

Hope with Joy

INSIDE THIS
ISSUE:

MOXIE

BLOOD DRIVE

LAY LEADER

EVENING
CIRCLEAND MUCH
MORE!

In writing to the church at Rome, the apostle Paul encouraged the faithful in this way: “May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” (Romans 15.13) This verse was the theme of the 2025 New England Annual Conference session. Through written, spoken, and sung word, the lay and clergy delegates, conference staff, and guests focused on the phrase “hope with joy” for our three days of holy conferencing together. The message was a comforting one in the chaotic world in which we live, especially knowing that our hope is in the Lord who is our strength, the One who brings us the best joy of all.

As my good friend, Noni, the certified lay minister from the East Monmouth UMC, and I rode home together after participating in the conference, she observed that while it was a good and prescient theme, the expectation that hope and joy is always a part of the lives of those we serve is rather unrealistic. We recognized that it was easy for us to be hopeful and joyful surrounded by four hundred other faithful United Methodists but, for many individuals, the challenges of everyday life make one feel less than hopeful and without much joy. We agreed that simply telling people to find the hope and joy in all circumstances is neglectful of the calling we have from Jesus and on behalf of the church. And that, like all of you, even though we are the ones “up front” on any given Sunday morning, our lives have challenges, too.

Did my friend and I solve this dilemma in our heartfelt discussion as we traveled northward on the Maine Turnpike? Not at all. But there is something I can suggest for each of us when we face life’s challenges and wonder why we can’t feel hope and joy in those moments. We’ll be hearing more about it in our three-week

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EVENING CIRCLE

It's time to be thinking about back to school supplies, I know, the kids just got out of school for the summer, but school supplies will be on sale starting in July. If you are out an about, why not pick up a few items for our local kids? This year our collection will go to the Lisbon Community School. Suggested items, snacks, crayons, #2 pencils, colored pencils, erasers, glue sticks, backpacks, and teachers can always use tissues. These are just a few suggestions, whatever you see that you think the kids could use. This is a church wide collection, and I know you always come through for us. Starting in July, a collection box will be put in the narthex for drop off. We will collect the month of July and the first couple of weeks in August, before delivering to the community school.

Thank you all in advance for your participation in this effort.

Carolyn Jones
President of Evening Circle

"We're not just a nation, we're not an ethnicity. WE are a dream of justice that people have had for a thousand years."

~Craig Ferguson

FROM YOUR PASTOR, CONTINUED

sermon series that begins at the end of July and that is simply to pray. Pray without ceasing! Pray when you aren't sure what words or feelings to offer to God! Pray when your prayer is simply that you would like some hope and joy in your life! The God who loves us more than we can begin to imagine hears us – no matter what it is we offer to God – and offers us the strength we all need to carry on.

By God's grace, we'll hear more about the spiritual discipline of prayer in a few weeks but, in the meantime, it is my prayer that you experience hope and joy and remember that there is ALWAYS something to be thankful for – even if it is knowing that we can come into God's presence through the gift of prayer and share our concerns with God.

As always, may the peace and hope and joy which is Jesus Christ be yours today and always.

God's blessings,

Pastor Elizabeth

2025 New England Annual Conference



UPCOMING BLOOD DRIVE



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Lisbon United Methodist Church

14 School Street, Lisbon Falls

Thursday, July 17th

1pm – 5:30pm

Sponsor Code: Lisbon UMC

Questions? Call Gwen at 353-6814

LUMC Mission Statement:

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

IT'S TIME FOR ICE CREAM!

Our annual summer ice cream get togethers have begun. We will meet again on Sunday, July 27 at Smiley's, and on Sunday, August 31 at the Big Dipper both at 6:00 pm.

New this year is an invitation by Jen Duley Farrin to go for a walk prior to eating ice cream! Please contact her if you are interested!

SUMMER SERMON SERIES: LORD, TEACH US TO PRAY

Each summer Pastor Elizabeth likes to depart from the lectionary and create a sermon series for us to hear and ponder. This year's series will be entitled *Lord, Teach us To Pray* and will focus on the spiritual discipline of prayer, beginning with a unique look at the most well-known prayer, the Lord's Prayer.

This three-week series will be shared on July 27 and August 3 and 10.

JULY CELEBRATIONS!

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

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



6th: Nate Rioux	27th: Glenys Gardiner
9th: Connie Earle	Tyler Palmer
10th: Erica Soiett	28th: Charles Stambach
11th: Mark C. Stambach	29th: Monica McCusker
Susan White	30th: Erika Moore
18th: Caitlin Ramsay	Matthew Rioux
23rd: Dave McCusker	

Happy Anniversary to the following couples celebrating an anniversary in July!

3rd: Bob & Ella Mae Packard
9th: Scott & Susan Ramsay
20th: Rick & Gwen Rioux
20th: Mark & Joan Stambach

FROM YOUR LAY LEADER

I was unable to attend the New England Annual Conference this year. The theme was “Hope with Joy”. Fortunately, the NEAC website posted a recap of what happened at conference. I also was able to stream some of it through the NEAC website at neumc.org. All this information is available for you to read in detail if you are interested. Pastor Elizabeth did attend and I am sure she would be glad to answer any questions you may have.

Wednesday: Preachers' Aid Society of New England Lunch for Retirees/Ordinands

Our own Rev. Julia Wilson was honored for 50 years of service.

Presentation on Via Benefits — retiree health plan

2025 Laity Session

Our conference Lay Leader, Dan Gannant, said this about the

laity of the church: “Annual Conference is one expression of our connectional system and governance. It’s how we care for our church. As we gather here tonight, we gather as laity, and we are the life blood of our Church,” he said. “If John Wesley had no-one to preach to, we wouldn’t be here. If Charles Wesley had no-one to sign his hymns, we wouldn’t have a Methodist hymnal. It’s been said that Susanna Wesley planted the unconventional idea of letting lay people serve as local preachers too. Thank God she did!”

Thursday: Land Acknowledgement

Patricia Parent reminded that “today we gather here on land that is not our own, we meet on the land of the Wampanoag people... wherever we are on this continent, it is indigenous land,

Juneteenth Commemoration: Time To Give Remembrance, Repentance, and Reconciliation.

Rev. Catherine Williams noted Juneteenth as a day of joy, a day to celebrate freedom, liberation, and to remember and honor all of those that went before us, who are among us, and have fought the good fight so that we can breathe free.

I am the path: Reclaiming Joy in Midst of the Jungle, a sermon by Resident Bishop Thomas J. Bickerton

The bishop noted that even though we’re in the middle of this jungle of misguided priorities, Jesus reminds us to put our joy in Him, so that our joy may be complete. And the way out is clear. “We’re lost in the jungle. In exasperation we cry, “Where is the path?” And Jesus says, “I AM the path,” Bishop concluded. “It’s just that simple.”

Memorial Service: In the Waters We Are One

In a moving remembrance honoring the lives and celebrating the witness of members of the New England Annual Conference, the names of clergy, clergy spouses, and closed churches were read aloud.

FROM YOUR LAY LEADER, CONT.

VOTING

- Affirmation and approval of **Michael Samms, Esq.** as the new Conference Chancellor. Approved by a vote of 381-0
- Affirming and approving **Ross Williams** as interim treasurer of the New England Annual Conference. Approved by a vote of 432-4

Proposed Constitutional Amendments

Amendments from the General Conference require a 2/3 aggregate vote of the annual conferences.

Bonnie Marden noted the four amendments before the body: worldwide regionalization, inclusivity, racial justice, and clergy delegate education requirements.

CELEBRATION OF APPOINTMENT MAKING-Katahdin District

BUDGET PRESENTATION

This year's budget is 5% less than what was proposed for the prior year and the budget has been organized under missional areas to better illuminate a complete picture to mission in key areas.

UNITED METHODIST FOUNDATION OF NEW ENGLAND PRESENTATION

ANTI-RACISM WORK: DEVELOPING THE SKILLS NEEDED TO ADVOCATE ON BEHALF OF THE MARGINALIZED

A Long Talk About the Uncomfortable Truth is a 21 day anti racism experience designed to empower participants with knowledge and skills to combat racism in their daily lives.

Granite District Appointments

Report on Elder Justice

A report on what signs to look for in elder abuse.

Proposed Annual Conference Actions and Votes

Amendments to Annual Conference Rules Approved

Retiree Health Benefits Contributions Approved

Pastors/Participants Health Insurance Approved

4 changes in language of policies submitted by the Equitable Compensation Commission approved

3 more changes in language of policies by the Church and Society Board (1),

The Sexual Response Team (2) approves

Establishing the Conference Commission on Queer Peoples Status approved

Adding Queer Peoples Status as a Conference area of Diversity and Inclusion approved

FROM YOUR LAY LEADER, CONT.

Since this is getting to be a lot to digest, I will report on Friday and Saturday in next month's newsletter.

Please remember that we are part of a connectional church, and in order to do God's work well, we come together as the New England Annual Conference.

God's Peace be with You,

Sue White

HONOR FLIGHT, THANK YOU!

A special thank you to those who took the time to write notes of thanks to the Veterans who attended the June 27-29th Honor Flight trip. The next trips will be from Sept. 7-9th and October 10-12th. Let's fill the basket with notes and cards. They are greatly appreciated.

JULY 4TH FUN FACTS

- 1777 was the first year fireworks were used in an official Fourth of July celebration. Congress authorized using fireworks to help mark the first anniversary of the Declaration of Independence.
- There was an estimated 2.5 million people living in the 13 colonies on July 4, 1776.
- Fourth of July became a federal holiday in 1870.
- China is credited with the invention of fireworks. Italy was credited for making fireworks bright and beautiful by discovering the use of metallic powders to create desired colors.
- 86 places in the U.S. have "independence," "liberty," "freedom," or "eagle" in their names.
- 61% of Americans will attend a July 4th picnic.
- In 2020, an estimated \$76.49 would be spent per person on July 4th food items.
- 150 million hot dogs are consumed each July 4th.
- 74 is the record number of hot dogs eaten in 10 minutes by Joey Chestnut in 2018.



MOXIE DAYS

The Moxie Festival is fast approaching, and we are well on our way on having a fantastic event! If you haven't donated Moxie, or gift cards yet, it's not too late! Please bring Moxie donations to the old kitchen. If you do donate Moxie, please let Shane or Erica know how many cases, so that we do not have an over abundance of soda. Last minute gift cards or monetary donations can be left in the offering plate.

We have a great kitchen crew lined up already, however if you are interested in helping and haven't been assigned a task yet, please reach out! We will find a job for you!

Donations for the bake sale table are also welcomed! The ladies from the Evening Circle will be soliciting donations soon, please be on the look out for their phone call! "Grab and Go" snacks tend to sell best during the Moxie Festival. No pies, cakes, or breads please. Individually wrapped snacks that people can eat on the go and trail mixes are usually big sellers.

We are also very excited to have Izzy's Stuffed Zoo & Emporium back with us for the 4th year in a row!

In the meantime, pray for good sunny weather for that weekend!

Thanks in advance,
Shane & Erica-Co-Chairs

212-3713 (Erica)

212-8316 (Shane)



SAVE THE DATE!

Save the date for a "Food and Fun Cookout" after church on September 14th. More information to follow soon!

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Newsletter Finance Information - as of June 24, 2025		
2025 Annual Budget Amount for Operating	\$	143,009.53
Income June		
Budgeted	\$	6,362.52
Actual	\$	6,579.84
Expenses June		
Budgeted	\$	8,912.41
Actual	\$	7,088.82

July 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4-Happy Independence Day!	5
6-Worship in person & virtually w/ Holy Communion, 9:30 a.m.	7	8	9	10	11-Moxie Festival, 5-7 pm	12-Moxie Festival, 9am-2pm
13-Worship in person & virtually, 9:30 a.m.	14	15	16	17-Red Cross Blood Drive, 1-5:30 p.m. Pastor Elizabeth at Mission U	18-Pastor Elizabeth at Mission U	19-Pastor Elizabeth at Mission U
20-Worship in person & virtually , 9:30 am Pastor Elizabeth at Mission U	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	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.

**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 9:00-12 noon at Home

Thursday 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Other times available by appointment

Friday is the Pastor's Sabbath day

Important Contacts:

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