

Lovell United Church of Christ

1174 Main St., Lovell, Maine



February 2020

The Circuit Rider



PO Box 232 Lovell, ME 04051 www.lovellucc.org Office:925-1321 Pastor's Study:925-1207 email:lucc@fairpoint.net



Winter – gotta love Maine and I must admit I do. The sun is higher and the chickens are laying eggs. Though, I sure do see a lot of snow outside in our pasture. Everyone in the barn stays close to home except when the sun shines and they cannot resist the pasture. The farm remains peaceful and the animals are doing well with long furry coats keeping them warm. It is in the barn that I find many times for quiet prayer and meditation. There is something about the sound of the munching of hay that grounds me and quiets my soul. It is such a good time to listen for God's whispers. I do hope everyone has a special place and quiet time to listen for those whispers.

Yes, it is February and Christmas is past but I still want to thank everyone for all your cards and gifts. They were lovely and much appreciated.

February 26 is the beginning of lent this year. This is the time that many of us in the Protestant tradition hardly notice, but maybe we should. God is still speaking. God is still at work. May I suggest an ancient way of Bible reading prayer. I love to use the "Lectio Divina." It has four steps.

Reading and listening to the scripture -- pick a favorite passage, a Psalm, perhaps Psalm 23 or start reading through the Gospel of Mathew. Matthew is our lectionary Gospel for most of this year. *Lectio* is reverential reading and listening; listening both in a spirit of silence and of awe; listening for the still, small voice of God that will speak to us personally - not loudly, but intimately. In *lectio* we read slowly, attentively, gently listening for a word or phrase that is that draws our attention. It is God's word for us this day.

Meditation – Take time to let that word or phrase speak to you, Ruminant on that word or phrase like the alpaca and sheep lay down quietly chewing their cud, taking the goodness of their hay into their bodies. Repeat the phrase or word to yourself during the day. God will teach you the way.

Prayer – Prayer is our loving conversation with God, our offering to God those parts of ourselves that we have tried to keep hidden. In this prayer allow the word on which we are pondering to touch and change our deepest selves. In this prayer, we allow our real selves to be touched and changed by the word of God.

Contemplation -- We rest in God's presence and accept God's transforming embrace where words are no longer necessary. This is a time of letting go of everything else. We enter the place of quiet rest enjoying God's presence and God's love.

May this month and the coming season of Lent become a true blessing for each of us and as a church. God will work in our lives and is at work in our lives. The Holy Spirit is filling our church family and constantly s filling us with strength, hope and love. It is my hope that we will walk together as the body of Christ as we prepare ourselves for Easter Sunday, as we prepare ourselves for living as a resurrection people.

May the Lord bless each one of us richly, Pastor Lois

UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE GATHERING PLACE

2/6 Lunch (provided) and games
2/13 Valentine's Day celebration
2/20 Chair yoga
2/27 TBD

PLEASE JOIN US FOR ANY OR ALL ACTIVITIES!

Our Senior Fellowship, **The Gathering Place**, meets on Thursdays from 10:00-2:00. This is **FREE and open to any senior who wishes to drop in**. Bring your own lunch. Coffee, tea and snacks are provided. A hot meal is provided on the first Thursday of each month. This is a time for fellowship, games, art and special events. Call the church for more information 925-1321.

CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

MONDAYS

9:00-3:00 Secretary's hours
9:00-12:00 Pastor's Hours

WEDNESDAYS

Choir rehearsal 7:00 pm
Bell Choir rehearsal 10:00 am

THURSDAYS

9:00-1:00 Secretary's hours
9:00-12:00 Pastor's Hours
10:00-2:00 *The Gathering Place* Senior Fellowship

SATURDAYS

AA meetings 7:00

SUNDAYS

Sunday School 9:00 am
Worship 10:30 am
Youth Group 1:00 pm

SUNDAY, February 2

Communion Service

MONDAY, February 10

Missions mtg. 10:30 am
Trustees meeting 7:00 pm

Christian Ed Meeting 6:00 pm

TUESDAY, February 11

Ladies Circle mtg. 12:30
Evening Bible Study 6:30 pm

SUNDAY, February 16-

MONDAY, February 17

Youth Group Lock-in

MONDAY, February 17

Cabinet meeting 7:00

TUESDAY, February 25

Shrove Tuesday dinner 5:30

WEDNESDAY, February 26

Ash Wednesday

THURSDAY, February 27

Circuit Rider 9:00

SATURDAY, February 29

Flea Market & Bake Sale



**MONDAY, WEDNESDAY
AND SATURDAY
FROM 10:00-12:00
NEW DONATION SHED!**

Thrift Shop News- Thank you for your patience while our Thrift Shop is **TEMPORARILY CLOSED**. We had a furnace malfunction back in mid December forcing us to close the church for a bit. The new furnace is in now and heat has been restored. Once all systems are up and running, we will have the church cleaned, the Thrift Shop repainted and redesigned. You will love the new look! Meanwhile, please start dropping off your donations in the new shed located at the far end of the parking lot. We need all new donations to restock, so spread the word! Please note that we can no longer accept donations in the hallway of the church building. We look forward to seeing you all here again soon!



Tea Party

**The Deacon's of the church are
hosting a Winter Tea!**

**February 15th 2:00-4:00 pm
at LUCC**

**Assorted teas, scones, tea
sandwiches and sweets. Bring a
friend and wear your hats!
RSVP to Sue Clout 925-6874**

All are welcome!



**Flea Market &
Bake Sale at LUCC**

**February 29th
9:00-1:30**

LADIES CIRCLE

Feb. 11 Business Meeting 12:30- Valentine making

Feb. 29 Ladies Circle Bake Sale 9-1:30

The Ladies Circle kitchen clean up volunteer for January is Sue DeWire and for February is Phyllis Gregson. The group will continue to collect photos of the Circle until a work meeting is scheduled. If you should have any older photos of Ladies Circle activities that you would like to donate, please put them in an envelope marked Ladies Circle and leave in the Secretary's folder by the office door. The Circle's Christmas party on Dec. 10 was held at Punkin Valley and enjoyed by twelve ladies. It included a short business meeting, delicious food, great service and an exchange of gifts. The New Year's Eve Gathering to be held at the Olmsted's home was cancelled not once but twice because of bad weather. The group will be having lunch together on Jan. 28 at House of Pizza 12:00 in Fryeburg. At the Jan. 14 meeting, the following slate of officers for 2020 were voted in: Linda Libby & Carolyn Carter – Co-Presidents, Sue DeWire & Linda Libby Co-Treasurers, Pat Stearns & Mary Heroux – Co-Secretaries, Devotions – Carolyn Carter, Sunshine Lady – Nancy Olmsted. On Jan. 25, the ladies put together fruit baskets to be delivered on Jan. 26 to those on the Community Care List. At the Feb. 11 meeting, the group will again be making Valentines for some very special people. On Feb. 29, the ladies will be having a Bake Sale during the Girl Scout Flea Market, 9:00-1:30, so be sure to mark your calendars now. There are no membership requirements for Ladies Circle, so please feel free to attend business meetings, work meetings or other activities as your time allows. Contacts: Linda Libby, trout@fairpoint.net 925-3661, or Carolyn Carter, cecarter1994@gmail.com 928-2080.

Lovell Girl Scouts

Registrations for the 2020 Girl Scout year are still being accepted. All five Lovell troops were represented at the Jan. 4 Cookie Rally at Lake Region HS including girls from Troops 67 and 58 running some of the stations. Contact any Girl

Returnable Bottle/Can Collection to Benefit Girl Scouts.

Please place empty bottles/cans in the container available at Lovell U.C.C.

Scout or leader to place a cookie order. Cookies will be delivered Feb. 22. Daisy Troop 146 (Gr. K-1) with leaders Heather Rowe, Andrea Walker and Abbey Nataluk is meeting at New Suncook School on Fridays, 2:30 -4:00. The girls are working on their Daisy petals and several other badges. Brownie Troop 3149 (Gr. 2 & 3) with leaders Trish Stearns and Linda Libby is meeting at New Suncook School on Wednesdays 2:30-4:00. These girls are working on the Girl Scout Way, My Best Self, and a cookie sale badge plus the Brownie Quest Journey. Junior Troop 208 (Gr. 4 & 5) with leaders Susie Mosca, and Trish Stearns is now also meeting at New Suncook School Wednesdays 2:30-4:00. Both the Brownie and Junior troops will be meeting in the Art Room at the same time as two leaders are required and Trish Stearns will be away for several weeks. The Junior Troop was registered to attend a GSME event called "Fizzing and Exploding Science Overnight" in Portland Jan. 18-19. However, the event was cancelled due to bad weather. Cadette Troop 67 (Gr. 6-8) with leaders Linda Libby, Chaz Reed, Anna Mosca, Sue Mosca and Kari Reed are meeting the first Monday evening of each month at the Fryeburg Congregational Church 5:45-7:00 plus an occasional Sunday afternoon. These girls are working on their Book Artist and New Cuisine badges, Breathe Journey and requirements for the Silver Award. They are also registered for a GSME event "World Thinking Day" Feb. 14-16 at Pondicherry GS site in So. Bridgton. The Senior/Ambassador Troop 58 (Gr. 9-12) with leaders Megan Hamlin, Anne Trumbull and Tabitha Blood is meeting the first and third Monday evenings of the month at the Fryeburg Congregational Church, 5:45-7:00. A Lovell World Thinking Day event will be held on Feb. 12 in the Art Room at New Suncook School so all the girls are picking a country to learn about for their presentation. On Feb. 29, Lovell Girl Scouts will be sponsoring a Flea Market at Lovell UCC (including a cookie sale booth), 9:00-1:30. Troop 58 will be serving lunch and the LUCC Ladies Circle will be having a bake sale.. Scouts still continue their returnable bottle/can collection (please be sure containers are returnable) at

Lovell UCC, or donations may be left at Woitko's Redemption Center on McNeil Road. Contact Linda Libby, Lovell Organizer/Recruiter, 925-3661 or trout@fairpoint.net for local and service unit information.

Also, contact Linda to rent a \$10 table at the Feb. 29 Flea Market & Bake Sale.

COMMITTEE NEWS

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Our Sunday School classes meet every Sunday at 9:00 am. New students are welcome at any time. We offer classes for ages preK-Grade 5. Youth Group for grades 5-12 meets on Sunday afternoon from 2:00-4:00 at LUCC. All are welcome! FMI about any CE programs, contact the church office.

MISSIONS COMMITTEE

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the annual Christmas baskets. We are so grateful for the donations of food, toys and money to put together 25 overflowing baskets. They each included a complete holiday meal as well as toys for the children and a family bible, given in memory of John Carter.

We ended the year sending donations to 12 different outreach programs in our area. None of this would be possible without the generous support of our congregation and community!

We have our ongoing food donation for the local pantries; donations of non perishable food are always welcome.

The Circuit Rider submission deadline for March is February 9th.

Ongoing Programs

PRESCHOOL

Childcare is provided during worship every Sunday if needed.

CHILDREN (PreK- Grade 5)

Sunday School classes for all ages are offered every week from 9:00-10:00 am. All are welcome to join any time September-May.

YOUTH GROUP (Middle School & High School)

This group meets September-May and is open to all youth in grades 5-12. FMI contact the church office.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

This group meets at Vicki Royer's home on the 2nd & 4th Tuesday of each month (Oct-June). 6:30-9:00 pm. FMI contact Vicki at 925-1444.

MUSIC-CHOIR

Choir rehearsals are held Wednesday evenings from 7:00-8:00 pm and the choir participates in worship every Sunday. Handbells rehearse at 10:00 am.



LADIES CIRCLE

This group meets on the second Tuesday of each month for a business meeting and throughout the year for special programs and events. All ladies are welcome to come as their schedule permits. FMI contact Linda Libby at 925-3661 or Carolyn Carter at 928-2080.

STAY IN TOUCH

COME SEE US

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PO Box 232
Lovell, ME 04051

CALL US

(207)925-1321 (office)
(207)925-1207 (Pastor's Study)



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