

FROM YOUR PASTOR:

***Kids Say the Darndest (and Truest!) Things***

Here is another of my favorite sermon illustration stories:

INSIDE THIS  
ISSUE:

SPRING  
FLING

NURTURE

FINANCE

LAY  
LEADER

AND MUCH  
MORE!

After Sunday School and worship one morning, a family was traveling on a rather secluded highway. As they did, they passed a car with its hood up, obviously in trouble. The owner of the car looked dirty and unshaven and was sitting on the ground before his rusty vehicle. The little boy in the family saw the man and realized that his dad was going to drive right by. "Daddy, aren't we going to help that man?" the boy asked.

The father, who thought about all the stories he had heard of the dangers of stopping to help strangers on a highway, said, "Oh, no, we're not. We have to get to the restaurant before they stop serving lunch." The little boy continued, "But, Dad, he looks like he could really use our help. Shouldn't we stop to help him?" "We just don't have time," the father snapped back.

The boy then quietly asked, "This is kind of like the parable of the Good Samaritan that we studied this morning in Sunday School this morning, isn't it? People didn't want to stop and help that man, either."

Kids have always been known for saying the darndest things, haven't they?? But, just like this little boy, kids often share a truth that we as adults need to pay attention to. Jesus did that pretty well, too! In the many parables he shared – including the one about that good Samaritan - Jesus got his message across in a rather direct way.

So, as we consider this story of the family in the car and recall the lesson of this parable, how can we be more aware of the needs that God places right in front of us? Perhaps that means consciously paying more attention to the needs of others around us – family, friends, and strangers. Perhaps it means being more willing to lend a helping hand, to share an act of kindness. Perhaps it means being in prayer when we hear of a concern in someone else's life. How might you be that good Samaritan today?

I encourage us not to be like the dad – but, rather, to be like the little boy who wanted to take Jesus' words to heart. Methodism's founder, John Wesley, reminds us of how God would have us live:

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## FROM YOUR PASTOR, CONT.

“Do all the good you can,  
By all the means you can,  
In all the ways you can,  
In all the places you can,  
At all the times you can,  
To all the people you can,  
As long as you ever can.”



God's blessings,

*Pastor Elizabeth*

*“For love of country  
they accepted  
death, and thus re-  
solved all doubts,  
and made immortal  
their patriotism and  
their virtue.”*

*~ James A. Garfield*

## UPDATED DIRECTORY READY

Updates of our directory are ready. If you would like to have a new copy, please sign up on the sheet in the Narthex or contact Pastor Elizabeth by email and she will see that you get one.

## BISHOP BICKERTON VISITS THE MANY WATERS DISTRICT

Our Bishop, Thomas J. Bickerton, is visiting all of the districts in our annual conference this spring. He will be visiting the Many Waters District on Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Pleasant Street UMC in Water-ville. A meal will be served at 5:00 pm with the gathering to follow. Registration is required; please contact Pastor Elizabeth if you have not received the registration form in the district newsletter, *Streams*.

## MOTHER'S DAY CELEBRATION

We will celebrate our moms and grandmothers on Sunday, May 10 with a special prayer, and, new this year, with special words of thanksgiving from a few individuals in our church family, and also by putting photos of our beloveds on our screen.

Please email or text your photos to Verne along with the names clearly stated. If you would rather bring your photos to Verne so that he can take a screenshot of it/them, please do so on SUNDAY, MAY 3<sup>rd</sup> so that he will have time to organize all the photos prior to May 10.

## MANY WATERS DISTRICT CONFERENCE

Our District Superintendent, Arlene Tully, will preside over our Many Waters District Conference on Saturday, May 23 via Zoom beginning at 9:00 am. Part of our business will be to greet new pastors coming onto our district or starting new appointments (such as Pastor Jen) and bidding farewell to those who are retiring (know anyone in that category??)

The Zoom link will soon be added to the district website for those who may be interested in joining in.

## PASTOR JEN TO WORSHIP AT LUMC

Because our new pastor, Jen Reed, is on sabbatical this year and not serving a church with weekly Sunday responsibilities, we are in a unique position to greet her at LUMC prior to the beginning of her appointment on July 1<sup>st</sup>. For that reason, Pastor Elizabeth has invited her to join us for worship on Sunday, May 31<sup>st</sup>.

Please make sure to be with us that day to meet Pastor Jen and her husband, Kevin, and to enjoy worship with both of your pastors.

## BLOOD DRIVE UPDATE

Our Spring Blood Drive on April 9th was a huge success! 28 life-saving units of blood were collected on our goal of 22 is AMAZING!! Thank you to those in our church family who continue to come out and support this very important mission. Those special people are Carolyn and Randy Jones, Trudy Duval, Monica McCusker, Martha Palmer, and Liz Doyle, traveling down to roll up her sleeve to donate. Our next drive is scheduled for Thursday, July 16th.

## FROM YOUR LAY LEADER

Happy May! I hope you can enjoy the flowers blooming and the birds singing.

I recently read an article by Brian McLaren that reminds us that, even in this world of chaos and change for our church, we can experience the joy that comes from the love of God and the beauty of creation. We can also look to the future instead of dwelling in the pain of the past. "Wherever two or three of you gather in my name, there I am" Jesus said. We can cultivate beauty that will lead to beautiful outward action. We are on a journey to wholeness, flourishing love, and defiant joy. The beauty around us reminds us that we can walk through our daily life expressing joy. We can turn from the negativity around us, seeking joy.

May your lives be filled with joy and may you spread that joy to those around you.

Sue White

## PIES, PIES, AND MORE PIES!

Again this year, in conjunction with the Spring Fling, on May 16th, we will be selling homemade pies. This is a great fundraiser for our church, but we need your help. Pie plates have been purchased, so that all the pies will be uniform in size and will be given out at church. There will be a signup sheet going around, but if you are not going to be in church and would like to participate, please let me know, 353-8691, and I can get pie plate to you. Pies should be dropped off at the church Friday, May 15th by 3 PM so they can be put into boxes, labeled and priced. Thanks in advance for your cooperation in this event. If we all come together, it will be a great fundraiser.

Thank you!

Carolyn Jones

## NURTURE COMMITTEE

The Nurture Committee met following worship on April 19th. Attendees included Margaret Logan, Jennifer Morgan, Carolyn Jones, Pastor Elizabeth, and myself.

The committee is currently seeking "Mother stories" to share with the congregation. If you have a story you would like to contribute, please contact me or Pastor Elizabeth.

Additionally, if you would like to display a picture of your mother or a special person in your life, Verne will be presenting these on the screen. Please send your photos to Verne via email or provide them to Pastor Elizabeth.

Best regards,

Peggy Shaw

## FINANCE NEWS

The annual stewardship campaign titled, "Endless Possibilities" is in progress. Stewardship letters and pledge cards were handed out or mailed to members and friends of LUMC. Although Consecration Sunday was held on April 26<sup>th</sup> where the completed pledge cards were placed at the altar, and blessed, it is never too late to return your pledge card.

Your financial gifts help us to meet our financial obligations. Returning your pledge cards is important as it gives the finance committee the information they need to prepare our yearly budget and plan for the coming year.

As we enter this time of transition I'd like each one of you to take a few minutes to ask yourself what you would like the future of LUMC to look like. What endless possibilities are waiting for us? Matthew 17:20 reminds us, "For truly I tell you, if you have faith the size of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, "move from here to there, and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you."

Trudy Duval, Finance Chairperson

## OUTREACH

The Outreach Committee has voted to send \$100 to Mechuwana to be used towards food for their campers. Again this year, Outreach is supporting The Children's Christmas Store. Children can shop at Christmas time for their family and purchase items at \$1.00 a piece. This project benefits LACO. The collection for donations will start May 1st and end September 30th. A short list of suggested items is below:

Candles, mittens, gloves, mugs, jewelry, pot holders, dish towels, note pads, small tools, stationary, socks, belts, key chains, hats, flashlights, dolls, crafts kits, hairbrushes, diaries, hair bands, nail polish, toy cars, balls, fishing lurers, stuffed animals, games, cards, markers, paint, puzzles, books and bubbles. Also appreciated are donations of gift bags, tags and tissue paper.

A collection box will be available at church in the Narthex. Thank you in advance for your support.

If you have any questions, please see Carol Day or Connie Earle.

Our next meeting will be June 1st at 10:00 a.m.

## FINANCE INFORMATION

<b><u>Newsletter Finance Info - as of 04-26-2026</u></b>		
2026 Annual Budget Amount for Operating	\$	148,470.81
<b>March</b>		
Income		
Budgeted	\$	11,831.00
Actual	\$	8,556.33
Expenses		
Budgeted	\$	11,993.00
Actual	\$	15,534.11
<b>April</b>		
Income		
Budgeted	\$	15,252.00
Actual	\$	8,445.41
Expenses		
Budgeted	\$	10,089.00
Actual	\$	5,373.34

## SPRING FLING!

Hi everyone,

Can you believe Spring Fling is almost here? The plant sale, BBQ, and pie sales prep are in full swing!

Here is how you can help make this year our best one yet:

📌 **Chicken Needed:** We are still looking for donations of **chicken thighs** for Verne's secret sauce BBQ. We also need **donations of potato salad** to round out the meals! Please contact Greg, Peggy, or Verne at **207-375-8645** or **gshaw378@gmail.com** to coordinate your donation before you purchase.

• 📌 **Pie Bakers:** If you are baking a homemade dessert pie, thank you! **Please see Carolyn's article in this newsletter**

• 📌 **Pot Up Those Plants:** As you tidy your gardens or thin out perennials, please consider potting up the extras! Houseplant cuttings and seedlings are also big hits.

• **Join the Team!** We need friendly faces to help the day run smoothly. **Please check the sign-up sheets in the Narthex and the Kitchen** to grab a shift for:

• **Pre-Event Setup:** Friday (9:00 AM – 3:00 PM) or Saturday morning (8:00 AM).

• **Cashiers:** Helping with plant and food tallies.

• **BBQ & Pie Sales:** Serving up lunch and desserts.

**Clean-up Crew:** Helping us tidy up starting at 2:00 PM on Saturday.

**Important Dates:**

• **Prep/Setup:** Friday, May 15th, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

**Event Day:** Saturday, May 16th, 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Let's get growing!

**Peggy and Greg co-chairs**

### ***LUMC Mission Statement:***

***"The Lisbon United Methodist Church welcomes, nurtures, and serves all***

***people with the love of Christ."***

## FREE TV STAND

Pastor Elizabeth and Verne will not be moving this TV stand to their new home and would love to gift it to someone for free. If you or someone you know could make good use of it, please let us know.

It is in very good condition and measures 47" wide, 18" deep, and 24" high. We will round up some help to deliver it to its new home!



## CELEBRATORY WISHES



Happy Birthday to the following church members celebrating a birthday in May!!

(f you know someone to be added to our list please let Erica Soiett know)

7th: Gwen Rioux

8th: Ralph Day

10th: Chris Hall

17th: Harry Grinder

18th: Bobby Jean Logan

Piper Logan Charpentier

19th: Debbie Crosman

23rd: James Goss

29th: Stephanie Stambach

Happy Anniversary to Tim and Melissa Conwell, celebrating on May 5th!

Be sure to checkout the very spring like bulletin board in the dining room.

With the help of Zayla, Elania, and Audrey who made the raindrops and flowers, it certainly adds a touch of spring to the room!



# May 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3-Worship in person & virtually w/ Holy Communion 9:30 Evening Circle, 11:00 a.m.	4	5	6	7	8	9
10-Worship in person & virtually, 9:30 Mother's Day	11	12	13	14	15	16-Spring Fling, 9:00, w/ BBQ starting at 11:00 a.m.
17-Worship in person & virtually, 9:30 a.m.	18	19-Finance Meeting, 6:30 p.m.	20	21	22	23-May Waters District Conference, 9:00 a.m. Bean Supper, 4:30 p.m.
24-Pentecost worship in person & virtually, 9:30 a.m. WEAR RED!	25-Memorial Day	26	27	28	29	30
31-Worship in person & virtually w/ Pastor Jen here, 9:30						

**NOTE: All meetings are held in the Hunnewell Room, unless otherwise noted**

**Office Hours: Monday 9:00 am-noon at Pastor's Home, Thursday 1:00-3:00 pm**

**Friday is the Pastor's Sabbath Day**

**Other times available by appointment**

**Every Thursday: Girl Scouts, Hunnewell Room, 6:30-7:30 p.m.**

**BUSINESS NAME**

14 School Street

Lisbon Falls, Maine 04252

(207)353-4982

**Sunday Worship Service**

Sunday Worship

(In Person and Live Stream on Facebook)

9:30 a.m.

*Experienced people are ready to provide nursery care for infants.*

*Please speak with a greeter.*

*Office Hours: Monday 9:00-12 noon at Home*

*Thursday 1:00-3:00 p.m.*

***Other times available by appointment***

*Friday is the Pastor's Sabbath day*

**Important Contacts:**

Pastor: Rev. Elizabeth J. Bachelder Smith

[pastor@lisbonumchurch.org](mailto:pastor@lisbonumchurch.org)

**Organist & Choir Director: Debbie Greim**

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