

Lovell United Church of Christ

1174 Main St., Lovell, Maine



December 2021
January 2022

The Circuit Rider



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



It is December already – can you believe it?! The end of another year and I hope this year you have been filled with God's presence, God's peace and God's love. Now we begin the season of Advent – waiting and watching. As we watch and wait, I truly hope you know that you are God's beloved.

Down on the farm, I have noticed those sleek summer coats of the equine are thicker and fuller. The goats are the same – long coats to stay warm in the months to come. The sheep with their deep fuzzy wool coats are twice their size as they are after spring shearing. Each animal still looks for his or her daily scratch or hug. They know the importance of relationship and faithfulness. I pray that all of you will find time to enjoy every day as a gift of God's love.

I am sure many of you have heard this story. 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.

The legend of the talking animals persists to this day in Scandinavia. And every Christmas Eve, wide-eyed children creep into stables just before midnight to hear the animals.

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.

These are the Gospel readings for the Sundays of Advent. Please read them with your hearts as well as your minds.

1. Luke 21:25-36 – Sign of things to come
2. Luke 3:1-6 – Make ready
3. Luke 3:7-18 – Look Forward
4. Luke 1:39-55 – Moving with Mary's song

I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas season.

God bless you, everyone,
Pastor Lois

P.S. Happy New Year



Holiday Sale

Lovell United Church of Christ

1174 Main St.

Lovell, Maine

Saturday, December 4th

10:00-12:00

***Wreaths, berry bowls, fir pillows, gifts,
and a bake sale***

Sponsored by the Lovell United Church of Christ Ladies Circle



11/28 First Sunday of Advent. 10:30 am worship

12/5 Second Sunday of Advent. 10:30 am worship. Bring a sandwich for lunch. Soup will be provided. We'll decorate the sanctuary and vestry Christmas trees.

12/12 Third Sunday of Advent. 10:30 am worship. 5:00 pm potluck supper followed by a carol sing-a-long.

12/19 Fourth Sunday of Advent. 10:30 am worship.

12/24 Christmas Eve service at 7:00 pm.

1/9 Epiphany Celebration. Join us for worship at 10:30 followed by a lunch (bring your own sandwich) and we will all work together to take down the Christmas decorations around the church.



Merry Christmas!

Ladies Circle

At the Nov. 9 Circle meeting, the 2022 calendar was reviewed and several changes were made. Starting in January, meetings will still be held on the second Tuesday of each month, however, the time will be changed to 10:30am. The ladies voted to give a total of \$1100 in Holiday gifts plus another donation to Daisy Girl Scout Troop 146 to cover part of the cost of uniforms. Another decision that was made was to add a food table to the Dec. 4 Holiday Sale, 10:00-12:00. The sale will now include not only greens but fir pillows, gifts and food. After the business meeting, the ladies worked on several projects for the Holiday Sale. The next Ladies Circle gathering will be for their annual Christmas Celebration to be held Dec. 14. 12:00 noon at AJ's for lunch and a gift exchange. The Sunshine Lady, Nancy Olmsted, continues to send cards each month as needed. There are no membership requirements for Ladies Circle so all are welcome to join the group on the second Tuesday of each month as schedules allow. For further information, contact Linda Libby at 925-3661 or trout@fairpoint.net or Carolyn Carter at 928-2080 or cecarter1994@gmail.com

Lovell Girl Scouts

Daisy Troop 146 has met three times, 2:45-4:00, on Mondays, in the Art Room at New Suncook School with leaders, Danielle Moore and Linda Libby. There are now eight girls in the troop so another adult volunteer is really needed. Brownie Troop 3149 has started meetings on Tuesdays also in the Art Room with leaders Andrea Walker, Andrea Goodwin and Abbey Nataluk. Junior Troop 280 with three girls needs leadership and does not have a schedule yet. C/S/A Troop 58 with leaders Megan Hamlin, Tabitha Blood, Heather Jean and Abbey Nataluk is meeting on the 1st and 3rd Mondays 5:45-7:00 at Lovell UCC. Their annual pie sale on Nov. 14 was a success. Lovell Girl Scout troops are still accepting registrations for the upcoming year. Age levels remain the same: Daisy Troop 146 – Grades K & 1, Brownie Troop 3149 – Grades 2 & 3, Junior Troop 208 – Grades 4 & 5, C/S/A Troop 58 – Grades 6-12. New and renewing registrations can be completed at girlscoutsofmaine.org. Just be sure you include the word troop with the troop number. For further information, please contact Linda Libby at 925-3661 or trout@fairpoint.net

COMMITTEE NEWS

CHRISTMAS DECORATION COMMITTEE

Have you driven by our little church lately? If so, you may have noticed how lovely it looks all decorated for Christmas. We hope you enjoy the lights and that you will join us for an Advent event or anytime for worship. 10:30 am on Sunday mornings.

MISSIONS

We are making plans for our Community Christmas Baskets. If you, or someone you know, needs a little assistance this holiday season please reach out to Pastor Lois at 925-1321.

We have frozen meals to pick up or deliver to those in need of them. Call the church office for more information.

We are now accepting donations new puzzles for all ages and adult size white socks for Christmas projects.

LUCC Thrift Shop OPEN WEDNESDAYS & SATURDAYS 10:00-2:00

We continue to receive LOTS of great merchandise. Stop by and see!

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

***From now until Christmas, any item that is Red or Green is ½ off. Bonus \$2/Bag
Sale on Christmas/Holiday items on December 18 & 21.
December 29 will be a FREE Christmas/Holiday item day!***

CLOSED

**Wednesday,
November 24th
\$2 sale on
11/27 & 12/1**

Ongoing Programs

CHILDREN

Bible School classes for children in grades K-6 are offered once per month, October-May for 2021-2022. Call the church office for more information.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

This group meets at Vicki Royer's home on the 2nd & 4th Tuesday of each month (Oct-May). 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

MUSIC-HANDBELLS

Handbells rehearse Mondays at 10:30 am. Bell Ringers wanted! Call the church FMI 925-1321.

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.

SENIOR FELLOWSHIP

The Gathering Place is not meeting, at this time.

Lovell United Church of Christ

Sunday Worship 10:30 am

www.lovellucc.org

Rev. Lois Amidon, Pastor

Dan Moore, Director of Music

Heather Sawin, Office Administrator



We hope you enjoy the Christmas lights as you drive by our little church this season. Please come by and join us for any or all of the activities listed in this newsletter.

We wish you a season of joy and peace.

STAY IN TOUCH



Follow us on Facebook

VISIT US ONLINE

www.lovellucc.org

Email:

info@lovellucc.org

COME SEE US

1174 Main St.

PO Box 232

Lovell, ME 04051

CALL US

(207)925-1321 (office)

Pastor's Hours:

Monday 10:00-1:00

Wednesday 10:00-1:00

**Other hours available by appointment*

Office Administrator's hours:

Monday 9:00-2:00

Wednesday 9:00-2:00

Office 925-1321

Do you enjoy receiving this monthly newsletter? Did you know it is sent to all postal patrons in Lovell as well as people in other towns on our mailing list? Your contributions are always welcome to help defray the cost of this mailing.

Please send any donations to:

Lovell United Church of Christ

PO Box 232

Lovell, ME 04051

Indicate "Circuit Rider" on your check

Thanks for your help!

**The Circuit Rider submission
deadline for February is
January 19th**



NEW! Monthly Bible School for children in grades K-6. Join us from 9:00-10:00 on the third Sunday of each month. Upcoming lessons are listed below. You can join any time, and all are welcome! Please call the church office at 925-1321 or Carolyn Carter at 928-2080 to register your child.

- Nov. 21: Sukkot: Thanksgiving in the Bible
- Dec. 19: The Mysteries of the Wise Men (Christmas theme)
- Jan. 16: Feeding of the 5000 OR the miracle of the fish (Calling of the first disciples.)
- Feb. 20: Jesus' healing ministry. (Blind Bartimaeus)
- Mar. 20: The bravery of Queen Esther (celebration of Purim)
- Apr. 10: This is Palm Sunday (Palm Sunday and Easter theme)
- May 15: David and Goliath (will not be scary)

We hope you will enjoy this family Advent Calendar to celebrate the season!

advent

CALENDAR

Perform a random act of kindness 	 two Donate food to a local food bank	Have a coloring contest 	four Buy socks for a homeless shelter 	 5 Watch a favorite holiday movie
Make or buy a new Christmas ornament 	Let someone go in front of you in line seven	8 Clean out and donate outgrown toys 	Build a snowman out of cotton balls 	Take cupcakes to your local fire department 10
 Decorate a gingerbread house eleven	Help wrap a Christmas present 	thirteen Leave a happy note for someone to find 	Have a game night in your PJs 14	Make paper snowflakes 15
Drink hot cocoa 	17 Make Christmas cards 	Bake Christmas cookies 	Sing Christmas carols 	Take a family photo in front of the Christmas tree twenty
Read your favorite Christmas story 	Take a car tour of your local light displays 22	Deliver Christmas cards to your neighbors 	Watch or attend a Christmas Eve service twenty-four	Read the Nativity story 25