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The Circuit Rider 2025

Sunday worship 10:30 am

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



Dear friends,

"It's a holly jolly Christmas" sang Burl Ives of years gone by. More recently Michael Bublé regaled us with his version.

*Have a holly, jolly Christmas,
And in case you didn't hear,
Oh by golly, have a holly, jolly
Christmas this year!*

Those of a certain vintage remember Andy Williams crooning these sentiments:

*It's the hap-happiest season of all
With those holiday greetings and gay happy meetings
When friends come to call
It's the hap-happiest season of all*

I apologize to those of you who will now have one of these tunes stuck in your head all day!

For many of us this time of the year is just that full of jolliness and happiness. Some of you (you know who you are!) have had your trees up for a while now. The decorations have been brought out of storage. The lights are adorning the porch rails and eaves of our homes. The timers were set and then reset as darkness settles in earlier and earlier. Parties planned or added to our busy schedules.

But for some this is not a season of joy and mirth. There are those for whom this time of year brings reminders of people who will not be around their holiday dinner tables. When a particular ornament is pulled out of a box their minds are flooded with memories some full of gaiety and others bring on a deep sense of loss and grief. And for some, especially parents, the over commercialization of the holiday season brings only another reminder of what they don't have and the financial struggles of the year past.

In light of this, I would encourage all of us to give a special gift this year. Sure, grab a tag from a "giving tree" from one of the many local organizations that do this. But also give something that is needed more than Christmas Gift pack and toys let us give the gift of kindness, compassion, and understanding. These gifts won't help the gross national product or the coffers of the retailers, but they will go a long way in building up the sense of this season's "good will toward all humankind."

Perhaps we can make it (and please pardon the triteness of this) a gift of the month. To quote a line from National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation, "The gift that keeps on giving the whole year."

Wishing you a meaningful and blessed Advent and Christmas and a hopeful New Year,

Pastor Neil Wilson



Please join us, everyone is welcome!

- 11/30 1st Sunday of Advent -worship at 10:30 am
12/2 Advent Bible Study 9:30
12/6 Snowflake Fair 10:00-1:00 & Drive-up lunch 10:00-12:00
12/7 2nd Sunday of Advent -worship at 10:30 am
12/9 Advent Bible Study 9:30
12/14 3rd Sunday of Advent-worship at 10:30 am
12/14 Community Christmas Caroling - meet at LUCC at 1:00 to carpool
12/16 Advent Bible Study 9:30
12/21 4th Sunday of Advent-worship at 10:30 -Handbells perform
12/23 Advent Bible Study 9:30
12/24 Christmas Eve candlelight service 5:00 pm



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***



At the Lovell United Church of Christ 1174 Main St. Lovell, Maine

Saturday, January 31 10:00-12:00

Fish chowder, crackers and a whoopie pie for \$5.

(PLEASE contact Nancy at (207)925-1831 to reserve a meal)

All proceeds benefit the Sunshine Backpack Food Program serving the children of MSAD #72



TRUSTEES The Lovell UCC Board of Trustees met on Nov. 10. This meeting included the usual financial reports, old business and new business. Plans for snow shoveling and plowing were finalized. Plans for a possible Medical Supply Closet in the Parsonage are still underway. Budget requests have been received and Joe Dorner, LUCC Treasurer, is preparing a draft of the 2026 budget. Thirteen Employee Review forms were returned. Information will be reviewed then a Trustee will meet with each employee to share the results. Trustee's approved the purchase of a new laptop computer for the Financial Secretary. Arrangements have been made to have both the church and parsonage furnaces cleaned. The next Trustee meeting is scheduled for Dec. 8 at 7:00.p.m. For more information, contact Linda Libby 925-3661 or Farwell Sawin, Jr, 925-1517.



LADIES CIRCLE The Kitchen Clean-Up volunteers are Sue DeWire for November and Nancy Olmsted for December. Hostess for the Nov. 4 meeting was Linda Libby and the program was working on projects for the Dec. 6 Snowflake Fair. The Circle's RADA sale is finished with a profit of a little less than \$100 so far. The Dec. 6 Snowflake Fair was discussed and some final plans made. The Missions Committee will be providing the lunch and the Thrift Shop will offer the "Christmas Loft" again this year. Two new tables will be Plants and also a Treasure Table. Nov. 23 will be the day to collect greens starting at 1:00 followed by work sessions to make wreaths on Nov. 30, 2-5; Dec. 1, 9-12; Dec. 2, 1-4; and Dec. 3, 0-12. Help is always needed to collect greens and make wreathes. Call the church, 925-1321 or add your name to the list in the vestry to place an order. The Circle's Dec. 9 Christmas Celebration is also in the planning stage. Location tba. Annual Christmas gifts of \$1925 were approved which includes the Circle's annual gift to Lovell UCC of \$1000. There are no membership requirments 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 of 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 is working on their "Three Cheers for Animals" Journey, enjoyed a combination Halloween/Juliette Lowe birthday party and have finished their fall nut and candy sale. Troop 3149 spent an overnight at Lovell UCC on Nov. 8 . Troop 58 recently enjoyed a visit to Pondicherry Park and is working on badges. For more information, contact Linda Libby , 925-3661 or lindalibby12345@outlook.com



CHRISTMAS BASKETS – The Mission Committee would like to thank everyone for their generous support of the Community Christmas Basket project. We packed 19 baskets with food and gifts for local families.

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.

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 two meetings will be December 4th & January 8th in the vestry, here at LUCC.

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

