

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

The Circuit Rider

May 2024



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

Dear friends,

Back in March (Maundy Thursday actually) I was invited for the second year to open that day's session of the Maine Senate in prayer. It is always a fascinating experience to wander the halls of the state capital, watching aids scurrying around, seeing little groups of legislators gathering to discuss a matter of some importance to them. I spent some time talking with the honorary pages for the day, a group of 7th and 8th graders from Perry, Maine. I was able to find and speak to my former wrestling coach at Fryeburg Academy. He is a representative from House District 139 (Waterboro area).

While they may have their differences of opinion and understanding of how the state should function and the direction it should be moving (sometimes quite strongly!), I sense a camaraderie that is not often portrayed in the evening reports or 24-hour news networks.

This year there was a young woman from eastern Maine who sang the National Anthem and a Senator lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance. Several high school sports teams were recognized for winning the State championships in their various sports and divisions.

I would like to share with you the opening portion of the prayer I offered that morning.

"Holy One, who is known to us by many names yet one in spirit and desire for all people and your creation. We gather here in a moment of reflection and prayer to acknowledge our need for a wisdom beyond our own, our desire to seek a way more closely in touch with your way and desire for our community, and to reflect the nobler values we can all hold dear."



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I believe this is a prayer that is fitting for more than just our political leaders but for many organizations and groups today, including the church! We can have our strong opinions of many different matters of concern but there are values which should rise above, carry us above, lift us above, our opinions no matter how strong.

Those nobler values of honesty, integrity, truthfulness, goodness, kindness, generosity, values that are neither Republican or Democrat, left or right, conservative, or liberal. I say neither, but they should be the values of all people no matter where you may place yourself on any political, social, or religious spectrum.

I share this with you from my religious tradition:

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

Galatians 5:22-23

Yours in prayer,

Pastor Neil Wilson



12 Easter Bags were packed and distributed to area people to share the love of Christ and our church. Handcrafted bags were purchased from “Designs by Diana” and filled with goodies. Our **Annual Spring Bake Sale** was held on April 20. Thank you to ALL the wonderful bakers. Proceeds will benefit Church World Service kits and blankets for people all over the world. **A Drive Up \$5.00 lunch** is served each month on the last Saturday, 10-12:00. Please be sure to look for Facebook post, the Church Website, and posters for the meal of the month. You can also contact Joyce Furtado. April will be Maine Italians with proceeds benefiting Good Shepherd Food Bank. We are thankful for everyone who makes this happen each month.



JOIN US
for
LUNCH

DRIVE-UP LUNCH
SATURDAY, APRIL 27
AT THE
LOVELL UNITED CHURCH OF
CHRIST
1174 MAIN ST., LOVELL, MAINE
10:00-12:00
\$5 PER PERSON

Ham Italian, chips and a brownie

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

All proceeds from this lunch will
be donated to the Good Shepherd
Food Bank

Thank you for your support!



TRUSTEES The Lovell UCC Board of Trustees met Tuesday, April 8, 7:00pm, in person. ZOOM was not available for that meeting due to internet at the church being down. This meeting also did not include financial reports due to the internet problems. Pastor's report, investment reports, old business and new business were included. Items remaining on the May "to do" list are: generator(s) information, new stove information, and final updating of The Lovell UCC Policies and Procedures Book. The next regular meeting is scheduled for 7:00pm on May 13.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU to our generous snow shoveling volunteers! You all kept our parking lot and walkways clear and safe during the winter months. We appreciate everyone that stepped up to help.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION Bible Adventures for May will be held on the 12th from 9:00-10:00 am for children age 4 and up. Bible Adventure students will be recognized in an end of year moment during worship on the 12th as well. On May 26 we will recognize area graduates during worship. We are currently accepting monetary donations for Church World Service through Mother's Day. In collaboration with the Ladies Circle and the Mission Committee, we will send a donation to purchase hygiene, school, and menstrual kits, clean up buckets and blankets to CWS. Plans are underway for Vacation Bible School. See the back page of this newsletter for more information.



Ladies Circle The Kitchen Clean-Up volunteer for April is Carolyn Carter, and Pat Stearns is responsible in May. At the April 9 meeting, the hostess was Sue DeWire. After the business meeting, the ladies enjoyed some delicious refreshments and a wonderful spa program coordinated by Sue. Our refreshment time actually was a lunch of very healthy foods. The only item on our project list is ordering name plates to be added to chairs. A decision was made to use the wording "In Honor of Ladies Circle" rather than adding names. Also, if you have any Ladies Circle photos, please see that Linda receives them so our albums can be updated. During April, the Circle is coordinating the Church World Service collection for kits and blankets. The next regular meeting is scheduled for May 14 with Sue Clout and Jacky Stearns as hostesses. The May program will be by Sue Clout about her recent trip to Hawaii, etc. The group voted to invite Thrift Shop volunteers to their annual luncheon on June 11. 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 Monday, 2:30-4:00, meetings in the Art Room at New Suncook School. The Daisies are working on petals and Brownies are working on some science badges. The annual cookie sale has ended and deliveries have been made. A huge thank you goes to all who supported our Girl Scouts by purchasing cookies. Income from this sale helps with the cost of uniforms, insignia, and program. Troop 3149 for girls in grades 4-7 continues to meet on Fridays, 2:30-4:00, in the Art Room. Two dates on the GS calendar that involve all our troops are June 1 – Court of Awards-Bridging & Fly-up Ceremony (time tba) and June 8 – Outdoor Skills Day at Pondicherry GS site 9-4. Registrations for girls age 5 but not starting school until fall are currently being accepted for Daisy Troop 146. For more information, contact lindalibby12345@outlook.com. or 925-3661.

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

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VISIT US ONLINE

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Email: info@lovellucc.org

stayCONNECTED

**Don't miss our
annual Vacation Bible School
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**

