

INSIDE THIS  
ISSUE:

MOXIE

OUTREACH

LAY LEADER

WORSHIP  
TEAM

AND MUCH  
MORE!

### *A "Straight Ahead Focus"*

James Moore, a popular United Methodist study author whose stories we have heard in sermons and whose books our Bible study groups have read through the years, shares an experience from his youth when he was a sprinter on his Memphis high school track team.

Moore was a freshman on the team and had been competing in short events when one day his coach suddenly decided to put him into the 220 yard dash. He told Moore that he thought he would do well, in fact, he told him that he was expecting he would win this event.

"This is a 'full-speed-all-the-way race,' the coach told Jim. "Focus on getting a good start, then run as fast as you can."

Moore did win that 220-yard dash but the coach called him into his office the next day. He congratulated Jim and said he wanted Jim to continue to represent the team in this event in future meets.

BUT the coach told him that he made a terrible mistake - one that almost cost him the race. Moore didn't know what the coach was talking about. "You ran the last twenty yards twice," said the coach. "You looked back over your shoulder twice and broke stride. You stumbled and almost lost the race."

The coach showed Moore the film of the race so that he could see it for himself. "The lesson here is obvious," commented the coach. "Don't look back over your shoulder ever again. Keep your eyes focused straight ahead on the finish line."

We can apply Moore's coach's advice to our journeys of faith. First, it is a "full-speed-all-the-way" journey as we seek to follow the example of Jesus each and every day, never giving up and never giving in to the temptations that will challenge us. And, second, it's important to keep our eyes focused on the Kingdom of God - the Kingdom we live in this life as disciples for Christ and the Kingdom we are promised for the world which is to come.

May God continue to guide you on your journey as we continue to run the race with perseverance and faithfulness.

God's blessings,

*Pastor Elizabeth*

## OUTREACH

In May the Outreach Committee voted to donate \$105 to both LACO and Kaydenz Kitchen. Kaydenz Kitchen is a program for the unhoused population in Lewiston. We also voted to donate \$200 to Mechuwana's free meal program. Our collection the Children's Christmas Store is going through June. A list of suggested items is below. If you have any questions, please see Carol Day or Connie Earle. Our next meeting is September 8th.

Children's Christmas Store Ideas:

Candles, mittens & gloves, mugs, jewelry, pot holders, dish towels, note pads, small tools, stationary, socks, belts, key chains, hats, flashlights, dolls, craft kits, hairbrushes, diaries, hair bands, nail polish, toy cars, balls, fishing lures, stuffed animals, games, cards, markers, paint, puzzles, books, and bubbles. Also needed are donations of gift bags, tissue paper and gift tags.

*"The flowers appear  
on the Earth; the  
time of the singing  
of birds is come, and  
the voice of the tur-  
tle is heard in our  
land"*

*~Song of Solomon  
2:12KJV*

## THANK YOU, LOLA

Many thanks to Lola Carlson who, once again this year, provided roses for 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!

## 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 18 and concluding on Saturday, June 21. Pastor Elizabeth will be attending the conference in person this year.

As they are each year, the days will be long for the conference session and your prayers for this time for our Bishop and all the lay and clergy delegates from around New England will be appreciated.

## IT'S TIME FOR ICE CREAM

Please mark your calendars for our annual summer ice cream get togethers. We will meet on Sunday, June 29 at the Big Dipper, on Sunday, July 27 at Smiley's, and on Sunday, August 31 at the Big Dipper. As decided at the recent church council meeting, we will gather 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 speak to her if you are interested!



## LACO

Our church council voted at its recent meeting to have the food items requested by LACO highlighted in our weekly worship bulletins once again.

Items currently being requested are: cereal, peanut butter, pasta, canned vegetables and canned fruit. Please remember that school children will soon be on summer vacation and we can help fill the void of school meals with our generous donations.

Currently the basket for your donations can be found in the dining room. As noted in Sue White's Worship Committee article in this newsletter, we will be collecting them in the sanctuary during the summer.

## HONOR FLIGHT

The next Honor Flight trip will take place on June 27<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>. Cards and notes of thanks and appreciation would be greatly appreciated. They can be placed in the basket located in the Narthex until June 22<sup>nd</sup>. Thank you.

## NURTURE NEWS

We had a very good turnout for our movie night and will try another one, perhaps in the fall. It was a good movie. Remember the potluck brunch on June 1st. We still have prayer shawls for folks to pick up and take to a friend who may need one. Just see Margaret or Gwen about getting one.

Have a great summer, if it ever gets here!

Margaret, Nurture chair

## FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Newsletter Finance Information - as of 05/27/2025		
2025 Annual Budget Amount for Operating	\$	143,009.53
Income May		
Budgeted	\$	6,362.52
Actual	\$	9,809.51
Expenses May		
Budgeted	\$	8,912.41
Actual	\$	8,105.43

## GREETINGS FROM YOUR WORSHIP TEAM

We met on May 8th to plan our time of worship through August. We hope that you will find Sunday mornings meaningful this summer.

Our spring/summer Music Sunday will be celebrated on June 22nd with special music and hymn favorites; the choir will begin their summer break on June 29th.

We would like to continue offering congregational choices in the place of the choir. To change things up a bit, Judy and Debbie are working on a list of hymns that you might not have sung in a while or find in our hymnals. We hope to get the list together by early June, so that you can look at it and perhaps offer suggestions.

Our Faith Basket will be a bit different, also. We hope to offer a story during each Faith Basket time, such as the story of the Dogwood Tree, the Master's Hand, and the legend of the Sand Dollar. We hope that you will find these stories meaningful, and if you have any to share, we would love your input.

With the purpose of supporting LACO and the Outreach Committee, we plan to make our donations more visible. We want to pray over our donations and send God's love to those who receive them. To that end, we will place a table in front of the organ for you to put your donations on. Let's work together to feed the hungry children of God. You will hear me repeat that , in these times, **it is up to us to do the work!**

Pastor Elizabeth will be away at Mission U on July 20th. Perhaps one of you would like to share a message or a story. I would love to make that day a congregational effort.

God's Peace be With You,

Sue White

### ***LUMC Mission Statement:***

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

## FROM YOUR LAY LEADER

Greetings from your Lay Leader! As I write this, it feels like spring and summer will never come. However, even though it is cold and rainy, vegetation is turning green and flowers are blooming. God is good, and I have faith that the warm days will come.

As Methodists, we have foundational beliefs that undergird our faith. Our founder, John Wesley, taught about the quadrilateral. What is that? The quadrilateral emphasizes four sources of authority: Scripture, tradition, reason, and experience. It guides us to understanding and interpretation of Christian faith.

Other theologians have written about similar groundings of their faith. Father Richard Rohr describes the foundations and the tricycle of faith. Just as when you ride a tricycle, all three wheels are needed to stay balanced. In one article he emphasizes (just as Wesley did) the importance of Tradition. Tradition includes wisdom, beliefs, practices, prayers, and rituals.

We can rely on our tradition to help us remember our role in God's world and plan. It's easy to get distracted by things happening along the way. But, we must remember that tradition teaches us to do God's work. **It is up to us to do the work!** When we find that things are not happening in a way that feeds the hungry and supports the marginalized, we must step up and do what is needed. Saint Theresa taught that a small handful of rice goes a long way. As we do the small things, they begin to add up to big things. We can experience the miracle of the loaves and fishes as we feed our neighbors. We can spread God's love as we welcome all of God's children just as Jesus did. Just as we do for the least of these, we do for Jesus. We rely on the scripture and our traditions to find strength in time of need.

Showing kindness to others is a way to spread God's love. It's amazing what a little bit of caring can do. I experienced this myself today. Harvey and I took his mother out to lunch for her 95th(!) birthday. The staff at the restaurant were very kind, patient, and helpful as I settled them in for the meal. I had to run back to the car to get reading glasses, and the waiter touched my arm and indicated he would watch over them until I got back. That small gesture filled me with peace and helped me relax and enjoy our time together. Now I know that I need to pass it on. So, here I am reaching out to you as you read this.

May God's peace be with you,

Sue White

## FROM LACO

The Good Shepherd Food Bank will receive 50% less food from USDA with government cuts. The immigrant farm program that gives food pantries and schools fresh produce is eliminated. The Church Council voted at their last meeting to put the LACO food collection box back out to help collect food. If you shop at Food City, there is a bin to drop off food. Major needs are peanut butter, pastas, cereals (especially kids' cereals), canned fruits and vegetables or any other foods you would like to donate. Outreach is still collecting items for the Children's Christmas Shop fundraiser for LACO in December. It allows kids to shop on their own while parents wait in the sanctuary. It is held at St. Matthews Episcopal Church. Kids pay \$1.00 for items for their family members, and they are wrapped and tagged so they are a surprise for the family members. We have collected 69 items so far. Last year 79 children shopped for gifts for their family members.

On June 7th, we will be having the annual Car Show with the Yankee Cruisers Car Club at Shiloh Chapel in Durham. It will run from 8-2. We are asking the churches of LACO to provide snack items, such as brownies, fudge, cookies, bars, snack bags of mixed pretzels, M and Ms, peanuts, chex mix, and any other items you want to add, cupcakes, muffins, or any other finger foods. You can leave them at the church before 3:00 Friday, June 6th, and I will pick them up. I will stay until 3:30 for people to drop off items if you do not have a church key.

Thank you. Carol Day

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

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

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



1st:	Mark Rogers	8th:	Alexandria Shaw
2nd:	Sarah Moore	13th:	Barbara Kazimer
	Breanna Soiett	16th:	Phylis Greim
5th:	Daniel Millson	18th:	Olivia Shaw
6th:	Jennifer Morgan	22nd:	Sandy Stultz
7th:	Aurea Koumou-Nete	30th:	Megan Hall

## FINANCIAL SECRETARY REPORT

### Important Update: Transition to Servant Keeper Online Giving Platform

I am following up on my general announcement published in the May newsletter with specifics about the church's transition to a new online giving service. The new upgraded platform is pretty easy to navigate when setting up a one-time or recurring donation. The new "Donate" button and a QR Code have already been added to the church website and are "live." Additional "Special" buttons will be added in the future for Outreach activities and special occasions.

We recognize the current increasing trend for supporting causes through online donations and offer this platform as a secure way to donate to the church if you're unable to visit in person. If you don't wish to set up an account, you can make your donation(s) as a "Guest".

#### What You Need to Know – 5 easy steps:

Step 1: Visit our church website: [www.lisbonumchurch.org](http://www.lisbonumchurch.org)

Step 2: Click or scan the new black "Donate" button and QR Code (you can't miss them) to activate the link to access our new SKOG platform

Step 3: "Sign on" (to create your new account) OR "Sign In" (once you've created an account)

You will be asked to use the email that is on record with the church directory –

Don't worry if your email isn't found during the search – just fill in the address you wish to use and the funds will be credited to the account with your name

Step 4: Select a fund from the list of options on the very easy-to-use "Main Giving" form for scheduled or one-time donations

Step 5: Check out (follow the prompts to complete the form) and click SUBMIT

If you need assistance, you can watch and follow a step-by-step video guide: <https://connect.servantkeeper.com/Z4u9o2E9>

#### Benefits of creating an account with Servant Keeper Online Giving:

Secure and convenient online giving options

Accessible from multiple computer devices: desktop, tablet or mobile

Scheduling recurring giving options to simplify your donations

Access to reports for your giving history and other great bits of information

Thank you for your generosity, your commitment to being part of our Lisbon United Methodist Church family and for your willingness to support its programs.

Blessings,

*Monica J. McCusker*

Finance Secretary

## MOXIE!

The 2025 Moxie Festival is almost upon us! As many of you know the Moxie Festival is one of the larger fundraisers for the church. Donations are always appreciated to help keep our costs down and maximize our profit.

Donations of Moxie can be dropped off in the old kitchen. If you do purchase Moxie, please let Erica or Shane know so they can keep an inventory of it. Cash donations, or donations of gift cards to Hannaford, Shaw's, Food City, Wal Mart, BJ's, Dollar General, Amazon or Market Basket are also appreciated.

Volunteers are needed to help sort books, help pick and prepare strawberries, and to work Friday in the book room, and kitchen. Volunteers are also needed Saturday to help work the yard sale, book room and kitchen. If any of this sounds like fun to you, please reach out and we will find a job for you! Thank you in advance,

Erica & Shane

207-212-3713 (Erica)

207-212-8316 (Shane)



## PLANT SALE UPDATE

I have to say, Greg and I truly enjoyed chairing and co-chairing this years annual Spring Fling!

From April 4th to May 17th the Spring Fling kept us on our toes. We learned about how donations work for different donators and appreciate all they did helping with our mission to support our Church.

The Pie sale SOLD OUT! 37 Pies!! as of end of day, May 17 th, there was one pie left. Thank you everyone who graciously donated delicious homemade pies!!

Chicken BBQ also SOLD OUT!! 50 meals! Thank you everyone who graciously purchased for this awesome event. The Delicious secret sauce, potato salad and corn bread encompassed the church yard with an aroma that caught good attention from passersby.

The weather.....(crickets...) one thing Mainers can not count on is the weather to cooperate.

Looks like our profits are in the range of 3K!!!

Thank you all!!!!

Greg & Peggy



# June 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1-Worship in person w/ Holy Communion, 9:30 Brunch to follow	2	3	4-Choir rehearsal, 2:30 p.m.	5	6	7-LACO car-show @ Shilow Chapel
8-PENTACOST worship & virtually, 9:30, wear red Evening Circle, 11 am Finance, 11 am	9	10	11-Choir rehearsal, 2:30 p.m.	12	13	14
15-Father's Day Worship in person & virtually 9:30	16	17-Summer cookout planning meeting, 1:00	18-New England Annual conference	19-New England Annual conference	20-New England Annual conference	21-New England Annual conference  Function in dining room
22-Worship in person & virtually, 9:30 Spring/ Summer music	23	24	25	26	27	28-Dine in/ Take out bean supper, 4:30
29-Worship in person & virtually, 9:30 Ice Cream @ Big Dipper 6pm	30					

**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:**

Pastor: Rev. Elizabeth J. Bachelder Smith

[pastor@lisbonumchurch.org](mailto:pastor@lisbonumchurch.org)

**Organist & Choir Director: Debbie Greim**

576-8527 [dmusicnote@myfairpoint.net](mailto:dmusicnote@myfairpoint.net)

**Lay Leader: Sue White**

[sdwhite071154@gmail.com](mailto:sdwhite071154@gmail.com)

**Newsletter Editor: Erica Soiett**

212-3713 [esoiett@roadrunner.com](mailto:esoiett@roadrunner.com)

**Public Relations & Web Info: Monica McCusker**

754-9569 [mainefyfer@yahoo.com](mailto:mainefyfer@yahoo.com)