

Waterford Congregational Church UCC

Minister: Rev. Doretta Colburn

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Services are at 9:30 am on Sundays. All are welcome. The services are also filmed and are available on our website.

October 2026 Newsletter

···THOUGHTS FROM THE PULPIT

A Summer of Blessings…

That's how it felt this summer – blessings upon blessings! The warmer weather blended with the warmth of community as we shared in worship and beyond with family, friends, and neighbors. From outdoor worship services of which all were blessed with beautiful weather to our 4th of July "Peace Train" float, special music programs, and community activities that fostered relationships and camaraderie, we joined together in meaningful ways filled with laughter, fun, and reflection. We even welcomed five new members into our fellowship.



Indeed, we are blessed and I believe there is good reason for that. For one thing we recognize and appreciate the goodness and the richness of our relationships with one another. Second, we come together with a common agenda – to explore our faith, celebrate our diversity, and realize that it takes all of us to create the enthusiasm and joy, the care and compassion, the respect and honor that builds a solid community. And we do that not only within our church but as part of a broader community that is Waterford, our neighboring towns, and beyond.

With summer behind us and autumn at our door, we see changes in our church and community as friends leave for warmer climates amidst well wishes for fruitful winters. Still,

the connection holds us in a bond that makes the miles less significant for we can still worship together online and remain a part of each other's lives with notes, emails, and calls until we are back together again. Meanwhile, those of us who remain through the colder months wrap ourselves in the warmth of our community, continuing to hold space for each other and always with an eagerness to welcome and reach out whenever possible. This is what community looks like and this is who I believe we are. How blessed is that!

With deep gratitude, *Doretta*

··· LETTER FROM THE MODERATOR



Dear Friends,
What a busy, fruitful summer our church has had. With the goals of bringing Spirituality, Music and Service to the community we met the challenge. Doretta makes the Spirituality goal easy for us. Her weekly message from the pulpit, her emailed reflections on Wednesdays, and her visibility in the community bring our church into focus. Our three outside services were well attended and, at one of them, we welcomed five new members to our congregation.



New Church Members L to R: Cathie Green, Alan Foster, Patty Graves, Tim Chandler, Allan Graves.

George, our Music Director, made sure we had Music every Sunday of the summer season. Whether it was the church choir, a guest pianist, or other instrumentalists we heard the sweet sounds of love and kindness ringing pleasantly in our ears. There were also three concerts that our Music Committee, Sharps on the Flat, sponsored featuring members of the Sebago, Long Lake Music Festival, the Mahoosuc Community Band and Mainely Clarinets. All three concerts were very well attended and provided a wide enough range of music to satisfy anyone's taste.

As for Service, the Church started the summer by hosting the first Blood Drive held in Waterford. We exceeded the goal set by the Red Cross, and with this success under our belt will be holding another this winter. Our Fourth of July Parade Float, "Peace Train", built by members of the Church Council and congregants, was a smashing success. Handing out Whistles and, of course, candy, and with bubbles coming out of the "train's" smoke stack and bell ringing it will be long remembered by the crowd that filled our town on that day. A more laid back activity came later in the summer called "Marshmallow Paddle". The CAC (Church Activities Committee) got canoes and kayaks from around the lake, invited the community to come and take a leisurely cruise on the lake, and when done, enjoy s'mores, cooked over a bonfire on Town Beach. People remarked that this was a great way to bring folks together to enjoy "community" and the lake.

These activities were like a drum roll for the big event at the end of the summer! The MEGA SALE at the Wilkins House was the perfect capstone for all our efforts this summer. This was possible through the generosity of the Shore Country Day School in Beverly, Massachusetts and their program of community service. They collected hardly worn clothes, shoes, sports gear and toys. They separated the items into category, gender, and size and boxed them up. Then, a volunteer parent, who owns a moving company and who had already donated all the boxes, loaded them, with the help of students, onto one of his big trucks and drove this cargo up to the Wilkins Community House. The boxes filled the entire stage. Fast forward to September the week of the Sale. Volunteers from the community at large helped set up tables, unpack boxes, monitor tables to keep them full and act as cashiers. At the end of it all these volunteers helped clean up and, with the help of local students, take the remaining items to another local charitable organization for another sale. The win/win for Waterford was the opportunity to get great clothes and other items for $5 a bag and the proceeds went to our Fuel Fund for the community. See more about this sale in the report following.

We're taking a well earned breather now, but there are events in the wings like our 2nd Veterans Recognition Dinner, Christmas in Waterford and winter game nights. Stay tuned for dates and times.

With much joy and gladness, *Alan Struck*, Moderator

···MEGA SALE

The most exciting outcome of our recent Mega Sale was the depth of volunteerism that surfaced to help. More people showed up for each of the three days than had signed up on our lists! The Saturday sale brought smiles to the faces of children, parents, and volunteers as we achieved our goal of getting quality clothing, toys, and sports goods in the hands of families that could use them the most. And in the process, we raised funds to bolster our Fuel Fund that will surely be needed this winter. We are grateful to everyone who pitched in to bring the Waterford community together for such a worthy cause.





VIDEO:

CLICK ON WATERFORD MEGA SALE ICON ON THE ORIGINAL EMAIL PAGE TO WATCH A VIDEO OF THE STEPS INVOLVED IN THIS SALE.



··· CHURCH ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE REPORT (CAC)

The Church Activities Committee will be meeting soon to plan fall and winter events. We shall be discussing the next Trivia Night, our annual time change breakfast, and a field trip before the snow flies (hopefully.) Sunday, November 1 will be Myra's French Toast Breakfast where we shall spend together that extra hour of morning.

The Maine State Museum in Augusta will be having its Grand Reopening on October 24 from 10 to 4.The museum has been closed for a couple of years for renovation and new exhibits. The admission will be free until December 31. I am hoping we can get a group together with drivers for a morning visit before mid November.

New ideas for activities are always welcome. Please speak to one of our committee members.....*Nancy, Myra, Doss, Rachel, Larry, and Doretta*

•••DEACON'S REPORT

It was a busy summer! The Deacons along with dedicated volunteers helped prepare for three outdoor services in the meditation garden. At the July 26 service five people joined our church. Welcome to Cathie, Alan, Patty, Tim and Allan! Mainely Clarinets provided us with beautiful music at the outdoor service on August 30th. We served communion three times and October 4th was World Communion Sunday. Myra Maltby provided delicious breads from Mexico, Ethiopia, and Ireland. Thank you, Myra!

We had three supply ministers over the summer. On Sundays when both Doretta and George were away, it made us appreciate all the "behind the scenes details" that they take care of to create each Sunday's smoothly-run worship service! Along with the Church Activities Committee we put on a wedding reception for George and Tabitha. It was a joyous occasion!

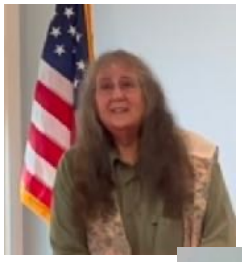
We coordinated flowers, refreshments, and scripture readers weekly. We would love to see people sign up for the Peace Prayer. This could be a poem or a story about how you find peace or about working for peace. If you want more info about sharing during the Peace Prayer moment, speak with Dianne or Doretta. As always, if you have anyone you wish Doretta or the Deacons to visit or call, please let one of us know.

From your Deacons, *Dianne, Doss, Kerri, Rachel*

••• MUSIC NOTES



Mainely Clarinets



Bernice



Heather



John

Many thanks to John Waldie, Mainely Clarinets, Heather Pierson & Bernice Martin, and Kay Leslie for their wonderful musical contributions to worship during my weeks off over the summer.

George Wiese, Music Director

••• FROM THE MAINE CONFERENCE, UCC

As a representative for our local Oxford Union Association I am a member of The Social Action Committee of the Maine Conference of the United Church of Christ. We were busy working on a resolution to bring to the annual meeting this past weekend where it was voted in unanimously. The resolution is in support of our immigrant neighbors in the state of Maine and to urge change in the inhumane manner in which ICE has been operating, while enacting "Operation Catch of the Day" here in Maine.

Resolutions give backing to members of our United Church of Christ churches and their members to know the church supports them in efforts to make changes for those who cannot speak for themselves. It is not a requirement of any member church but lends authority and rationale to the efforts of those who feel God's calling to take action. FMI or to get a copy of the resolution please speak to me.

Dianne Morse-Leonard

News from the Pews

We hope you enjoy receiving these newsletters. 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.

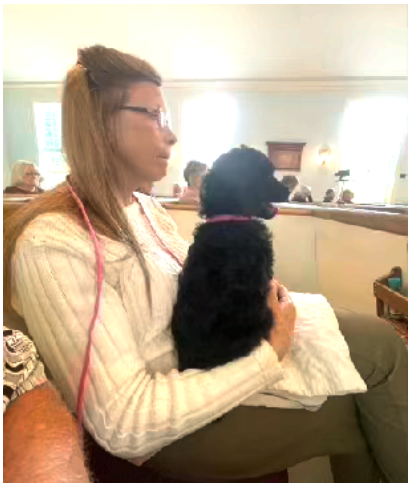
···Here's Joy's News



Joy Plate has 11 great grandchildren! Taylor and Cole welcomed Juniper Kaye on September 16th, 8 lb 8 oz. She joins big sister, Winnie, and they are now a family of four!



···Arlene's Hope and Grace





Arlene and her puppy, Amazing Grace, listen intently to Pastor Doretta's "message". Grace is the "little" sister to Hope. Both are Standard poodles, Hope is 4 years old, Amazing Grace is 8 weeks young!

···A First Birthday for William

Del and Dianne are happy to share this photo of four generations of the Leonard family celebrating the youngest's first birthday at his party at the Wilkins' Community House.

L to R: Del (grandfather); Bill (William) (great grandfather); Ben (father); William (birthday boy)



···A Little News from George and Tabitha…

We got married!





On August 22nd, George Wiese and Tabitha Day were married in Chesuncook Village, Maine. It was a beautiful summer day in the North Maine Woods. Family and friends reached the remote destination - 25 miles Northwest of Mt. Katahdin - by seaplane, boat, and 4-wheel-drive vehicles. Following a pot-luck luncheon, Rev. Doretta Colburn officiated the wedding ceremony at the historic Chesuncook Village Church near our cottage on Chesuncook Lake, where several guests extended the celebration by staying the weekend. Music was provided by a 7-piece brass ensemble. Mikayla Joubert and Quinn Barbin served in the official capacity of "Best Friends" to Tabi and George, respectively. Max the dog wore his bowtie and behaved like a perfect gentleman all day.





One month prior to the wedding trip we enjoyed a much needed break from our busy schedules and traveled to Europe for two weeks, staying in Dinkelsbühl (Germany), Prague (Czech Republic), and Leipzig (Germany), taking occasional day trips from each location. And one month after our marriage, we celebrated with our church family at a fantastic reception held at the Wilkins House. The outpouring of love we've experienced this summer has been tremendous. We feel very blessed to have each other and such a wonderful community!



···Two Special Sunday Receptions…

The Marriage of George & Tabi

The cake, decorated with musical designs, was created by choir member, Rachel Pitman. The wood and tile tray was created and painted by Sharon Harrison. It shows scenes of the wedding.







Ted Nixon's 98th Birthday



This birthday celebration, planned by Ted's family, included our congregation and friends from Waterford and beyond.





Above: Three Waterford "Teds"

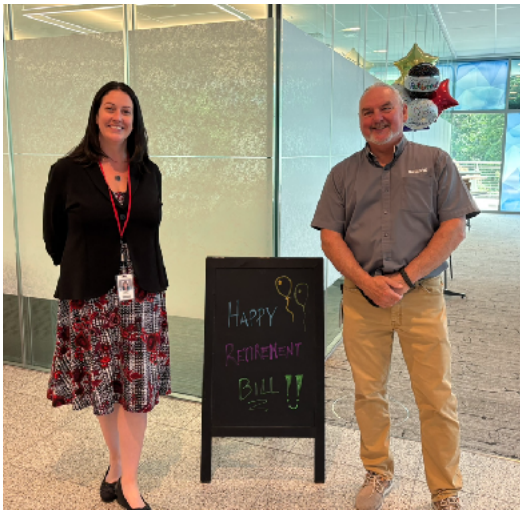
··· Bill Reports Excitement in the Roy Household!

I retired after 26 years at IDEXX on July 4th 2026. Yes, the date was chosen as my "independence day!" Here are some pictures from that retirement event:



Left:The tribute

Right: My inspiring Manager, Karen LeClerc



Right: This photo takes some explaining, The "Pig Statue" is an IDEXX icon commonly used as a navigation aid for new employees. Colleagues from our Engineering Department and Machine/Model shop made a 3-D printed replica of it with my Badge on it as my parting gift. It was a very touching moment for me.



IDEXX is a great company, I am truly proud of my tenure there, and the work we did to improve the lives of Pets and their People.

···A Message from the Hammetts

We Hammetts have been enjoying our second year in our "new" (to us) Waterford home in the Flat. We love being able to walk to the church services and the Wilkins House while we are here, and Tom loves joining in with the choir. Our daughter Laura Margaret, son-in-law Adam Kirk, and 20-month-old grandson Liam were here on their own in late July and early August, and they joined us here for two weeks in early September. Our younger daughter Wilson was also with us for one of those weeks. Tom and Lisa are continuing to enjoy life here until October 8, and we are already looking forward to when we can be back in Waterford in 2027!

•••Summer on Keoka



The Hambleton's had a wonderful summer enjoying the company of family and friends. Our grandson, Stevie, now swims like a fish, kayaks, and loved being in the July 4th parade and the boat parade.

Left: Brenda and Stevie at a Wilkins House Breakfast









•••A Summer Highlight for Cathie Green

Joining the Waterford UCC was a big highlight of my summer! The photo at right shows my joy at being included, and my delight that two of my very favourite women accompanied me to the outdoor service on the day of my joining ritual in July.

As my siblings and I take over management of the beautiful old Maine farmhouse our family has loved for 53 years, Waterford UCC has turned into the community I didn't know I was looking for here. Thank you for inviting me in. See you on-line this winter, and again in real life in the spring. ❤️❄️🌿



L to R :Mitzi Johnson, Cathie Green, Garrett Sadler

• • •Ginny's Grandchildren, Continued

In the last newsletter, I promised to tell you about our 2 wonderful Texas Grandchildren… i.e. our son, Will's kids. They are growing so fast. I can hardly wait til I get to be with them again and of course with their parents, Will and Susan.



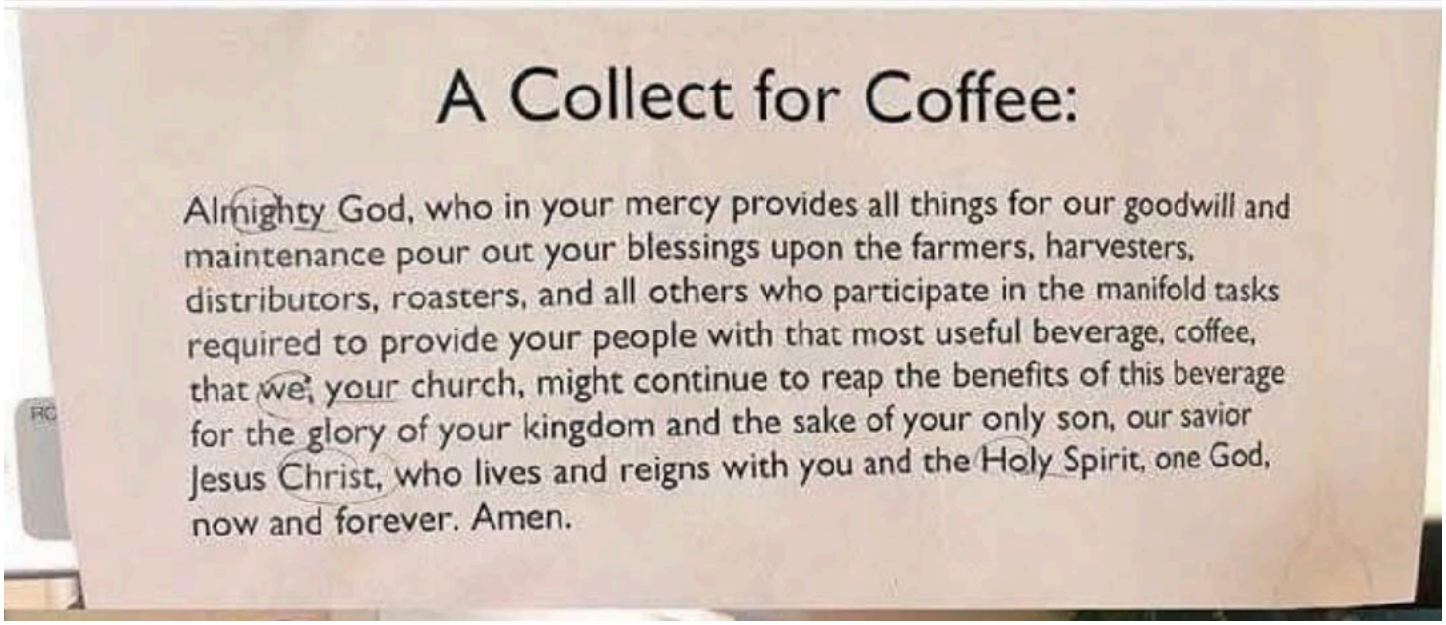
Owen will be 10 in January. He is getting straight A's in 4th grade and really loves Math and Science. He just started playing lacrosse and is into running clubs. Owen has a passion for collecting Pokemon cards and is 25 cards away from collecting every Pokemon character card in the national collection (which is over 1000 cards!).Our granddaughter, **Olivia**, is 13 and in almost all honors classes in 8th grade. She loves to write and is taking an entrepreneurship class, interested in studying design. She is in competitive fitness training and will be competing at the DEKA Strong world championships again this year. Last year she took 6th in her age group.

Most of all, both kids love Jesus and put God first in their lives. They both are active at church every week, love to serve and go to church camps anytime they can!

I can hardly wait to be with them again. They do come to visit here in Maine most summers. And occasionally I get to visit the family in Texas. I hear that might happen this spring!! Happy Autumn all!

• • •For our enjoyment…from the desk of Dave Percival

Shared from the School of Theology at the University of the South, Sewanee, TN





OCTOBER
4 Lisa Hammett
6 Chyanna Millett-Cordwell
7 Bobbi Whichard

NOVEMBER
8 Doretta Colburn
11 Sheila Durgin
14 Ed Gabrielsen
15 Arlene Whichard
25 Brian Sylvester
26 Sally Holm

DECEMBER
1 Eva Brannan
10 Kay Lyman
21 Carol Madsen

Church Council 2026

Moderator: *Al Struck*
Clerk: *Larry Griffin*
Trustees: *John Wait, Ted Colburn, Larry Griffin*
Treasurers: *John & Dodi Wait*
Assistant Treasurer: *Ralph MacKinnon*
Stewardship: *Al Struck*
Deacons: *Doss Hasson, Dodi Wait, Dianne Morse-Leonard, Kerri Sooter*
Music Director: *George Wiese*
Church Activities (CAC): *Nancy Engdahl, Myra Maltby, Doss Hasson*
Communications: *Al Struck, George Wiese*
Webmaster: *Ginny Raymond*
Church Historian: *Dianne Morse-Leonard*
Live Streaming Coordinator: *Tabitha Day*

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TREES

I think that I shall never see
A poem lovely as a tree.
A tree whose hungry mouth is prest
Against the earth's sweet flowing breast;
A tree that looks at God all day,
And lifts her leafy arms to pray;
A tree that may in summer wear
A nest of robins in her hair;
Upon whose bosom snow has lain;
Who intimately lives with rain.
Poems are made by fools like me,
But only God can make a tree.

——Joyce Kilmer



God Be With You 'til We Meet Again