

# 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. Masks and social distancing are optional. These services are also filmed and are available on our website.



# Newsletter - May 2023



# THOUGHTS FROM THE PULPIT...

Dear Church Family,

As I write this, a brief shower has begun out my window and since the sun is breaking through the clouds, I hoped for a rainbow, but none has appeared as of yet and I thought I had better get back to writing this instead of "chasing after rainbows." But it made me think about the fact that we don't always need to see rainbows to witness the beauty and wonder around us in our natural world and profoundly visible in our relationships with one another. That magnificence is always there for us to see no matter what the weather brings our way.



Since I became your pastor in 2019, I have been continually aware of the tremendous gift of spirit and love that is woven through our fellowship. We have been there for one another through sorrow and loss, through fear and worry, through joy and celebration. Even in our differences, we strive to find common ground on which to move forward for the sake of the gospel of love we believe in. That is what community is. It is what makes us family. It is the definition of church.

There is no doubt that the church as an organization faces many challenges and for a host of reasons too many to list here. Yet, there is an underlying truth about humanity and it is that we each yearn to belong. It is within us to be a part of something greater than ourselves; to be recognized and accepted; to feel that we matter. Understanding that, I am convinced that the role of the church today is to build a broader sense of community that reaches beyond the walls of the physical church developing relationships with others regardless of their faith background

or commitment. As you have known me to say before, church is not the building, but the people who come together, who are always welcoming, who are meeting the needs of others and celebrating the common good within us all in creative and meaningful ways. I am thrilled to be a part of a community of faith who gets that and is putting it into practice, while always striving to be increasingly "there" for others.

I am reminded of this passage in Acts that defines what later became known as church saying, "All the believers were together and had everything in common." Indeed, the simple truth about who we are as a church is the coming together and the sharing that unites us as equal partners in this journey of life.

May it be so, Doretta

# LETTER FROM THE MODERATOR ... April 24, 2023

Dear Friends,

April showers are here...watering our lawns and filling our brooks and lakes. Robins patrol newly green grass and bees hum among daffodils. Spring is taking its time getting here, but with ice out and gleaners stalking the woods for Fiddle Heads it's clear that winter's back is broken.



We had one of the best organized Holy Weeks I can remember. It was wonderful sharing Maundy Thursday with Harrison Congregational; and the Sunrise Service on Easter morning was perfectly timed so that parishioners from North Waterford, Harrison, and Waterford could see the sun come up as we sang a hymn of praise accompanied by George's traveling pump organ. (photo left)

Doretta took a well-earned rest after the Easter Service and Sandra Fitz-Henry did a wonderful job filling in for her last week. At our monthly Council meeting we were all energized by the events of Holy Week. Now we are putting that energy to our Church Vision review. We have polled the congregation and our mailing list of friends near and far, asking simply: What is it you

like about our church and what suggestions can you make to improve our presence in our community? The committee will review this data and come back to the congregation with ideas to move this project forward with their help.

The Church Activities Committee is planning trips to encourage folks to get out and be with friends. We had Trivia Night in March and Earth Day this month. I think the community is beginning to see us as a place to be comfortable with friends and family. Even with the harsh weather we experienced this winter, our Fuel Fund and Good Neighbor Fund were able to keep pace with the requests for assistance from our community. As other reports reveal, we are active in projects that stimulate thought and action.



Here is the Lorax's great great great grandfather (aka: Al) He read the book to students at the Waterford Elementary School to get them excited about Earth Day and how they could help. The art and writing they did was displayed at the celebration on Earth Day at the Wilkins House.

I invite you all to come "home" on a Sunday morning...soon. Bring a friend, bring your family, and enjoy the warmth of fellowship and worship we all feel when we gather in Waterford's "Little Church with the Big Heart." See you soon, I hope.

Peace, Al

## TRUSTEE'S REPORT...

Spring is finely here and we can start to the spring cleaning. The trustees with some help from volunteers will be working on the outside of the buildings as soon as the weather cooperates.

We will schedule a spring-cleaning Saturday morning for the inside of the church in mid-May. We would like as many volunteers as we can get for this project, the more helping hands the faster the job will be.

The big job this spring will be the completion of the repairs on the roof of the church and the trim in the rear of the building. This work should be completed by the end of May.

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

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

# DEACONS' UPDATE...

A new year for the deacons started in February 2023. They are: Myra Maltby, Ted Nixon, Pam Williams and Dodi Wait. Our first meeting was on a cold day in the beginning of February, and Dodi kindly invited us to her warm house for the meeting.

Right away we started to plan for the upcoming Easter season: Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Easter Sunrise Service and our regular service at 9:30 AM at the church. Following the Sunrise Service we served breakfast (muffins & cakes) at the Wilkins House.



On April 16th, Doretta was away with her family and we welcomed Sandra Fitz-Henry to the pulpit. She was a delight, and we hope to invite her back again at some time when Doretta will not be with us.

We are now looking forward to beautiful Spring weather with possible outdoor services for either Mother's Day and/or Pentecost Sunday which are May 14th and 28th.

Thank you to all who volunteer to sign up for refreshments, Peace Candle and Scripture reading.

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

Myra Maltby, for the Deacons Pam, Myra, Ted, and Dodi

# MUSIC NOTES 1...

Choir has been busy this spring. Kay is back with us and that makes everyone happy, even though George did a fine job filling in for her! We are glad to have Jane Riseman singing alto with us now! Remember, if you want to sing with us, just let me know! We rehearse at 8:30 AM before the service.

This summer we are planning a few Sundays off for the choir. The Music Committee will meet soon to determine which Sundays we will invite soloists or groups to perform during a service. Have you always dreamed of performing on a Sunday morning? Do you have a friend visiting who might like to share their musical talent? Do you have family members or friends who want to sing an anthem? Please let me know!

We hope to hold some Sharps on the Flat Concerts this year. We will let you know soon! If you have a favorite hymn or piece of music you would like choir to sing, please let me know, and I will try and make that happen. Thank you all for your support of music in our church!

Jane Morse

# MUSIC NOTES 2..."A Successful Organ Transplant" George Wiese

At some point in the late '60s or early '70s the Hammond M3 organ at the front of the church was given to our church by Earl D. and Cornelia Brown, the owners of the house that later became the Kedarburn Inn. When the Browns sold their house, they donated their Hammond organ to the WCC. Our trusty Mason and Hamlin had fallen into disrepair and this organ was a welcome replacement. The Hammond M3, built in the late '50s, was used at WCC for nearly 40 years by Joan Fillebrown. Even when the Mason and Hamlin was eventually serviced, Joan preferred the Hammond. Although the M3 was designed for playing jazz, R&B, and gospel music, Joan masterfully coaxed it into accompanying many church services, weddings, and memorials.

As a classical musician, I gravitated toward the long-neglected Mason and Hamlin reed organ when I began to serve as organist for WCC in 2020. (The tube amps and "vintage electronics" in the Hammond scared me!) So...mostly, it sat unused. I believe that musical instruments should be played and enjoyed as much as possible, so in consultation with the WCC council I started thinking about finding a more suitable home for the Hammond.

Serendipitously, a chance conversation with local jazz keyboardist, Michael Beling, led to a wonderful outcome. Among Michael's students was a talented 15-year-old from Lewiston who had recently begun exploring the repertoire and history of jazz organs using an electronic keyboard and an iPad app. As the student's talent, interest, and abilities increased, it became apparent he would need to acquire a proper practice instrument to meet the needs of his advancing skill. And so, on March 19th, 15-year-old Enzo Giampaolo and his parents, Dominic and Maria, made the trip to Waterford where Tabby and I introduced Enzo to his new Hammond M3. As soon as he sat down at the organ it was obvious we'd made a good decision. Enzo already knew what every knob, switch, drawbar, and button did. He began playing music on the M3 immediately and his excitement was palpable. After a short visit, we helped the very thankful Giampaolo family load the organ into their van. And with that, our old Hammond began a new life.



Enzo practices on the former WCC Hammond M3 at his home. The Giampaolo family made a generous donation to our music program and enjoyed a tour of the church when they visited.

## CHURCH ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE ...

The CAC sponsored 2 events in March. On Sunday, March 12 we celebrated Pi day which is held annually on 3/14. After church , we enjoyed several different kinds pies baked by our committee and our church family. We had planned on selling leftovers for a fund raiser, but the pies were so good that there were no leftovers.

On Saturday, March 25th we had our first Trivia Night at the Wilkins House, This was open to the public. However, even though we had a snowstorm that evening, 19 hearty Mainers arrived and had a fun evening. Doretta did a wonderful job as host. She made up 20 questions about Maine. We divided into 4 teams and the winning team won a basket of grand prizes such as a chocolate bunny, peeps, cookies etc. We enjoyed a lot of fun and laughter that evening and many requests for another Trivia Night were heard. We'll let you know when we plan our 2nd Trivia Night.

We have 3 field trips (and a 4th in the making ) planned for May and June. Our trips are always a lot of fun , and we'd like to see new people join us. We meet at church and carpool, if desired. Please sign up in church or call Nancy at 583-6677.

1. MAY 7.. MT. WASHINGTON VALLEY CHORAL SOCIETY performance at 3 PM in North Conway at Christ Episcopal Church which is on the corner of Pine Street and Rt. 16 (White Mt. Highway). This performance celebrates the bicentennial of French composer Cesar Franck. If you wish to carpool, make a note on the sign up sheet. Departure will be 1:45.



# 2. MAY 25..LUNCH AND SHOP TILL YOU DROP.... We shall meet at Krista's Restaurant at



2 Main Street in Cornish at 11:30 sharp. Krista's is a very popular restaurant and doesn't take lunch reservations. They said if we were there right when they opened, they would accommodate us. If you wish to carpool, make a note on the sign up sheet. Departure will be at 10:30. Remember to sign up at church or call 583-6677. After lunch you will be free to shop for as long as you wish. In the immediate area there are several shops that you can walk to such as antique shops, a toy store, a crystal shop, an herbal apothecary shop, and a couple of galleries.

# 3. **JUNE 11..PILGRIM LODGE OPEN HOUSE** from 1-3....Plan to leave church at 11 after Sunday service.

Pilgrim Lodge is the Congregational Church's summer camp in West Gardiner ME that many of us have sent our children to. They also have adult and family programs which you will be able find out about. The grounds are handicapped accessible. Please sign up at church or call 583-6677. Pack a picnic lunch.

4. In the works is a trip to Portland in June..either a boat trip or the Portland Trolley Tour with lunch to follow at Dimillo's. Stay tuned.



Nancy Engdahl

### MISSION NEWS...

Again, we will follow our Calendar of Giving and review other needs as they arise. The projects our church will support in the next few months are:

May: Strengthen the Church - Special Offering on Pentecost Sunday 5/28/2023

This offering grow's the UCC's future by funding \*The Stillspeaking Ministry (see below); new and renewing churches; youth and young adult ministries; and lay and pastoral leadership formations - especially among women and people of color.

\*God Is Still Speaking,®: The Writers' Group provides an impactful ministry through writing, with resources including the Daily Devotional, annual Advent/Lenten devotionals, and other materials developed for congregations. Print resources from the Writers' Group are available for purchase through The Pilgrim Press. In addition to the Writers' Group members, many volunteer writers contribute to these resources. •Study the books of the Bible from a progressive perspective with a "Listen Up" Bible Study. •Be encouraged in the intense spiritual work of parenting with Hard and Holy: Devotions for Parenting. •Find prayers for everyday experiences, for unsheltering from the pandemic, for grace at meals, and more. •Make "money" an easier topic for your congregation with On Giving: Reflections and Resources for Pre-Generous Parishioners. •All these resources and more are available from the Stillspeaking Writers' Group!

# July: Church World Service Women's Health Kits and the Christmas Fund

#### **URGENT FOOD BANK NEEDS:**

The Harrison Food Bank is in need of the following items:

- •Boxed cereal •Oatmeal •Peanut butter •Granola and snack bars
- •Spaghetti and Macaroni •Rice •Canned fruit •Soups
- •Canned tuna and chicken •Jam / Jelly •Juice

With the reduction of SNAP benefits the needs are increasing for area families. Thank you for your support in this need.

\* \* \* \* \*

We believe that each person is unique and valuable. It is the will of God that every person belongs to a family of faith where they have a strong sense of being valued and loved.

As we all begin our "spring cleaning" please remember that we <u>collect used eyeglasses</u> to give to the Lion's Club to be shared around the world for the blessing of sight.

Shalom, Pam Williams

# EARTH DAY CELEBRATION...

Our Earth Day Celebration was a real success! The Wilkins House was lined with the children's fantastic art projects and everyone enjoyed themselves sowing seeds, making bird feeders, learning about buying less plastic, composting, and how to mend...to name only a few of the activities. We even had a session of hand





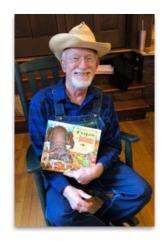
yoga and somatic movement for the adults to learn about body awareness. One of my favorite

awareness. One of my favorite projects was a painting of the Earth made up of our preschoolers handprints with the words below, "We can change the world with our two little hands." Indeed, we all can use our hands, our minds and hearts, our voices, and our bodies to work toward positive change.



Doretta







# **Related Programs:**

Thursday, May 11th: A Sheena Fraser Library Program at the Wilkins House from 6:30-8:00 on Terrestrial Invasives led by Lauren at Lakes Environmental Association.

Thursday, June 1st: talk on Forestry and Maine Birds at the Wilkins House at 6:30 pm by Sally Stockwell, a wildlife ecologist with 40 years of experience in wildlife and habitat conservation across Maine. Her current work includes promoting fish, wildlife, and climate-friendly forest conservation and management through conservation easements and land protection, and education and training of foresters, forest landowners, and loggers. Sally holds a Ph.D. in wildlife ecology, an M.S. in wildlife management from the University of Maine, and a B.S. in biology from The Evergreen State College, Olympia, Washington.

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# Henry Plate

October 12, 1925 - August 30, 2022

Henry Plate passed away on August 30 at his beloved farm, surrounded by his family. From the



time he was 12 and attending Camp Waganaki on McWain Pond, Henry considered Waterford his true home. After vacationing or spending summers at the "Plate Farm", which his parents acquired in 1940, he and Joy moved to

Waterford year-round in 2005, and they've been an integral part of the community ever since. Henry was head trustee of the Waterford Congregational Church, a director of the

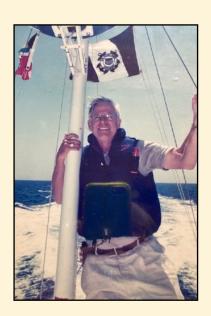
Waterford Historical Society, and Treasurer for the Wilkins House breakfasts. Four generations of his family gathered at The Plate Farm in November for an intimate Celebration of Life, fittingly held inside his barn. As Doretta shared in her September



announcement of his passing, "his smile, the twinkle in his eye, his sense of humor, and his genuine goodness are a small part of what we will hold dear in our memories".

# Peter McAfee Leslie

October 10, 1936 - February 2, 2023



Born in San Francisco and raised in Scarsdale NY, Peter graduated from Princeton University in 1958. As an international investment banker he lived and worked in Brazil, the Bahamas, and New York City. After the family moved to Maine in 1984, he devoted much time to public service, including 30 years as Trustee and Chair of the Maine Public Employees Retirement System. His first visit to Waterford was in 1958 to visit Kay Scribner (who would later become his wife) and since that time he was always interested in and supportive of both the Waterford Church and (at that time) the South Waterford Church where he was part of many family events - weddings, baptisms, and funerals...including his own recent memorial service. His love of the outdoors and his curiosity about the marvels of nature made Waterford the perfect place for him to enjoy

his retirement years as a full-time resident. He enjoyed learning about the town history; cherished the friendships formed; and was especially grateful for "the little church with the big heart."



# 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 <a href="mailto:ksleslie@me.com">ksleslie@me.com</a>.

# Whichard Family News...

Bobbi Whichard is pleased to announce that she had a very special visit from her three sons, all at the same time. It has been years since the three "boys" were all together with their mom. Bruce Whichard, the youngest son was down from Waterford Maine, visiting with his mom at her home in Florida in the middle of April. Glenn, son #2, lives near Bobbi in Tampa Florida. When Craig, the eldest son who lives in Eldorado Hills California, heard that Glenn and Bruce would be together visiting their mom, he hopped on an airplane and flew in from Sacramento. The three boys and Glenn's wife, Ruth, spent much-appreciated time with their mom: telling stories of the past, reliving old memories, and sharing anecdotes of the traveling that each son and their family enjoy doing. Many memories



of growing up at Camp McWain, in Waterford were shared by all. Bobbi is now counting the days until she and Glenn fly up to Maine to enjoy another wonderful summer with her MAINE friends and family.



Grandparents again! Arlene and Bruce Whichard, along

with their grandson
Joseph Valentino
Leonardis are so happy to
welcome a brand new
granddaughter (little
sister) into this world.
Daughter Amy and
husband Todd would like
to introduce Isabella
Sophia, who was born on
April 24. Both mother and
daughter (and Grammie

too) are all doing wonderful! Grammie will be spending some time with Isabella and Joseph down at the Jersey shore. Uncle Jared is also planning a visit south to meet his brand new niece.



# The Raymonds Go To HOLLYWOOD...

Denny and I recently spent a week in Hollywood as guests of my brother, Chapin, the tech-director of the Turner Classic Film Festival and Deborah, my Sis/Law - a wonderful host.



Denny sorted Griffindor at Warner Bros.

This film festival gives folks a chance to once again see movies, often forgotten or not available, on the BIG screen. Denny & I had never seen Casablanca (1942), and let me tell you, having seen an IMax version of it at the TCL Chinese Theater here in Hollywood made it unforgettable!

The other memorable movie experience was When Worlds
Collide(1951), shown at the very interesting

Hollywood Legion Theater. My brother arranged the installation of 14 giant Subwoofer sound effect amplifiers for this show. At the apex of



Here we are in Hollywood...



Ginny flying high (special effects) at Warner Bros.

this movie, the building shook so that the auditorium doors flew open and years of dust fell off walls. Though, maybe not the greatest movie, and special effects being what you would expect in 1951, it was a delight, much like we all experienced as children, to see this beautifully rendered on a large screen. So fun!!



Here we are enjoying the show!

At film festivals, several movies are shown in one day, complete with introductions by those in the industry. We enjoyed listening to, among others, Richard Dreyfuss, George Clooney and Leonard Maltin (Film Critic, Historian, and personal friend of our family).

We also toured Warner Bros. and the Academy Awards Museum.

Following our Hollywood visit, we went to Whidbey Island in Washington to visit our son & daughter/law, Tyler & Morgan.

# Kay Lyman's Trip to Oregon...

As soon as I moved back to Sweden ME from Thornton Oaks in Brunswick, I flew to Oregon with my small dog to spend 3 weeks with my son in rainy Astoria. I enjoyed my winter in Brunswick, though it took time to adjust to congregant living. The upside was much less snow, much less driving, exercise classes and good lectures without leaving the building, tasty and fun suppers most nights in the Dining Room. The cons were the rules, especially about dogs, diseases more easily passed around, and no garage. (Our cars do get cleaned off after a storm.) I am happy to be back in Sweden and looking forward to being in Church until the Sweden Church opens in Mid-May.

# Kay Leslie Shares a Poem...

My daughter, Martha Jean Long, sent me this poem. Some of you may have seen it on Garrison Keillor's website. For any of us who may be discouraged by the news of the world these days, or for any other reason, it offers hope and a positive viewpoint in a clever and amusing way! Enjoy...

**Poem:** "Blessings" by Ronald Wallace from *Long for This World: New and Selected Poems.* © University of Pittsburgh Press. Reprinted with permission.

# **Blessings...**

occur.

Some days I find myself putting my foot in the same stream twice; leading a horse to water and making him drink. I have a clue. I can see the forest for the trees.

All around me people are making silk purses out of sows' ears, getting blood from turnips, building Rome in a day. There's a business like show business. There's something new under the sun.

Some days misery
no longer loves company;
it puts itself out of its.
There's rest for the weary.
There's turning back.
There are guarantees.
I can be serious.
I can mean that.
You can quite
put your finger on it.

Some days I know
I am long for this world.
I can go home again.
And when I go
I can
take it with me

# A Spring Visit to the Beach...

Pam Williams, Stephenie Michaud, and Karen Fillebrown spent a day at Popham Beach at the end of Vacation Week. It was cold, yet just what we needed...to walk 2 plus miles with eagles, harbor seals, driftwood, shells, and the sound of the waves on the beach.











# Bates College Dedicates Their New Rowing Shell in Honor of Ralph Sylvester...

On Saturday April 29th the Bates College rowing team unveiled a new rowing shell named in honor of Ralph...and held a special dedication ceremony for him in the Perry Atrium, Pettengill Hall. Ralph graduated from Bates in 1950 after serving his country during World War II. He was on Omaha Beach during D-Day.

Bates' Rowing coach, Peter Steenstra, said he asked his men's team to come up with a name for the boat that had some real meaning. "And it was an instantaneous, unanimous decision to name the boat after [Sylvester]," Steenstra said. "And I think that says a lot about who



[Sylvester] is and very few students know his name, but every single student on this campus knows him."



Ralph and his late wife Elaine were married for 70 years and were a constant presence around the Bates community. It was a true testament to Ralph and his involvement at Bates, over the years, by the large number of students in attendance, and the individual conversations they had with him. Yes...he actually did christen the boat with champagne!!!









You and your family are invited to join us for a Keoka community "Social-Educational Event."

Learn how YOU can help to protect Keoka Lake at our hands-on **Aquatic Invasive Plant Identification training**, presented by Maine LEA plant scientists.

After the training **ride on one of seven pontoon boats**, docked and waiting, along with KLA Plant Patrol Ambassadors to survey Keoka's most at risk areas.

Enjoy **complimentary Pizza** and receive a **free raffle ticket** for a chance to win FREE gas and KLA and Keoka Beach Campground merchandise! **REGISTER TODAY** 

# Happy Birthday to You

#### MAY

- 2 Pam Williams
- 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**

- 1 Steph Michaud
- 5 Jane Morse
- 14 Preston Harrison
- 17 Jean Struck
- 18 Ralph MacKinnon

# Church Council - 2023

Moderator: Al Struck

Clerk: Larry Griffin

Trustees: Ted Colburn, John Wait,

Kerry Johnson, and Larry Griffin

Treasurers: John & Dodi Wait

Assistant Treasurer: Ralph MacKinnon

Stewardship: Kerry Johnson

Deacons: Myra Maltby, Ted Nixon, Dodi Wait,

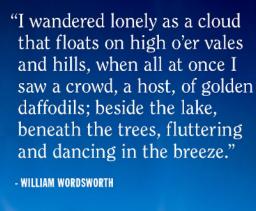
and Pam Williams

Church School: Myra Maltby

Missions: *Pam Williams & Nancy Engdahl*Church Activities Committee: *Nancy Engdahl*Communications: *Pam Williams & George Wiese* 

Webmaster: Ginny Raymond

Church Historian: *Dianne Morse Leonard*Live Streaming Coordinator: *Tabitha Day* 





Easter Sunday 2023



God Be with You Till We Meet Again