

Lovell United Church of Christ
PO Box 232
Lovell, ME 4051

The Circuit Rider

April 2024



Sunday worship 10:30 am **Church office: (207)925-131** **Email: info@lovellucc.org**

Dear friends,

There is a lot of talk about the upcoming Solar Eclipse on Monday, April 8. Do you have any plans to observe it? Any plans to travel north like to Houlton, or Millinocket, to get the experience the totality? Perhaps you're just going to go about your business, what's the big deal anyway?

Over the centuries solar eclipses have been interpreted in a variety of ways by different cultures and religions. The Mayans considered solar eclipses as the struggle of the Sun and the Moon, day and night, or the good and the bad, and the evil powers were winning during an eclipse.

Some early Native American tribes would shoot flaming arrows at the eclipsed sun in an attempt to relight it.

In the Judeo-Christian Scriptures are many verses which point to solar eclipses as portents. The prophet Joel warned his listeners, *"The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord."*

In Mark's Gospel the author writes that Jesus says, *"But in those days, following that distress, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light;"*

The scientific cause of this phenomenon has been understood for at least 3,000 years. The Babylonians kept records of the movements of the celestial bodies calculating the date and time of future eclipses. Still in medieval centuries superstition predominated the Christian view of eclipses.

Even as recently as 2017 a prominent Christian leader wrote this about a solar eclipse, "The celebratory nature regarding the eclipse brings to my mind the Babylonian King Belshazzar who threw a drunken feast the night the Medes and Persians crept under the city gate. Therefore, my perspective on the upcoming phenomenon is not celebratory. While no one can know for sure if judgment is coming on America, it does seem that God is signaling us about something. Time will tell what that something is."



INSIDE this Issue

A note from the Pastor

Focus on Missions-
Spring Bake sale on back page

Easter worship schedule

Upcoming Drive-up lunch

Committee News

Updates from Ladies Circle & Girl
Scouts

Ongoing programs

Thrift Shop information

Ways to keep in touch!

But it isn't all doom and gloom. In some cultures, it was about romance! Australian Aborigines, saw the Sun as a woman who carries a torch, and the Moon was regarded as male. A solar eclipse was interpreted as the Moon-man uniting with the Sun-woman. In German mythology, the hot female Sun and cold male Moon were married. Seeking companionship, the Moon was drawn to his bride thus, a solar eclipse.

You watch, April 8th will dawn cloudy, and it will rain all afternoon! If so, what sort of sign will that be? Or better yet... it will snow 8-10 inches! Sorry, the fatalistic old New Englander came out on that one!

Whatever comes that day or this month, enjoy the warmer days, the longer evening hours of daylight, the blooming of flowers, wild and cultivated, find blessing in things ordinary and significant. God is in them all, even in the movements of the universe which give us eclipses to enjoy.



Pastor Neil Wilson

DID YOU KNOW - Lovell UCC supports the Lovell and Sweden Food Pantries with monthly food donations. Non-perishable food can be dropped in containers in the church vestry (please check dates on all donated items. NO expired food please). Members of our church deliver the items to Sweden Pantry the 1st and 3rd week and the Lovell Pantry the 2nd and 4th week of each month. This is a great way to help our communities.

*Worship With Us
This Easter*



3/28 Maundy Thursday
6:00 pm service with Tenebrae

3/29 Prayer Vigil 9:00 am-9:00 pm.
Call the church office to sign up for a time slot.

3/31 Easter Sunday
Sunrise service 6:30 am *call the church office for location
10:30 am worship at LUCC.

**JOIN US
for
LUNCH**

DRIVE-UP LUNCH
SATURDAY, MARCH 30
AT THE
LOVELL UNITED CHURCH OF
CHRIST
1174 MAIN ST., LOVELL, MAINE
10:00-1:00
\$5 PER PERSON

Chili, crackers and a cookie

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

**All proceeds from this lunch will
be donated to the Sunshine
Backpack Food Program serving
the students of MSAD #72.**

Thank you for your support!



TRUSTEES The Lovell UCC Board of Trustees will be meeting Tuesday, March 20, 7:00pm, in person and with ZOOM thanks to Kathy Dunham and Pastor Neil. This meeting will include financial reports, investment reports, old business and new business. Items remaining on the "to do" list are: generator (tabled until May), ZOOM for meetings, possible purchase of a new stove and updating The Lovell UCC Policies and Procedures Book. The next regular meeting is scheduled for 7:00pm on April 8.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION Bible Adventures for April will be held on the 7th from 9:00-10:00 am for children age 4 and up. Call the church office for more information.



Ladies Circle The Kitchen Clean-Up volunteer for March was Linda Libby, and Carolyn Carter is responsible in April. At the March 12 meeting, hostesses were Carolyn Carter and Nancy Olmsted. The refreshments were made by ladies using original recipes used in a 1976 church cookbook. After the business meeting, the ladies enjoyed some delicious refreshments then shared some show & tell items. The only item on our project list is ordering name plates to be added to chairs. The group voted to only add an item to the project list if the previous item has been finished. The next regular meeting is scheduled for April 9 with Sue DeWire as hostess. Each lady attending is to bring a recommendation. This could be food, restaurant, trip, cleaning idea, etc. 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



Girl Scouts Daisy Girl Scout Troop 146 and Brownie Troop 58 continue to be busy at their regular *Girl Scout Sunday* Monday, 2:30-4:00, meetings in the Art Room at New Suncook School. The annual cookie sale has ended with delivery scheduled for March 23. Because the Apple Mountain Service Unit Birthday Bash was cancelled due to low registration, the Lovell troops held their own "Birthday Bash" enjoying the traditional Girl Scout activities that were planned for at the unit event. Frosting cupcakes (and eating them), making sit-upons, friendship pins, Kim's game and assembling Birthday Bags to donate to the Lovell Food Pantry as a service project. Troop 3149 for girls in grades 4-7 continues to meet on Fridays, 2:30-4:00, in the Art Room. These girls and leaders tried to spend an overnight at Lovell UCC on March 9-10 but it was interrupted by a snowstorm and power outage. At least they were able to enjoy their Saturday night activities. The March 10 Girl Scout Sunday at Lovell UCC was also cancelled due to the power outage. Registrations for girls age 5, but not starting school until fall, are being accepted after April 1. For more information, contact Linda Libby, 925-3661 or lindalibby12345@outlook.com.

Ongoing programs:



CHILDREN

Bible Adventure classes for children in grades K-6 are offered once per month, November-May.

Call the church office for more information.

EVENING BIBLE STUDY

This group meets on the 2nd & 4th Wednesday 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 Wednesdays from 9:30-10:30 and perform during worship monthly.

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.



OPEN WEDNESDAYS & SATURDAYS

10:00-2:00

\$2/Bag sale the last Wednesday and Saturday of each month. Follow us on Facebook for additional sales.

HELP WANTED

**Do you ever have an hour or so to spare?
Want to meet new people, and make new friends while getting a bit of exercise (as much or as little as you want)?
Drop by the church almost any Tuesday or Thursday morning between 8-10 or so, and join in the fun. And we do have fun!
The task is sorting the generous donations which come in daily to the Thrift Shop donation shed. Many are priceless treasures; some things we never do figure out! The Thrift Shop is a huge community outreach project which grows continually, as well as being a major source of church funding. Projects are available both indoors and outdoors, sitting or standing or doing the stairs.
All are welcome!**

Rev. Neil H. Wilson, Pastor

Pastor's office hours:

Monday 9:00-1:00

Wednesday 9:00-1:00

Email: pastor@lovellucc.org

Call or text (260)849-1512

Heather Sawin, Office Administrator

Office Administrator's hours:

Monday 9:00-2:00

Wednesday 9:00-2:00

Office 925-1321

Email: info@lovellucc.org

Dan Moore, Director of Music

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: info@lovellucc.org

stayCONNECTED

Don't miss our

Spring Bake Sale!

Details on the back page of this newsletter.

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

