



The Circuit Rider 2025

Sunday worship 10:30 am Church office: (207)925-1321 Email: info@lovellucc.org



“Stuck in the muck!”

It happens this time of the year. It's called mud season after all. The once terra firma becomes a squashy muddle down to the frost line. The shoulders of the roadways are ready to swallow your vehicle and bury it “to the axles.” I have been stuck in the muck with a truck. I've also been stuck in the muck with my rubber boots. Whether you are stuck in the muck with a truck or in the goop with your boots, (Whoa, am I channeling Dr. Suess?) I have found that usually you will need assistance freeing yourself. Whether it is a tow truck, or someone to help lift you as you try to break the suction that has an unyielding hold on your boot. It happened recently and so I have been pondering the expression.

I've found sometimes the mud I am stuck in is the muck of life. All “stuff” that can wear on a person, worries over this or that, bills to pay, troubles at work, medical concerns, cultural and societal angst etc. What I've also discovered is that in these circumstances it is helpful to have someone to come along and give me a pull or a shoulder to place a hand on for balance. And here it is beneficial to have a community surrounding you, whether this is a faith community or a small town like we have here in western Maine. When you find yourself “buried up the axles” in life's muck, chances are there is a friend or neighbor who has been in the same predicament and that can be a steady shoulder to lean on or lend a hand to help or perhaps simply an ear to listen.

My faith has been for me like a dependable friend. I think of Matthew 11:28-30, perhaps you are familiar with it.

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.

Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart,
and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

Here at Lovell United Church of Christ at the beginning of worship I will welcome everyone to church saying

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

It is my prayer and hope that as a congregation we will live this out in all of our actions and attitudes. I pray that if you ever find yourself “stuck in the muck” you will find in our church, or in your circle of friends, a shoulder for support or a welcoming hand extended to give you a lift up.

Or perhaps you will actually be “stuck in the muck” and someone will come along with a four-wheel drive and a tow strap!

We can get through this together!

Pastor Neil Wilson



Thank you so much to everyone who
made the Spring/Easter Bake Sale a
HUGE success!
We couldn't do it without you!

The Missions Committee



DRIVE-UP LUNCH
SATURDAY, MAY 31

AT THE
LOVELL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
1174 MAIN ST LOVELL, MAINE
10:00-12:00
\$5 PER PERSON

Chili, corn muffin and a brownie

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

**All proceeds from this lunch will
benefit Good Shepherd Food Bank**



Our Ladies Circle, Christian Education and Mission Committees have joined together to collect donations for **Church World Service**. This is something we support each Spring. If you would like to make a donation before May 11th, please feel free to drop it in the offering plate on Sunday morning, deliver it to the church office or mail it to PO Box 232, Lovell, ME 04051. Please make checks payable to Ladies Circle and put CWS in the memo.

To learn more about the School Kits (\$15 each), Period Packs, menstrual supplies (\$25 each) Clean up buckets (\$75 each), Blanket (\$10) or Hygiene Kits (\$15 each) that Church World Service distributes in areas of need around the world, go to www.cwsglobal.org and look at their Best Gifts catalog.

Donations of any amount are gratefully accepted. If you would like your donation to go towards a particular kit mentioned above, just let us know. Thank you for your support!



for Joyce Furtado

May 24th 5:00-6:30
At the Center Lovell Fire Station

**Chicken parmesan, salad, garlic bread
and dessert (gluten free options available)**
Raffle

**Donations gratefully accepted to defray ongoing
cancer medical expenses**

***Dinner provided by the Lovell United Church of
Christ, Lovell Volunteer Fire Department, Delta
Masonic Lodge and the surrounding community***



TRUSTEES The Lovell UCC Board of Trustees met Monday, April 14, 7:00pm, in person. Because ZOOM has not been needed for recent meetings, it was decided that a Trustee who will not be attending a meeting in person, can contact Kathy Dunham to have Zoom made available. The April meeting included the usual financial reports, investment reports, old business and new business. The "to do" list didn't change this month and still includes Parsonage generator hook-up and checking on Parsonage electricity costs. Both Pastor Neil's Agreement and Dan Moore's Contract as Music Director are now signed and on file in the church office. Also, a confirmation letter has been received by Heather Sawin, Secretary/Bookkeeper. A change in the church's Quickbook program is being looked into. All our fire extinguishers were inspected on April 2, stakes have been removed and arrangements are being made to sweep the sand off the parking lot.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION Bible Adventures for Families will end on 5/11 with class time at 9:00 am and recognition during worship. It's never too late to join us! Evening Bible Study is held on the 2nd & 4th Wednesday evenings of each month at 6:30 pm. Vacation Bible School will be held June 17-June 21 9:30-1:30. Information can be found on the back page of this newsletter. We are currently collecting donations for Church World Service in conjunction with the Ladies Circle and the Missions Committee. Donations will be accepted until May 11th.



LADIES CIRCLE The Kitchen Clean-Up volunteer April is Carolyn Carter and Sue DeWire is responsible for May. Slue DeWire was hostess at the April 8 meeting and also coordinated a wonderful program after where ladies were able to decorate Easter eggs. A thank you also goes to Nancy Olmsted who brought in her beautiful Easter Egg collection. Sunshine Lady, Nancy Olmsted, reported she had sent out fourteen cards during the month. Carolyn Carter and the Circle will coordinate the annual Church World Service project. The Circle is also sponsoring a RADA cutlery sale. Catalogs are available now and all orders must be in to Heather Sawin by May 1. Orders can also be submitted online. It was voted to change the date of the annual pie sale back to the original date of August 2. Linda Libby will be hostess for the May 13 meeting and the program will be open to all of Lovell UCC. Author, Karen McCarthy, will speak about her 23 year as a Catholic nun. Refreshments will be included but business items will be handled by e-mail. Plans for the June 10 luncheon are being made. Linda Johnson will be hostess and hopefully the luncheon will take place at the Olde Mill Tavern in Harrison again. Stay tuned for further information. 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



All our Lovell Girl Scout troops are currently meeting. Daisy Troop 146 is working finishing work on their last three petals and making plans to attend the "Outdoor Skills Day" at Pondicherry on May 31. Troops 58 and 3149 did an overnight at Lovell UCC on March 22. Cookies were delivered that same day, passed out to troops for delivery to customers. Troop 58 held a booth

sale at Lovell UCC on April 12 and Troop 3149 held one at Thrift Way in Fryeburg on April 19. Junior/Cadette Troop 3149 is still planning a trip to Boston May 3 & 4. Lovell leaders met on April 24 to make plans for the end of year June 8th Court of Awards, troop plans, etc. All Apple Mountain Service Unit leaders are invited to the annual recognition dinner on May 9 in Bridgton. Spring registrations for girls and adult volunteers at a reduced fee will be accepted starting May 1 and camp registration is also still open but filling up fast. At least two leaders are required in order for a troop to meet. At this point we are short one leader. Training, registration and a background check is required. For more information, contact lindalibby12345@outlook.com or 925-3661.

GIRL SCOUT COOKIES ARE STILL AVAILABLE! To place an order call Jammie and leave a message at (603)452-8494 or email Linda at lindalibby12345@outlook.com.

Ongoing programs:



CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Bible Adventure classes for families are offered once per month, October-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.

KNITTING AND CRAFTING GROUP

Meets the first Thursday of each month in the vestry, 6:30 pm. Bring a project to work on and join the fun! All are welcome.

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 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



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COME SEE US

1174 Main St.

PO Box 232

Lovell, ME 04051

CALL US

(207)925-1321 (office)

VISIT US ONLINE

www.lovellucc.org

Email: info@lovellucc.org

stayCONNECTED

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

