



The Circuit Rider 2025

Sunday worship 10:30 am

Church office: (207)925-1321 Email: info@lovellucc.org



Dear friends,

By the time you are reading this letter Halloween has passed and all the stores are putting up their Christmas displays. Who am I kidding, they've been advertising and stocking for Christmas for weeks now! I love Christmas as much as the next person but when I see life size plastic Santas and inflatable reindeer by the first of October I turn into a bit of a Scrooge! "Humbug!" I say and grumble loud enough that my wife has to tell me to tone it down a bit!

I will have to admit that perhaps Thanksgiving is my favorite holiday of the year. I believe I mentioned this in a Circuit Rider article a couple of years ago. I like Thanksgiving because it hasn't become quite as commercialized and hyped as Christmas. Even Easter with its marshmallow bunnies and gourmet chocolate eggs has strayed far from its origin!

I guess what I am suggesting is that we make an attempt to go against the flow of things over the next eight weeks or so. That we slow down, enjoy the days, enjoy a quiet time every day, and yes, even enjoy the gatherings and parties and not just fret over them.

A tradition that I started a few years ago is reading Dicken's *A Christmas Carol* during the month of December. Not watching one of the dozens of versions on various streaming networks but appreciate it in Charles Dicken's original prose. There is so much more there to enjoy than could ever be captured in 2-hour screenplay. It is the same with the days and weeks between Thanksgiving and Christmas there is so much more there to enjoy, especially if we can get back to the original script and Author!

In Charles Dickens' original story, Scrooge led by the Ghost of Christmas Present is whisked away to the festivities at his nephew Fred's house. Of this scene Dicken's wrote:

"But they didn't devote the whole evening to music. After a while they played at forfeits; for it is good to be children sometimes, and never better than at Christmas, when its mighty Founder was a child himself."

Perhaps if we paid more attention to the original script and Founder our *holi-day* season might be a bit more meaningful and a little less chaotic.

As it was said of Ebenezer Scrooge, may it be said of us, that we know "...how to keep Christmas well..."

God bless us everyone!

Pastor Neil Wilson



At the Lovell United Church of Christ

**1174 Main St.
Lovell, Maine**

**Saturday, December 6 (as part of the Snowflake Fair)
10:00-12:00**

**Pasta bake, salad and a Christmas cookie for \$5.
(PLEASE contact Nancy at (207)925-1831 to reserve a meal)**

All proceeds benefit the Lovell UCC Community Christmas baskets.

Mark your calendars for this annual event:

Lovell United Church of Christ

Snowflake Fair

1174 Main St./Lovell, Maine

Saturday, December 6, 2025

10:00-1:00

**Balsam wreaths, berry bowls,
Christmas loft, baked goods, raffle, books and gifts!**

Lunch will be available

Sponsored by the LUCC Ladies Circle

***To pre-order a wreath- call the church office (925-1321) on
Monday or Wednesday between 9:00-2:00 and we'll put you on the list.***





TRUSTEES The Lovell UCC Board of Trustees met on Oct. 13. This meeting included the usual financial reports, old business and new business. Plans for snow shoveling and plowing were underway. Thanks to work done by Jan Newhouse, hopefully the basement water problem has been eliminated. No progress was made on plans for a possible Medical Supply Closet. It was recommended that a release form be used and Trustees are looking into how this should be worded. All boards and committees are reminded that budget requests must be submitted to the Trustees by their Nov. 10 meeting. Employee Review forms will also be available for people to complete and return by the Nov. Trustee meeting. Because of some confusion on use of vouchers and our bookkeeping process, it was decided that after the 2026 boards and committees are in place, that a time to explain be scheduled. It was brought to the Trustee's attention that there was a need for a new lap top computer for the Financial Secretary. This was approved and Jr. will look into what is needed and cost. Next Trustee meeting is scheduled for Nov 10 at 7:00pm, For more information, contact Linda Libby 925-3661 or Farwell Sawin, Jr, 925-1517.



LADIES CIRCLE The Kitchen Clean-Up volunteers are Nancy Olmsted for October and Sue DeWire for November. Hostesses for the Oct. 14 meeting were Nancy Olmsted and Donna Wilson and for the November meeting will be Linda Libby. Everyone was reminded that the Veteran's Day, Nov. 11. meeting date has been changed to Nov. 4. All enjoyed the Oct. 14 program of flower arranging by Sarah Sawin Whiton which was really great. The Circle's RADA sale will continue through October with catalogs available in the vestry. The Dec. 6 Snowflake Fair was discussed and table assignments made. It was noted that there will be a raffle of a beautiful holiday calendar made by Sally Morse. The Nov. meeting program will be making bows for the wreaths and finishing other items to sell at the Snowflake Fair. The Missions Committee will be providing the lunch. Some of the ladies will be visiting Jacky Stearns on Wed., Oct. 22, 11:00 as Jacky has been unable to attend meetings. There are no membership requirements for LC 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 continue to meet. Daisy Troop 146 with leaders Jammie Graves and Linda Libby meets on Thursdays and Brownie/Jr. Troop 58 with leaders Vicki Royer and Andrea Walker meets on Mondays both at New Suncook School. Troop 3149 for girls in grades 6 and older with leaders Andrea Walker and Andrea Goodwin meets at Molly Ockett Middle School on Fridays. The Daisy troop made thank you cards with photos of the troop for the Ladies Circle in thanks for their purchase of tunics and insignia. Apple Mountain Service Unit's "Founder's Day Birthday Bash" scheduled for Oct. 18 was cancelled as only seven girls registered. For more information, contact Linda Libby , 925-3661 or lindalibby12345@outlook.com

MISSIONS

CHRISTMAS BASKETS – The Mission Committee will once again be compiling Christmas Food/Gift Baskets for those who could use a little help during the holidays. Please call the church office 207-925-1321 ASAP and speak to Pastor Neil or Heather Sawin to be added to the list.

FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS: The church has bins in the vestry to the left of the entry door, for on-going collection for the Lovell and Sweden Food Pantries. We deliver items monthly to each pantry. This month we encourage everyone to pick up a **can of soup** and a box of **crackers** to donate to the pantries. Neighbors helping neighbors stay warm and fed.

BLESSING SHELF – At the entrance of the Thrift Shop is the Blessing Shelf. The purpose of this shelf is to provide emergency items for anyone in need. Take anything you can use and bring in an item to share if you can. Food items, toiletries, and personal items. PLEASE no large items. Those can be donated to the Thrift Shop.

Ongoing programs:



NEW! "Stories in the Wind" Sunday morning adult bible study held on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month at 9:00 am. The theme is The Parables of Jesus. All are welcome!

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.



Do you love to knit, cross stitch, sew, etc.? Would you like to be inspired to try something new? Come join this group of like-minded friends on the first Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm. All are welcome, come when you can, bring your own project to work on, and join the fun!

The NEXT meeting will be November 6 in the vestry, here at LUCC.

Maybe it's time to get started on your holiday gift crafting? What better way to get going than to join others doing the same thing!

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

Email: info@lovellucc.org

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

