



Union Church of Belgrade Lakes
United Methodist Church

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Union Rider March 2025



Dear Members and Friends of
Union Church,

Greetings in the name of the
One we are called to follow on
our way through this life,

and to follow even to the Cross, as we are
walking together through the holy season of
Lent.

This is the season in which we are to
contemplate our faith and how we are living it
out. In order to guide us, the theme I have
chosen for our worship experiences in Lent this
year is this: "God on the Move." With things in
the world, and in our nation, seeming to
move at a faster pace than most of us are
comfortable with, I believe it's good for us to
be reminded that God, too, is always on the
move. God is on the move in ways that we
can see, but most often in ways that we cannot
fully see.

Luke's Gospel reminds us that Jesus too was
on the move – he didn't stay in one place
for very long. In his earthly ministry, he moved
from one place and one encounter to the
next, as he moved through every part of the
human experience, encountering
everything from temptation to devotion, joy to
grief, suffering and even death. As we

again in the holy season of Lent encounter the
life and ministry of Jesus, we too cannot
stay the same; we too can't stay in one place.
We too must be on the move, as we are
called to be disciples of Jesus. We are moved
to grow and change as followers of the
Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Union Church, too, is on the move as we get
ever closer to a transition to a new pastor.
In the comforting truth of Lent, we are called to
remember that we are not alone. God is,
still and always, on the move in our lives,
walking with us every step of the way as we
travel the road to Easter, as you travel the road
to a new beginning in ministry alongside
your next and best pastor.

It is my hope and prayer that Lent will be a
season of our journeying together as we
grow in our discovery of who we are as
individuals, and who God is calling you to be
as a community of Christian faith – a
community of Christ followers. God is on the
move, and calling us to follow!

Together In Christ's Love and Service,

Pastor Eleanor Collinsworth



Our 2025 “Joys and Celebrations” Offering Recipients are Good Shepherd Food Bank and UMEM Food Pantry.

Joys & Celebrations Total as of 2.23.25: \$274.00. Our yearly goal is \$3,500.00.



Meetings at a Glance:

Finance Committee (6pm): March 3

Knitting Group (1pm): March 10 & 24

Missions & Outreach Committee (1130am): March 12

Easter Flowers!



Donations toward the purchase of Easter flowers for the church is a beautiful way to honor, remember, or celebrate a loved one. Donations will be listed in the Easter Sunday

worship bulletin. Please contact the church office by phone or email if you would like to make a donation.



Our Mission Ministries

Through the year, we highlight our mission projects and programs

where we serve God through Christlike compassion, mercy and transformation - reaching out, lifting up, building up. We are led in our efforts by the Missions and Outreach Committee.

Organizations Supported So Far in 2025:

Maine Justice Foundation, Augusta, Maine

Neighbors Driving Neighbors

Adaptive Outdoor Education Center – their annual Ski-A-Thon that supports programs that empower adaptive athletes

Support we gave in 2024:

Center for All Seasons After-School Programs and Summer Camp

Belgrade Rome Food Pantry

Kenneth Workman Youth Sports Program

Maine Justice Foundation, Augusta, Maine.

Messalonskee High School – the High School’s Food Pantry

Bread of Life Ministries

Vernon Valley Lodge 99 A.F. & A.M. – the Bikes for Reading Program for local school children

Adaptive Outdoor Education Center – their annual Ski-A-Thon that supports programs that empower adaptive athletes

Neighbors Driving Neighbors

United Methodist Camp Mechuwana in
Winthrop, ME

Pastor's Discretionary Fund

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Belgrade Central School

UMEM (United Methodist Economic
Ministry, located in Salem & Howland, ME)



Bread Of Life Ministries

**Our Next Bread of Life Homeless Shelter
Dinner will be Tuesday, March 18**

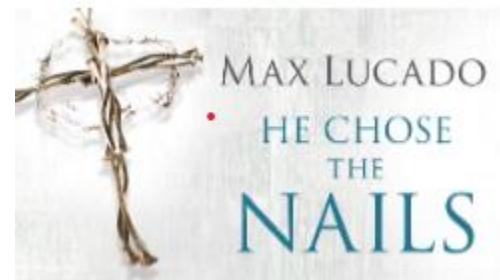
Please email us at unionchurchmaine@gmail.com for those of you wanting to designate your participation in this ministry; we are looking for many volunteers. Signing up is important so that we are aware of what you will bring so that we can complete planning for whatever else needs to be prepared and donated. At this time they are housing around 50 residents.

In addition to providing the Bread of Life Homeless Shelter with a hot meal every month; we have learned that they are in need of warm clothing such as: Wool Hats, Gloves, Hand and Feet Warmers. Please drop off at the church and we will deliver at our next meal delivery.

They are also always in need of pillows, bath towels and face cloths, and bed-in-a-bags (twin size). Bedding is important because the shelter clients take it with them when they move to apartments.

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY

"Finding Jesus in the Psalms" by Max Lucado



Wednesdays 9:45 a.m., March 12 – April 9

In this study, Max Lucado examines the gifts that Christ gave at his crucifixion. These include not only the gift of the cross, but also the gift of the thorns, the nails, and the empty tomb. The cross is rich with God's gifts of grace, and as we unwrap them, we will hear him whisper, "*I did it just for you.*"

Everyone Welcome!

Worship Opportunities in Lent



March 5 – Ash Wednesday: 7-9 a.m. Open Time for Prayer & amp; Imposition of Ashes with Pastor Eleanor

March 9 – 1st Sunday in Lent: "God on the Move – Into the Desert"

March 16 – 2nd Sunday in Lent, with Holy Communion: "God on the Move – In the Lost and Found"

March 23 – 3rd Sunday in Lent: "God on the Move – In Unrecognized Lost-ness"

March 30 – 4th Sunday in Lent: "God on the Move – In Unconditional Love"

Empty Bowls Dinner



Empty Bowls Dinner has been a fundraiser at Messalonskee High School (MHS) for the past several years. The purpose of this project is to raise money for local food pantries. It also raises awareness about some of our community members who are struggling to provide food for their families.

Students from MHS have been crafting ceramic bowls in pottery class, study halls and after school to be sold as part of the dinner, as a reminder of what this event represents. The pottery bowls will be on display for diners to choose and take home with them.

This year's Empty Bowls Dinner will be on Friday, March 7th from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. in the high school cafeteria.

The menu for the evening consists of homemade soups, salad, bread and desserts. The cost is \$10. Please support this worthwhile event!

SPRING FORWARD!



Set your clocks ahead Saturday night, March 8, 2025 (technically, Sunday, March 9 at 2:00 a.m.) so you aren't late for church!

Coming Event – “Technology Support for Seniors”

The Missions & Outreach Committee has been investigating how to provide a special kind of outreach in our community – an outreach effort that would provide learning and support to our community in the use of their handheld electronic devices – cellphones, tablets, laptops, in particular. Committee member Lynn Matson has forged a partnership with Messalonskee High School Principal Scott Hallett to develop a way to match tech-savvy high school students with church and community members. A first event is in the planning stages!

The first trial session of “Technology Support for Seniors” is scheduled here at Union Church, on Tuesday, April 8th, from 6-8 p.m. Please stay tuned to the regular church emails for more information about the event and how you can reserve a spot in this first session!

If you have questions, and just can't wait to get signed up for the event, please contact the church office by phone or email!



SHEBLE CAMBERSHIP FUND

Believe it or not, summer fun is just around the corner... and Union Church is looking to provide summer camp experiences through the Jack and Barbara Sheble Campership Fund.

We Want Campers!

The inspiration for creating the Jack and Barbara Sheble Campership fund was in discovering and recognizing the joy and fond memories from summer camp Jack held throughout his life. Let's pay it forward enriching summertime camp experiences to our community.

The Campership Committee is exploring camp opportunities offered through Belgrade Parks and Recreation Department, Center for All Seasons, in Belgrade, Camp Mechuwana, United Methodist Church Camp, in Winthrop Maine, and possibly others. Stay tuned for unfolding plans for this spring and summer!

If you have questions, please reach out to Pam Mackill, Chair of the Committee at 617-852-4293 or email her at flowerfairypm@gmail.com or email the church at unionchurchmaine@gmail.com. You can also reach out to any of the Committee Members: Lynn Matson, Diane Dunn, Hilary Tatem, or Pastor Eleanor.



If you would like to participate in our worship services by reading Scripture, please sign up on the clipboard hanging on the double doors in Friendship Hall!

Pump Organ – Free to a Good Home!

This pump organ is currently stored in our meeting room/choir room. The Trustees are willing to re-home it. They are investigating a few possibilities and would like your help in that effort. Please share widely with anyone/everyone who might be interested in it. Many thanks!

