



# THE LAMPLIGHTER

JANUARY 2026

## FROM YOUR PASTOR: *DOING OUR PART*

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ISSUE:

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NEWS

EVENING  
CIRCLE

OUTREACH

LAY LEADER

AND MUCH  
MORE!

One of the daily readings in the Advent devotional which Sue and Harvey White shared as a gift for our church family focused on words of Scripture which we recently read during one of our times of worship:

*Therefore, brothers and sisters, you must be patient as you wait for the coming of the Lord. Consider the farmer who waits patiently for the coming of rain in the fall and spring, looking forward to the precious fruit of the earth. You also must wait patiently, strengthening your resolve, because the coming of the Lord is near.*

- James 5:7-8

Devotional author Jan Turrentine shared this story:

"Well into her senior years, my grandmother kept a vegetable garden. She prepared the soil, planted the seeds, watered the plants, pulled weeds, and faithfully waited. There were no shortcuts, no workarounds. She did her back-breaking job using only hand tools and then waited as the seeds, soil, water, and sun did theirs. Her patient waiting was rewarded with a beautiful harvest.

Once she planted those seeds, she could have walked away. But she didn't. She tended to the plants daily until harvest time, trusting the God whose hand guided the entire process. She waited with patience, but also with decisive actions. She couldn't do God's job, but she could participate in the process by doing hers."

As the new year dawns upon us with its 365 days of promise, we are reminded with this story that patiently, actively waiting is not just a way of life for the Advent season. Yes, we just celebrated the coming of Jesus as a baby born in a Bethlehem manger but, as our faith journeys continue, we celebrate each day in the ways we live that Christ will come again to usher in God's amazing, abundant Kingdom.

Patiently, actively waiting means – as Turrentine's grandmother did – that we do our part as God's does God's part for us. God fills our lives with gifts, showers us with God's grace, and walks with us every step of the way. We are called to be aware of all that God bestows and use it to the best of our ability – whether that means times of quiet reflection or times of caring for others.

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## HAPPY BIRTHDAY BUD

Our church family celebrated Bud Cherry's 95<sup>th</sup> birthday with a special time of coffee fellowship on December 21st. Congratulations, Bud, on achieving another wonderful milestone. God's blessings to you in the year



*"Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever!"*

*~Psalm 107:1*



## THANK YOU TO OUR DECORATORS



Even before we had enjoyed our Thanksgiving turkey and pie a group of faithful decorators gathered to prepare our sanctuary for the holy seasons of Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany. Our thanks are expressed to: Ginny Barden, Glenys Gardner, Randy and Carolyn Jones, Dean and Margaret Logan, Jen Morgan, Greg and Peggy Shaw, and the pastor for their good work in creating a sacred space for our special times of worship. As always, it was beautiful!

Please note: we'll "undecorate" at 1:00 pm on January 6<sup>th</sup>.

## **LUMC Mission Statement:**

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

## FROM YOUR PASTOR, CONTINUED

May this new year find each of us and our church committed to living the Kingdom life that Jesus sets before us. As the farmer, may we look forward to each new day and strive to live it to God's glory with patient, active hope, knowing that the harvest will be a beautiful blessing.

May this new year be one of much joy and good health for each of us as we continue our journeys together as the beloved people of God.

New Year Blessings!



*Pastor Elizabeth*

## A WINTER REMINDER

Don't forget that, if we must cancel worship on a Sunday morning for weather or other reasons, the cancellation will be found ONLY on WCSH, Channel 6. If that is the case and you are able, please turn to our church's Facebook page where worship will be live streamed from the parsonage dining room table.

If you do not have an FB account and/or the Internet at home, please call someone in our church family who does. You can at least hear the service through the phone and join us in this way.

## PLANNING AHEAD FOR THE SEASON OF LENT

Before we know it the winter days will fly and we'll find ourselves at the beginning of the season of Lent. Here are some early reminders for your planning:

On Ash Wednesday, February 18 we'll gather IN PERSON at 6:30 pm for a simple, yet meaningful service to begin this sacred season.

Then for six Tuesday mornings our church family is invited to gather IN PERSON for a Lenten study authored, as our Advent study was, by the Rev. Rachel Billups who helps us look at the extraordinary people of the Easter story. We will gather in the Hunnewell Room at 10:00 am on February 24 and March 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31. We will watch the DVD prepared for *An Unlikely Lent* and then share the Scriptures and discussion questions for each week.

This means no homework to prepare but, if you would like to read the study book on your own, Pastor Elizabeth can share the ordering information with you.

## EVENING CIRCLE NEWS

The Evening Circle met for their December meeting and election of officers was held. Jen Morgan is the new President, Carolyn Jones, VP, Gwen Rioux, Secretary and Trudy Duval, Treasurer. We look forward to having Jen as our new president, and I am grateful that she has accepted.

In other business, as in years past, in January we will have our annual eat out, date is January 11, at 1 PM, location to be determined. We invite anyone from the church to join us, as it is the congregation who helps with all our projects. As soon as a location is determined, we will most likely need a headcount for the restaurant. Stay tuned!

Carolyn Jones,  
Outgoing President

## OUTREACH COMMITTEE

December is a busy month for the Outreach Committee. We donated snacks to the collection held at Breakfast with Santa, which will be donated to the local schools. 149 individual snacks were donated. Again this year it was voted to collect gift cards to be given to the patrons of the Drop-In Center in Auburn. Their center provides services to the unhoused population. Outreach has also again been able to work with local schools to help provide for Christmas dinner for families that the school identifies. We gave 12 turkeys as well as carrots. We were also able to have 15 5 pound bags of potatoes donated from Bell Farms. Ron Wills donated two family camperships to Camp Mechuwanna for two mothers and their two children for the November family weekend camp. This year we filled 7 fruit baskets for 8 individuals.

At our recent meeting it was voted to send \$1200 to Warm They Neighbors with a request that it go to a Lisbon resident.

We thank Ella Mae for working with us this year and will miss her input.

Outreach wishes everyone a happy and healthy new year.

Connie Earle,  
Chairperson



## HANDCRAFTED ORNAMENT FOR LUMC

Our church family expresses its deep appreciation and gratitude to Granville Morgan for the beautiful handcrafted wooden ornament that has found a home on our sanctuary Christmas tree.

What a lovely reminder of the God of all creation whose love is always with us.

Thank you and God bless you, Granville.



## BIRTHDAY WISHES



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

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

1-	Audry Millson	9-	Gladys Carville
2-	Adrianna White	14-	Josephine Dupal
5-	Liliana Dudar	18-	Tori Wile
	Margaret Logan	19-	Omari Komou-Nete
6-	Norah Morgan	26-	Ella Mae Packard

## BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

Our 10th annual Breakfast with Santa was once again a huge success!

Over 100 people enjoyed delicious pancakes and sausage. All the kids in attendance went home with a new book to enjoy and a goodie bag of treats.





## Brunswick United Methodist Church

320 Church Road, Brunswick, ME 04011

[office@umcbrunswick.org](mailto:office@umcbrunswick.org) | <https://umcbrunswick.org>

December 23, 2025

Dear Friends in the Androscoggin Cooperative Parish,

Grace and peace to you as we look ahead to a new year in ministry together.

On behalf of Brunswick United Methodist Church—and in the spirit of our shared United Methodist connectional life—I write with great joy to invite you, your lay leaders, and your congregations to join us for the 2026 Brunswick Area Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Breakfast, to be held on Monday, January 19, 2026, at 9:00 a.m., at Brunswick United Methodist Church.

This gathering is especially meaningful as it marks the first time the MLK Jr. Memorial Breakfast will take place in the Midcoast region. As United Methodists who understand ourselves as stronger together than apart, this feels like a powerful opportunity for our cooperative parish to bear a visible, shared witness to the gospel's call to justice, reconciliation, and beloved community.

This year's theme is "***Breaking Chains, Building Bridges: Artists as Architects of the Beloved Community.***"

Grounded in Dr. King's vision of the Beloved Community, this breakfast invites us to reflect not only on what we are resisting, but on what we are actively building together—through imagination, creativity, courage, and faithful action. In a time when division feels loud and persistent, this gathering seeks to remind us that beloved community is not an abstract ideal, but a spiritual discipline and a communal practice.

We are grateful to be partnering with the Brunswick Area Interfaith Council, the Maine Council of Churches, and civic leaders from across our region. It is our hope that this breakfast will be a space of reflection, inspiration, and holy imagination—one that strengthens relationships across congregations and renews our shared commitment to justice, healing, and hope.

As pastors and leaders within a cooperative parish, your presence—and the presence of your congregations—would be a meaningful expression of our connectional ministry. I would be grateful if you would share this invitation widely and encourage participation from across our churches.

The breakfast is free and open to all, reflecting our commitment to removing financial barriers and ensuring that this remains a truly civic and communal event. If you or members of your congregation plan to attend, we welcome RSVPs so that we may plan hospitality accordingly.

Thank you for your faithful leadership and for the ways you continue to embody grace, courage, and justice in our shared ministry. I look forward to standing alongside you as we honor Dr. King's legacy and live more fully into the Beloved Community together.

In peace, hope, and connection,

Rev. Alicia Velez Stewart, Pastor, Brunswick United Methodist Church

MIDCOAST MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.  
MEMORIAL BREAKFAST COMMITTEE  
PRESENTS:

# **BREAKING CHAINS, BUILDING BRIDGES: ARTISTS AS ARCHITECTS OF THE BELOVED COMMUNITY**

Monday, January 19, 2026

9:00AM ET

Brunswick United Methodist Church  
320 Chrch Road, Brunswick, ME  
04011

Join us in-person for breakfast & a screening of MLK, Jr's 1967 Stanford University speech, "The Other America"

The screening will be followed by a live panel discussion with local social justice leaders and educators about art's ability to address the concerns in Dr. King's speech—which are still relevant today.

SPONSORED IN  
PART BY:

Brunswick Area  
Interfaith  
Council (BAIC)

**LOVE PEACE  
JUSTICE  
Together**



*Inspiring peace, justice & compassion through collaborative action*



**JUSTICE  
IN OUR TIME  
FUND**



Beth Israel  
Congregation -  
Bath Maine



Brunswick  
United  
Methodist  
Church



Unitarian Universalist Church of Brunswick Maine



St. Paul's  
Episcopal  
Church -  
Brunswick

**RESERVE A SEAT EARLY FOR THIS FREE INAUGURAL EVENT:**  
<https://pci.jotform.com/form/253423787614160>

## FINANCIAL INFORMATION

### Newsletter Finance Info - as of 12-24-2025

2025 Annual Budget		
Amount for Operating Expenses	\$	143,009.53
<b>November</b>		
Income		
Budgeted	\$	6,362.52
Actual	\$	23,618.52
Expenses		
Budgeted	\$	8,912.41
Actual	\$	14,541.28
<b>December</b>		
Income		
Budgeted	\$	6,362.52
Actual	\$	19,031.00
Expenses		
Budgeted	\$	8,912.41
Actual	\$	7,455.90

## LAY LEADER

Greetings from your Lay Leader! Happy New Year!

I encourage you to take some post holiday time for rest. The Bible tells us to "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." Matt 11:28.

As we start this new year, we celebrate a new beginning that began with the birth of the Christ Child. Now that Jesus has come, a radiant aliveness is here to enlighten people everywhere. This is the gift that the baby Jesus brings. As a church we see the world through the light of Christ. The light of Christ brings a sense of wonder and awe.

*Go out and find a secret portal. Walk the shoreline and keep your eye out for magic. Pull out the old telescope. Tell wild stories. Go outside and dance in the rain. Do ridiculous things. Be "that" adult who gets the eyeroll and the side smile. Laugh often. Slow down. Feed the imagination. Clear the space to be washed over by this wild and wonderful world.*

*Lydia Wyle-Kellermann*

Wishing you all God's Peace and Love,

Sue White

# January 2026

<b>Sun</b>	<b>Mon</b>	<b>Tue</b>	<b>Wed</b>	<b>Thu</b>	<b>Fri</b>	<b>Sat</b>
				1	2	3
4-Worship in person & virtually w/ Holy Communion for Epiphany, 9:30	5	6- "Undecorate" the sanctuary, 1:00 p.m	7	8	9	10
11-Worship in person & virtually for Baptism of Jesus Sunday, 9:30 Evening Circle Meal, TBD 1:00	12	13	14	15	16	17
18-Worship in person & virtually, 9:30	19-Martin Luther King Day	20	21	22	23	24-Dine In/ Take Out Bean Supper, 4:30 p.m.
25-Worship in person & virtually, 9:30 Finance Committee, 11:00	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 p.m.**

**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 a.m.-noon*

*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](mailto:pastor@lisbonumchurch.org)

**Organist & Choir Director: Debbie Greim**

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