

Lovell United Church of Christ

1174 Main St., Lovell, Maine



December 2020

January 2021

The Circuit Rider

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



The Christmas season is upon us. Advent starts on November 29th – four weeks of waiting and watching. I do hope this year amidst all that has been happening that you have been filled with God's presence, God's peace and God's love.

Down on the farm we have been busy checking and fixing fences, filling barns with hay, generally getting ready for winter. The animals are all growing thick winter coats and I think they are relieved that bug season is over. I wonder what they will have to say on Christmas Eve?

According to legend, Christ's birth occurred at exactly midnight. Inside the stable, the animals watched in wonder as the new-born babe was lovingly wrapped in swaddling clothes and placed in a manger. Suddenly, God gave voice to the animals and immediately they began to praise God for the miracle they had just seen. This went on for several minutes. Then the shepherds arrived. They had been told by the angels that Christ was born in the stable. The animals again fell silent. I wonder what our animals might have to say?

I find that if you listen carefully, the animals will tell you what is important. Usually it is not with words but with gestures and expressions. Then there is a way I have connected with my barn friends that feels like a heart to heart connection. It is like listening from the inside not just with our ears.

I find that this is how I listen for whispers of God. It is a feeling, a sensation and then my mind captures the thoughts. Prayer is our expression of our love for God. I invite you all to take time to enter the silence and to pray as we wait and watch for Jesus, the Christ, to come to the stable in Bethlehem under the light of a star.

A poem/prayer by Ellen Frances Gilbert

Let me be quiet now and kneel,
Who never knelt before,
Here, where the leaves paint patterns light
On a leaf-strewn forest floor.
For I, who saw no God at all
In sea or earth or air,
Baptized by Beauty, now look up
To see God everywhere.



Hope you all find many blessing from God this season.

Have a wonderful and Merry Christmas,

Pastor Lois

The LUCC Cabinet has come up with something new and different this year for **Christmas card exchange!** Instead of our usual Christmas card mailbox in the vestry, we will be using a bulletin board. After Thanksgiving the board at the bottom of the stairs will be decorated and ready for you to tack up your Christmas card to share your holiday greetings with fellow parishioners. It will be fun to see the beautiful cards and watch the collection grow!

CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

MONDAYS

9:00-2:00 Secretary's hours

9:00-12:00 Pastor's Hours

WEDNESDAYS

Bell Choir rehearsal 10:30 am

9:00-2:00 Secretary's hours

9:00-12:00 Pastor's Hours

SATURDAYS

AA meetings via Zoom

Call Pastor Lois FMI

SUNDAYS

Sunday School 9:00

Worship 10:30 am

SUNDAY, Dec 6 & Jan 3

Communion Service

SUNDAY, Dec 13 & Jan 10

Deacon's meeting 11:45

MONDAY, Dec 14 & Jan 11

Missions mtg. 10:30 am

Trustees meeting 7:00 pm

Christian Ed Meeting 6:00 pm

MONDAY, Dec 21 & Jan 18

Cabinet meeting 7:00

THURSDAY, Jan 28

Circuit Rider 9:00



**Wednesday and Saturday
from 10:00-2:00
DONATION SHED IS OPEN!**

We are limited to 5 customers at a time and face coverings need to be worn. We continue to receive LOTS of great merchandise. Stop by and see!

**\$2 Bag Sale on the last Wednesday & Saturday
of each month**

Help needed.

Please call the church office if you can help- 925-1321.



The Season of Advent is a time for reflection, for prayers and meditation as we prepare for Christ's coming.

Week 1: For such a time as this, God's Love becomes flesh. Again.

For such a time as this, a child is born to us. Again.

No ear has yet heard, no eye has yet seen God's glory fully revealed. and so we wait. We know not when or where or how our Hope will be made manifest a so we watch.

FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS, KINDLE OUR HOPE.

Week 2: Even now, the Peaceful One is drawing near. Even now, the day of our salvation is at hand. The God who comforts us speaks tenderly to her people. The Shepherd who feeds us longs to take us into his arms. While we watch and wait for steadfast love and faithfulness to meet...

FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS, WE ARE CALLED TO MAKE PEACE.

Week 3: In times like ours, joy can be hard to summon. In times like ours, joy can be hard even to imagine. And still the season beckons us to make merry. And yet the scriptures tell us to "rejoice always" ...Even as we watch and wait and aren't sure what's coming. Advent invites us to rejoice in all the ways God's love is with us.

FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS, MAY OUR JOY BE FULL.

Week 4: Into our tumultuous times, the Love of God breaks in. Into our fearful times, the glory of God is revealed. Sometimes it announces itself. Other times we must look high and low. Sometimes we recognize it. Other times we walk right past it, lost in ourselves. Love's in need of willing hearts. Love's in need of the smallest opening

FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS, MAY YOUR LOVE BE BORN IN US.

Christmas Eve: Because God so loves the world, this beautiful and broken world, this divided and distanced world, this warming and burning world, this lost and hurting world, God's love is made flesh. For such a time as this, a child is born unto us. For such a time as this, the light of Christ shines upon us...On this holy night, the one we've been watching for is here. On this holy night, the time we've been waiting for is now. Let us rejoice together! Glory to God in the highest, and peace and goodwill to all!

FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS, THE CHRIST CHILD COMES TO US. FOR SUCH AS TIME AS THIS, GOD'S LOVE IS BORN IN US. JOY TO THE WORLD!

Excepts from: The Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund Offering Guide

www.christmasfund.org

Lovell Girl Scouts

The Lovell Girl Scouts continue their collection of returnable bottles and cans. Please be sure they are returnable and place them in the receptacles outside at LUCC. **Girl Scouting has been given Green Designation now to hold meetings for all ages. For more information contact Linda Libby at 925-3661.**

COMMITTEE NEWS

MISSIONS COMMITTEE

Many thanks for the generous contributions of frozen meals. If you, or someone you know, is in need of a meal please call the church office. We are happy to help!

We continue our ongoing food collection for the local pantries; donations of non-perishable food are always welcome. Donations bins are located in the church vestry.

Ongoing Programs

Most ongoing programs are
ON HOLD FOR NOW!



CHILDREN (PreK- Grade 5)

Childcare is provided during worship every Sunday if needed.

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. **Resumed 9/13!**

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.

Resumed week of 10/27 at the church

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.

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.

STAY IN TOUCH

COME SEE US

1174 Main St.
PO Box 232
Lovell, ME 04051

CALL US

(207)925-1321 (office)



Follow us on Facebook

VISIT US ONLINE

www.lovellucc.org

Email:

lucc@fairpoint.net

The Circuit Rider submission deadline for February is January 17th.



News from the Thrift Shop

Our LUCC Thrift Shop is open twice a week on Wednesday and Saturday from 10:00-2:00. More help is needed during open hours as well as off hours sorting merchandise. Email Tia at jh3081@verizon.net or call the church office 925-1321, if this interests you.

Please note the following changes for the holiday season:

11/25 CLOSED

11/20 Worker Appreciation Sale day

11/21 & 28 \$2/Bag Sale

12/16 & 19 \$2/Bag Sale



Drive- up Holiday Sale

at the
Lovell United Church of Christ
1174 Main St.
Lovell, ME 04051

Balsam wreaths and berry bowls

Saturday, December 5th

10:00-12:00

**You can pre-order your wreaths and
berry bowls by calling Elsa Newhouse at
928-3100**



YOU'RE INVITED

Let's Light Up Lovell! If you live or run a business along Main St., we invite you to put up some festive holiday lights this year and join the fun.

On Saturday, December 5th, they will light the town Tree at the Charlotte Hobbs Memorial Library. We hear there may even be a special visitor there waving to folks as they pass by!



Take a drive along Main St. to see the lights and stop by the Lovell United Church of Christ between 4:30 and 5:30 to pick up a special treat.

We hope you will come out and enjoy the holiday cheer!

