

Lovell United Church of Christ

1174 Main St., Lovell, Maine



Jan/Feb 2023

The Circuit Rider

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



No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you're welcome here...



Friends,

Donna and I want to thank you for the wonderful reception we have received since our return to the church and the Lovell community. We appreciate the many expressions of welcome and during the holiday the many Christmas cards we have received. Our first two months back here in Lovell and with our "home" church has truly been a home-coming! No matter where our journey took us, we always considered the Lovell United Church of Christ as our "home" church.

Now that we are back and are getting settled, after 36 years away we can see how things have changed in the church and town, yet there is still that same caring community spirit and sense of place that has made this home for us during our childhood and early adult years.

It is the similar in the worship and ministry life of the church. The church, if it wants to remain relevant, must stay up with the times and proactively make changes in light of shifts in culture and technology. The church like all organizations needs to adapt its methods and ways of doing and being the church.

But while the church's *methods* may need to adapt to new cultural expressions, the core *message of our faith has not changed*. The faith that we profess is constant and sure. It was the Apostle Paul writing to Titus a co-worker in the faith who encourages us with these words:

This is a trustworthy saying. And I want you to stress these things, so that those who have trusted in God may be careful to devote themselves to doing what is good. These things are excellent and profitable for everyone. Titus 3:8

A faith that spurs us on to acts of love and service to others is a constant. Whether its 36 years or 20 centuries, typewriter and mimeograph, or tablet and color printer, organ or electric guitars, medieval chants or contemporary praise music, faith worked out in acts of love is at the heart of what the church is about!

So, I am looking forward to 2023 knowing that I am only stepping into a constant stream of faithfulness that was flowing when I arrived. There will be challenges but with the hope and faith that as we devote ourselves to "doing what is good" we will be fulfilling what Jesus said was the greatest commandment: *Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.* The second is this: *'Love your neighbor as yourself.'* Mark 12:30-31

Yours in service together,

Pastor Neil Wilson

Ladies Circle

Our Sunshine Lady, Nancy Olmsted, continues to send cards where there is a need. The Kitchen Clean-Up volunteer for January is Nancy Olmsted. The Snowflake Fair was held on Dec. 3, 10-12, and included sale of greens, berry bowls, gifts, food and the recently added Thrift Shop Christmas Loft. To date, the profit is over \$2100. A take-out lunch was offered by the Mission Committee. The Circle's Christmas Celebration took place on Dec. 13, 12:00, at The Olde Mill Tavern in Harrison. Seventeen people attended. A special invitation was extended to the Thrift Shop staff, Jan Newhouse and Pastor Neil and Donna. The New Year Gathering was canceled for 2022 but left on the calendar for 2023. The January 10 meeting included election of officers for 2023 with Bingo as the program. Fruit Basket delivery is scheduled for the weekend of January 21-22. February 14 will be the date of the Valentine Tea, 1:00-3:00, and coordinated by Sue Clout and Sue DeWire. There are no membership requirements for Ladies Circle, so all are welcome to join the group as schedules allow.

Contacts: Carolyn Carter 928-2080, cecarter1994@gmail.com or Linda Libby 925-3661, lindalibby12345@outlook.com

Lovell Girl Scouts

Daisy Troop 146 is meeting each Monday, 2:30-4:00, at New Suncook School in the Art Room with the same eight girls as last year and leaders Danielle Coe, Samantha Bennett and Linda Libby.

Brownie/Junior Troop 3149 is meeting each Tuesday, 2:30-4:00, with leaders Andrea Walker and Andrea Goodwin, in the New Suncook School Community Room. Both these troops are looking forward to the Jan. 21 GSME "Camp Inside-Out" ZOOM event to be held at Lovell UCC, 3:30-8:30. A Court of Awards for Brownies and Juniors will be held and these girls will also be staying overnight. Plans are also being made for the Jan. 28 Cookie Rally to be held at Lake Region High School. Troop 58 for girls in grades 6-12 with leaders Tabitha Blood and Linda Libby are still in the process of getting started. There will be once per month meetings with pizza to start. Dates tba. All Lovell Girl Scout troops are still accepting registrations for the upcoming year. Contact: Linda Libby 925-3661 lindalibby12345@outlook.com

COMMITTEE NEWS

Christian Education

Evening Bible Study 2022-23

For a different type of Bible Study, we will be viewing "The Chosen", a DVD that looks at the stories and back stories of the New Testament as they might have happened. The Chosen will be shown on a big screen with closed captioning. There will be no book for this study. A group discussion with prepared questions will follow the video. The study will be the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month, starting October 11, 2022. We will be meeting in the vestry/lower level of the Lovell United Church of Christ. Come join us for fellowship and fun while learning more about this interesting view of Jesus and the Disciples from a fresh (but scripturally based) perspective. To sign up and for more information call Vicki Royer at 925-1444.



DRIVE-UP LUNCH

SATURDAY, JANUARY 28th

AT THE

LOVELL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

1174 MAIN ST., LOVELL, MAINE

10:00-1:00

\$5 PER PERSON

Chili, corn muffin & dessert

**Just drop by or call Joyce at
928-3132 to reserve your meal**

***All proceeds from this lunch will
benefit the Sunshine Backpack Food
Program serving the children of
MSAD #72***



Bible Adventures will happen next on Sunday, February 12th. Children ages K-6 are invited to join us at 9:00 am. Classes will be held once a month through May. For more information, call the church office at 925-1321.

MISSIONS

Many thanks to everyone that stepped up to help make this year's Christmas Baskets beautiful and filled with love. We were able to provide a complete holiday meal, breakfast items and treats for 14 families this year along with gifts for the adults and the children. We continue to collect items for the local food pantries. Donations can be dropped off in the vestry at any time. Soon we will have some emergency boxes of non-perishable food available in addition to our frozen meals. If you, or someone you know, could use a little food assistance, please let us know. Watch this newsletter in the coming months for information about an Easter Bake Sale. We have fantastic bakers in our midst and you won't want to miss it!

ONGOING PROGRAMS

CHILDREN

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

EVENING BIBLE STUDY

This group meets 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 Sunday mornings at 9:30 am followed by the choir's participation in worship.

MUSIC-HANDBELLS

Handbells rehearse Mondays from 9:00-10:00 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.

Pastor's office hours:

Monday 9:00-1:00
Wednesday 9:00-1:00
Email: pastor@lovellucc.org
Call or text (260)849-1512

Office Administrator's hours:

Monday 9:00-2:00
Wednesday 9:00-2:00
Office 925-1321

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 the last Wednesday and Saturday of each month. Follow us on Facebook for additional sales.

Thrift Shop Lovell United Church of Christ

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)

Lovell United Church of Christ

Sunday Worship 10:30 am

www.lovellucc.org

Rev. Neil H. Wilson, Pastor

Dan Moore, Director of Music

Heather Sawin, Office Administrator



To Pastor Neil and the Congregation of Lovell UCC,

Thank you all for your prayers, your hugs, your kind words, and your friendship as I travel this new stage of life. And thank you for sharing your memories of Danny. They mean so much to me.

Love to you all, Geneva



Winter Tea Party

Lovell United Church of Christ
1174 Main St., Lovell, Maine 04051

Tuesday, February 14, 2023 1:00-3:00 pm

The Ladies Circle of the Lovell United Church of Christ is hosting a winter tea with a Valentine Theme. Please call Sue Clout at 925-6875 to reserve your space.

Regular and decaffeinated tea, sandwiches, scones and sweets will be served.

There will be a group picture (with our hats on, of course!) and the fun won't stop there. You'll be entertained by music and readings during the afternoon. Cards will be provided for anyone who would like to help fill out some Valentines for the residents of the Maine Veterans Home.

Please join us! It's sure to be a lovely afternoon.



Join us for a Shrove Tuesday pancake supper on Tuesday, February 21st. 5:00 pm as we prepare for the season of Lent. All are welcome!

*Gluten free and dairy free options will be available

The Circuit Rider submission deadline for March is February 12th.