

OCTOBER 2026

FROM YOUR PASTOR:

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CRAFT FAIR

BLOOD DRIVE

LAY LEADER

NUTURE

AND MUCH
MORE!

: October Blessings! As a Licensed Local Pastor, I am required to meet each year with the District Committee on Ordained Ministry as part of the process of renewing my pastoral license. This year, the committee has asked me to reflect on the question, *"There are many forms of ministry in the United Methodist Church. What does it mean in your context to be United Methodist?"* Here is the rough draft of my essay.

In July of this year, I began my pastoral appointment at Lisbon United Methodist Church. Because I am still new to this congregation and community, it feels especially fitting to consider what it means to be a United Methodist in our time and place.

This is my third pastoral appointment, but because of my mentored practice and candidacy journey, Lisbon UMC is actually the fifth United Methodist church I have had the opportunity to be part of. Each church community has had its own distinctive characteristics, history, traditions, and sense of calling. And yet, when I reflect on these different congregations, I am also reminded of what holds us together: our Wesleyan heritage and our connectional life as United Methodists. While each congregation may live out its calling in different ways, we share a common faith and a common framework that helps us discern who we are as a church, what we believe, and how God is calling us to live out our faith in our own communities.

One of the ways our United Methodist tradition helps us do this is through the *Wesleyan Quadrilateral*. This may sound like a swanky theological term, but the idea behind it is simple. It is a way of thinking about how we understand and live out our faith. We begin with Scripture, but we also listen to the wisdom of those who have gone before us, use the minds God has given us, and pay attention to our own experiences of God's grace in our everyday lives.

Therefore, when I consider what it means to be a United Methodist in Lisbon Falls, Maine, I immediately turn to Scripture. Jesus gives us two commandments: love God and love our neighbors. I believe these two commandments provide the most foundational description of what it means to be the church.

In my short time at Lisbon UMC, the love of God is made evident each week when we gather in the sanctuary, hear God's Word proclaimed, and respond in prayer and thanksgiving. It is a kind of call and response, as repetitive as the ocean's waves. This love is lived out through the faithful people of our congregation who serve one another and God by sharing their gifts.

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There are those who share their love for music, retell the Gospel through the LUMC Puppet Theater, and find fun and creative ways to connect everyday objects to our faith through our “Faith Basket.” There are readers, greeters, and prayer warriors. Members of the congregation provide the children's story, help prepare and serve communion, and readily stepped forward to create a new “tech team” so that our services can be livestreamed.

My appointment also brought with it a major shift for this congregation, from having a full-time pastor to having a half-time pastor. One of the congregation's first requests was to expand the responsibilities of the Nurture Committee in caring for the congregation through the prayer chain, church prayer list, and visitation of the sick and shut-ins.

But we are not meant to keep God's love to ourselves. Our love of God is directly connected to our love of neighbor. So, what does it look like for Lisbon UMC to be a good neighbor?

Being a good neighbor is about more than having a church building at 14 School Street. As United Methodists, we are part of a tradition that has been asking what it means to love God and neighbor for generations. We believe that God's grace is available to all. John Wesley did not understand holiness as a private matter between an individual and God. Wesley understood Christian holiness as something lived out in community and expressed through acts of mercy, compassion, and justice. In these ways, we are a people called to “social holiness.”

What I discovered upon my arrival here is that Lisbon UMC is already deeply connected to ministry beyond its walls. One example is our developing relationship with the Androscoggin Cooperative Parish. Together with four other UM churches, Lisbon UMC recently hosted our first outdoor Camp Meeting, with more than 125 people in attendance—not only from the other churches, but also from our local community. Through LACO (Lisbon Area Christian Outreach), we have relationships with other Lisbon churches and opportunities to serve our neighbors by providing food and clothing assistance to individuals and families in Lisbon, Durham, and Bowdoin. Our other ministries throughout the year also give expression to this understanding of social holiness. The hot dog and baked bean suppers offer fellowship opportunities. The Red Cross blood drives we host literally help save lives. Our Moxie Festival activities provide opportunities to build relationships and demonstrate God's love in tangible ways. At a recent Outreach Committee meeting, I learned that LUMC partners with the Lisbon schools by providing turkeys, potatoes, and carrots to help supply Christmas dinners for families identified by the schools. Outreach also organizes the filling and delivery of fruit baskets to shut-ins, donates snack items for “Breakfast with Santa,” makes monetary donations to Warm Thy Neighbors for fuel assistance, provides food for meals at Camp Mechuwana, and gives gift cards for food to consumers at the Drop-In Center in Auburn. LUMC is currently collecting items for the Children's Christmas Shop, where children can purchase gifts for family members and teachers for \$1 each. Through this program funds are also raised for LACO.

Another expression of this commitment to being a good neighbor is our relationship with the Christian Assembly of Lisbon. Lisbon UMC has opened its building to provide a place for this congregation to worship and gather. It is a simple but meaningful example of hospitality—recognizing that our church

FROM YOUR PASTOR, CONT.

building is not only a place for our own congregation but can also be a resource and a blessing to others in our community. We also provide meeting space for Girl Scouts and Scouting America. In these many ways, we receive God's grace, and then we become people who extend that grace to others.

My understanding of what it means to be United Methodist continues to be shaped by the people and congregations I have encountered and by the experiences I have had in ministry. Indeed, I am still learning what it means to be United Methodist in Lisbon Falls. But I look forward to that journey with the good people of Lisbon UMC as we discern who God is calling us to be in the years ahead. I came to Lisbon UMC to serve, but I have also been blessed by the grace I have received here. As we look toward the future, I trust that we will continue to listen to Scripture, learn from our tradition, pay attention to our experiences of God's grace, and use the God-given gift of reason to discern where God is calling us next.



Called to Serve:
Laity Sunday 2026
OCTOBER 18, 2026

On Sunday, October 18, 2026, our congregation will celebrate Laity Sunday. This is a special day where the lay members of our church lead every part of our worship service.

Liturgists & Scripture Readers
Lead the congregation in opening prayers and holy scripture.
Sign up sheet is in the narthex.

Ushers & Greeters
Welcome members and visitors at the doors with a warm smile.

We need your voice, your hands, and your heart to make this service complete!

ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY

All Saints Sunday — November 1

On Sunday, November 1, we will gather for **All Saints Sunday**, a special time to remember and give thanks for the people who have gone before us and helped shape our lives and our faith.

I invite you to bring a **picture of a loved one who has passed away** and place it in our worship center. As we gather, these pictures will help us remember the many people whose love, faith, and presence are still a part of our lives.

It will be a meaningful time to remember, give thanks, and celebrate the gift of those who have gone before us. I hope you'll join us.

NURTURE COMMITTEE

Happy last day of summer! Fall is in the air.

Our church's September history sharing session was a fun and informative experience, with many people sharing pictures, timelines, and stories.

Here are a few updates on Nurture's recent activities:

- Christmas/Holiday Fair: Nurture has been assisting with preparations for the upcoming annual fair.
- School Year Preparation: To help prepare for the new school year, Nurture helped organize and deliver donated backpacks filled with school supplies to local schools.
- Community Support: Nurture continues to actively support the Evening Circle Women's group with the monthly bean supper, held on the third Saturday of each month.

Looking forward to October.

Respectfully,

Peggy Shaw

"Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness."

~Lamentations 3:22-23

LACO

LACO will have a bottle drive, food collection, and bake sale at Food City in Lisbon Falls on October 2 from 8-6 and on October 3 from 8-3. If you can bake something for either day, it would help to serve the families with food.

If anyone could volunteer an hour or two at Food City on those two days it would be appreciated.

The food pantry needs more volunteers on Wednesday from 10-1 and Saturdays from 8-10. We have only 6 volunteers left and several have had knee surgeries. If we do not have volunteers the food pantry will have to close.

Carol Day

LUMC Mission Statement:

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

HOLIDAY FAIR AND SILENT AUCTION

Welcome fall! I don't know about you, but I'm ready for fall. Sunny days and cool nights, pumpkin everything, flannel shirts and oh, we can't forget our annual Holiday Fair and Silent Auction.

The Holiday Fair and Silent Auction will take place on Friday, Nov. 13th from 5-7 and Saturday, Nov. 14th from 9-2. This is our largest fundraiser of the year but we need everyone's help to make that happen.

Along with the craft tables this year, we'll be adding a "boutique"! Thanks to a very generous business, we'll have lots of new holiday clothing for sale.

Our bake goods table will be loaded with yummy treats with the emphasis on pies. Who can resist a homemade pie?

Soups and chowders will be available for take-out both Friday and Saturday.

Our small crafting group has been meeting throughout the year and it's never too late to join us. We can always find something for you to do.

Watch for updates! Feel free to ask should you have any questions.

Trudy Duval, Event Chairperson

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Newsletter Finance Info - as of 09-22-2026

2026 Annual Budget Amount for Operating Expenses	\$	148,470.81
August		
Income		
Budgeted	\$	6,440.23
Actual	\$	8,241.30
Expenses		
Budgeted	\$	10,140.20
Actual	\$	5,000.89
September		
Income		
Budgeted	\$	7,575.93
Actual	\$	5,525.00
Expenses		
Budgeted	\$	12,188.09
Actual	\$	2,039.04

LACO Fundraiser

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

at Food City in Lisbon Falls



October 2 & 3
8 AM – 6 PM



Bottle Drive 🍁 **Food Collection** 🍁 **Bake Sale**



Bake Sale

Volunteers are needed to bake for the bake sale and deliver it to Food City on either day.



Food City

Volunteers are needed to work the bake sale at Food City on both days (October 2 & 3).



Food Pantry

Volunteers are needed to work at the Food Pantry on Wednesdays from 10-1 and Saturdays from 8-10.

Your time and support make a real difference!



**Beginning September 27th
through November 1st**

LUMC will be collecting items for the annual

Children's Christmas Store.

For \$1, children can purchase gifts for their parents and teachers.

All proceeds benefit LACO.



The donation bin is located in the church narthex.

*Thank you
for your
support!*



WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Hello from your Worship Committee. We have done some planning with Pastor Jen to get things lined up for fall/Christmas.

First, we planned our monthly activities:

First Sunday: Children's Time by Sue White

Second Sunday: Puppets

Third Sunday: Faith Basket

Fourth Sunday: Children's Time by Pastor Jen

If you are interested in participating in any of these activities, please let one of us know and we'll welcome you.

Looking ahead:

October 4: World Communion Sunday

October 18: Laity Sunday-please contact Sue White if you would like to participate

November 1: All Saints Day

November 15: Music Sunday

November 19: First Sunday of Advent

December 2: Decorating the church for Christmas at 1pm.

December 24: We will keep you posted on these plans. This is a Thursday

For all you gardeners out there, we would love to see some live floral arrangements on the altar area.

For those who are lectors/liturgists on Sunday morning Pastor Jen will be giving a training. The time and date will be set after we get through the Church Conference. All those who are already reading and those who might like to give it a try are welcome.

Sue White, Chair

OCTOBER CELEBRATIONS!



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

2nd:	Dana Morgan	10th:	Elizabeth Batchelder-Smith
	Sean Wile	11th:	Caliyah Duncan
5th:	Jessica Millson	15th:	Chuck Maletich
	Noelle Stambach	22nd:	Corinne Goss
6th:	Linda Cummings	24th:	Devin Knight
	Alex Hall	30th:	Art Stambach
8th:	Donald Knight		Gail Twigg

Happy Anniversary to the following couples celebrating in October!

7th:	Harvey & Sue White	10th:	Jackson & Sylvia White
11th:	Shawn & Amanda Maloy		

BLOOD DRIVE UPDATE

We had a very successful blood drive on Thursday, September 10! We collected 25 life-saving units of blood products. We were fortunate to have four Power Red donors, including our very own Trudy! One Power Red donation equals two life-saving units. The process takes a bit longer, and the donor has an extra month to recoup their red blood cells before they are eligible to donate again.

We also had two walk-ins, which put us over our goal of 23 units.

The next blood drive I support will be held on Saturday, November 14th at the MTM Center from 9-2. This is the annual blood drive in Tracy Sautter's memory.

Thank you to all our donors and support.

Gwen



October 7th Church Conference

**w/ Androscoggin
Cooperative Parish**

**Auburn UMC
6:30 PM**

MTM Center

18 School Street, Lisbon Falls

Saturday, November 14th

9am-2pm



In Memory of Tracy Sautter ♥

**Questions? Call Gwen
at 353-6814**

FROM YOUR LAY LEADER

It's my favorite time of year-fall. This year seems a bit challenging, though. I'm feeling a little overwhelmed with all the church meetings and Church Conference coming up. I also am overloaded with my apple crop. I have been trying to find a way to give myself permission to let things go and let God take over. Psalm 148 even praises God for apple orchards. Maybe I should just share with the deer, squirrels, and birds. Now I find out we are getting a nor'easter! I need to save those apples! Anxiety has taken over.

Of course, God has put answers in my way. My Cokesbury (the Methodist publishing house) sent me a wonderful email this morning. One of the Methodist writers, Mark Reynolds, has written about how he felt panicked. He was surfing after a hurricane and a wave pulled him upside down underwater. Have you ever had that happen? I once was flipped over by an incoming wave and lost my glasses. That was a scary moment. Like Mark, I knew I needed air and a sense of direction. In my case, my awesome hubby picked me up. Mark closed his eyes and felt a sense of relaxation. He was ok and got reoriented in the water, finding his way to the surface.

When things happen that are out of our control we want to analyze and make it right. What we can do is pray and focus on Jesus. Jesus will give us a sense of direction and help us take the next step. If we are frozen and can't seem to move forward, we can take one step at a time and God will show us the way. God gives us the permission to "Let it Go" to quote a familiar song. I can let the apples fall where they may and enjoy what God has given.

Peace be With You,

Sue White

DIRECTORY UPDATE

Liz Sawyer has a new address. Her address is:

Liz Sawyer

19 Skyline Court

Randolph, ME 04346

Her phone number is 207-449-2702

**Pastor Jen will be
on
Wednesdays**



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).

October 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2-LACO Fund-raiser @ Food City	3-LACO Fund-raiser @ Food City
4-Worship in person & online, Holy Communion, 9:30	5	6	7-Annual conference, 6:30 @ Auburn UMC	8	9	10
11-Worship in person & online, 9:30	12	13	14	15	16	17
18-Worship in person & online, 9:30 Laity Sunday	19	20	21	22	23	24-Bean Supper, 4:30
25-Worship in person & online, 9:30 Trunk or Treat 2-4	26	27	28	29	30	31-Happy Halloween

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.

Community Engagement Hours: Wednesday-

9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

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

Please call or text 242-2840 for an appt.

Friday is the Pastor's Sabbath day

Important Contacts:

Pastor: Jen Reed

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Organist & Choir Director: Debbie Greim

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