



The Circuit Rider 2025

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



Dear Friends,

The first Sunday of 2026 in worship I shared one of my Old First Church on the Common sermons. It was a story about the old lighthouse keeper who kindly shared his oil with those who lived on the island. Many came knocking on his door and for various reasons were running low on oil for their lamps, their stoves and furnaces. Being a kindly man, the old keeper shared his oil with all who came knocking.

Then during a tremendous winter storm when he went to the oil storage building the oil drums were empty and in the middle of the night the light went out! He was promptly removed from his post with the words, *"You were given the oil for one reason... 'to keep the light burning'."*

How often do we give and give of ourselves until we have little left to give, even to ourselves?

This year with all that is going on in the world, our nation, and within our communities and families, I encourage you to make sure you have taken care of yourselves as well as those who need you. Make sure you have enough to keep your light burning so that you may be a source of light and warmth to those within your circle.

The following is a piece by Eleanor Hamilton, who is the minister at Dumbarton Parish Church (Church of Scotland). It came in a Facebook post from the Northumbria Community "a dispersed, worldwide, network Christian Community, committed to a new way for living."

Yours seeking to serve out of the abundance God provides each of us,

Pastor Neil Wilson

Who sustains the sustainer
when the cups are empty
and the giving keeps going
When hands keep breaking bread
but never stop to taste
When words are offered
yet the soul is running on echoes
We ask how to nourish others
as if we are not bodies too
as if weariness is weakness
as if rest is optional
But even Jesus stepped away
even Jesus ate
even Jesus slept
Bread for the body
not rushed
not leftover
not eaten standing up
Word for the soul
not performed
not polished
but received
slowly
honestly
Grace is not meant to pass through us
without touching us
Love is not meant to drain us dry
So we pause
We eat
We listen
We breathe
And in the quiet gift of being filled
we remember
we were never meant
to sustain ourselves alone

JOIN US *for* LUNCH

DRIVE-UP LUNCH
SATURDAY, JANUARY 31
AT THE
LOVELL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
1174 MAIN ST LOVELL, MAINE
10:00-12:00
\$5 PER PERSON

fish chowder, crackers and a whoopie pie

Just drop by or call Nancy at
925-1831 to reserve your meal

All proceeds from this lunch will benefit the Sunshine
Backpack Food Program
Thank you for your support!



A Cure for

An illustration of a winter scene with two figures. One figure is skiing down a snowy slope, and the other is standing on the snow, possibly a snowman or a person in winter gear. The background shows snow-covered trees and a small cabin.

CABIN FEVER

**When: Friday, February 27,
5:30 pm**

**Where: Lovell United Church
of Christ
1174 Main St.
Lovell, Maine**

**What: Soup, salad,
sandwiches and cookies for
dinner followed by a fun
variety show for
entertainment**

**This event is FREE
all are welcome!**

***If you have "talent act" to
share, please sign up with
Carolyn Carter 928-2080**

- 2/17 Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper 5:00 pm
- 2/24 Lenten bible study begins. Tuesday mornings at through 3/31.
10:00 am. "The Way" all are welcome.
- 3/29 Palm Sunday
- 4/2 Maundy Thursday service of Tenebrae and Communion 5:30
- 4/3 Good Friday Prayer Vigil time tbd
- 4/5 Easter worship: sunrise service (location tbd) 6:00 am worship at LUCC 10:30 am



TRUSTEES The Lovell UCC Board of Trustees met on Jan. 12. As usual, this meeting included financial reports, old business and new business. The Trustee's part in the plans for a possible Medical Supply Closet has been completed. Both the parsonage and church furnaces have been cleaned and reported to be in good condition. Light bulbs in the vestry were replaced and approval was given for the Bell Choir to take seven card tables to use at a workshop in April. The request for the Trustees to set up a fundraising ad-hoc committee was not approved as the church does not need to do fundraising at this time. The next Trustee meeting is scheduled for Feb. 9 at 7:00pm. For more information, contact Linda Libby 925-3661 or Farwell Sawin, Jr, 925-1517 (until the Feb. 1 annual meeting).



LADIES CIRCLE The Kitchen Clean-Up volunteers are Linda Libby for January and Sue Clout for February. At the Jan. 13 meeting, an election was held with the following officers elected for 2026: Linda Libby – President, Carolyn Carter -Vice President, Pat Stearns – Secretary, Sue Clout, Asst. Secretary, Carolyn Carter & Sue DeWire – Devotions, Nancy Olmsted – Sunshine Lady. The Treasurer's position is divided: Heather Sawin – Bookkeeper, Linda Libby – Deposits and Sue DeWire – Reporter. Fruit baskets will be put together by Nancy Olmsted and Sue DeWire on Jan. 23 and delivered to people on the Community Care List the weekend of Jan. 24-25. A "Fun Fund lunch" and Valentine Tea meeting is set for Jan. 27 at Leo's in Fryeburg at noon. No business meeting is scheduled for Feb. 10 as a Valentine Tea with Sue Clout and Sue DeWire hostessing is scheduled for 1:00-3:00 that afternoon. Sign-Up is required for this event. The next regular meeting is scheduled for March 10 with Sue DeWire as hostess. The program that day will be painting wooden Easter eggs. 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 gather with meetings resuming the week of Jan. 5. Daisy Troop 146 continues to work on requirements for their "Cheers for Animals" journey and Troops 58 and 3149 are working on Try-its and badges, Lovell leaders attended a leaders' meeting including cookie sale training in Bridgton on Jan. 14. The 2026 cookie sale which begins on March 1 is very different from previous years. Cookies will be delivered to the Lovell area on March 3. Cookies should be available to purchase after that date. Sale will end on May 1. For more information, contact Linda Libby, 925-3661 or lindalibby12345@outlook.com



FOOD PANTRIES COLLECTION – Lovell UCC supports the Lovell Area Food Pantry and the Sweden Food Pantry. All donations may be left in the church vestry on the wire cart with the Food Pantry bins. Items needed frequently: Pasta/Pasta Sauce, soup, crackers, tuna or canned chicken, cereal, peanut butter/jelly. Also, toilet paper, shampoo, lotion, soap, cleaning supplies etc. Just one item a month can make a BIG difference. Thank you for your support!!!

Ongoing programs:



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 February 5th in the vestry here at LUCC.
Come join us! 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

Email: info@lovellucc.org

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

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

