

Lovell United Church of Christ
PO Box 232
Lovell, ME 04051

The Circuit Rider

December 2024 January 2025

Sunday worship 10:30 am Church office: (207)925-1321 Email: info@lovellucc.org

Dear friends,

Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields,
keeping watch over their flock by night.

Then an angel of the Lord stood before them,

and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid,

for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people:

to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.

This will be a sign for you:

you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger."

The Gospel according to Luke chapter 2 verses 8 through 12

These verses of the Christmas narrative from Luke's account are among my favorites. Maybe because the 10-year-old in me still hears Linus explaining to Charlie Brown the real meaning of Christmas. Now as an adult with a few years of life and semesters of seminary behind me, I appreciate this passage for the deeper meaning it holds. The angels were announcing the birth of the long-awaited Messiah, the ruler who was to redeem God's people. And where was this announced Messiah born?

Not in Jerusalem, but in some small crossroad location just off the interstate. Not in the temple or the house of a member of the priesthood, but in the shed of a roadside inn (today's truck stop) to a poor unmarried couple!

And who was the first to receive this news? Not the ruling elite in Jerusalem or Rome. But shepherds! The herders of sheep and goats ranked low on the scale of power and privilege in contrast to the emperor or priests of the Temple.

This Messiah came in simple homey conditions, born to common everyday folks and announced to those of little social/ political capital.

If this is how the first Christmas played out, what might this mean for you and me today?



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Certainly, our little towns are not considered hubs of influence, political or commerce. Most of the folks I know and hang around with do not walk to corridors of power or attend the social events of the rich and famous!

Yet it was to folks such as us amongst whom the Messiah was born and was first announced.

There are those who like to make predictions and conjectures about the return of Jesus. These usually anticipate Jesus coming in some grand style in a place of great importance and influence. I like to think that if such an event does come to be, Jesus will more likely turn up in some out of the way place in a in a very unsuspecting way.

Who knows, maybe he is even here now in our very midst!

Yours keeping my eye out for Jesus,



11/26-12/17 Advent Bible Study
Tuesdays 10:30-12:00 (12/10 TBD)

12/1 First Sunday of Advent worship 10:30
Lunch following worship. Stay and help deck the halls and make wreaths for the Snowflake Fair.

12/8 Second Sunday of Advent worship 10:30
Bible Adventures for children at 9:00 am
Christmas movie-all are invited

12/13 Christmas Caroling around town
Meet at LUCC at 4:00. Cocoa and cookies after the event. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

12/15 Third Sunday of Advent worship 10:30

12/22 Fourth Sunday of Advent worship 10:30
Handbells and special music Sunday

12/24 Christmas Eve Service 5:00 pm

Please join us for any, or all, of these events!
Everyone is welcome.

CHRISTMAS FUND OFFERING 2024

“The Glory of God shone around them...”

Luke 2:9

It's Advent, the season of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. During the month of December, we can “Be the Light” to clergy, church workers and their families through the Christmas Fund. “For over 100 years The Christmas Fund has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ, providing emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, and Christmas “Thank You” gift checks each December to our lower-income retirees.

Please prayerfully consider a gift to the Christmas Fund. You may place a gift in the offering plate or send to the Lovell UCC, Box 232 Lovell, Me 04051 marked Christmas Fund. We will receive the Christmas Fund Offering throughout December and on Christmas Eve.

CHRISTMAS BASKETS – In November and December the Mission Committee focuses on the distribution of Christmas Baskets to those who might need a bit of cheer and goodwill during the holidays. Approximately 20 baskets are compiled of items for a full holiday meal as well as gifts for every family member. If you know of someone or a family that could use a Christmas Basket, please call the church office at 925-1321 and speak with Pastor Neil or Heather. ALL names are confidential.



TRUSTEES The Lovell UCC Board of Trustees met Monday, Nov. 11, 7:00pm, in person. ZOOM, if needed, will be available for meetings. This meeting included financial reports, investment reports, old business and new business. The “to do” list has changed. The purchase of a new stove was approved and has been ordered. Arrival should be in 4-5 weeks. A donation of \$5000 is coming in and an application to the Coe Fund has been completed. We will also be applying for a grant from the Maine Conference UCC. Other donations will be appreciated to help with the stove cost. The generator that was donated for use at the Parsonage has been serviced and new hookups are being installed. Fourteen Employee Review forms were received and a Trustee will be meeting with the three paid employees soon. Budget requests have been given to Joe Dorner who is working on the first draft of the 2025 budget. In order to receive full liability coverage, we must have a safety policy on file. Cabinet has been requested to take on this project. For more information, contact Linda Libby 925-3661 or Farwell Sawin, Jr, 925-1517

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION Bible Adventures for children will be held next on **12/8 at 9:00 am**. It’s never too late to join us! Evening Bible Study is held on the **1st & 3rd Wednesday of November & December** at 6:30 pm. Advent Bible Study, “The Redemption of Scrooge” Tuesdays beginning 11/26 10:30-12:00. Christmas Caroling 12/13. Meet at LUCC at 4:00 pm. Cocoa and cookies following the event. Children must be accompanied by an adult. All are welcome at any of these events!



LADIES CIRCLE

The Kitchen Clean-Up volunteer for November is Mary Heroux and Nancy Olmsted & Linda Libby are responsible for December. At the Nov. 12 Circle meeting, the ladies voted to pay their \$1000 pledge to LUCC now and will pay the \$1800 in holiday gifts after the Dec. 7 Snowflake Fair. Thank you art and photos were received from Daisy Troop 146 for the Circle’s donation to cover Daisy tunics and insignia cost. The program following the business meeting was making bows and wiring cones to use on wreaths to be sold at the Dec. 7 Snowflake Fair. Workers for the Dec. 7, 10-1 Snowflake Fair were assigned. Available at the fair will be baked goods, raffle, gifts, greens, fir pillows, berry bowls, a Thrift Shop Christmas Corner and a take-out lunch by Joyce Furtado. A wreath order form is available in the Vestry. Set-up for the fair is scheduled for 9:00am on Friday, Dec. 6. Sue DeWire will be hostess at the Dec. 10 Christmas celebration at the Old Mill Tavern. A special invitation is extended to all Thrift Shop workers. There are no membership requirements for Ladies Circle so all are welcome to join the group as schedules allow. Contacts: Linda Libby 925-3661, lindalibby12345@outlook.com or Carolyn Carter 928-2080, cecarter1994@gmail.com



All of our Lovell Girl Scout troops are currently meeting. Daisy Troop 146 (K & 1) and Brownie Troop 58 (2 & 3) are meeting at New Suncook School and Jr/Cadette Troop 3149 (4 & up) is meeting at Molly Ockett Middle School. Daisies had a great time decorating pumpkins donated by John Bacchiocchi and have earned their promise circle plus their first two petals, Honest and Fair & Friendly and Helpful. They are working on their Considerate and Caring petal which includes “Leave No Trace” activities. Brownie Troop 58 has been working on badges, carved pumpkins and visited the obstacle course in Bridgton. Junior/Cadette Troop 3149 with leaders Andrea Waker and Andrea Goodwin will be doing an overnight at Lovell UCC on Nov. 16 and are also planning a trip to Boston. To help with cost, this troop will be selling crafts at the FA Craft Sale on Nov. 24. All the troops participated in the Girl Scout fall sale of candy & nuts and delivery is planned for Nov. 23. Registrations for girls and adult volunteers are still being accepted. For more information, contact lindalibby12345@outlook.com or 925-3661

Ongoing programs:



CHILDREN

Bible Adventure classes for children in grades K-6 are offered once per month, October-May. Call the church office for more information.

EVENING BIBLE STUDY

This group meets on the 2nd & 4th Wednesday of each month (Oct-May). 6:30-9:00 pm. FMI contact Vicki at 925-1444. ***Please note That this group will meet on the 1st & 3rd Wednesday during November and December.**

MUSIC-CHOIR

Choir rehearsals are held Sunday mornings at 9:30 am followed by the choir's participation in worship.

MUSIC-HANDBELLS

Handbells rehearse Wednesdays from 9:30-10:30 and perform during worship monthly.

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



OPEN WEDNESDAYS & SATURDAYS

10:00-2:00

\$2/Bag sale the last Wednesday and Saturday of each month. Follow us on Facebook for additional sales.

HELP WANTED

Do you ever have an hour or so to spare? Want to meet new people, and make new friends while getting a bit of exercise (as much or as little as you want)? Drop by the church almost any Tuesday or Thursday morning between 8-10, or so, and join in the fun. And we do have fun! The task is sorting the generous donations which come in daily to the Thrift Shop donation shed. Many are priceless treasures; some things we never do figure out! The Thrift Shop is a huge community outreach project which grows continually, as well as being a source of church funding. Projects are available both indoors and outdoors, sitting or standing or doing the stairs. All are welcome!

Rev. Neil H. Wilson, Pastor

Pastor's office hours:

Monday 9:00-1:00

Wednesday 9:00-1:00

Email: pastor@lovellucc.org

Call or text (260)849-1512

Heather Sawin, Office Administrator

Office Administrator's hours:

Monday 9:00-2:00

Wednesday 9:00-2:00

Office 925-1321

Email: info@lovellucc.org

Dan Moore, Director



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stayCONNECTED

**No matter who you are or where you
are on life's journey,
you're welcome here**

