 6:00	15	16	17-Spring Fling , 9:00 Chicken BBQ, 11:00 a.m.
18-Worship in person & virtually, 9:30 UMCOR offering	19-Pastor Elizabeth on vacation	20-Pastor Elizabeth on vacation Moxie, 6:30	21-Pastor Elizabeth on vacation Choir, 2:30	22-Pastor Elizabeth on vacation	23-Pastor Elizabeth on vacation	24-Pastor Elizabeth on vacation Supper, 4:30
25-Pastor on vacation Worship in person & virtually, 9:30	26-Pastor Elizabeth on vacation Memorial Day Holiday	27-Pastor Elizabeth	28-Pastor Elizabeth on vacation Choir rehearsal, 2:30 p.m.	29	30	31

NOTE: All meetings are held in the Hunnewell Room, unless otherwise noted
Office Hours: Monday 9:00 am-noon at Pastor's Home, Thursday 1:00-3:00 pm
Friday is the Pastor's Sabbath Day
Other times available by appointment
Every Thursday: Girl Scouts, Hunnewell Room, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

BUSINESS NAME

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 9:00-12 noon at Home

Thursday 1:00-3:00 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