

The Circuit Rider 2025

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

Dear friends,

Ecclesiastes 3:1 reminds us:

“For everything there is a season, a time for every activity under heaven.”

March is an interesting month, a month of contrasts. It can be a gray, somewhat depressing month. The next day can be sunny and feel more like spring. There is mud season and there is spring skiing. There are freezing nights followed by days when the sap buckets overflow. It is the month when Earth finally tilts on its axis enough to give us a few more minutes of sunlight than darkness. There’s the expression “In like a lion out like a lamb.” Indicating that March can be the month when winter’s hold on us (northerners) is relinquished (at least a little bit!)

In our extended family it is a month of birthdays. There are at least 4 birthdays celebrated in March.

All this is to say that March is a month of change and transition. Life, like March, is full of changes and transitions. These times can bring on a flood of emotions, anxiety, nervousness, fear, or more positively: excitement, joyful anticipation, hopefulness.

I have found faith to be a source of strength and guidance during seasons of change and transition. Faith can guide us whether the changes are causing us anxiety of excitement, fear or hope. Transitions, if navigated with faith, often bring new opportunities and with these opportunities, blessings.

The Lord speaking through Jeremiah the prophet:

*For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord,
plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. (Jeremiah 29:11)*

Also, prophet Isaiah said:

*See, I am doing a new thing!
Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?
I am making a way in the wilderness
and streams in the wasteland. (Isaiah 43:19)*

And I would add, **a dry way through mud season!**

Blessings upon you,

**Join us for a Shrove Tuesday dinner
to mark the start of Lent
Tuesday, March 3rd at 5:30 pm**

**Pancakes (gluten free & dairy free available),
bacon, sausage & fruit salad
FREE (donations accepted)
All are welcome!**

DRIVE-UP LUNCH
SATURDAY, MARCH 29
AT THE
LOVELL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
1174 MAIN ST LOVELL, MAINE
10:00-12:00
\$5 PER PERSON
American Chop Suey, side salad & a cookie

**Just drop by or call Joyce at
928-3132 to reserve your meal**

**All proceeds from this lunch will benefit the
Disaster Relief Fund of the
United Church of Christ**

Thank you for your support!

**March is OGHS month. We will be
receiving this offering throughout
the month of March**

“One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) is a vital special mission offering of the United Church of Christ. It connects you to disaster relief, refugee assistance, and development efforts around the globe. When disasters strike, or when individuals are displaced due to violence or poverty, OGHS ensures immediate response and ongoing recovery.”

HOW TO GIVE: Make checks payable to Lovell UCC marked OGHS in the memo line and mail or bring to church or make a gift in the special offering envelope available in church and place in the offering plate. Please prayerfully consider a gift to OGHS! Thank you.

The Mission Committee of Lovell UCC

FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION - The Mission Committee is going to pick an item for each month to distribute to the Lovell Area Food Pantry and Sweden Food Pantry. At this time the need is great and Food Pantry resources are being used to purchase food staples. The **“Pantry Pick of the Month for February and March” is Toilet Paper.** You can contribute single wrapped rolls or a larger package and the pantries will disburse them. Please drop your items in the church vestry in the bins marked Food Pantry. Thank you for your support!!!!

BLESSING SHELF- Located in the hallway by the Thrift Shop. Take an item and leave an item if you can. Food or other essentials.

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!

**Lenten Bible Study “The Walk”. Join us on Tuesday mornings March 4-April 8 at
10:30 am (time to be determined on 3/11 & 4/8) All are welcome!**

TRUSTEES The Lovell UCC Board of Trustees met Monday, February 10, 7:00pm, in person. ZOOM was available but not needed. This meeting included the usual financial reports, investment reports, old business and new business. Because only three Trustees were present, the election of officers was postponed to the next meeting on March 10. The “to do” list changes each month and now still includes Parsonage generator hook-up and checking on Parsonage electricity costs. The new stove shelf was delivered on Jan. 31. The Coe Fund application has been submitted and we are waiting to see if our request has been approved. Other donations are still being accepted. The 2025 budget was approved at the Annual Meeting on Feb. 2. Our volunteer snow shovelers have been very busy. Thank you: Pastor Neil, Farwell (Jr) Sawin, Jan Newhouse, Joe Dorner and Rod Callen.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION Bible Adventures for Families will be held next on **3/16 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. Beginning in March we will start a new, six-week, more traditional study “What’s So Amazing About Grace?” by Philip Nancy. You can purchase a copy of this study book by contacting Vicki Royer at 925-1444 or purchase it yourself on Amazon.

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.

The Kitchen Clean-Up volunteer for February is Sue Clout and Nancy Olmsted is on for March. More people are needed for April, May, August, October, November and December. Just sign up on the schedule available in the vestry. Six fruit baskets were put together by Nancy Olmsted and Linda Johnson on Jan. 25 then delivered on Jan. 26 by members of the congregation. On Jan. 28, nine ladies enjoyed lunch at the House of Pizza in Fryeburg followed by a Valentine Tea Committee meeting. There was no business meeting on February 11 due to the Valentine Tea coordinated by Sue Clout. Thirty ladies enjoyed a fun afternoon of friendship, food and entertainment. A special thanks goes not only to Sue Clout but to the three gentlemen who did a great job serving the ladies: Pastor Neil, Jan Newhouse and Rod Callen. A brief February meeting agenda was sent by e-mail to the Ladies Circle mailing list. Linda Johnson will be hostess at the March 11 meeting and the program will be the postponed Bingo game. Ladies should bring unwrapped prizes. 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 of our Lovell Girl Scout troops are currently meeting. Daisy Troop 146 (K & 1) meets on Thursday normally, however, school has been cancelled the last two Thursdays due to snowstorms. They did hold a Court of Awards on Jan. 23 when girls received their Daisy pins and were recognized for earning several more Daisy petals. This troop is working on the GSME Winter Challenge and has plans to meet on Feb. 19 at the Libby camp on Horseshoe Pond. Hopefully, they will be able to finish most of the 15 requirements to earn this patch. Brownie Troop 58 will be doing an overnight at Lovell UCC on March 22. All the troops participated in a Cookie Rally at the Fryeburg Rec. Building on Jan. 25 and are in the process of selling cookies. The cookie sale will end the week of Feb. 27 with delivery on March 22. The next Service Unit event is “Celebrating Girl Scouts” scheduled for March 8, 9-11, at Lake Region HS. Girl Scout Sunday is on March 9. Girl Scouts are encouraged to attend their home church or Lovell UCC in uniform. Registrations for girls and adult volunteers are still being accepted and camp registration is now open. For more information, contact lindalibby12345@outlook.com or 925-

Ongoing programs:



CHILDREN

Bible Adventure classes for families 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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stayCONNECTED

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

