Lisbon United Methodist Church

NEWSLETTER

November 2026

From your Pastor:

"Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."-1 Thessalonians 5:18 (NRSVUE)

As we look ahead to Thanksgiving, November gives us a chance to think about the many things we are thankful for and the ways God is at work in our everyday lives. With so much happening around us, it's easy to get caught up in the day-to-day business of life and miss some of the blessings right in front of us.

This time of year can also bring a lot of noise into our lives. Election seasons, both local and national, can bring strong opinions and disagreements that sometimes leave us feeling weary. We don't have to pretend our differences don't matter, but we can choose how we respond to one another. We can listen a little more patiently, speak with kindness, and remember that the people around us are more than the opinions they or the choices they make.

As followers of Jesus, we are called to love our neighbors, even when we don't see everything the same way. OUr hope rests not in any election or political outcome, but in the faithfulness of god. That doesn't mean ignoring the challenges around us. It means continuing to care for one another, looking for ways to make a difference, and sharing God's love wherever we can.

And there is much for which to give thanks!

I am grateful for our Lisbon UMC faith family and for all the ways you care for one another. I see it in the meals prepared, the prayers offered, the visits and phone calls, and the many little things do to let others know they are not forgotten. I am thankful for the stories you have shared with me, for the history and faithfulness that have shaped this congregation, and for the opportunity to continue getting to know you and discover where God is at work among us.

I am also thankful for the community we share here in Lisbon Falls and the surrounding neighborhoods. So many people are finding ways to help a neighbor, support a family or lend a hand when it is needed. These acts of kindness are often where we see God's love in action.

As we continue learning and growing together, I hope we will keep looking for these opportunities. There is already so much good happening in our church and community. We don't have to do it all ourselves. Sometimes we simply need to notice where love is already being shared and find a way to join in. The following is a spiritual discipline I learned from attending The Walk to Emmaus weekend many years ago.

A Simple Thanksgiving Practice

At the end of each day, take a few quiet moments to ask yourself three questions:

- Where did I notice God's presence today?
- What is one thing I am thankful for?
- Who might need a little kindness, encouragement, or prayer tomorrow?

You don't need to write anything down unless you want to. Simply take a breath, offer a prayer of thanks, and place this day-the day ahead-in God's hands. May prayer for us this November is that we will continue to grow in our love for God and our neighbors, offering encouragement, kindness, and hope wherever we can. As we gather around our Thanksgiving tables, may we remember that even when life is uncertain and we don't have all the answers, God remains faithful.

With a grateful heart and hope for the journey ahead,

Pastor Jen

Trunk or Treat: A Spookacular Afternoon in our Community!

What a beautiful afternoon for a community celebration! WIth not a cloud in the bright sky, the MTM Community Center hosted a very successful Trunk or Treat event, complete with a Halloween Pet Show. It was wonderful to see families come together to enjoy the afternoon and celebrate the season.

Lisbon UMC was well represented with three creative trunks: Candy Land, Under the Sea, and a Haunted Trunk! We had a great time welcoming families and handing out 200 snack baggies filled with candy, stickers, and bracelets. Each bag also included a card with our church name and worship time on one side and a list of upcoming church events on the other. It was a fun way to share a little about who we are and invite our neighbors to join us!

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Events like this are wonderful opportunity to connect with our community, build relationships and simply enjoy spending time with our neighbors. We are especially grateful to be a part of an event hosted by one of our closest neighbors, the MTM Community Center.

A big thank you to Trudy, Erica and Shane for helping organize and set up the event, and to everyone who donated candy and joined us in making the afternoon such a success. Your time, generosity, and willingness to participate helped make this a fun filled meaningful day for Lisbon UMC and our community.

What a blessing to share a beautiful fall afternoon with our neighbors!







A BIG thank you to Pastor Jen and Kevin for being the perfect lobster and Patrick Starfish. Patrick was definitely the star of the show!

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Church Celebrations!

Happy Birthday to the following Church Members!

1- George Morgan

7- Dean Logan

8- Candy Mills

12- Maryann Breden

15-Trudy Duval

23- Harvey White

26- Dawn King

Edra Nelson

29-Clyde Cavender

Happy Anniversary to the following couples:

22-Chris & Hilary Hall

25-Dave & Monica McCusker

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Financial Information

Newsletter Finance Info - as of 10-24-2026		
2026 Annual Budget Amount for Operating Expenses	$	148,470.81
September		
Income		
Budgeted	$	7,575.93
Actual	$	6,742.66
Expenses		
Budgeted	$	12,188.09
Actual	$	4,525.42
October		
Income		
Budgeted	$	5,918.77
Actual	$	5,246.70
Expenses		
Budgeted	$	10,233.44
Actual	$	5,593.54

From Your Lay Leader

I came across this benediction in my daily devotional email From Richard Rohr. I hope it can help carry you through your busy days.

The retired Episcopal bishop and theologian Stephen Charleston offers a benediction for our life's journey:

We are forgiven for the mistakes we have made.

We are loved without condition.

We are blessed without asking.

We are watched over when we are careless.

We are understood when we are not making sense.

We are remembered

Even when we have forgotten ourselves….

The Spirit around us is compassion.

We may not understand it all.

We may differ widely in how we describe it.

But we each have an invitation to freedom

A chance to see more deeply, a path to follow home.

We awaken to what is sacred. We grow into the holy.

We find what has always been there. [2]

Peace to you all,

Sue White

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Nurture News

Hi everyone,

Here is an update from the Nurture Committee.

Members of the Nurture Committee (Pastor Jennifer, Jennifer Morgan, Carolyn Jones, Margaret Logan, Gwen Logan, and Peggy Shaw) joined the Evening Circle's meeting on October 18th. Nurture continues to support both the Outreach and Evening Circle committees.

Looking ahead, here are a few upcoming events and activities Nurture will be supporting:

- November 13th–14th: Supporting the Christmas/Holiday craft fair.

- November 23rd: Helping decorate the church for the Christmas season with the hanging of the greens.

- December 5th: Helping with Breakfast with Santa.

Best regards,

Peggy Shaw

Holiday Fair & Silent Auction

Our Holiday Fair and Silent Auction is less than three weeks away. Plans are well underway for a successful event. A few “crafters” have been busy working on a variety of items for our craft tables. Carolyn Jones is heading up the bake sale, with an emphasis on pies. We will provide the pie tins so they’ll all be uniform in size. We’ve got a couple of new additions in the works as well as some new donors for our silent auction. We will be looking for volunteers to make chicken noodle soup, corn chowder or a vegetable soup. We will also need help both Friday and Saturday working on the event. If you would like to help all day, or just a couple of hours, or are willing to make a soup/chowder we would appreciate it. Let me know what works best for you. If you have any questions, please come see me.

Trudy Duval

Event chairperson

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LACO News

LACO has served food to 28,127 people from January-September. We need more volunteers to serve this number of people. The food pantry and clothing bank are open from 9-1 on Wednesdays and 8-10 on Saturdays.

Even an hour or two to volunteer would help. Items needed at the food pantry are mac and cheese, cans of tuna, crackers, pasta, spaghetti sauce, and cereals, especially children's cereal.

The LACO Christmas Fair will be on December 5th at the Lisbon Falls Baptist Church gym. There will be raffles, crafts, baked table, and canteen, and plenty of vendors. It takes place from 8-2. There will be a kid's craft table to make crafts, and Santa will visit with the kids.

The Children's Only Christmas Shop at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church is on December 12th from 10-2.

Children can shop for gifts for their grandparents , parents, siblings, and teachers for $1 a gift. The Lisbon Falls Christian School high school students act as the elves to help them shop. Gifts are wrapped so they remain a secret. We can always use gift wrappers if you have an hour or two to donate.

Carol Day

Outreach News

In October we welcomed Joan Stambach to the Outreach Committee. A big thank you to everyone who contributed to the recent collection of the items for the Children's Only Christmas Shop. We are now planning on working with our local schools to provide 12 turkey dinners to local families as well as fruit baskets for our church shut-in's.

Once again we voted to support the Drop In Center and their unhoused guests. We will be collecting gift cards which are given to their clients. The Drop In Center suggests cards from the following business: Dunkin Donuts, Hannafords, Burger King, McDonald and Dollar Tree. This collection starts November 15th and will run until December 12th.

Thank you in advance for helping to bring some joy into their clients lives.

Have a joyful Thanksgiving,

Connie Earle, Chairperson

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Please turn your cards in to Connie Earle
Tape the gift receipt to the card
Thank you!

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Pastor Jen's
Lunch Bunch
Wednesday, November 4th
at 11:00 AM
Bring your own brown bag lunch
and join us in the church dining room
for
Fellowship, Conversation,
and Lunch.
A wonderful midweek break
to connect and grow together!

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