



THIS MONTH AT LUMC | October 2025



Dear Church Family,

I don't know about you, but I love October. Between the cool air; the fall foliage; the fresh pumpkins, apples, sunflowers, and corn; and the return of my crockpot's pleasing aroma wafting through the house, New England is in its glory this time of year.

As people of faith, we are "blessed to be a blessing" (Genesis 12:2). This means God gives us good things not only for our own enjoyment, but more importantly, so that we can share those good things with others. October is traditionally a month of harvest, so this month, I invite you to notice how God has blessed you. Perhaps your blessings have come in the form of family and friends, a sense of meaning or purpose, physical or mental health, power, financial provision, the meeting of physical or spiritual needs, the small miracles of earth's harvest, or something else altogether. Say thank you, and then consider this: How might you use your blessings to bless others—both within our church and outside of it?

Grace and peace,

Pastor Michelle



United
Women
in Faith

Our Fall District Meeting is October 4th from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome to attend. The fee for the meeting is \$15/person.



Sunday, October 5th through Friday, October 10th is LUMC's week to help North Star Family Services by providing meals as well as supplies and utilities.

If you would like to help participate in this mission, please contact either Dawnne Prince @ 978 799 6300 (text) or DM Prince68@gmail.com or Julie Haven @ 978 847 7225 or havenju@verizon.net.

Meals should be delivered to the shelter by 5:30 p.m.

Your help and support of this mission is truly appreciated!



The next Appleseed Agape Group meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 13th @ 7:00 pm. We will be working on Agape gifts for the next Emmaus Walk. This will be a hybrid meeting. If you would like to join by zoom, please contact Cat Gabriel at catmfunk@gmail.com or Jamie Filteau @ jrfilteau@gmail.com. We hope to see you there. De Colores!



Our next food pantry distribution is Saturday, October 25, 2025 from 8:00 until 10:00 am.

The following distribution will be on November 22, 2025.

All are welcome to receive food.



Leominster United Methodist Church
77 Hall Street | Leominster, MA 01453
(978) 537-1356 | Lumcoffice1@gmail.com
Rev. Michelle Ashley, Pastor

October 1, 2025

Introducing the Proposed “One Board” Leadership Structure

Dear Church Family,

Grace and peace! In the midst of changing times, I am writing to let you know about a proposed modification to the leadership structure of our local church.

LUMC has always organized its leadership according to a traditional United Methodist Church leadership structure, as laid out in the *United Methodist Book of Discipline*. This traditional structure provides that the highest decision-making body in the local church is the Church Conference (which meets at least once annually—usually in the fall—and is comprised of all professing church members). The traditional structure delegates ongoing leadership, decision-making, and administration during the year to the following committees: 1) the Church Council, 2) the Staff-Parish Relations Committee (SPRC), 3) the Finance Committee, and 4) the Board of Trustees. (LUMC has created many additional committees to provide for our robust mission and ministry efforts, but the above four are required under the traditional leadership structure.)

Beginning in 2016, the *United Methodist Book of Discipline* introduced a new, alternative leadership structure, known as the Simplified Accountable Leadership Structure (or, for short, the “One Board” model). The One Board model maintains the Church Conference as the highest decision-making body in the local church, but then combines the subsequent four primary leadership committees into one leadership board. The purpose of this simplification is for the local church to spend less time and energy on meetings and administrative functioning, so that it can spend more time and energy on fulfilling its mission (making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world!). The One Board model has been in use in United Methodist Churches across our global connection since 2011 and officially approved since 2016. Since that time, the One Board model has been adopted and successfully used by a growing number of local churches in the denomination, including a significant proportion of local churches in the New England Annual Conference.

In the spring of this year, following an eight-week mission and ministry discernment process, the Church Council unanimously voted to ask the Nominations Committee to prepare its leadership nominations for 2026 according to the One Board model. Therefore, when the Nominations Report is released in the coming weeks, you will see one that we have nominated one leadership board that will function as Church Council, SPRC, Finance Committee, and Trustees. All professing church members will have the opportunity to vote on these nominations per the proposed change in leadership at our upcoming Church Conference on November 2, 2025.

Following the release of the Nominations Report, I will be holding two listening sessions for the purpose of answering questions and receiving feedback on this proposal. These listening sessions are open to all and will be held after church, in the Sanctuary, on Sunday, October 19 and Sunday, October 26. Please come with any questions, concerns, or feedback you may have so that you will be prepared to vote at the Church Conference on Sunday, November 2.

Grace and peace,

Rev. Michelle Ashley, Pastor

LUMC hosting Trunk or Treat for our community – Help needed



LUMC is hosting a special Halloween event on Sunday, October 26 from 3-5 PM and we need help! Children in our community will be invited to a family friendly event called "Trunk or Treat." Children can come to our parking lot and see the many decorated trunks of vehicles, play simple games and get some candy.

We need helpers to:

- Donate candy – bring it to LUMC any week before 10/26;
- Come with a Halloween decorated trunk in your vehicle;
- Check guests in at the registration table;
- Help children at one of the games set up in our parking lot.

Please let Beth Newcombe (email: beth@newcombefamily.org) or Jana Harrison (email: janaharrison1@gmail.com) know how you can help.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

Would you like to donate your time to mow the church lawn, saving the church \$500-750 per mow?

Volunteer once or on a regular basis! A riding mower is provided.

For more information, contact the church office at lumcoffice1@gmail.com or (978) 537-1356. Thank you!



Church Family,

Every year, we have a Pumpkin Patch Fair and it is just around the corner.

The date this year is November 7th and 8th. For you that are new to our Church, this is an annual event that is geared for fellowship within the Church and to bring family, friends, co-workers and neighbors to our Church. The proceeds from the Fair go to Church resources, projects and items such as: the white tables in Fellowship Hall, a ladder for replacing light bulbs in Fellowship Hall, reconfiguration of the Old Narthex coat closet, and washer and dryer for the parsonage just to name a few.



The Church will have several tables (crafts, baked goods, vintage items and Candyland Auction). If you have a special interest in any of the tables listed, call the Office! We have a variety of crafters from our Church and great bakers, as well as from the community that will be present. We will have yard signs ready to hand out on September 29th. Please take one. It is fun to see LUMC yellow signs throughout Leominster and the area.

On Friday night, we serve a complete fried chicken dinner and all of the vendors are open. On Saturday, Santa will visit from 12:00-2:00pm. On Saturday, we serve a light breakfast, lunch with homemade soups, sandwiches and baked potatoes. We will serve lunch until 3:00. The drawing for the Candyland Auction is at 3:00pm.

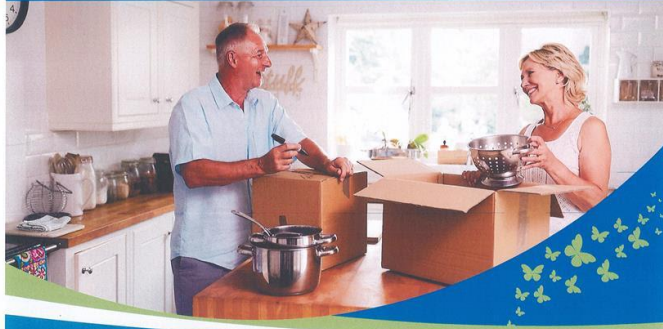
We need help from everyone to make this event a success. No matter how young or old, we have a job for you! If you would like to lead a craft making evening, make a craft, bake or help solicit items for our auction, please let us know. If cooking is your "bag", we start on Thursday, baking and preparing items for the weekend. We need a set-up crew Wednesday night and breakdown crew on Saturday. If you like to chat, we need hosts to greet people and handout crafters lists and information about the Fair at each of our doors. We also need vendors, if you know a crafty person or product vendor (i.e. Avon, Pampered Chef, Tastefully Simple, Tupperware), please let the Office know. It would be wonderful to fill our Church with people.

This is a very short picture of the Fair. Many hands make for a successful event, so please don't wait for a phone call, consider lending your talents for the Fair. 978-537-1356 or email Jamie Filteau at lumcoffice1@gmail.com

The Pumpkin Patch Fair Committee

DECLUTTERING AND DOWNSIZING:
NAVIGATING THE JOURNEY OF LETTING GO!

For many seniors, a lifetime of memories and possessions can accumulate into overwhelming clutter, making downsizing and decluttering seem like an insurmountable challenge. Our seminar, "Decluttering and Downsizing: Navigating the Journey of Letting Go," offers guidance and support to seniors seeking to simplify their lives and create spaces that promote peace, functionality, and well-being. Led by experts in organization, psychology, and senior living transitions, this seminar provides a compassionate and practical approach to tackling the emotional and logistical aspects of decluttering and downsizing.



Join us for a complementary session on Navigating
the Journey of Letting Go: Decluttering & Downsizing

Wednesday, October 8th, 2025
10:30 am - 12:00 pm

At the following location: Fellowship Hall
Leominster United Methodist Church
77 Hall St
Leominster, MA 01453



Free Educational Seminar
Simply Well
Seniors
Aging Well
Seminar Series

Reserve your spot today!

Call or text Kelly @ 978 302 8191
Hosted by Kelly Kurtz & Jeff Turcotte
MBA, REALTOR® SRES® CSHP®

18th Annual Praise Night
뉴잉글랜드 연합 선교 찬양제



United
Women
in Faith

내가 여기 있나이다

Here I am, Lord

2025년 10월 12일 (주일) 오후 5시

2025 Oct. 12 (Sun) 5 pm

그린랜드 연합 감리교회

Greenland United Methodist Church
25 Dearborn Road Greenland, NH

주최: 뉴잉글랜드 한인 연합여선교회

New England Conference United Women in Faith Korean Network





VBS Visioning Team Meeting--VBS is returning to LUMC next summer and plans are already under way! We are excited to turn the church into a rainforest using the "Rainforest Falls" curriculum which explores the nature of God through science and songs and games. Many hands will be needed for the actual VBS program, but right now we are mapping out a vision. Anyone interested in being part of the visioning for VBS is invited to join the meeting on Sunday, October 12th after church. If you are unable to meet this meeting but

interested, please contact Erika Dellovo in church or at 978-407-0704



LGBTQ Inclusion News: A hearty team travelled down to Worcester in early September to participate in the Worcester Pride event. Unfortunately, this was the day that the tornado touched down in nearby Holden so the event was cut short, but people engaged very well with our booth before the monsoons came. Many people commented that they found healing and hope just in our presence there. A special shout out to Caleb Weldon and Julie Haven for above-and-beyond humble service packing up during the height of the storm.

We continued our outreach on September 27 with the Service of Healing at the church. It was a beautiful service with many church members offering their gifts. We live in a digital age and the service has had a high online viewership. It is our prayer that some people will be touched by the powerful words preached by Pastor Michelle, whether they ever step a foot in a church or not. A sincere thank you to all who made this service possible.



Adult Bible Study – All Welcome

Bob Harrison invites all to a year-long study of the 4 gospels.

In-person classes, Sundays from 11-11:45 AM.

- **Classes held in the Jesus room, located behind the partitions in the sanctuary.**
- **No homework! Friendly atmosphere! Visitors, listeners and newcomers are always welcome!**

Virtual “zoom” classes, Sundays from 7-8 PM

- **Visitors, listeners and newcomers are always welcome.**
- **Join Zoom Meeting:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82301584642?pwd=THQ4Rmc2WExJemFoRGhvWWNHYUJrQT09>

Meeting ID: 823 0158 4642 Passcode: 103951



Hope with Joy

Annual Church Conference **Sunday, November 2**

A Joint Celebration for the United Methodist Churches of Chestnut Street (Gardner),
Oakdale (West Boylston), New Beginnings (Townsend), and Leominster

9:30am Joint Worship Service

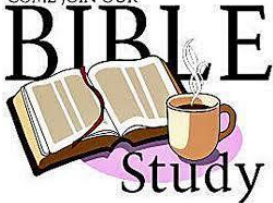
11:00am Potluck Brunch

12:00 Church Conference

Location:
Leominster United Methodist Church
77 Hall Street, Leominster, MA 01453

All are welcome!

COME JOIN OUR



Adult Bible Study Class w/ John Mims meets on Wednesdays. Study times are 2:00 pm at the church and 7:00 pm at the Mims home. John had a mild stroke. Classes will resume next month.

Rebekah's Clothing Closet at LUMC Warm Clothes Needed



Do you have warm jackets, shirts and sweaters that you never wear or that children have outgrown? Why not donate them to the Clothing Closet here at LUMC? Mittens, hats,

scarfs, and gloves are needed.

You can donate Out of Season clothes also.

The Closet is open to Food Pantry Clients on the 4th Saturday of the month. They may leave a donation for the Clothing to assist those in transitional housing.

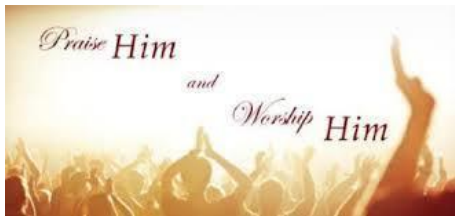


Join us Sunday mornings for worship service at 9:30 am.

(As a personal privacy reminder, if you choose to worship in person, the back two pews in the sanctuary are reserved for those who wish not to appear on camera. Additionally, to

protect privacy, the camera is turned upward to the large cross (and thus no people are visible) during the weekly children's message and monthly communion. If you have any questions or concerns about privacy, please contact Pastor Michelle and she will be happy to work with you to accommodate your needs.)

Online worship is still available at 9:30 am; see below for details.



We are still live-streaming our Sunday services. Watch live Sundays at 9:30am, or later anytime that works for you.

If you are having trouble with one website, try another:

<https://www.youtube.com/@leominsterunitedmethodistc704>

<https://www.leominsterumc.org/livestream>

<https://www.facebook.com/LeominsterUnitedMethodistChurch>



Ways to Give Electronically/Remotely

- 1) Set up an automatic deposit through your bank or your bank's billpayer app.
- 2) Give online with your debit or credit card at www.leominsterumc.org/give
- 3) Drop off or mail a check to the church office.
- 4) Give via Venmo @lumc-077
- 5) Give via Zelle; see below for details.

ZELLE ONLINE GIVING (NO FEES)



We have a new online giving platform called Zelle that (unlike Venmo and the church website) does not charge any service fees. Givers can use Zelle for one-time donations or recurring gifts. To enroll, visit <https://enroll.zellepay.com/>, and donate to c.treasurer77@gmail.com.

We are not getting rid of Venmo or the church website electronic offering - just adding a third option. For questions, please contact our church treasurer Stephen Weldon at the same email address. Thank you for your generosity!



October 1	Jeffrey Hamel
October 5	Jose DelRio
October 6	Jean Wylie
October 8	Emily Funk
October 14	Linda Mims
October 15	Kevin Kieda
October 17	Nicolas Hamel
October 19	Pastor Michelle Ashley
October 23	Robin Brideau
October 24	Jon Ashley
October 24	Dawnne Prince
October 30	Edmundo Zambrano
October 30	Rebecka Peterson
October 31	Elizabeth Garside



October 2 James & Edith Stephen
October 6 Kent & Debby Oldfield
October 8 Jeffrey & Cheryl Hamel
October 11 Bill & Sirkku Ashton

Please pray for the following people this week:

*** Indicates newly added requests**

Church Members...

James Stephen

Malie Marino, chronic health issues

Nancy Dougherty, dementia

Steve Dinsmore (&family) praise for good days & strength and hope for continued healing

Donna (Dee) Tosh healing from cancer
Pastor Michelle and her pregnancy

Jean & Bob Wylie's daughter while doctors decide diagnosis and treatment

Landa Hoke, guide her in her difficult path

Family, Friends and Neighbors of Church Members...

Leslie, ALS (Edith's neice)

Dawnne's mother in law Liz dealing with depression

Elaine Verge from a hip replacement and dementia

Carla for remission from cancer (Dee)

Dawn for remission from cancer (Dee)

Margarita for remission from cancer and for chemo to be easier (Dee)
Celebrate Brazilian Assembly of God worshipping in our chapel on Sunday mornings

Sally Ann to have her health care needs met
Lesley
Danny in the hospital (Edith)
James' brother-in-law Vern in the hospital w/ broken hip
Doris D had a fall and broke collar bone and got a hematoma
Dawnne Prince's mother for healing after a fall
Joann who is very depressed
Tina having health issues (Mel)
People in recovery from alcohol and drugs & their families
6 year old Matthew w/ second and third degree burns Prayers for
recovery for Dawnne's mother after a fall
Lee Leblanc who has heart trouble

Those who are grieving...

Family of Nancy Erb
Phyllis Grammont and family for the loss of her husband
Dennis Ellen & Frank for the loss of their daughter Grace
Jane Marcello, Michael Marcello & Tammy Mickey for the passing
of Dennis Marcello, husband/father
*The Funk/Gabriel families for the loss of Chuck Funk

Our World...

All Nations and people affected by war
All affected by natural disasters
All affected by violence in its many forms

Our Leaders...

DS Megan Stowe
Pastor Michelle
Bishop Bickerton
All of our civic leaders & elected officials

Please note that in order to keep our prayer list up to date, names are removed as requested or after 8 weeks.

If you have a concern you would like added, please fill out a pink prayer card & place it in the offering plate.

