

FROM YOUR PASTOR:

To the faith community of the Lisbon United Methodist Church:

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

MOXIE

BLOOD DRIVE

LAY LEADER

NUTURE

AND MUCH MORE!

May the grace and peace in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you!

As I begin this new season of ministry among you, I am filled with thanksgiving, joy, and deep humility. Every new beginning brings with it a mixture of anticipation and wonder. There are new names to learn, new stories to hear, new traditions to discover, and new ways to see how God has already been at work long before I arrived.

One of the beautiful truths we find throughout Scripture is that God rarely calls people to journey alone. From the very beginning, God has formed communities of faith—people who gather, worship, serve, pray, and grow together. As one of our well-known hymns tells us, the church is not a building. It is not a social club. The church is a living community of people who have been called together by God's grace. I have never been more blessed than finding "home" among God's people.

You need to know that, as your new pastor, I do not come thinking that I have all the answers. Instead, I come with a heart ready to listen, to learn, and to walk alongside you. *I believe ministry is not something a pastor does **for** a congregation, but something we do **with one another**.* Each person brings gifts, experiences, wisdom, and faith that complete the body of Christ.

In the coming weeks and months, I look forward to hearing your stories—the stories of how God has shaped this congregation, the moments that have brought joy, the challenges you have faced, and the hopes you carry for the future.

I know that transitions bring with them many emotions. A new pastor means new rhythms, new ideas, and new relationships. It also means honoring the faithful work of those who came before. Every congregation has a sacred history, and I am grateful for the many pastors, leaders, and members who have faithfully served and helped prepare the way for the next chapter we are about to embark on together.

My prayer for us is that we will be a church where people encounter God's love, where grace is freely offered and received, where questions are welcomed, where burdens are shared, and where every person knows they are sacred, welcomed, and that they belong.

I am honored to begin this journey with you. I look forward to discovering together where God is leading us next.

With joy and hope,

Pastor Jen

THANK YOU

Dear LUMC Family and Friends,

Words cannot begin to express the deep gratitude that Verne and I feel for each of you and for the beautiful send off to retirement that we enjoyed thanks to your many kindnesses and love.

The retirement party on June 13th captured every detail from lots of balloons and photos to yummy food, including that gorgeous charcuterie tray, to kind words in thoughtful cards. We were overwhelmed by your very generous gifts on the fun butterfly bouquet, thanks to Monica's creativity, and in the cards. Too many individuals were involved to name names and risk forgetting someone so THANK YOU to all involved with the direct planning and to the members of the Nurture Committee and Evening Circle.

In addition, we were very touched by our last service of worship together on June 21st, most especially by the fourth week of special music from the choir (thank you, Debbie especially, for each special song over those four weeks!) and by the circle of farewell as you sang us into retirement.

You have made the ending to my forty-four years of ministry just perfect and we will miss you all so very much – but our prayers are with each of you and for the church as you continue to bear witness to God's love and grace. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for eleven years of ministry, mutual respect, and love.

God's blessings,

Pastor Elizabeth

NUTURE COMMITTEE

Nurture met June 7th after worship those attending for a quick meeting were, Gwen Rioux, Carolyn Jones, Margaret Logan, Jennifer Morgan and Peggy Shaw.

Summer is here! This month, our church joined together to celebrate the retirements of Pastor Elizabeth and Verne. We want to extend a heartfelt congratulations to both of them. On Saturday, June 13th, Nurture and Evening Circle provided decorations and a wonderful array of food to honor their service. We celebrated their 11 years with the LUMC family and Pastor Elizabeth's 44-year career as they both begin this new chapter in their lives.

Pastor Jen will join our Church family July 5th! Our new adventure begins!

Best regards,

Peggy Shaw

"We're not just a nation, we're not an ethnicity. WE are a dream of justice that people have had for a thousand years."

~Craig Ferguson

UPCOMING BLOOD DRIVE



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Lisbon United Methodist Church

14 School Street, Lisbon Falls

THURSDAY, JULY 16TH

Noon—5 p.m.

Sponsor Code: Lisbon UMC

Questions? Call Gwen at 353-6814

LUMC Mission Statement:

“The Lisbon United Methodist Church welcomes, nurtures, and serves all people with the love of Christ.”

FROM YOUR LAY LEADER

First, I want to welcome our new pastor, Jen Reed, to Lisbon UMC. I know that God wants our church to continue to grow in ministry and love, and that Pastor Jen is the one to lead us in this place and time.

Second, I have a brief report from the New England Annual Conference. Since I was not able to attend physically, I watched it from home. In the past conference attendees were able to vote remotely, but this year that was not possible. The conference organizers are looking at what will happen in the future. Since my future does not look like I will be able to attend in person, I am hoping that one of you will feel called to take this on and represent our church in person. I do like attending, but it is not possible for me to continue as the Lay Member to Conference if remote voting is not restored. My prayer is that one of you will take on this position.

The theme for the conference this year was , “Faith for our Future, Loving Boldly”. I hope this will sound familiar to you, as we at Lisbon UMC have the goal of serving boldly grounded by God. It’s good to know that we are not alone in this endeavor. Bishop Bickerton shared our challenges and reasons for hope during this time of profound transition for the NEAC in his State of the Church Address.

The legislation voted on included the usual things that keep the church going, such as the budget, salaries, and health insurance. The closure of some churches was also approved. They also voted on humanitarian issues, such as land restitution for UMC properties in New England.

The following offerings were collected:

Annual Conference Scholarships – \$1,986.34

- Camping and Retreat Ministries – \$2,384
- Childcare (including parent donations) - \$1,330
- Clergy Immigration Fund – \$3,358.76
- Memorial Gifts – \$1,050
- Ministerial Education Fund – \$2,638.10
- NE Justice for Our Neighbors – \$1,835

One of the most moving parts of the conference is the commissioning and ordination ceremonies. It is amazing to watch people commit their lives to the work of God in our church. Of course, this year we also participated in the honoring of retirees, especially our own Elizabeth Bachelder Smith. It felt good to honor her in our own way at her wonderful retirement party and to listen to her preach for the last time in our church. Thanks to all those who made the last few weeks meaningful and full of blessings for Verne and Elizabeth. The worship planning and the party were wonderful. Please continue to pray for them in their new adventures and for our church as we learn and grow with Pastor Jen.

Peace, Sue White



LOCATION: Field
behind the MTM
and
THE LISBON
UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH
14 SCHOOL STREET,
LISBON FALLS

Ask Pastor Jen how we
can offer Radical Hospital-
ity to our sister churches
in the Androscoggin
Cooperative Parish!

On Sunday, July 26, 2026, five United Methodist congregations from across the region will come together for "Gathered by Grace: A New England Methodist Camp Meeting," a joyful outdoor celebration of faith, music, community, and fellowship.

Hosted by the Androscoggin Cooperative Parish—a partnership between the Brunswick, Auburn, Lisbon, Minot, and West Cumberland United Methodist Churches—the event will take place at the MTM Community Center (18 School Street, Lisbon Falls, ME 04252) from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and is open to the public.

Inspired by the historic Methodist camp meeting tradition, this modern gathering reimagines the experience for today's world with a focus on community, inclusion, hope, and service. The event will feature congregational hymn singing, musical offerings from each participating church, brief inspirational messages from local pastors, prayer, and a shared potluck brunch.

"Methodists have a long tradition of gathering outdoors to worship, sing, learn, and strengthen community," said Rev. Alicia Vélez Stewart of Brunswick United Methodist Church. "This event celebrates that heritage while embracing the values that continue to guide us today: love of neighbor, radical welcome, justice, compassion, and service."

The gathering is designed as a visible expression of collaboration among local churches and a reminder that faith communities continue to play an active role in building stronger, more connected communities.

The event will be held rain or shine, with tents provided for shelter from sun or rain. Attendees are encouraged to bring a potluck dish to share, though all are welcome regardless of whether they are able to contribute food.

AMERICA'S 250TH BIRTHDAY FUN FACTS!

- *According to the National Sausage and Dog Council American are expected to eat over 150 million hotdogs over the July 4th holiday
- *Only 2 men actually signed the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. The other 54 delegates signed the document over the course of the next month
- *The average age of the signers was 45 years old. Of the 56 signers the youngest signers were 26, and the oldest was Benjamin Franklin at the age of 70
- *According to the American Pyrotechnics Association, Americans will spend more then \$1 billion on fireworks this year
- *Fireworks are a tradition dated back to 1777
- *July 4th was not deemed a federal holiday until 1870, nearly 100 years after the nation was founded
- *In 1776 there were 2.5 million people living in the new nation. Today there are over 318 million

JULY CELEBRATIONS!

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

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



5th: Ava Koumou-Nete	22nd: Brenda Confer
6th: Nate Rioux	23rd: Dave McCusker
9th: Connie Earle	27th: Glenys Gardiner
10th: Erica Soiett	Tyler Palmer
11th: Mark C. Stambach	28th Charles Stambach
Susan White	29th: Monica McCusker
18th: Caitlin Ramsay	30th: Erika Moore
21st: George Morgan	Matthew Rioux

Happy Anniversary to the following couples celebrating an anniversary in July!

2nd: Charles & Stephanie Stambach	20th: Rick & Gwen Rioux
3rd: Robert & Ella Mae Packard	Mark & Joan Stambach
9th: Scott & Susan Ramsay	

A LITTLE BIT ABOUT PASTOR JEN

Pastor Jen lives in Vassalboro with her husband, Kevin Reed. They have two adult sons, Seth and Benjamin.

Jen earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Marketing Management from Thomas College in Waterville in 1988 and a Master of Divinity degree from Bangor Theological Seminary in 2013. She completed a unit of Clinical Pastoral Education at Central Maine Medical Center in Lewiston and a 40-hour training program as a Law Enforcement Chaplain through the Maine Criminal Justice Academy.

Before entering parish ministry, Jen spent 16 years with Kraft Foods, where she served as a Sales Representative and Territory Manager. Her experiences in business, leadership, and relationship-building continue to shape her approach to ministry and community connection.

Jen has served as a Local Pastor in several United Methodist settings, including six years at Unity United Methodist Church and seven years at Centenary United Methodist Church. She also served for four years as the Executive Director of Common Unity Place (C.U.P.), a ministry in partnership with Centenary UMC focused on strengthening community connections and supporting those in need. Jen finds relaxation in gardening and painting with acrylics.

Pastor Jen is grateful for the opportunity to continue walking alongside God's people, to share in ministry, and to discover together where God's Spirit is leading .

<p>Pastor Jen will be in Lisbon on Wednesdays</p>	
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Community Engagement

9:30 AM - 11:30 AM

Office Hours

12:00 PM – 2:00 PM

To schedule an appointment, please
call or text (207-242-2840).

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

<u>Newsletter Finance Info - as of 06-23-2026</u>		
2026 Annual Budget Amount for Operating	\$	148,470.81
May		
Income		
Budgeted	\$	12,999.00
Actual	\$	12,505.02
Expenses		
Budgeted	\$	17,205.00
Actual	\$	10,663.45
June		
Income		
Budgeted	\$	13,100.00
Actual	\$	4,370.05
Expenses		
Budgeted	\$	13,214.00
Actual	\$	7,754.65

SILVER SUNDAY COLLECTION UPDATE

At a recent finance committee meeting, it was decided to suspend the Silver Sunday collection temporarily. This is due to the relocation of the Lisbon Community Credit Union and no longer having the coin counting machine on site. As you may recall, the Silver Sunday collections began several years ago as a way to help fulfill our mission share obligation. While it was a “silver” collection there were times when bills were put in the coffee pots. We appreciate all donations, “green or silver”, to help with this budgetary item. While the silver collection is temporarily suspended, if anyone would like to continue to make a donation to mission shares, put bills in an envelope and clearly mark it, “Mission Shares” and place in the weekly offering plate. We appreciate your continued support. Should you have any questions, please talk with a finance committee member.

Trudy Duval, Finance Chairperson



HAPPY RETIREMENT!



We enjoyed celebrating Pastor Elizabeth and Verne's retirement on Saturday, June 13th. There was a great outpouring of love and memories from friends near and far. We are grateful for their 11 years of ministering at LUMC and wish them all the best in their retirement.



This beautiful floral arrangement was given to Pastor Elizabeth and Verne as a retirement gift. It included money butterflies made from money Dean collected from our congregation. Thank you to everyone who generously supported the Pastor and Verne as they begin this new chapter in life.



NEW SIGN

Many thanks to Dean Logan and Deano Logan for putting together the new Bean Supper sign!



MOXIE DAYS

The Moxie Festival is fast approaching, and we are well on our way on having a fantastic event! If you haven't donated Moxie, or gift cards yet, it's not too late! Please bring canned soda donations to the old kitchen. If you do donate soda, please let Shane or Erica know how many cases, so that we do not have an over abundance. Last minute gift cards or monetary donations can be left in the offering plate.

We have a great kitchen crew lined up already, however if you are interested in helping and haven't been assigned a task yet, please reach out! We will find a job for you!

Donations for the bake sale table are also welcomed! The ladies from the Evening Circle will be soliciting donations soon, please be on the look out for their phone call! "Grab and Go" snacks tend to sell best during the Moxie Festival. No pies, cakes, or breads please. Individually wrapped snacks that people can eat on the go and trail mixes are usually big sellers.



In the meantime, pray for good sunny weather for that weekend!

Thanks in advance,
Shane & Erica-Co-Chairs

212-3713 (Erica)

212-8316 (Shane)

Pastor Jen's Weekly Planner

Sunday: Worship @ LUMC

Monday: Worship Design

Tuesday: Sermon Prep

**Wednesday: Lisbon community
and office hours**

Thursday: Administrative tasks

Friday: Sabbath day

Saturday: Follow-ups as needed

July 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4-Happy Independence Day!
5-Worship in person & virtually, 9:30 a.m. w/ Holy Communion	6	7	8	9	10	11-Moxie Day!
12-Worship in person & virtually, 9:30 a.m.	13	14	15	16-Blood Drive, 12-5 p.m.	17	18
19-Worship in person & virtually, 9:30 a.m.	20	21	22	23	24	25
26-Gathered by Grace, 10-12	27	28	29	30	31	

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

Office Hours: Wednesday-12:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m.

Friday is the Pastor's Sabbath Day

Other times available by appointment, call or text 207-242-2840

**LISBON UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH**

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: Jen Reed

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