

December
2018

Lovell United Church of Christ

1174 Main St., Lovell, Maine

The Circuit Rider



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FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

It is December already – can you believe it?! The end of another year and I hope this year you have been filled with God's presence, God's peace and God's love. Now we begin the season of Advent – waiting and watching.

Down on the farm we have been busy checking and fixing fences, again filling barns with hay, generally getting ready for winter. The three cria (baby alpaca) are now five months old and growing fast. One is almost as big as one our adults. They romp and play and then start all over again. They are very busy. I wonder what they will have to say on Christmas Eve.

I am sure many of you have heard this story. Now according to legend, Christ's birth occurred at exactly midnight. Inside the stable, the animals watched in wonder as the new-born babe was lovingly wrapped in swaddling clothes and placed in a manger. Suddenly, God gave voice to the animals and immediately they began to praise God for the miracle they had just seen. This went on for several minutes. Then the shepherds arrived. They had been told by the angels that Christ was born in the stable. The animals again fell silent.

The legend of the talking animals persists to

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this day in Scandinavia. And every Christmas Eve, wide-eyed children creep into stables just before midnight to hear the animals.

I find that if you listen carefully, the animals will tell you what is important. Usually it is not with words but with gestures and expressions. Then there is a way I have connected with my barn friends that feels like a heart to heart connection. It is like listening from the inside not just with our ears.

I find that this is how I listen for whispers of God. It is a feeling, a sensation and then my mind captures the thoughts. Prayer is our expression of our love for God. I invite you all to take time to enter the silence and to pray as we wait and watch for Jesus, the Christ, to come to the stable in Bethlehem under the light of a star.

These are the Gospel readings for Advent.

1. Luke 21:25-36 – Sign of things to come
2. Luke 3:1-6 – Make ready
3. Luke 3:7-18 – Look Forward
4. Luke 1:39-55 – Moving with Mary's song

Hope you all have a wonderful Christmas season.

Merry Christmas, Pastor Lois

CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

MONDAYS ALL MONTH

9:00-3:00 Secretary's hours

9:00-12:00 Pastor's Hours

WEDNESDAYS ALL MONTH

Choir rehearsal 7:00 pm

THURSDAYS ALL MONTH

9:00-1:00 Secretary's hours

9:00-12:00 Pastor's Hours

10:00-2:00 *The Gathering*

Place Senior Fellowship

SATURDAYS ALL MONTH

AA meetings 7:00

SUNDAYS ALL MONTH

Sunday School 9:00 am

Worship 10:30 am

Youth Group 1:00-3:00 pm

SATURDAY, December 1

Christmas Tea 2:00-4:00

SUNDAY, December 2

Communion Service

1st Sunday of Advent

Potluck supper at 4:30 with
tree decorating & carol sing

TUESDAY, December 4

St. Petersburg Men's Ensemble

Concert at LUCC 7:00

FRIDAY, December 7

Christmas Caroling 4:00

SUNDAY, December 9

Second Sunday of Advent

Fryeburg Academy Candlelight

Christmas Concert

MONDAY, December 10

Missions Meeting 10:30

Deacon's meeting 12:00

Trustees Meeting 7:00 pm

TUESDAY, December 11

Ladies Circle Christmas party

SUNDAY, December 16

Third Sunday of Advent

"A Christmas to Believe In"

pageant during worship

Potluck supper 5:30 followed by

holiday music by the MWV Ukulele

Posse

MONDAY, December 17

Missions Meeting 10:30 am

Cabinet Meeting 7:00 pm

SUNDAY, December 23

Fourth Sunday of Advent

No Sunday School

MONDAY, December 24

Christmas Eve Service 7:00

MONDAY, December 31

New Year's Eve celebration 5:30



Community Christmas Caroling

Join us on Friday, December 7th at 4:00 pm. We will board the bus to carol around town before stopping at the town tree lighting event at the Hobbs Library. All are welcome! Children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.



LADIES CIRCLE

Dec. 11 Business Mtg. & Christmas Party 12:00 noon

Dec. 31 New Year's Eve Party 5:30 at LUCC

The Ladies Circle kitchen clean up volunteer for Dec. is Nancy Olmsted. The Snowflake Fair was held Nov. 10, and a profit of over \$2500 has been added to the Circle's treasury. A huge thank you goes to all who contributed to making the Snowflake Fair such a success including a special thank you to Elsa and Jan Newhouse who coordinated the Greens Table and came to the rescue several times. There was no electricity in the area that day so several of us came prepared with lanterns, etc. Luckily the power came back on before the fair started. Purchase of portable mikes is the next possible project. Dec. 11th is the Circle's next activity and will include a business meeting and Christmas Party with exchange of gifts. The time will be 12:00 noon but the location has not been confirmed yet. At our Nov. business meeting, \$1100 was voted for Christmas Gifts. The New Year's Eve Party this year will take place at the Center Church starting at 5:30. Please be sure to add your name to the sign-up

sheet that will be posted in the Church Vestry. There are no membership requirements for Ladies Circle, so please feel free to attend business meetings, work meetings or other activities as your time allows.

Contacts: Linda Libby, trout@fairpoint.net 925-3661, or Carolyn Carter, cecarter1994@gmail.com 928-2080.

9	Nancy Wilson
10	Dilen Drew
13	Betty White
	Lois Brown
	Sue Clout
14	Becky Heath
	Phyllis Gregson
16	Gene Royer
	Linda Libby
17	James Littlefield
20	Norman Hodgkins
24	Holly Morse
28	Ethan Jordan
29	Judy Mills
31	Andrew Carter
	Clare Gardner
	Lila Lowell



COMMITTEE NEWS

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Sunday School is in full swing!

We offer classes for all ages. Returning teachers are: Heather Sawin (Pre-K & K), Vicki Royer (Grades 1-3) Carolyn Carter (Grades 4-8). Youth Group for grades 5-12 meets on Sunday afternoon from 1:00-3:00 at the Faith Community Church for the fall months. It's never too late to join and all are welcome! FMI about any CE programs, contact Carolyn Carter at 928-2080 or the church office.

SILENT AUCTION FUNDRAISER- COMING IN JANUARY 2019!

We're gearing up for something new and we hope you can help. We are currently accepting donations of new or gently used items, large or small, as well as toys and gift certificates for a silent auction. Date to be announced. Contact the church office if you have something to donate. Thanks!



December 1-Christmas Tea 2:00-4:00

December 2-1st Sunday of Advent

Potluck supper 4:30, tree decorating & carol sing

December 4-St. Petersburg Men's Ensemble Concert at LUCC 7:00

December 7-Christmas Caroling/meet at LUCC at 4:00 to board the bus

December 9-Second Sunday of Advent

Fryeburg Academy Candlelight Concert

December 16- Third Sunday of Advent

Pageant presentation "A Christmas to Believe In" during worship

Potluck supper 5:30 followed by holiday music by the MWV Ukulele Posse

December 23-Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 24-Christmas Eve Service 7:00

December 31-New Year's Eve celebration 5:30 pm

Lovell Girl Scouts

It's not too late to register your daughter for the 2018-2019 Girl Scout year as all five Lovell troops are active with 13 trained leaders and 30 girls aged 5-17. New leaders, Heather Rowe, Susie Mosca and Anna Mosca completed required training in Bridgton on Nov. 10. All the troops will be participating in a Court of Awards, Investiture & Rededication Ceremony, to be held at Lovell UCC on Dec. 11 at 6:30pm. Daisy Troop 146 (Gr. K & 1) meets Fridays, 2:30-4:00, in the New Suncook School Art Room and girls are working on Daisy petal program. Brownie Troop 3149 (Gr. 2 & 3) meets each Thursday 2:30-4:00 in the Community Room at New Suncook School and will be attending the "Rock the Wall" event in Portland on Dec. 8. Junior Troop 208 (Gr. 4 & 5) meets twice a month. These girls attended an overnight at the Children's Museum in Portland Nov. 3 & 4, are working on the "Playing in the Past" badge and will be visiting Home Depot on Dec. 1 to make a wooden Christmas sleigh. Cadette Troop 67 (Gr. 6-8) meets twice a month at the Lovell Library and girls are saving for a trip to Montreal in 2019. The Senior/Ambassador Troop 58 (Gr. 9-12) meets 1st & 3rd Monday nights at the Fryeburg Congregational Church. These girls sold homemade cranberry sauce and apple pies at the Nov. 17 Snowflake Fair at LUCC to raise money for a trip to Montreal in 2019. They will also be part of the planning committee for the Cookie Rally scheduled for Jan. 5 at Lake Region HS. Silver Award (the second highest award in GS) girls, Alanna Nataluk, Jade Blood and Hannah Reed will receive special recognition at the Dec. 11 Court of Awards. On Dec. 1, both Troops 67 and 58 will be sponsoring a dinner in Bridgton during the Festival of Lights. Scouts still continue their returnable bottle/can collection (*please be sure containers are returnable*) at Lovell UCC, or donations may be left at Woitko's Redemption Center on McNeil Road. Just ask that the Girl Scout account be credited. Contact Linda Libby, Lovell Organizer/ Recruiter, trout@fairpoint.net, or 925-3661 for local and service unit information.

Returnable Bottle & Can Collection to Benefit Girl Scouts.

Please place empty bottles and cans in the container available at Lovell UCC

All the Lovell Girl Scout leaders and girls wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



Ongoing Programs

PRESCHOOL

Childcare is provided during worship every Sunday if needed. We offer a PreK-K Sunday School class (Sep-May) every week at 9:00 am. All are welcome and it is never too late to join in the fun!

CHILDREN (K-8)

Sunday School classes are offered every week from 9:00-10:00 am. All are welcome to join any time September-May.

YOUTH GROUP (Middle School & High School)

This meets September-May and is open to all youth in grades 5-12. FMI contact the church office.

MUSIC-HANDBELLS

Our handbell choir rehearses and performs at various times during the year. FMI contact Ruth Mitchell at 928-2888.

MUSIC-CHOIR

Choir rehearsals are held Wednesday evenings from 7:00-8:00 pm and the choir participates in worship every Sunday. All are welcome to join!

WOMEN'S EVENING BIBLE STUDY

This group meets at Vicki Royer's home on the 2nd & 4th Tuesday of each month. 6:30-9:00 pm. FMI contact Vicki at 925-1444.

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.



**MONDAY,
WEDNESDAY
AND SATURDAY
FROM 10:00-12:00
NO EARLY
BIRDS, PLEASE!**

SENIOR ADULTS

Our Senior Fellowship, *The Gathering Place*, meets on Thursdays from 10:00-2:00. This is **FREE and open to any senior who wishes to drop in**. Bring your own lunch. Coffee, tea and snacks are provided. A hot meal is provided on the first Thursday of each month. Chair yoga is offered on the Third Thursday of the month. This is a time for fellowship, games, art and special events. Call the church FMI.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE GATHERING PLACE

December 6 Monthly hot lunch served
December 13 Christmas celebration
December 20 Chair Yoga

AA MEETINGS

are held at LUCC on Saturdays at 7:00 pm

STAY IN TOUCH

COME SEE US
1174 Main St.

PO Box 232
Lovell, ME 04051

CALL US
(207)925-1321 (office)
(207)925-1207 (Pastor's Study)



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VISIT US ONLINE
www.lovellucc.org

Email:
lucc@fairpoint.net

The Circuit Rider submission deadline for February is January 13th.

THE MASTERPIECES OF WORLD CLASSIC CHORAL SACRED MUSIC
& TRADITIONAL RUSSIAN FOLK SONGS

CREDO

St. Petersburg Men's Ensemble
RUSSIA



Tuesday, December 4, 2018

7:00 pm

At The Lovell United Church of Christ

1174 Main St.

Lovell, Maine

All are welcome!
A free will offering will be accepted