



The Circuit Rider 2025



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



Dear friends,

While this January (as of the writing of this article), seems to have been colder than many of our previous Januarys, at our house we have not seen a below zero reading. Which I recall was a common occurrence for January and February in the past. But then of course, for all of us old-timers it was always colder, snowier, hotter, rainier, the black flies thicker and the mosquitos bigger in the "old days when we were growing up!" Ask my grandchildren! (Since I wrote this we have had 2 days with below zero temps! But still nothing like the "back in the old days!")

I've always found it interesting how we often on the one hand long for the "good old days" yet on the other hand, claim how difficult those days were! As we grow older, we not only have selective hearing, but we also have selective memory! In seminary, a required reading was a book titled *The Way We Never Were: American Families and The Nostalgia Trap* by Stephanie Coontz.

As much as I may want to return to some of the things of the past I do not really want to go back to those days as they actually were. Although, I wouldn't mind going back and whispering a few words of counsel in a young fellow's ear! But in truth, I would rather look at the present and consider the future and focus more on these than some impossible return to a time that never really was like we remember it. And even with this I try to focus more on the present. As Jesus said, "So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today." (Matthew 6:34) Jesus was a bit of a downer here! There is also the common adage goes something like this: "Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery, but today is a gift - that's why it's called the present."

I am trying to spend more of my time and energy on enjoying the gift that is each moment. I'm finding that as I do, I am more aware of the ways God may be moving in my life, presenting me with opportunities, placing persons on my path that either I might be of help to or more likely someone who is there to serve as a guide for me. God knows, I need these folks often!

I am not one for making "New Year's Resolutions" these are just some of the things I've been pondering these winter days and nights since the turn of the year.

Yours in the attempt to embrace each moment!

Pastor Neil Wilson

Thank you

Donna and I would like to thank all of you for the many expressions of support and care we received this past Christmas season. But for both of us the greatest gift of all is the opportunity to serve this congregation and our community as your pastor and spouse.

*Blessings,
Pastor Neil & Donna Wilson*



LOVELL AND SWEDEN FOOD PANTRIES –

Our church supports the Lovell and Sweden Food Pantries. Lovell residents can use either or both pantries. Items are delivered to each pantry once per month by a Mission Committee Member. PLEASE LEAVE ITEMS IN THE VESTRY IN THE MARKED BINS. **PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE OPEN/PARTIALLY USED or OUTDATED ITEMS.** Thank you for your support!

Here is a list of frequently used items.

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| Toilet Paper | Baby Wipes |
| Laundry Detergent | Paper Towels |
| Dish Soap | Body Soap |
| Pasta (any type) | Pasta Sauce |
| Cereal | Flour |
| Sugar | Coffee/Tea |
| Peanut Butter | Jelly |
| Juices | Tuna |
| Canned Chicken | Soups |
| Canned Veggies | Granola Bars |
| Fruit (cans or cups) | Pickles |
| Crackers (saltines, graham etc.) | |
| Condiments (ketchup, mustard, mayo) | |
| Canned Beans (baked, black, etc.) | |



Do you love to knit, cross stitch, sew, etc.? Would you like to be inspired to try something new? Come join this group of like-minded friends on the first Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm. All are welcome, come when you can, bring your own project to work on, and join the fun! The first meeting will be February 6th in the vestry, here at LUCC.



TRUSTEES The Lovell UCC Board of Trustees met Monday, Jan 13, 7:00pm, in person. ZOOM was available but not needed. This meeting included the usual financial reports, investment reports, old business and new business. The “to do” list changes each month and now still includes parsonage generator hook-up and new stove shelf which will be delivered on Jan. 31. The Coe Fund application has been submitted and we have found that we are not eligible for the Maine Conference, UCC grant. Other donations are still being accepted. The 2025 budget has been finished, reviews have been done and the stove project is almost finished.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION Bible Adventures for Families will be held next on **2/9 at 9:00 am**. It’s never too late to join us! Evening Bible Study is held on the 2nd & 4th Wednesday evenings of each month at 6:30 pm. All are welcome. See the back of this newsletter for information about our upcoming Cabin Fever event. Friday, February 28th at 6:00 pm. Soup, salad, sandwiches, cookies and entertainment provided! All are welcome.



LADIES CIRCLE The Kitchen Clean-Up volunteer for January is Sue Clout. More people are needed to complete the schedule. Linda Libby was hostess at the Jan. 14 meeting but the Program of Bingo was postponed until the March meeting. This meeting included election of the following 2025 officers: Linda Libby & Carolyn Carter- Presidents, Pat Stearns & Jacky Stearns – Secretaries, Linda Libby & Sue DeWire – Treasurers, Carolyn Carter & Sue Clout – Devotions and Nancy Olmsted – Sunshine Lady. Ladies voted on a \$500 donation to The Christmas Fund and postponed making a decision on a donation to the new stove until the Coe Fund application results have been received. Calendar date changes are: Fruit Basket Delivery 1/18-19 to 1/25-26. Fun Fund lunch at Fryeburg House of Pizza 1/21 to 1/28 and 5th Annual Pie Sale 8/2 to 8/9. A revised calendar will be available soon. There will be no business meeting in February due to the Valentine Tea 1:00-3:00 on Feb. 11. The Valentine Tea Committee of Sue Clout, Nancy Olmsted, Linda Johnson and Linda Libby will meet after lunch on 1/28. Linda Johnson will be hostess at the 3/11 meeting and the program will be the postponed Bingo game. There are no membership requirements for Ladies Circle so all are welcome to join the group as schedules allow. Contacts: Carolyn Carter 928-2080, cecarter1994@gmail.com or Linda Libby 925-3661, lindalibby12345@outlook.com



All 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 have earned one more petal: Respect Myself & Others. The girls celebrated Christmas at their December meeting with refreshments, games and gift exchange. A Court of Awards is scheduled for Jan. 23 when girls receive their Daisy pins and any earned patches. All the troops will be participating in a Cookie Rally at the Fryeburg Rec. Building on Jan. 25. The cookie sale will start that day. Registrations for girls and adult volunteers are still being accepted as well as camp registrations are now open. 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.

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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COME SEE US

1174 Main St.

PO Box 232

Lovell, ME 04051

CALL US

(207)925-1321 (office)

VISIT US ONLINE

www.lovellucc.org

Email: info@lovellucc.org

stayCONNECTED

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

