



2021



## Waterford Congregational Church UCC

Minister: Rev. Doretta Colburn

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15 Plummer Hill Road, P.O. Box 59

Waterford, Maine 04088

Tel: 207-583-6381

Email: [waterfordcongregationalchurch@gmail.com](mailto:waterfordcongregationalchurch@gmail.com)

Facebook: [Waterford Congregational Church UCC](#)

Website: [wccucc.com](http://wccucc.com)

**Because of Covid-19, our actual church services are suspended until further notice.  
Visit our website to see and hear videos of Rev. Doretta Colburn's armchair  
sermons, together with Bible readings and musical offerings.**



## Newsletter - February 2021



### THOUGHTS FROM THE PULPIT...

Dear Church family and friends,

As I write a winter storm is wrapping up leaving the landscape draped in the beauty of fresh snow. Tree limbs, fence posts, our cars and even the bison in the pasture are cloaked in a blanket of white. There is something about freshly fallen snow that makes everything enchanting as it smoothes all the rough edges. It seems an analogy to me of what a fresh start looks like before all the footprints pockmark the way. A fresh start is what we are longing for these days and joyfully we are beginning to see that begin to play out as more and more folks get vaccinated, injustices are being addressed more seriously and efforts toward protecting Earth are unfolding. These are things we can point to, but what about a fresh start within? This time in our lives has challenged us in ways we never thought we would witness or have to deal with. That reality has left us tired and eager for change. While external changes may not happen as rapidly as we would like, we can be the change agents for our own souls and discover peace to strengthen our lives.



In the Christian tradition the season of Lent is one that recognizes the story following Jesus' baptism when he spent 40 days in the desert wilderness. It was during that time of solitude and contemplation that he grew a deep preparedness for the purpose and plan of his life. It is common practice for many to eliminate something from their lives during these days of Lent as a symbolic recognition of the sacrifice Jesus made on our behalf, on

the behalf of love and to consider his model of meditation and spiritual awareness for one's personal faith.

I invite you to walk with me on a Lenten journey I am calling *A Pathway Forward*. Each Wednesday, I will publish a Reflection, as I have been, but with a theme of discovery and awareness. My intent is to encourage you toward a deeper awareness of the inner *Presence of Spirit* that dwells within you, opening you up to the strength and healing it brings. Following each Reflection on the themes outlined below will be an opportunity for you to apply the practice on your own. I encourage you to keep a personal journal of your experience if you wish, but most importantly, take the time to practice each day, if you can, and become aware of the closeness of God's Spirit within.

Week 1:	February 17 <sup>th</sup> , Ash Wednesday	On Being
Week 2:	February 24 <sup>th</sup> ,	On Listening
Week 3:	March 3 <sup>rd</sup>	On Seeing
Week 4:	March 10 <sup>th</sup>	On Asking
Week 5:	March 17 <sup>th</sup>	On Accepting
Week 6:	March 24 <sup>th</sup>	On Knowing

I hope you will join me in *A Pathway Forward* allowing this journey to be a trek across the pathway of your heart toward wholeness and peace.

Blessings, *Doretta*

## LETTER FROM THE MODERATOR...February 2, 2021

Can that be right? February already! What a month January was and its events continue to resonate within our country and community. COVID continues to stop us from physically getting together to worship and enjoy fellowship. You know, I rewrote that last sentence twice being sure to insert the word "physically", because the virus has not stopped us from worshipping together as our weekly video service attests. We are still secure in our beliefs and the message of love we find in the words of Jesus.

Using various means of keeping in touch has meant making a concerted effort to reach out to others — one of the few pluses from the virus. Another is how we have worked to insure that our worship service continues and, in fact, is thriving. We have Doretta, Jane, George, Pam and Ginny to thank for the richness of our service. They all contribute to making it a "Don't miss event" every Sunday.

We are one week post-Annual Meeting. Thanks to all the Committee Chairs for getting their reports in and to Stef for collating and sending them out in a timely manner. Those attending last Sunday were from far and wide...another one of the few pluses Zoom affords us. It was heartening to see folks I haven't seen since last summer, a year ago, in some cases. The banter was comforting around the group, and then the meeting itself was another celebration of what this Church and its members and friends are capable of doing no matter what the obstacles. We continue to help our neighbors and each other. We give comfort in times of trials and sorrows. We do what the Little Church with the Big Heart has always done for Waterford.



*The pot of gold is right on the porch of Kim Struck 's cabin!*

Now that we can see the light at the end of the tunnel, let us not forget the Light that is Jesus and his guidance that got us this far through the dark times. Keep a hand out to help a neighbor, a friend or a loved one. This He told us to do and to do it gladly. We are a strong people, a loving people and we will always be here for each other.

Peace, *Al Struck*

## MISSION MEMO...



We are pleased to announce that, once again, our church has met our 2020 goal of supporting the **5 for 5** - the 5 Missions that are marked \***bold** in the calendar below. These missions show our support, both on the UCC State and National Levels.

## Mission Schedule for 2021

### **JANUARY**      \***OCWM - Basic Support**

Our Church's Wider Mission funds are invested in programs, resources, and tools needed to keep local UCC churches strong, effective, and growing.

### **MARCH**      \***One Great Hour of Sharing**

OGHS special mission offering of the UCC involves us in disaster, refugee & immigration, and development ministries throughout the world.

### **MAY**      \***Pentecost Sunday (Strengthen the Church)**

STC funds ministry that allows the UCC to benefit from best practices, insights, and innovations. Because of our support, new church starts have emerged, congregations have been revitalized, and leadership skills have been enhanced.

### **JULY**      ***Heifer Project (if we can gather again)***

### **OCTOBER**      \***Neighbors in Need**

NIN is a special mission offering of the UCC that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States.

### **NOVEMBER**      ***Thanksgiving Baskets***

### **DECEMBER**      ***Christmas Eve offerings for local needs*** \***The Christmas Fund (for retired Ministers)**

For all the sacrifices that clergy and lay church workers have made in our congregations, over 100 years ago the Pension Boards of the UCC created the *Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross* and the *Emergency Fund*, to help support them in retirement and during times of emergent need.

Ongoing Mission projects are as follow:

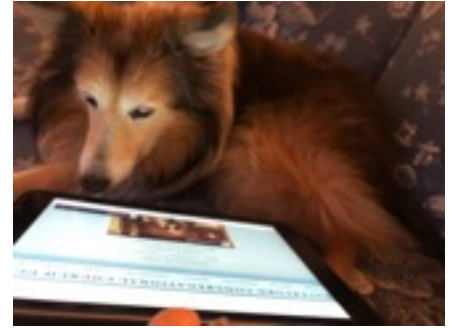
- \* The first Sunday of every month we gather items for the Sweden Food Pantry.
- \* Collecting used eye glasses      \* Emergency Fuel Fund      \* Good Neighbor Fund

Mission Chair, *Pam Williams*

## WEBSITE INFORMATION...

The Waterford Congregational Church Website ([wccucc.com](http://wccucc.com)) was created just over a year ago. The thought was to share Rev. Doretta's wonderful sermons with the community at large and with those away from Waterford. To compliment the sermon, I included lectionary readings and thematic pictures. Soon, members of the congregation, like Bruce Whichard, started recording the choir, so I included those recordings as well.

When the Covid crisis struck, it became necessary to create a virtual church service. Our original online service grew to include Doretta's Pastoral Prayer and recorded items by members of the congregation. Now each week we have not only Doretta's sermon and prayer, but also the Lectionary Readers (arranged by Pam Williams); a Musical Anthem or two (arranged by Jane Morse); hymn selections (prepared and played by our wonderful organist, George Wiese); and occasionally a music selection (submitted by a musically-talented person like Al Struck, Denny Raymond, Jane Morse, Preston Harrison, or George Wiese.)



*Angel Baby getting ready to enjoy the WCC virtual church service!*

At the recent Annual Meeting, Al described the extraordinary amount of time it takes each of the people mentioned above to "build" these virtual church services and bring them to life.

- Sermon: It is no easy feat for Doretta and Ted to make that perfect sermon-recording each week. One week, their Bernese Mountain dog, Bentley, almost made a star appearance.
- Anthem: As described in the December newsletter, Jane takes 10 or so choral voices and Kay Leslie's piano accompaniment, all separately recorded, and blends them into one piece, an amazing technological triumph!
- Anthem part 2: A shout-out to the singers! It is a humbling experience to hear your voice, recorded on your hand-held device, with no other voices for support. It might take 5 or more attempts before I have something I am comfortable sharing with others. Jane is magical in putting these pieces together (removing the goofs, meows and chiming clocks) for all to enjoy!
- Lectionary: And...with today's handheld devices, each of the lectionary readers, practice and video record the Scripture readings on their individual phones or tablets. These sometimes require more than one take, as well.
- Hymns: George Wiese's contribution is amazing. He researches and chooses interesting hymns, related to the topic of the week. Some of these hymns have an historical significance or hymnological interest, which he shares verbally. George has a comprehensive collection of hymnals, which he would be glad to tell you about. Each week (weather permitting), he records 2 or 3 musical selections on a variety of different organs including our church organ or ones that he owns. He even goes to Sweden to play their organ for us!

All of the above is sent to me to load on the WCC website. With WIX.com, a bit of magic from YouTube and toothpicks (for the eyes), back stretches and finger exercises, the Sunday service comes to you as a complete whole. I start to put it together on Monday, and by mid-week it is nearly ready for all the creative pieces when they arrive by email or text message. My Saturday evening is devoted to finishing up and making the service pretty. Every week I learn some new technological trick, for which I am grateful! It's a blessing for all.

🐾 Ginny Raymond, Webmaster



## TRUSTEE'S REPORT...

December was an interesting month for the trustees. On Sunday morning December 6<sup>th</sup>, in the middle of the storm, I received a call from Peter Morse that we had trees that had come down and have done damaged to the church. I was still blowing my driveway so I called Kerry and asked him to review the damage. Two trees had come down on the roof of the building and did damage to the roof and the chimney. I called Sheldon Rice of Rice Tree Service and they responded immediately. After review of the damage, he had his crew at the church on Thursday and they removed the trees from the building at no cost to the Church. We also decided to remove an additional eight trees to avoid any similar issues in the future.



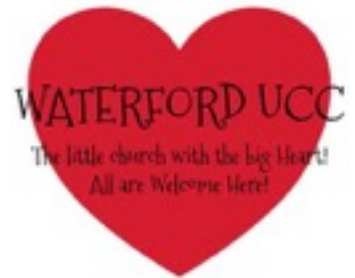
James Long and Sons also responded immediately to my call for help. They reviewed the damages and made temporary repairs on Friday December 12<sup>th</sup> before the next round of bad weather came on Saturday. At this time the building is weather tight and we will complete the repairs in the spring. The response the we had from both James Long and Sheldon Rice was outstanding. Their quick action avoided any further damage from inclement weather.

We have turned the water off in both buildings and, with help from Ted Colburn, we have drained the hot water tanks, blown out the water lines, and put anti-freeze in the drains.

Regards from the Trustees: *John Wait, Kerry Johnson, Larry Griffin*

## STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE UPDATE...

In a tumultuous and trying year we have accomplished many extraordinary things in support of our mission and our vision. We have also managed the day-to-day operation of our church with fiscal responsibility thanks in large part to the financial support we received from members and friends through their pledges. We feel a personal and historic commitment to ensure the long-term success of our "*little church with the big heart*," and we are grateful to all who came before us and committed to our present and future friends and members.



We spoke this year in our Stewardship letter about Paul's words to the Corinthians in which he reminds them that gifts should be voluntary not compulsory, joyful not grudging, purposeful not arbitrary. Most importantly, he tells them to be generous and share in their abundance to the level that they are able. Our congregation has responded in it's typically generous way. It was especially moving to see so many pledges from church friends who have a long family history with our church but can't attend regularly. This long-term and generous commitment is a testament to abiding affection most of us feel for our church.

I am also grateful to the Stewardship Committee members for their hard work and thoughtful input throughout the year. The Stewardship Committee members are, Barbara Allen, Ralph MacKinnon, Jean Struck, and Dodi Wait.

*Kerry Johnson*, Chairperson

## MUSIC NOTES...



The biggest challenge for the choir (and me) since COVID closures has been learning how to create group singing for the webpage. I purchased a music editing software that has allowed me to take many recorded files and combine them into one harmonious anthem! Kay has learned to record her piano part and choir members have learned how to sing to that track and record their voices to send to me weekly. Then I "smush" it all together, tweak and fuss, and it sounds pretty great when I am done! I hope everyone is enjoying the music we provide for the weekly services and I thank folks for working so hard to contribute every week.

More thanks goes out to George for his lovely "Hymns at Home" sessions each week. My theory is that there can never be too much music! I hope you all agree!

Looking forward, I hope to continue weekly anthems and occasionally add special music, especially during the Lenten/Easter season.....Stay safe and well.

Yours in music, *Jane Morse*, Music Director

## COMMENTS FROM THE COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR...

### **Our Pastor's Wonderful Gift**

It came, last March, as sad news for us all...services in our little church would be suspended indefinitely until the danger of contracting the COVID-19 virus was past. The deeply meaningful services and sermons, and the beautiful music, were to cease. It was a bitter pill for so many of us who count on those Sunday mornings together.

But NOT SO FAST! Doretta had other ideas, and she set to work writing out her sermons and mid-week meditations. She enlisted webmaster Ginny to post her words and recorded sermons on our website. Then, Jane and George came up with a plan to record George's hymns and the choir's voices. We had worship services again...even without the human contact we all love!

The collection of sermons and meditations grew weekly, both in volume and impact. They were so thoughtful and beautifully crafted! It seemed a shame they didn't have wider distribution. So, it was decided (with Council approval) to collect them and create a small book similar to the Lenten Booklets we've done these past few years.

The problem of what should be on the cover solved itself. By the grace and talent of Darylann Leonard, a cover materialized! Darylann's father, Fred, was a lover of rainbows and his daughter loves to shoot them whenever she can. She was out early one morning, on Fred's birthday, and spotted a lovely rainbow. Using her deep knowledge of Waterford, she figured that given the right angle, that rainbow would end at the church. So, she jumped in her car and raced to Plummer Hill Road. Sure enough, there it was! The little church with the big heart just happened to be sitting at the end of that rainbow! She got her shots. Then in her generous way, she called and asked if could I use the photo in some way? Could there be a more perfect image for the cover? I was flabbergasted by this small miracle, and so grateful.

So here it is...photo and booklet. We have distributed them by delivery and/or mail and are leaving some extra copies around town. If you haven't received one, please let me know, and we will get one to you. Enjoy and be comforted.

*Sally Holm*, Communications Coordinator (617.803.1450)

## DEACONS' UPDATE...

The Deacons continue to consider ways to bring the spirit of our church to life for everyone. It is a challenge with the virus numbers going up, as they have been, over the past few weeks. We are continuing to call members and reach out to people in the community. Please let any of the Deacons know if there is a need.

We have enjoyed several Zoom Coffee Hours recently. Dates for future Zoom gatherings will be decided and announced. Stay tuned...

Doretta includes a Prayer List in the weekly online service. If you would like to add someone, feel free to call/email Doretta or any of the deacons and we will be sure to add your request.

Please let me (Pam) know if you would like to read scriptures to be shared on our Website each Sunday. A big thank-you to those of you who read on a regular basis...it would be nice to add a few more readers... Hint! Hint!

Please stay healthy and safe in 2021,

Shalom, *Pam Williams*



## ANNOUNCEMENT...from the Maine School of Ministry (MESOM)

**This Spring of 2021, MESOM is offering 4 semester-long classes. All are welcome!**

### 1) Biblical Storytelling for Lent and Easter Virtual Worship

Instructor: Rev. AbbyLynn Haskell, M.Div.

Dates of Classes: Saturdays 9:00 am - 3:00 pm on ZOOM - Jan. 30, Feb. 27, March 27, April 24

### 2) Introduction to the New Testament - Part II - Apostles, Epistles and Apocalypse

Instructor: Dr. Larry Kalajainen, Ph.D.

Dates of Classes: Saturdays 9:00 am - 1:00 pm on ZOOM - Feb. 13, March 13, April 10, May 8, May 22

### 3) The Bible from Clay Tablets to Computer Tablets

Instructor: Rev. Dr. Paul A. Day, D.Min.

Dates of Classes: Tuesday evenings, 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm - Jan. 19, Feb. 2, Feb. 16, March 2, March 16, April 6, April 20, May 4

### 4) When We Gather: An Exploration of Christian Worship, History and Practice

Instructor: Rev. Kelli Whitman, M.Div.

Dates of Classes: Selected Weekend on Saturday/Sunday afternoons from 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm - February 20-21, March 20-21, April 17-18, May 15-16

• To register, please click on the following link: <http://www.maineucc.org/mesom/register>

• For more information please feel free to contact Dr. Baard:

Rev. Dr. Ron Baard, Dean, Maine School of Ministry

Maine Conference United Church of Christ

Office Phone: [207-530-9594](tel:207-530-9594)

Office Email: [rbaard@maineucc.org](mailto:rbaard@maineucc.org)



## LET'S TALK ABOUT RACE - DISCUSSION GROUP...

Sponsored by the Waterford Congregational Church, UCC, Waterford, ME

### AI's Comments:

Our Church has started a 6-month series of discussions to tackle the stubborn and emotion-filled questions that surround the relationships of white people and people of color. The Church Council gave the go ahead to do this using the curriculum set up by the UCC national leadership. The main topic of these sessions is the area of "White Privilege" and what that means to us as a country, church and individuals.

Deacon, Dianne Morse Leonard; Pastor, Doretta Colburn; and Moderator, Al Struck volunteered to be facilitators for the discussions. Our Clerk, Stephenie Michaud, handles all the technical parts of the sessions.

The number of registrants was very gratifying reaching 20+ individuals. Due to COVID-19 the group gathers via Zoom meetings that Stef sets up. We watch video clips which act as discussion generators along with doing readings and journaling between meetings. There have been two sessions so far and the materials have been interesting and thought provoking. Discussions in both large and smaller chat room groups have been very informative. I know it has prodded folks to read other books, look at other materials, and dig deeper into this question.



The ultimate goal by the end of the series is to have a better understanding of what White Privilege is, how it impacts non-whites and what we as groups and individuals can do to mitigate its impact among all different races in the U.S.

Although the roster is now full and the group is complete for this series, we hope to hold another series later in the year.



### Doretta's Comments:

I am thrilled to be involved with our Let's Talk About Race program and working with Al, Dianne and Stephenie. As Al has already mentioned, the breadth of voices who have joined these 6 sessions are adding to the richness of our discussions. Systematic racism and white privilege are imbedded in our culture. They are realities that continue to oppress people of color everyday. These discussions open us to this truth as we examine our own actions and biases along with the consideration of how we can bring about positive change on a variety of levels.



A SPECIAL INVITATION...

# We Are One in the Spirit!

A time of REUNION for the Oxford Union Association  
of the Maine UCC

*"...Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock, of which the Holy Spirit  
has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God  
that He obtained with the blood of his own Son..."*

*Acts 20:28*



**WHEN:** Sunday – March 7, 2021  
4:00 PM on ZOOM

Please plan to join us for the first of what we hope are regular gatherings of the Oxford Union Association for a time of worship, song and fellowship!! We will begin with a short program of scripture, poetry and song and will close with time for an online social gathering to catch up with one another!

Please RSVP to: [lburger@bridgtonucc.org](mailto:lburger@bridgtonucc.org) by February 21 to ensure you receive the ZOOM invite



AN OPEN INVITATION FOR ALL TO PARTICIPATE!!

## MUSICIANS:

We are looking for submissions from church choirs, and soloists to create our time of worship together. Please submit up to three hymns, anthems or other musical contributions – ranked in order of preference to Patricia Boyle-Wight  
**NO LATER THAN SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21**



## POETRY SUBMISSIONS:

Please submit any poetry suggestions and/or videos to Patricia Boyle-Wight  
**NO LATER THAN SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21**

\*\*\* Every effort will be made to include at least one submission from every church wishing to participate. We are anticipating our worship will NOT exceed 45 minutes. If we are blessed with an over abundance of submissions, we will hold them and use them for subsequent gatherings of a similar nature. \*\*\*

**ALL RECORDINGS AND/OR SUGGESTED READINGS MUST BE SUBMITTED TO  
PATRICIA BOYLE-WIGHT AT: [pboylewight@gmail.com](mailto:pboylewight@gmail.com) no later than SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2021**

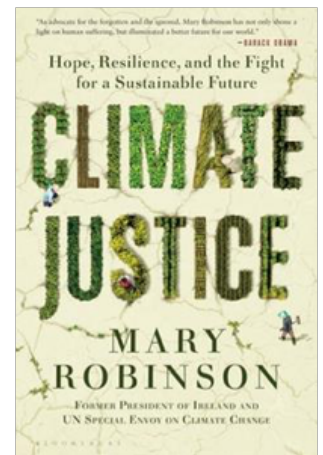
## CLIMATE CONVERSATIONS CONTINUE...



No! We have not forgotten. In fact, now more than ever, we need to be aware of our obligation to our climate and to the earth that sustains us, to our fellow citizens struggling with various and present impacts of the climate crisis, and to our children and grandchildren who will inherit the planet we leave them.

So, in the spirit of renewal of our personal commitment to confront our climate crisis, to act in ways that will sustain us all, and to live in a spirit of stewardship in and for the earth, we have decided to restart our climate conversations. We will begin with a virtual session on **March 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30 pm**. Details will follow via email and posts on our church website ([www.wccucc.com](http://www.wccucc.com)). If you are not on our email list, please let either Doretta or Kerry know and we'll put you on it.

Our first session will focus on Mary Robinson's wonderful book, *Climate Justice: Hope, Resilience, and the Fight for a Sustainable Future*. The book is available on most online book sites like Amazon either in electronic or paperback. Ms. Robinson is a former President of Ireland and has spent the last twenty years serving in a number of capacities as a champion for people who are already facing significant impacts from the climate crisis. She relates many poignant and powerful stories about how flood and drought, famine and fire, and numerous other calamities we face today are devastating lives and are, in fact, only a glimpse of what's to come. Throughout all of those descriptions she maintains a positive outlook and points us to many ways that we can take action to protect ourselves, our children and our grandchildren.



We'll ask each participant in our Zoom meeting to come prepared to discuss the book with each other in small groups and then share their collective wisdom with the large group. As always, our focus will be on "what we can do" personally and collectively to meet this challenge.

Those of you on our mailing list will have already received in late January a couple of important articles discussing the changes the new administration is making in Washington and reactions to those changes from leaders in business, environmental groups, and others. Significant changes are on the way including from unusual organizations, like General Motors. GM announced at the end of January that they will make a total shift of their fleet to all-electric by 2035. Imagine that! While this is a wonderful announcement it carries some serious questions, in particular, how will this change impact people who struggle to afford new cars? How will we make those new cars affordable?

We will be addressing issues like these in our climate conversations. We'll also be keeping you posted with articles and links on our church website. Please join us **March 23, 2021 @ 6:30 pm** for the renewal of our Climate Conversations and encourage others to join you. All in our church community and beyond are welcome.

*Doretta Colburn and Kerry Johnson*

## CHURCH HISTORIAN POSITION CREATED...

This past year, the position of Church Historian was created in order to find, organize and preserve church documents and artifacts. I offered to take on this interesting task. So far, I am still locating, organizing and making an inventory of historical documents. We are now in the process of getting archival containers for our more delicate items. I am still trying to locate church documents (especially ledgers for the years prior to 1983) and if you believe you know where they are, please contact me.

If you, or anyone you know, have interesting stories related to the church communities in Waterford in the past, please let me know. The now-closed Wesleyan Chapel in South Waterford, the Oxford County United Parish in North Waterford and East Stoneham and our Waterford Congregational Church were all part of the same church community within the memory of some people in town. I would love to preserve community members' stories and know how they were influenced by the church, as well as how the church has influenced our area over the years.

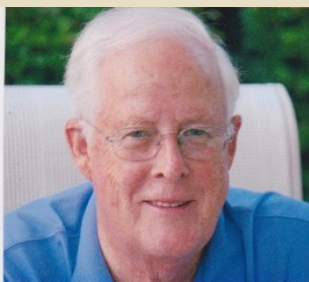


*Dianne Morse-Leonard*, Church Historian      Contact me at [dmorseleonard@gmail.com](mailto:dmorseleonard@gmail.com)

## ...WE REMEMBER...

### *John Leslie*

1933 - 2020



John Leslie died peacefully on December 18, 2020 in Exeter, NH. He leaves behind his wife of 57 years, Susan W Leslie, three sons and daughter-in-laws, six grandchildren, his brother and sister-in-law Peter and Kay Leslie and a sister, Susan Abu Haidar. He was born in Coral Gables, FL and grew up in San Francisco, CA and Scarsdale, NY. In retirement John and Susan relocated from Scarsdale to Santa Fe, NM where they lived for 18 years of adventure. In 1980 they bought a camp on McWain Pond,

having visited Waterford since 1964 when Peter and Kay got married in Waterford. John was a loving husband, father, grandfather, brother and uncle who went through life graciously with a curious intellect and a humorous twinkle in his eye. He always supported the church in Waterford, feeling it is a very important part of the community.





## NEWS FROM THE PEWS



*We hope you enjoy receiving the Waterford Church Newsletter. If you know someone who would like to be added to our newsletter list. Or if you would like your name added to our birthday list; Or should you choose to unsubscribe...please email [ksleslie@me.com](mailto:ksleslie@me.com).*

### The Struck Family and Their Friends...



*Ted Nixon and Al ringing in the New Year. Did you hear the bell pealing?*



*Al & Jean present one of Jean's quilted creations to Sheldon to thank him for his generosity towards our Church.*



*Kim Struck and her friend Ting, enjoying the sun on the Struck's front steps after walking down Kedar Brook.*

### News from Nancy Engdahl...

My daughter, Darylann Leonard, has been hired by Downeast Magazine to be part of their workshop team. Her first workshop will be on September 10 and is called Portland to Harpswell Photography Workshop. Darylann has done much photography along the coast, but this will be her first teaching experience. Wish her luck!

*"...Darylann has been a contributing photographer for Down East magazine since 2014. Her photography has been featured on Maine Lake and Mountains Visitor Guide, Mid coast Maine Visitor Guide, and Western Maine Guidebook. Her work has also placed in international competitions, including the Greater Lynn and Glennie Memorial Nature Salon. She earned a second place finish in the 2013 Maine Photography Show. Darylann is an exhibiting artist at Gallery 302 in Bridgton, Maine since 2012."*



## Bobbi's Christmas Surprise...

This was the first Christmas in many years that Bobbi Whichard spent in Waterford. After she had arrived, early in December, Bobbi commented to Arlene, Jared, and Bruce that she was excitedly awaiting a white Christmas here in Maine. But...she also said that she missed looking out the windows of her Florida home and seeing all the brightly-lit Christmas decorations on her neighbors trees and homes. "There are no Christmas lights that I can see from our Waterford home." So...that evening, Mother Nature graciously draped our property in a blanket of fresh white snow as Santa's helpers also secretly went to work. It was a very busy night here at the Cottages at McWain Point on McWain Hill.

Bobbi awoke the next morning and excitedly exclaimed that it had snowed last night, the ground was now white, and she

would be able to enjoy another white Christmas in

Waterford! As the sun set that evening, the property around us slowly came aglow with Christmas lights, brightly reflecting off the coating of freshly-fallen snow. A quote from Bobbi: "Well, what to my wondering eyes should appear? I can now see more than 10 decorated Christmas trees, far and near".



Yes, the Magic of Christmas did visit the Whichard's early this December. Santa's helpers decorated our property with festive Christmas trees and shiny and



bright decorations. From every window Bobbi could see a decorated Christmas tree.

Sometimes, especially in these difficult times, these "silent" and "special" Christmas presents are the VERY BEST and most MEMORABLE!



Hoping everyone had a very Merry Christmas, and to all, a good night!





## A New Baby in the Whichard Family...

A healthy baby boy, Joseph Valentino Leonardis, was born in New Jersey on Friday, January 29, 2021. Our daughter Amy and her husband Todd are both doing very well as first-time parents.



*Jared Whichard holds his brand new nephew as his sister Amy, the very proud mom, looks on.*



*Though Bobbi did not travel to NJ to meet her 6th great grandchild, through the power of social media, she was able to hold him!*



*Arlene Whichard is so very happy and excited to welcome her new grandson home with daughter Amy standing by.*



## Sally & Kerry's Birthday Celebrations...

Oh! Those tricky holidays in the midst of COVID! What an extraordinary challenge for most of us. We struggled with making the right decision about having our daughter and grandson here for the week...something we both wanted desperately. We gingerly settled on a plan: Swab tests, quarantining until we could be together, aiming for them to arrive on Christmas Eve. The big bonus was that Wynne's significant other, Bobby, would come with them. We were thrilled and excited!

The tests came back—all negative, except for Bobby's, which was "inconclusive". So, the Christmas Eve arrival was scrapped, and he had to wait a few days for another test. Our Christmas would have to wait until December 28—a really special day in our house—Kerry's birthday! And this was a BIG one. So, we would celebrate two very special birthdays that night, and have our Christmas morning on the 29<sup>th</sup>. It all went off swimmingly; and I had the very clear sense, though I heard directly from only one of them, that both birthday boys were pleased! Happy New Year, Everyone!





## Hello from the Raymonds...!

Denny & I continue to enjoy our new home. We, of course, miss living in the village, happening upon neighbors as we walked our dogs to the Library or Town Beach; but living here in the woods continues to be good for us. We enjoy our new neighbors: the Waits, the Griffins and our summer neighbors, the Angers. Plus, we have new residents next door who commute to Waterford from MA on weekends...avid skiers with two daughters! We hope to visit with them as weather warms, Covid clears, and swimming becomes the norm once again.

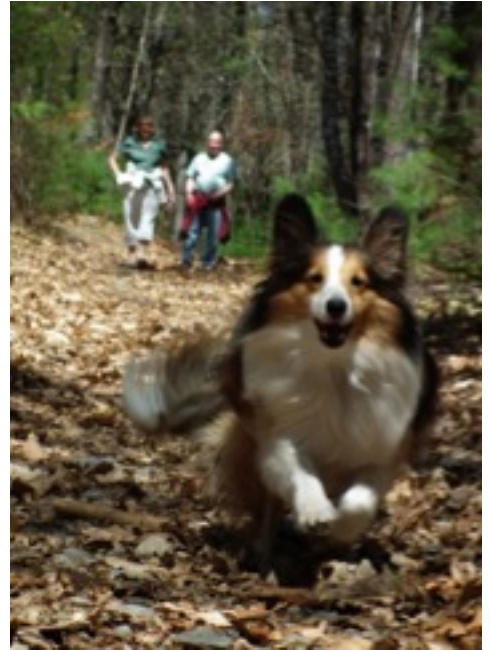
If you should have occasion to meet the couple now living in our farmhouse, please make them feel welcome. Bonnie and Jeff Kirkpatrick moved here from California with a brief stay in Casco as they acclimated to the area. They love the farm and Maine winters (!) and are looking forward to participating in local activities as things open up again this spring.

We still have miles to go to be really settled here on Hubbard Trail. We now have a new roof and more insulation overhead, thanks to the wonderful work of James Long Construction.

They are now working on the unfinished room above our garage. It will be a dorm-style area for our grandchildren, once the CDC says, "Okay, you guys, come travel and visit here in Maine."



*Willow with Phantom, our sweet kitty, both watching the birds and squirrels on the back porch.*



*This is Little Miss Underfoot (in 2011, age: about 7) who passed over the Rainbow Bridge on January 23<sup>rd</sup>. She was a stray that came to us also from Maine Sheltie Rescue. This photo won the 2011 Best Pet-Photo competition at Bridgton Veterinary Hospital.*

We adopted a beautiful Bi-Black Sheltie named Willow (We call her Queen Willow Bee!) from Maine Sheltie Rescue and was fostered by a family in New Hampshire. Denny and I followed her progress and fell in love with her long distance. In November when MSR acquired her, she weighed 10 lbs., which sounds cute, but for a dog that should weigh over 21 lbs., she was in critical shape! In fact, her foster family almost lost her to St. Peter, as she was just skin and bone. Since that time, she has put on 10 lbs., and looks wonderful. A few more pounds will do her. She was our New Year's Day Present, as she joined us Jan 1. Our other fur-babies think Queen 'Willow' Bee is a pretty wonderful Sheltie sibling

### Jane Kimball's Request...

My granddaughter, Tiffany, who is 31, has recently been diagnosed with stage 3 breast cancer. I am requesting prayers for her recovery and for the strength to get through the chemo, surgery and other treatments.

### Brenda Hambleton Remembers...

Last January I was in the library for the Friday morning coffee hosted by Gail and Ted Nixon. I looked forward to the weeks they hosted because Gail was a great cook and because we would catch up on our quilting projects. Gail introduced me to English Paper Piecing (EPP) a couple of years ago, when I was looking for a project I could travel with and EPP was it - I was hooked!

I had just finished a multi-year EPP quilt and we made plans to show it to her. I had also just joined a EPP block-of-the-month club from Cornwall, UK. It was more complicated than anything I had done. I showed her the website on my phone and she signed up for the club on the spot. We hugged and jumped up and down as we talked about doing the project together. I was excited because I knew that Gail's experience and enthusiasm would mean that I would end the year with a finished project.

It was on the next Friday morning I learned of her death. I was devastated. Gail had filled a hole that I did not know I had until I met her. My mother and my sister, also named Gail, were my quilting buddies. Like Gail Nixon, we were fabric hoarders and loved the hunt for the perfect color. My mother has passed away and my sister was diagnosed with early onset Alzheimer's and no longer quilts. Gail Nixon stepped in and gave me a place to talk about things and people that I love. Losing her brought the other losses forward.



I have sewn (this is all hand sewing) almost every day over the past year. Each time I sit down to stitch I think of Gail. My king-sized quilt is almost done. I will have the top all pieced in February. I am going to learn how to hand quilt (sewing the layers together) so it will take me another year to finish it. I wish Gail were here to provide encouragement. I miss her and am very happy to have known her.

### Not Such Good News from the Wrights...

We heard from Stan and Diana on January 16 of this year that this time of Covid-19 has been very difficult for them. Diana has had several hospitalizations for 4 different surgeries. Stan is due for surgery in the near future. All their vehicles are out of commission and they have a car on loan from a relative. Their old Norwegian Elkhound died in March and Stan was given a new puppy of the same breed on Fathers Day. Housebreaking, even a cute pup, is extra difficult in winter and during a pandemic. They miss our church services, as well as participation in the Masons and Shrine. We hope that the year 2021 will be much better for them in all ways.





## Holidays at the Leslie's...

Peter and Kay enjoyed the holidays with their visiting Minnesota family. It was quiet in many ways, and even sad due to the death of Peter's brother. But we all were outdoors each day and enjoyed making unusual cookies; playing a new game (Wit); having a few friends or family over a couple of times for short visits around the outdoor fire pit; watching some virtual concerts and beautiful church services on television (and some football, too!). Oh, how we missed the Christmas Eve service at the Waterford church! The 2 teenagers helped us a lot with tasks, and also assisted some of our neighbors with outdoor projects. And, of course, we loved all the cooking, eating, and chatting! It was a holiday we certainly will never forget...for many reasons.

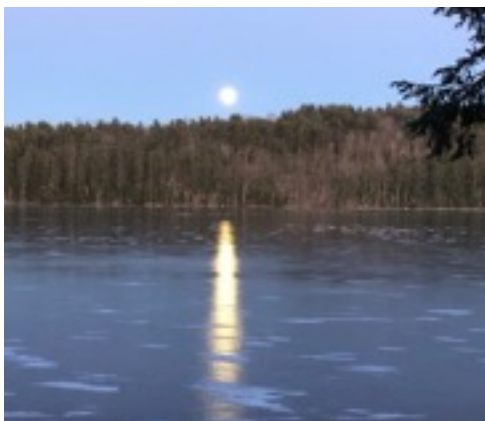


One late afternoon we watched a "mystery" animal swim across the pond, consider landing on our ramp, but then head north, swimming along the shore. We watched it exit way down the pond. And then, that very night, the pond froze over! Most of us thought the animal was a small moose, but the expert hunter in our group was sure it was a large deer...we'll never know...

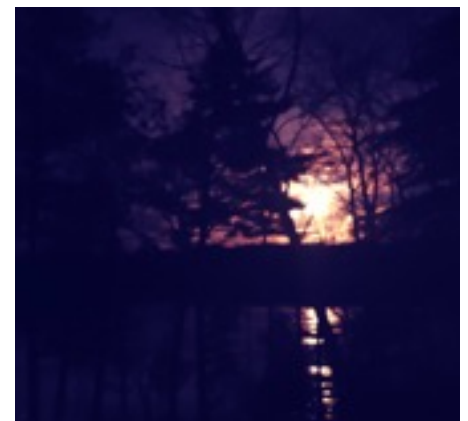


## Bill & Sharon's Winter Moon Photos...

One "warmish" evening between Christmas and the New Year, we invited our next-door neighbor, Brad, over for cocktails on our screened porch (with heater and socially distanced!) As we glanced toward McWain Pond, we saw that the full moon had risen...but



the sun had not yet set. The sky was a gorgeous blue and this beautiful full moon was reflecting on the newly-frozen lake. In the 10 minutes it took Brad to run home, get a camera, and take a photo from his camp, the scene had completely changed!



## 👍 The Waits Have Proof...



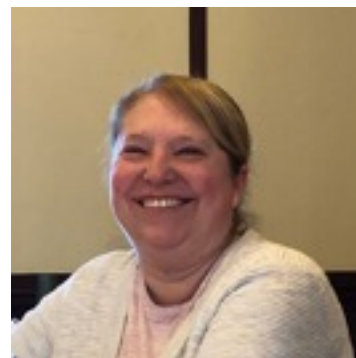
SOCKS?.....?..... They are proof positive swag that John and I as a team did complete, in mid December, **The 299.9 mile Maine Adaptive Virtual Ultra Marathon Challenge**, that I described in the last newsletter. Once again, it was a worthwhile challenge, that keeps us active in so many different ways while accumulating the ultimate 299.9 miles. Now that the snow has fallen and the mountain is open we are truly missing our time spent at Maine Adaptive with participants and other volunteers.



## New Board Member for Maine Conference...

**Stephenie Michaud**, Clerk of the Waterford Church, has been chosen as a director of the United Church of Christ, Maine Conference. Active with the UCC all her life, she follows in her grandmother's and mother's footsteps, as both sat on State-level and National-level boards and committees.

Stef first went to Pilgrim Lodge as an 8-year-old and has never looked back. She was part of the State Youth Council for her four years of High School, serving as a Member at Large and 3 years as secretary. In college she was active in the Young Adult Network and was asked to become an advisor for the State Youth Council. She has been on the Outdoor Ministry Team (OMT) for the past 4 years; is in her first year on the Pilgrim Lodge Leadership Team (PLLT); and also chaired the search committee for the new Director of Pilgrim Lodge.



When an opening on the Board of Directors was announced, Stef was encouraged by other board members to send in a letter of interest and she was chosen from a large pool of candidates. After finishing out the vacant term of 1 year, she will then sit on the Board for 2 three-year terms. Stephenie feels extremely honored to have been selected for this State-level position.



## Kay Lyman's New Puppy...



I brought my new Havanese puppy, Kamie, home from Oregon on December 1. She has been a playful joy. I had decided on her name earlier, on election evening, when the AP declared Biden and Harris as the winners. Vice President elect, Kamala Harris, came out to speak wearing a beautiful white suit, and immediately I said, "...the pup will be Kamie." I knew at that point, from a photo, that Kamie was white, black, and brown.





## CHURCH LEADERSHIP 2021



Moderator: *Al Struck*

Clerk: *Stephenie Michaud*

Trustees: *John Wait, Kerry Johnson, Larry Griffin*

Treasurers: *John & Dodi Wait*

Assistant Treasurer: *Ralph MacKinnon*

Stewardship: *Kerry Johnson*

Deacons: *Pam Williams, Myra Maltby, Ted Nixon,  
Dianne Morse Leonard*

Church School: *Myra Maltby*

Missions: *Pam Williams (Global),  
Nancy Engdahl (Local)*

Church Activities Committee: *Nancy Engdahl*

Communications Coordinator: *Sally Holm*

Webmaster: *Ginny Raymond*

Church Historian: *Dianne Morse Leonard*



## Dates to

### Remember...

Sun, Feb 17 - the beginning of LENT

Sun, Feb 17 - LET'S TALK ABOUT RACE

6:30 - 8:00 pm on Zoom

Sun, Feb 21 - deadline to submit music/poetry  
for WE ARE ONE IN THE SPIRIT

Sun, Mar 7 - WE ARE ONE IN THE SPIRIT

Zoom program at 4:00 pm

Wed, Mar 17 - LET'S TALK ABOUT RACE

6:30 - 8:00 pm on Zoom

Tues, Mar 23 - CLIMATE CONVERSATION

6:30 PM on Zoom

Sun, Mar 28 - PALM SUNDAY

Thurs, Apr 1 - MAUNDY THURSDAY

Fri, Apr 2 - GOOD FRIDAY

Sun, Apr 4 - EASTER SUNDAY

Wed, Apr 17 - LET'S TALK ABOUT RACE

6:30 - 8:00 pm on Zoom

\*updates regarding activities and events will be  
emailed when dates have been decided

## FEBRUARY

1 Bob Ross III  
13 Gabe Johnson  
19 George Wiese  
27 Jayme Lane

## MARCH

1 Kelsey Brockett  
2 Jared Whichard  
19 Ted Colburn  
26 Wynne Johnson  
31 Ivy Brockett

## APRIL

5 Rachel Thibodeau  
6 Karen Fillebrown  
10 Darylann Leonard  
11 Al Struck  
11 Dwight Smith  
14 Dodi Wait  
16 Scott Smyth  
17 Joanne MacKinnon  
19 Del Leonard  
20 Hannah Leonard  
24 Clara Hamlin  
25 Myra Maltby



... HOPE ...



*"We have this hope  
as an anchor for the soul,  
firm and steadfast."*

Hebrews 6:19

