



Waterford Congregational Church UCC

Minister: Rev. Doretta Colburn

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**We are now gathering inside our church for 9:30 am services on Sundays.
These services are also filmed and are available on our website.**



Newsletter - May 2024



THOUGHTS FROM THE PULPIT...

It struck me the other day, that I have been a part of the Waterford Congregational Church for 5 years now. My, how the time has gone by! And to think in 2014 I retired! Or at least I thought I had. Apparently, God had other plans. I could not be more grateful. I feel incredibly blessed to serve along with you in our local communities.

Consider what we have been through together. It was less than a year of my joining with you when COVID hit and we closed the church. We were gearing up for Pi Sunday when we made the decision. So much for the pecan pie I was making! Still, we remained community. We discovered things we didn't know about ourselves – our resilience, our creativity in staying connected while remaining apart. Recording "arm chair sermons" and "hymns at home" every week, we worshipped together. In between Sunday messages and hymns was the start of Midweek Reflections that sought to hold us together and lift us personally as we faced uncertain times. It was also the start of outdoor services that have become a wonderful way of worshipping together in the open air with an increase in numbers attending.



There is no doubt that the convergence of already declining attendance in churches everywhere and COVID has affected us, but the outcome has some positive aspects that have reshaped our understanding of who we want to be in our community and how we want to go about it. I think we comprehend more that we, the people, are the church not our lovely buildings. We carry with us what it means to be loving, compassionate, and accepting people wherever we find ourselves. It's called living our faith. This has found us facing outward in new and exciting ways, inviting others in for fun and fellowship through programs at the Wilkins Community House.

Middle School Game Night has been a wonderful opportunity for young people from Waterford and Harrison to have fun together in a safe environment. We just had our 2nd Annual Earth Day

Celebration featuring artwork from our local elementary schools, multigenerational activities, music, and information bringing folks in who have never been in the Wilkins Community House or even knew about it. Our Trivia Nights are filled with fun and laughter drawing friends from around the community. Now we are looking to get internet services and make improvements to the facility. Additionally, moving to an online giving platform has opened the doors to greater financial outreach which we know is critical to sustaining our facilities and our ministries.

Underlying all of these, whether in Sunday morning worship or whatever opportunities we host, is the awareness that who we are as a faith community is represented in how we live and serve others. That is what makes a difference, and we are doing that in ways impossible to fully measure, but evident in how we are known.

In the spirit of gratitude and love, *Doretta*

LETTER FROM THE MODERATOR ... May 6, 2024

Dear Friends,

What a beautiful day! Took a walk with Ted Nixon this morning; got three loads of wash on the line; Jean and I worked in the garden; kale is in the ground; worked on wood with a neighbor; supervised a team putting in the dock at the cabin (water temp 44 F.) And now we are taking dinner to a neighbor to enjoy a nice evening. Spring has arrived in Waterford!

We had a bit of a rocky start to the year, missing 5 Sunday services due to weather and power outages. (Four feet of snow in April...REALLY?!) However, during this time the Church Council has continued working on the area you folks identified in our visioning questionnaire...reaching out to the community. Three churches joined together for Easter. Members of the Council helped with the Easter Egg hunt at the Library. We had a Church Celebration at our Annual meeting and Souper Bowl Sunday soon after. Larry Griffin hosts a monthly game night for Middle Schoolers at the Wilkins House. As many as 11 students have attended. The Oxford Hills High School student string quartet will be coming to the Wilkins House in the fall. Another big draw in the community is Trivia Night at the Wilkins Community House. Thanks to Doretta and Dodi for organizing this popular activity. Then there was Pi Sunday with 10 kinds of pie to enjoy...well attended! During April school break we had our 2nd Earth Day celebration (details to below in this newsletter). A new addition was a clothing swap that using church pews as size organizers.

What do I remember most about these activities? Everyone attending them was smiling... neighbors meeting new folks...kids seeing each other out of school...and our church congregation in the middle of it all. We have really opened the door to the community. Some people come through the door, some look in, and some drive by, but a little more slowly than before.

As you know, Jane Morse has moved to Popham and retired as our Music Director. But, without missing a beat (I've been waiting to use that line.) George Wiese has picked up the reins and kept the music flowing in our little church. He (together with John, Dodi & Larry) has also been instrumental (last one) in getting our digitized donation program up and running. We hope folks will click on the QR code and see how it works from our website. Another 21st century project is installing internet in the Wilkins House and the Church. This accessibility will help facilitate other new ideas for inviting Waterford folks to come see how we are, truly, an important part of this wonderful community.

We look forward to seeing all of you who migrate back here in the summer. Your presence adds tons of energy to our church community. We love having you here.

In Peace, *Al*

TRUSTEE'S REPORT...

With the winter season over the Trustees can put their snow shovels away and start to get the church grounds ready for the spring and summer. The church parking lot has been cleaned, thanks to Bruce and Jared Whichard for their help. The rest of the Church grounds will be addressed during May.

We have two projects that are being reviewed for the Wilkins House:

- Ted Colburn is working on a grant to have three Heat Pumps installed in the Wilkins House...two in the main room and one in the Kitchen.
- The second project is replacement of the entrance stairs into the Wilkins House.

If there are any issues that need to be addressed, please contact one of the Trustees.

Regards from the Trustees... *John Wait, Larry Griffin, Ted Colburn*

CHURCH ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE (CAC)...



So far this year, the CAC has sponsored three well-attended events...Souper Bowl Sunday on Superbowl Day, Pie Sunday to celebrate 3/14, Pi Day, and Trivia Night on April 27th. Trivia Night was so much fun with four teams competing for the most correct answers. This time each answer started with a letter of the alphabet. There were 26 questions ...#1 answer started with "A" and so on. For "I", it was... Name 9 countries that start with "I". One team got all The crowd got a little out of hand from time to time, but our talented host, Doretta, kept control with her great sense and join us for an evening of laughs.

TRIVIA NIGHT



everything under of humor. Watch for the next Trivia event good-natured competition and many

The CAC needs more committee members. We have only 3... Nancy, Myra, and Denny... with Doretta attending all our planning sessions. We meet maybe 6 times a year to plan social events, fields trips, and other church events. The original committee started with 8 members. Tasks were easily split. That becomes difficult with only 3 members. Join us and share your ideas. Socialization is an important part of a church community!

Nancy Engdahl for the CAC

DEACONS' UPDATE...

Since February the Deacons have been at work with meetings, planning and helping Doretta in many ways.

We began by planning Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday. Unfortunately, we had to cancel Palm Sunday service due to stormy weather. On Maunday Thursday, Doretta, Franklin Anderson (from Harrison Church) and Leslie Chatfield (from North Waterford Church) did a very different kind of service this year which was well received. On Good Friday, the church was open from 1:00 PM until 3:00 PM for anyone who would like to come into the church for meditation or prayers.

Easter Sunrise Service was shared with the Harrison and North



*6:30 am Sunrise Service at
Keoka Beach*

Waterford churches. Approximately 35 people attended the service. Following the sunrise service, the deacons served a breakfast at the Wilkins House. There usually is no coffee in the narthex after the 9:30 service; however, next year you can look for that pot of coffee to go with any leftover muffins!

We are now planning for Mother's Day, Pentecost Sunday, and Father's Day. We look forward to an outdoor service at the end of June and hope to hold one once a month until Labor Day.

Thank you to all volunteers who sign up and provide refreshments, peace candle, and flowers. A special thanks to those who have been reading scripture. If there is anyone who I do not have on my list for scripture readers, and would like to read, please let me know.

Please do not hesitate to speak with a deacon with any concerns you might have and don't forget, we now live stream on Facebook every Sunday.

Myra Maltby for the Deacons,
Myra, Dodi Wait, and Dianne Morse-Leonard

...WHO KNEW??? 🙋 ...

...If you are **not** a FACEBOOK member you can still watch on FACEBOOK the live streaming of our Sunday worship services at 9:30. Simply type in:

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

...Just ignore all requests to join FACEBOOK. *There is a link on our website (wccucc.com) at the bottom of the website "under contact information" to connect you to the live streaming if you forget or lose the above information.*

Now you **know**...and hopefully you will join us when you are unable to join us in person for our Sunday service.

MUSIC NOTES... Kay Leslie

Our music director George Wiese, does an wonderful job at our Sunday services of seamlessly tying the service together with music as organist, choir conductor and musical historian. He also wears many other hats, one of them as the conductor of the Mount Washington Valley Choral Society in Conway, NH. To celebrate his 10 years in that role he organized and conducted a performance of Haydn's "The Creation" complete with 40-voice choir and professional soloists and full orchestra. It was performed on May 12 to a packed house in the 240-seat Majestic Theater in Conway. The audience expressed their appreciation with much applause ending with an enthusiastic and lengthy standing ovation at the end — a truly exciting afternoon of music!

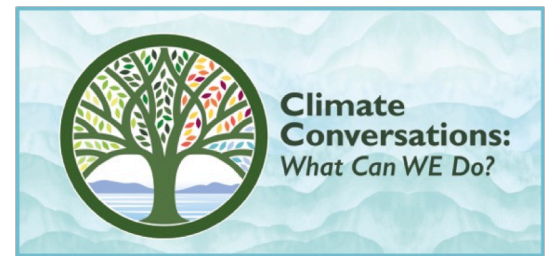
Congratulations, George!



Here are photos taken at the intermission of that performance with George at the keyboard of the pianoforte.



EARTH DAY CELEBRATIONS SOW PRICELESS SEEDS FOR THE FUTURE...



When a child is given the opportunity to see the gifts the natural world around them offers, their connection to the



Art display

earth grows stronger, their awareness, even in subtle ways, finds a place at the center of their hearts and begins to shape their souls. This is what our second annual Earth Day Celebration in Waterford, Maine on April 20th, was all about. The community gathered together to honor the gifts of nature through song,



Barry Lane

story, hands-on activities, informational exhibits, and an extraordinary display of artwork that local children, grades Pre-K through 6th, created in their art class that lined the entire hall at the Wilkins Community House.

From painting with natural dyes using nature's paint brushes of feathers and plant material, to creating simple birdfeeders, learning about bees, sharing ideas on repurposing, a children's clothing swap, and making your own trail mix, the gathering was wrapped in music and art that held it together in true celebration.



Robert Dow

There was something for all ages and has become a stimulus for more opportunities in the future.



Al Struck



Birdfeeders

The Celebration was hosted by the Climate Conversations: What Can WE Do? program by the Waterford Library and the Waterford Congregational Church with volunteers from the community and in collaboration with our two local elementary schools and the art teacher, Ms. Miranda. Music was provided by local musicians, Barry Lane of Force Field for Good, and Robert Dow.

Doretta

... WE REMEMBER...

Arthur Bartlett Hague, Jr.

October 1, 1927 – December 23, 2023



A leader in environmental protection, Bart's life, relationships, career, retirement, and community work were driven by his dedication to these causes. The seed for this interest was planted on a visit to his Aunt Mary on McWain Hill in Waterford in the 1930s. The Maine landscape inspired him. His strong belief that society should protect all such landscapes was fully formed during his undergraduate and graduate years at Yale and the University of Michigan and guided his career.

Bart involved himself in mitigation and prevention at both the community and federal levels, including the protection of Portland's Lake Sebago water supply and the reduction of paper mill pollution into the Androscoggin River. Although he earned many awards for his environmental work, Bart was particularly proud of his contributions in Waterford, serving on two town conservation planning and implementation committees and also on the board of the Western Foothills Land Trust for eight years. He and his wife Mary Ann placed 475 acres under conservation easement, including the former Camp Waganaki and a cove on McWain Pond, and more than a mile on both banks of the Crooked River, protecting the viewscape, landlocked salmon habitat, and water quality.

We will miss Bart's presence and company in our church events and services; and the Waterford community will remember him as a devoted, concerned neighbor and friend with a true commitment to our beautiful town...and well beyond!

Cheryl H. Range

January 16, 1947 – March 16, 2024

Cherie passed away in peace and with no regrets. On her last weekend, surrounded by family members, she asked that they serenade her with her favorite songs, as she happily directed them like a bed-bound glee club conductor.

The oldest of Theresa and Clarence Hunt's 10 children, she graduated from Casco High School and then pursued a 33-year career with United Airlines, working in Philadelphia, Washington DC, Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Virginia. Along the way she met and married Ed, the love of her life for 43 years. Together they visited seven continents, making lifelong friends wherever they journeyed. Cherie freely lent her time to a variety of causes. She rescued sea turtles and volunteered at an aquarium. She worked at food pantries and at a thrift store to benefit battered women. She helped out at hospitals and hospice and was active in a garden club. She and Ed worked as hosts at campgrounds in ME, PA, and NH.



Cherie is survived by her husband Ed; sisters Brenda, Judy, Cathy, Donna, Lori and Kim, and brothers Bruce and Wade; and her loving family of brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, many nieces, nephews, cousins, and precious friends. Our Church is fortunate that Cherie and Ed joined us in many of our services and activities. She was a delightful and kind woman who touched those who knew her in a very special way.



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.

The Hambletons "Grand Africa" Adventure...



We got back from our wonderful trip to Africa just in time for the holidays with our family. Here are a few of our photos. You can read about our trip and see our photos at www.brendaandmick.com (password: GrandAfrica2024).



We have

been in Maine a few times to

enjoy the snow and all of the rain. Mick got his second new knee and PT is going well. We are excited for sunny days on the lake and we're looking forward to cruising around with our grandson.



Kay Lyman's New Project...



After a lovely family visit in Oregon I am happily back in Sweden, ME until November and loving the daffodils. I looking forward to attending the Waterford Church this Sunday.

I have also finished a draft of my book, Women's Work and Family Life in the Twentieth Century: Simmons College Alumnae, which I am now sending out to friends to read and looking for a publisher. I spent the winter in Brunswick editing and checking footnotes.

Kay and family on a side trip to Magdalena Bay, CA

Greetings from the Raymonds!...

As many of you know, our household is very busy with cats and dogs (Shelties in particular!). We will be adopting another Sheltie from Maine Sheltie Rescue and will report on her in the next WCC newsletter.



Hocus, Pocus, and Merlin watching outdoor birds.

We have, however, adopted two kittens in the last year. Besides Shelties, I have a fetish for black cats! We already have a black cat, Merlin (8 yrs old) and an orange & white boy, Phantom (17 yrs old). Both were strays we caught in our barn and we really adore them!



Kitten fools!



Phantom, Odd man out!

A friend of ours had kittens born in their barn, several of which were black. I had decided not to have any more cats, but when we saw these sweet kittens, who could resist! So Denny and I came home with 2 black kitties (Hocus & Pocus) and Ginia adopted an orange baby (Phoenix.)

Years ago, we had a black cat (Magic) who we all adored! So in honor of him, all our cats are named magic names.

Hocus & Pocus have moved in okay. The older cats are not fans, and the kittens have destroyed some keepsakes. They, however, are settling in well, and the old boys are adjusting. Our Shelties find the kitten activity diverting...hehehe! No problems there...! So now stay tuned for our Sheltie adoption news. We are excited about that too. Ginny & Denny 🐾

The Struck's Spring Events...



*Jean Struck sets new record trekking across Maine in 7 seconds!
(Check out the shape of the snow*



This is not the way to spend Palm Sunday. Jean was heard to mutter, "There are daffodils in here somewhere!"



It's junior prom season and Jean and Al Struck's grandson, Holden, is ready!

Sunset in Sintra... Becky Buyers



My husband, Nils Johnson, and I are on a three-week holiday that, so far, has taken us to Rome, Genoa, Nice and Provence. We are now in Sintra, Portugal for a reunion with our daughters who all live in Europe. It's been a wonderful trip, full of beauty and countless delights. I wanted to send a few photos but I have taken so many I could not choose! So I have decided to send just one, taken at sunset tonight, along with a journal entry that reads like a prayer of thanksgiving for all that this day has offered me.

At the end of the day, after a walk on the beach, after sinking my feet in the sand, watching waves that have travelled across the Atlantic to the west coast of Portugal froth around my ankles, and nip at my calves, like Caper - the cat we have left behind in the care of a friend - then

disappear (like magic) into the sand or back to the sea; after sipping coffee and eating amidst surfers in shorts and tee shirts, after the wind has tousled my hair and salted my skin; after reversing from a dead end and an easy entry to a once-cloistered monastery built of boulders; after bowing to a tree that is older than my country and raising my face to another that is taller than I can see; after a conversation with a gardener who offered us fava beans - green and plump and raw - like communion wafers and we ate them; after passing through a forest in the mountains riddled with trails where people hiked and biked and walked their dogs; after navigating a small city; after lunch on a terrace in the sunshine; after wrapped a skirt around my waist that swished as I walked up a hill to discover sculptures along the sidewalk, artists making art, a singer opening his heart to strangers in the middle of town by a fountain; after the train station and the small grocery store where we bought cream and tinned tomatoes and pasta and two bananas; after a mimosa across from the National Palace; after watching the faces of people walking by; after reading with hope and horror the news of this day; after returning to this casa in a quiet valley where I hear only birds - Eurasian wrens and blackcaps, peacocks and geese, and in the far distance, a mournful dog; after all this and more, I climb to the topmost garden to catch the sight of the setting sun as it sinks behind a screen of trees whose branches spread like florets of the broccoli we will eat with our pasta by candlelight.

New Arrivals for the Plate Family... Karen and Bob Plate

You may soon see tents popping up on the Plate Farm fields -- or bedrooms being added in the horse stalls -- after Joy Plate gained 3 more great-grandchildren (for a total of 9) during the month of March!

Guinevere (Winnie) Rose Mund was first to arrive on March 1. She is the first child of Karen's daughter and son-in-law, Taylor and Cole and weighed in at 7 pounds 10 ounces and 20" long.

Next came Niko Malik Peiris, born on March 16, the son of Bob's daughter and son-in-law, Jessica and Shehan. Niko was also 7 pounds, 10 ounces and 21" long. He joins big brother and sister Kai and Amaya.

And Coraline Grace Shelnutt finished off the month with her arrival on March 25, daughter of Karen's son and daughter-in-law, Austin and Brittany. She was 8 pounds, 7 ounces and 21" long and joins big sisters Harper and Piper.

Everyone is happy and healthy . . . and looking forward to their first swims in McWain Pond!



The Mund Family



The Peiris Family



The Shelnutt Family

and...An Eclipse Viewing Party at Plate Farm...



Martha Long, Sharon and Bill Roy, and Bruce Rood joined Joy Plate and Bob Plate for an eclipse viewing party at the Plate Farm.



News from the Whichards..



Left: Jared on McWain Pond just prior to the eclipse...note the protective headgear!

Right: Arlene Whichard and her grandchildren, Joseph and Isbella, had the opportunity to enjoy a rainbow at the Jersey shore.



Left: When the grandchildren came to Waterford for a visit, Bruce had the opportunity to teach his 3-year-old grandson, Joseph, how to ring the church bell!

Right: Bobbi Whichard had Bruce and Arlene join her for Easter at her home in Florida. Here Arlene and Bobbi are "taking part" in the Waterford church service that is live streamed every Sunday.



More Astro-Magnetic Events (aka Aurora Borealis or Northern Lights)...

Bill Roy submitted these photos which he took from his home and dock on McWain Pond at 10:30 pm on May 10.



Community News...

from Doretta:

I have attached a flyer regarding the dinner our market vendors are providing for donation at the Wilkins House on Monday, May 20th. The proceeds will go to the Wilkins Community House. This is our appreciation dinner to our community for the support you have given us and a chance to meet our vendors. We have a total of 11 this year! Who would have guessed!

You're Invited to Dinner May 20th

Help Us Celebrate 12 Years!



5:00-6:30 pm

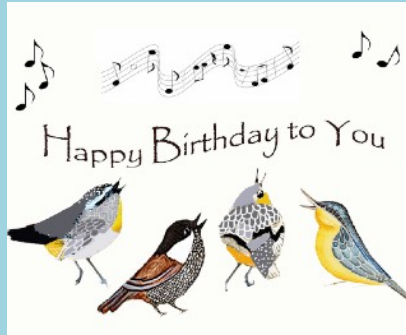
Wilkins Community House
19 Plummer Hill Road, Waterford

Enjoy a locally grown and prepared
dinner from our farms to you

Turkey Chili
Beef Chili
Swiss Chard Tart (vegetarian)
Cornbread and Artisan Bread
Garden Salad
Lemonade and Decaf Coffee
Pies

Donation Accepted
All proceeds will be given to the Wilkins Community House

Meet Your Market Vendors: *Thunder Hill Farm, Beech Hill Farm, High View Farm, Spicy Staples, Gould Acres Farm, A Country Flavor, Padruig Designs Jewelry, etc., Because I Love You Soaps, etc., VanLeeuwen Woodworking, Shady Grove Mushrooms, Old School Creamery Goat Cheese.*



MAY

2 Emmi Brannan
8 Ella Brannan
8 Lauren Hewson
10 Sharon Harrison
13 Saige Winslow
17 Rebecca Sylvester
25 Jane Kimball
29 Kay Leslie
31 Dot Gilrain

JUNE

3 Barbara Allen
11 Bill Roy
12 Dianne Morse
Leonard
16 Susan Leslie
12 Peter Morse
20 Nancy Engdahl
23 Gale Bell
25 John Wait
26 Kerry Hewson
29 Louann Bell
29 Sharon Roy

JULY

5 Jane Morse
14 Preston Harrison
17 Jean Struck
18 Ralph MacKinnon

Church Council - 2024

Moderator: *Al Struck*

Clerk: *Larry Griffin*

Trustees: *Ted Colburn, John Wait, Larry Griffin*

Treasurers: *John & Dodi Wait*

Assistant Treasurer: *Ralph MacKinnon*

Stewardship: *John & Dodi Wait, George Wiese*

Deacons: *Myra Maltby, Dianne Morse-Leonard,
Dodi Wait*

Music Director: *George Wiese*

Church School: *Myra Maltby*

Missions: *Nancy Engdahl*

Church Activities Committee: *Nancy Engdahl*

Communications: *Al Struck & George Wiese*

Webmaster: *Ginny Raymond*

Church Historian: *Dianne Morse Leonard*

Live Streaming Coordinator: *Tabitha Day*

“To make a gift using our secure
online donation portal, visit
wccucc.com/donate or follow the
QR code link with your
smartphone.”
Thanks!



*Aurora
Borealis
Over
Waterford*

*May 10
2024*

*photo by
DarylAnn
Leonard*

