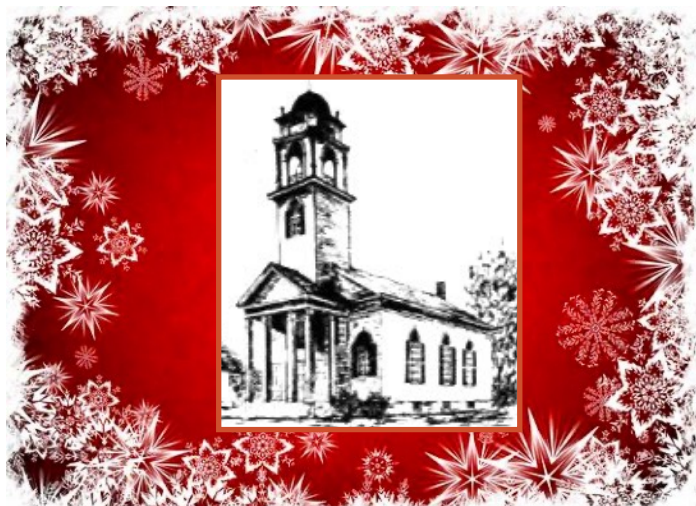


Joy to the world! the Lord is come...



Waterford Congregational Church UCC

Minister: Rev. Doretta Colburn

.....

15 Plummer Hill Road, P.O. Box 59

Waterford, Maine 04088

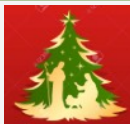
Tel: 207-583-6381

Email: waterfordcongregationalchurch@gmail.com

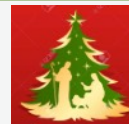
Facebook: Waterford Congregational Church UCC

Website: wccucc.com

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



Newsletter - December 2021



THOUGHTS FROM THE PULPIT...

Dear Church Family and Friends,

Already, the Christmas list is growing! Let me clarify. It's not my Christmas wish list, but the hopes of our 5 grandchildren whose enthusiasm explodes at this time of year in excitement and wonder. Inevitably, their joy triggers my own memories of Christmases past when everything about this time of year was draped in sparkling wonder and magical moments when nothing seemed impossible and everything had potential. A child's look at the world is filled with possibility.



Even as I write these words, I feel a warm glow wash over my heart, an inner peace in my soul that defies the darker places of unease and unrest that have accumulated in my mind of a world so off balance. I long to linger in the peacefulness, to stay as long as I can in that place of contentment seeing the world around me in the brilliant colors of joy. It works for a while. I sit in one of our Adirondack chairs enveloped in the predawn darkness – the stars still twinkling overhead. I stay long enough to welcome the sun as it rises over Rice Hill and head back inside for warmth and another cup of coffee. Breakfast, then ready for the day, I aim to keep the peaceful and joyful moments in the forefront of my mind as I go about the day's work. I confess it is an ebb and flow between that inner peace and the external challenges that are so prevalent around me, around us.

As I write we have just begun the season of Advent. It is a time of waiting and preparing. It is a moment of both remembering and anticipating the coming of God's love into our world and into our lives. There is something wonderfully comforting in the retelling of the Christmas story that leads to the birth of Jesus, the promise of better days, greater harmony and peace throughout the Earth. That story retold is just as real today, for the birth of God's love was not for a distant time in our history, but an everyday opportunity to welcome it into our hearts and live in the radiance of such love. When we choose to look at the world through the lens of faith, we will see that the world is wrapped in hope, a hope that is for today, for this very moment.

Our farm is bordered here and there by century-old apple trees that Ted's grandfather and great grandfather planted and nurtured. Each of these trees show signs of age and decay, but one in particular stands out in my mind. It is just up the hill from the house. We contemplated cutting it down a few years ago, its trunk rotting away. It looked like it was hanging on by a thread, but at closer look Ted noticed something amazing and called me over to see. Within the core of the decaying trunk, a new trunk was growing more sturdy and healthy. We let it be and have watched over the past few years in wonder of the rebirth of this old tree and have savored its apples that, this year, were more beautiful than we've seen.

Hope is more than wishing. It is believing and upon believing, seeing and upon seeing, becoming the presence that points to the possibilities, the wonder, the beauty, the unfolding promise of a love that unites all in harmony and peace.

Christmas blessings each day of the year, *Doretta*

LETTER FROM THE MODERATOR ... November 27, 2021

Dear Friends,

Where the heck have September, October, and November gone? My last letter was dated the 18th of August. We were bathed in nice warm sunlight that lasted well past 4 pm. Now, headlights are needed to BBQ burgers for supper. As one of my optimistic friends has reminded me, it is only 4½ months until Spring Training. Time and light issues aside, I do love the late fall and winter. It's why we live here, right? Four seasons ain't for sissies!

Yesterday we celebrated Thanksgiving. We had 17 around the table for an incredible feast of turkey with all the trimmings. Then there were the pies and ice cream. Then there was the tryptophan coma. As evening descended those who were game went outside to play laser tag for a couple of hours.

It was comforting to know that at least 20 other families were enjoying similar dinners happily provided by members of our church. Nancy Engdahl organized this event through the Church Activity Committee. We delivered the meals on the Saturday before Thanksgiving. We had a number of things to be thankful for on Sunday. The Church Choir, led by Jane Morse, was back singing live and masked during the service. The congregation had been singing behind masks now for a couple of weeks. I think most of you know now that we are recording parts of the service for our website and are live streaming the whole service on Facebook. The Church Council is reaching out, through as many platforms as possible, to deliver the message that Waterford Congregational Church is back!



As you will read elsewhere in this newsletter, the trip to Pilgrim Lodge has been put off until the Pilgrim Lodge Trustees feel comfortable with hosting folks during the new surge of COVID. There was a wonderful trip, that was planned and done, to the Maine Mineral Museum in Bethel.

Now we are entering the season of Advent and will be decorating the church and singing hymns of the season. Music will fill the church and our hearts.

The Stewardship Committee has done a great job getting word out about our current pledge drive. Kerry Johnson and company have composed a beautiful letter to encourage you all to participate in this giving. Please send in your blue cards today!



The Council has seen the budget for the new year developed by our Treasurers, Dodi and John Wait. The Council has voted to move it on to the congregation at the annual meeting.

The Nomination Committee is being formed and they are looking for people to join the Church Council in a number of capacities. Please consider joining this dedicated group of volunteers who keep our church moving forward to the greater glory of God. We'd love to have you with us.

I hope this letter finds you all well and looking forward to the winter holiday season. Remember the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes who grew up and sacrificed his life for us so we may have everlasting life. That's the reason for the season.

All the best, *Al Struck*

TRUSTEE'S REPORT...

The parking lot side of the church has been painted over this past summer. We have painted the outside of the building over the past four years. The rear of the building will be repainted when we complete the repairs to the building, which was damaged in the storm of December 2020. The mason who is scheduled to repair the chimney is behind schedule and will not be able to complete this portion of the repair until the spring of 2022. Bricks that were on the roof of the building have been removed and disposed of. The building is weather tight and should be good for the winter months. Our revised plan is to repair the chimney in the spring, and then to complete the rest of the work.

Four air exchangers were purchased in November. Two are in the front of the church and two at the rear. These portable units can easily be moved to the Wilkins House when needed. We have already used them three times for such scheduled events.

While checking the Church grounds, another historical stone marker was discovered! You may want to take a walk, before snow falls, to see if you can find it. Dianne Morse-Leonard knows and may give you a hint!



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

DEACONS' UPDATE...

“Yesterday’s Pain” by Ann Weems

*Some of us Walk into Advent
tethered to our unresolved yesterdays
the pain still stabbing
the hurt still throbbing
It's not that we don't know better;
it's just that we can't stand up anymore by ourselves.
On the way to Bethlehem,
will you give us a hand?*

The Deacons have planned an Advent season full of activities which began with the “Hanging of the Greens” on November 28th with Dianne and Del lighting the first Advent candle, the candle of HOPE. •The second candle, the candle of PEACE, will be lit by George and Tabby. •The third candle, the candle of JOY, will be lit by Ginny and Denny. •The fourth candle, the candle of Love, will be lit by Al and Jean. Our **Christmas Eve Services will be at 5:30 pm** for a Family Candle Light Service as we have in the past with the Choir singing and **then an 11:15 pm Service** again with Candle Lighting and Ringing the bell to welcome the birth of our Savior, the Christ Child. Please join us for this Advent-full month of December.

We will have Communion **the first Sunday of January 2022** and every other month for the rest of the year. We will be going back to gluten-free bread with tooth picks in each cube served by the Deacons and juices in the small cups.

It's been a pleasure to have been Chair of the Deacons for the past two years. Thanks go to Kay for all the work she has put into our Newsletters, to Ginny for the Web Page, and to Stephenie for bringing our services to Facebook for people at home to see and hear the Good News!

Sincerely, *Pam Williams*, Chair

MUSIC NOTES...

After many months of mixing individual choir recordings into Sunday anthems, the choir has begun to sing live in church! What joyful sounds hearing the choir sing anthems and the

congregation sing hymns! I had forgotten what live vocal music adds to the worship service. Wearing masks while singing is different, but the music still sounds lovely. Thanks to Kay and all the choir members for their hard work!



I would be remiss if I didn't give a big shout out to George Wiese for playing extra music on the piano and reed organ for all of our live services. He really makes that organ “sing!” His careful selection of appropriate hymns and his lovely preludes, offertory, and postludes add so much to our services. Now that we are in the Advent season, choir is focusing on all of the lovely music we missed singing last Christmas. We look forward to revisiting wonderful selections this year.

Yours in Music, *Jane Morse*

CHURCH ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE...



On November 3rd, the CAC finally had a successful field trip after several cancellations the past year and a half. Several of us met at the church and visited the Mineral and Gem Museum in Bethel. Our docent gave us an impressive 2 hour fact-filled tour. This highly acclaimed museum has the world's largest collection of moon



Ted Nixon & Dodi Wait at the museum

rock....larger than what NASA has. Visitors are able to touch specimens from the Moon and Mars. After our tour, we had lunch at the Sunday River Brewery.

This year our church membership was able to put together 15 Thanksgiving baskets....12 from church members and 3 from donations to the Thanksgiving Fund. The food was delivered by Council volunteers the Sunday before Thanksgiving. This year the prices on just about everything have risen, making it so difficult for low income families. A big thank you to all who took part in this program.

Waterford Santa is posting gift requests on their Facebook page. You can visit their site through your Facebook page.



Greetings, *Nancy Engdahl*

MISSION NEWS...

Heifer International Christmas Gift Giving is our focus this year. Check out the partial article below about Heifer and McCormick Spices to support spice farmers in Guatemala. For more information on Heifer International visit <https://www.heifer.org>.



We have materials on display from Heifer International during Advent for Gift Giving. The 2021 Gift Catalog is full of ideas and each person can do this individually this year. We will be sharing more information in Church as time gets closer.

Again the CAC, and Church members gathered food for Thanksgiving Basket. Thank you all for your support in this wonderful event.

This year the offering at both Christmas Eve services will go to the "Good Neighbors Fuel Fund."

Christmas Greetings, *Pam Williams*

Through the new Cardaforestry project, McCormick & Company and Heifer International will invest in cardamom and allspice farmers through Guatemalan spice supplier, Nueva Kerala, strengthening the spice supply chain, increasing farmer incomes and resilience.

WASHINGTON, Sep. 14, 2021—Heifer International, McCormick & Company, a global leader in flavor, and Guatemalan spice supplier, Nueva Kerala, today announced the launch of the Cardaforestry project to increase smallholder farmer resilience and improve the quality of cardamom and allspice sourced by McCormick through agroforestry systems by 2023. The project will invest a total of \$1,550,000 from the three organizations in smallholder cardamom and allspice farmers, with the investment from Nueva Kerala originating from Heifer Impact Capital, Heifer International's impact investing arm. The investment from Heifer Impact Capital will allow Nueva Kerala to purchase directly from 500 smallholder cardamom and allspice farmers in Alta Verapaz, Guatemala.

Nueva Kerala has committed to ensuring at least 15% of the net profit of each sale goes back to the farmer. The business is part owned by spice farmers, helping to create equity in the supply chain and improve the incomes of cardamom and allspice producers.



MAINE SCHOOL OF MINISTRY...2022 Spring Classes on ZOOM

- "Ministry, Mental Health and the Church" – team taught by Chaplain Shelly Snow and Dean Ron Baard
- "Spiritual Leadership in a Climate Changed World" – taught by Aram Mitchell of the BTS Center staff, with Guest Speakers

Tuition is \$350 per spring course; \$175 for Auditing

Hope you can join us for one of these!!! Please watch for more information and the Registration Link coming soon on the Maine Conference UCC website.

The Rev. Dr. Ron Baard, Dean • The Maine School of Ministry • Maine Conference, United Church of Christ, 337 State St., Suite 3, Augusta, ME 04330 • Office Phone: [207-622-3100](tel:207-622-3100) x.104 • Email: rbaard@maineucc.org

• Office Cell Phone: [207-458-7836](tel:207-458-7836) (Please use this phone number for the Covid time. Thank you.)

CLIMATE CONVERSATIONS UPDATE ...

Kerry & Doretta

Advocating for the Environment

In October our Climate Conversations group finally returned together with a face-to-face session in the Wilkins House. Sue Inches shared her expertise with us at this critical moment in the struggle to address the climate crisis locally, nationally, and globally. We've been getting together for two years to understand what the climate crisis is all about, what it means for us, for our children and for our grandchildren and to figure out what we can personally and collectively do in order to address the issues facing us. Sue's session focused on advocating government, community and business leaders to take action.



Sue spent much of her career creating policy, advising government and business leaders, and advocating for a sustainable environment. As Deputy Director of the Maine State Planning Office, she managed a portfolio of environmental issues on behalf of the Governor. She led the public engagement process, conducted research, and lobbied the state legislature to pass laws that protect the environment. She has also been Director of the Maine Department of Marine Resources where she worked to create a balanced approach to protect both the fishing industry and create sustainable solutions that protect jobs and the environment. She's worked on a broad array of climate and environment issues focusing on topics like clean, renewable and efficient energy solutions, community access and broadband.

Her new book, *Advocating for the Environment: How to Gather Your Power and Take Action*, is a thoughtful and accessible and practical guide for finding the ways each of us can use our own power as individuals to help shape the state and the world in ways that will address all those things we've been talking about for two years. Copies are available at the library.

Pollinator Garden

In conjunction with the Waterford Library, WCC Climate Conversations group, and Jane Traill, a subset of the group has embarked on an ambitious project to build a pollinator garden. Those of you who drive by the library have probably wondered what the piles of "super loam" you see are doing there. During the last two weeks in November, we are spreading the loam, digging a path, and planting spring bulbs. You'll be hearing a great deal more about the garden as it progresses and we'll be reaching out to folks for help planting in the spring.



Doretta supervising soil delivery.

Jane Traill acquired spring bulbs and we had hoped to plant them before the ground got too hard. We missed that opportunity! However, we have decided to plant them in one of Doretta's greenhouses and transplant them

in the spring. We planned a work party to plant the bulbs on Friday, December 3rd. There are plenty of bulbs to keep us rather busy!

Healing in Nature

On November 20th we presented a session entitled *Healing in Nature* led by Dr. Wendy Weiger. Dr. Weiger shared her experiences in the Maine woods through her photos and her stories, demonstrated techniques she's learned from a wide variety of spiritual sources around the world, and then led us on a guided woodland walk to allow us to see for ourselves how powerful her ideas healing and mindfulness in nature can be.

Dr. Weiger earned both her M.D. and Ph.D. degrees in neurobiology from Harvard Medical School, where she continued her career in medical research exploring the ways the chemical and electrical activities of the brain form our thoughts and emotions. After several profound personal experiences, she shifted her life focus to her strong spiritual and environmental foundation, moved to the north woods of Maine, became a registered Maine guide, and followed a path that combined her scientific training with her expanding spirituality. She is now involved, in her own words, in "sharing my journey, hoping to guide others to the solace nature offers us all—and hoping others will be inspired to work toward healing the wounds we are collectively inflicting upon our planet."



Here's Dr. Weiger helping us to see, hear, feel and experience the woods in new and more mindful ways.

Her website is really worth a visit:

<https://www.wendyweiger.com>

It's also worthwhile visiting the site of her non-profit foundation Achor Earth Ways:

<https://www.wendyweiger.com/achor-earth-ways/>

Our next task is to secure materials and set up the new stone bench. Then we'll bring in some soil and prepare for planting. Many of you have already volunteered to help with building the beds and planting. Any and all help will be greatly appreciated. We'll keep you posted.

Amid the flurry of tough news this week—storms going and coming, wildfires, floods, and other climate challenges—it's nice to have some good news. In that spirit, we share with you another post from the NRCM on the climate-related accomplishments of the Maine legislature during the last session. This impressive performance is a huge step forward. Check it out:

<https://www.nrcm.org/blog/top-10-climate-accomplishments-2021-maine-legislature/>

STEWARDSHIP REPORT...

Pledge cards are coming in at a good rate in response to our 2022 Stewardship letter. However, if you're like me, I'm in need of digging deep into my pile of mail to find mine. I think of it almost every day, but I've been a little slow to take action. This year the appeals for support have seemed to come in from everywhere and at an alarming and unprecedented rate. While 90% deserve my attention, I've needed to prioritize where my support will be focused. For me, always, our *"little church with the big heart"* deserves top billing.

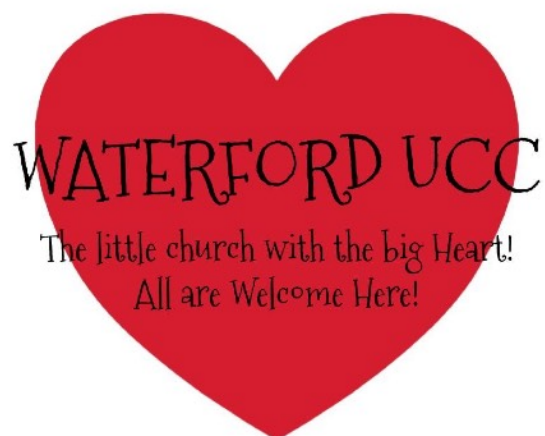
This year in particular we have managed to do so many important things for members and friends as well as for the Waterford community. We have demonstrated our caring nature by reaching out to people through our Thanksgiving baskets in which we helped almost 20 families. We supported both the Sweden and the Harrison food banks. We helped neighbors in need in many ways such as through our fuel fund. We have led spiritual conversations in the community about improving racial justice and addressing the climate crisis. Most importantly, we have actively reached out to our entire faith community in new and different ways through our use of technology in order to serve those unable to attend church in person. And, we have carefully, thoughtfully, and safely joined again in in-person services for those able to attend.

Throughout the year Doretta, Jane, George, and Kay, and the choir, and many other members of the church family have shared their gifts with us. They have uplifted our spirits and given us hope and joy in an otherwise troubled time. They have maintained our buildings and other assets well and within budget. In so many ways, they have demonstrated that their personal and collective resilience is indeed a gift and a blessing to all of us.

Please join me in finding and returning your pledge cards as soon as possible so that we can continue to serve the Waterford community. Your pledges make it possible for us to plan carefully and deliver fully on the promise and mission of our wonderful church.

Blessings and joy for the holiday season and for the new year,

Kerry Johnson, Chair – Stewardship Committee





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 Raymonds' New Sheltie...

WOW! As usual, busy times for us, but now we have complicated our lives by adopting another Sheltie. What another Sheltie? Really? Yup! A little boy this time....

Our little fellow came to us as "Johan," a name that was not in our vocabulary, so we changed it to "Little Manny" to suit us and him better. Manny came from an apartment where uncontrolled barking was not acceptable, and so the building management decided he could not stay. We normally would not adopt a habitual barker, but he stole our hearts.

Manny came to Waterford the end of August as our foster dog. We were not anxious to adopt another dog, but his being only 4 years made it hard to resist. We find the majority of dogs that come into rescue are seniors from senior families that cannot keep them. Such was the case with our Angel Baby and Queen Willow Bee. Adopting this young dog was very appealing to us.



Manny, Angel and Willow with Denny while closing-up our summer camp

Manny's new life with us is full of positive reinforcement training. When his barking habits started to emerge the end of September, we had to give him time-outs just so we could manage. Time-outs have pretty much fallen away. He is a smart little boy, and has grasped his training regime well. We are quite hopeful he will settle into being a fun and well-behaved dog.

His older Sheltie-sisters are acclimating to having him as a younger brother: Angel (13), being the little Mama, gently sets some boundaries to which, amazingly, Manny responds. Willow (12), however, joins in the fun (barking)! Well, you say, that is not good. But you see, Willow knows and is obedient to the command for stop barking: "Enough!". Dogs do learn from one another...so this is a positive thing!

We wish you all a lovely holiday season. Ours should be fun, as we will be here in Waterford with Ginia's family in house for Christmas. We have not had Christmas locally in a very long time. Throughout my childhood, my family was always here in Waterford for Christmas. So, this is a real present for me!



Forrest

The big news for us is our newest family member, Forrest! He's a 2 1/2-year-old Greyhound (of course) that came to Maine from Kansas. In May of 2021 he was diagnosed with meningomyelitis, which is an infection of his spinal cord. This infection affected Forrest's gait and ability to walk. Maine Greyhound Placement Service (MGPS) brought him to specialists in Massachusetts for MRI's, neurological evaluation, etc. and he was treated with antibiotics and Prednisone (steroids)

and began to immediately show progress. Forrest then went to a foster home for 3 months where he was able to slowly build up his strength. Currently he is weaning off the Prednisone and appears to be getting stronger every day. He is an energetic, happy boy who is making our home a lot "livelier"! Henna was unsure about this gangly boy being in "her home", but Forrest is winning her over.



Forrest and Henna



Bill, Ayla, Elora, and Kristopher

Another highlight of our summer was flying out to North Dakota to visit Kristopher & his family. Flying was stressful, but once there the girls (Ayla 8, and Elora 5) were very happy to see Memere & Pepere! It was hot, windy, and flat, but we

found lots to do including some nice strolls by the creek, watching the girls Tae-Kwon Do class, and just hanging out playing in the yard. We're hoping they will come visit us next summer to spend some time on McWain Pond.



Sharon and Ayla



Waterford's Newest Residents: George and Tabitha!



There are lots of great reasons to move to Waterford, and the compassionate, welcoming spirit of WCC is among the best of them. The sense of community and belonging stirred up by that welcoming spirit is what motivated us over the summer when we decided to pack up our home in Stoneham and "head over the hill." We needed a place to plant roots - literally and metaphorically - and in Waterford we found the perfect spot: an old farmstead near the top of Beech Hill between North Waterford and the Flat. Undaunted by the property having been abandoned for many years, we became the proud new owners in early October.

So now we have quite the renovation project on our hands! But for us, restoring a piece of Waterford's history is a joy and an honor. Some of you may remember our home belonging to Sheriff Bob Wood, who once kept beautiful gardens there; but you might not



know that the home was originally owned by William Warren Kilbourne, a Civil War veteran, descendent of Waterford's earliest settlers, and Deacon here at WCC in the late 1800s. The place might look like a chaotic construction zone right now, but we love it already and we're looking forward to many happy years here in Waterford. Our heartfelt thanks to the friends we've made at WCC for welcoming us into this wonderful community. It's good to be home.





Ed's New Ministry...

I was called to First Congregational Church of Searsport to be their new pastor. I began in October. FCC Searsport is a beautiful, historic church on the Maine mid-coast. We are located next to the Penobscot Marine Museum in Searsport. I am happy to be working in a full-time ministry now, and I think of you all fondly, remembering my time in Waterford.

Grace and peace, Ed Gabrielsen



Good News & Not So Good News from James Long...

We have had a really trying time since September 6. Travis, Caren's youngest son, committed suicide. He was being treated at the VA hospital and we thought he had everything under control. Because he was living in Florida, this meant a lot of arrangements, emails, phone calls, etc. Caren was on vacation - not what she had planned on doing during her time off. Her other son Aaron and his wife, Jodi, were such a blessing. They made the arrangements for flights, car rental, hotel and went with Caren to finalize Travis' affairs - cleaning out his apartment and dispensing with his new car. It was a mad rush so everyone could get back to work. They treated Caren like a queen, and working side by side with them helped her through this terrible ordeal. She said "We are not supposed to bury our children." Caren is very strong and capable in dealing with this, with the Lord watching over her.

On a lighter, happier note, my back has taken a turn for the better - less pain, able to walk more freely. Two months ago I climbed onto my big tractor just to move it out of the way. I hurt for days. Last week, I climbed on it and pushed gravel around getting ready for another load to be delivered. When my boys got here to take over, I had a small amount of pain that went away quickly. It has been 9 months since my surgery with another 6 months to go to be completely recovered and pain free. I do expect to be pain free.

THANK YOU for all your prayers for us, we can see that God still answers prayers.

"My Peace I give unto you, not as the world gives you, but as I give you,"
spoke Jesus in the upper chambers as he was readying to ascend!

.....



Interview with Bobbi Whichard ... by Dianne Morse-Leonard, Church Historian

I sat down with Bobbi Whichard and her son, Bruce, at the Whichard's home on McWain Lake this past summer. Here are some of Bobbi's remembrances of the Waterford Church:

Around 1934 Bobbi's family started coming up to Sanderson's camp on McWain Lake. Originally called the "Camp for Delicate Girls" the camp eventually became Camp McWain.

In order to get their perfect attendance awards at their church's Sunday School in NJ, students had to go to Sunday School every Sunday, even if they were out of town. Bobbi and her brother got these awards every year. Around Easter in 1937, they were here in Waterford. It was a rainy Sunday morning, but her brother and Bobbi simply had to go to church. Due to the muddy dirt road, this proved difficult. In the pouring rain, her father put snow chains on the tires and got the family to the tarred road and to the Wesleyan Chapel in South Waterford, which was part of the Federated Parish along with the Congregational Church in the Flat. Bobbi and her brother got their Perfect Attendance awards again that year in Elizabeth, NJ.



Bobbi displaying her perfect attendance award pin!

Bobbi has fond memories of coming to the church in the village when she was a camper at Kokosing in the early forties. Bobbi: "It was Kokosing that really brought us into the church." Because Bobbi's mother worked as a "Camp Mother" at Camp Waganaki for boys, starting in the 1930's and her father worked there every summer, Bobbi went to Camp Kokosing for girls (on Keoka). Bobbi recalls, "On Sundays the girls from Kokosing got dressed up in their white dresses and we all walked to church. We all sat on the right side. Passaconaway Camp for Boys (on McWain) sat on the left side. We loved talking outside church afterwards..." Also, the Kokosing campers put on benefit shows at the Wilkins House.



Bobbi and Dianne on the steps of the Wesleyan Chapel in South Waterford (now a Bed and Breakfast).

One day stood out at Camp Kokosing: on August 15th, 1945: "We were all swimming that afternoon when the church bells started ringing and ringing and ringing. Why? We soon found out! We all walked to church to celebrate V-J Day (Victory in Japan), the signing of the Peace Treaty on the USS Missouri!"

In 1963, Bobbi's parents, Ruth and Emile Muzik, bought Camp McWain. Ruth went to church and made friends that started a bowling group. They also went swimming and had picnics. Many of the women were part of the church community.

The Muzik's turned Camp McWain over to Chuck and Bobbi Whichard as well as Ed and June Muzik in 1980. Now, it is divided into Cottages at McWain Pond (CAMP) and Camp McWain owned by their children (Bruce and Arlene Whichard and their cousins).

About winters in Maine, Bobbi said, " We had two winters up here and we had to shovel the deck and the roof. So the next

year, Chuck said, "We're going to Florida.' But we loved this place (Waterford) and we always did." Bobbi told me that she hadn't been to any Easter sunrise services here until this year. "This was the first time I went, and I was thrilled!"

The day after the interview, Bobbi invited me to go visit the Wesleyan Chapel, which is now a Bed and Breakfast where family friends were staying. This outing brought back memories to both of us of going to church in the chapel, but still appreciating the changes made there. Bobbi and Chuck's son Glenn was married to Ruth in 1990 in the Waterford Congregational Church and their son Bruce married Arlene there in 1996. Joan Fillebrown was organist for both weddings.

A final quote from Bobbi, " Now, we have always loved that church and the people, who have made it so welcoming over the years! The Little Church with the Big Heart!"

	DECEMBER	JANUARY	FEBRUARY
	1 Eva Brannan	5 Joy Plate	1 Bob Ross III
	21 Carol Madsen	6 Sue Van Dehey	13 Gabe Johnson
	29 Kerry Johnson	11 Tabitha Day	19 George Wiese
		13 Brenda Hambleton	27 Jayme Lane
		17 Sherry Bedard	
		21 Petra Smyth	
		27 Mary Colbath	
<i>HAPPY BIRTHDAY!</i>			


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*



For
unto us
a Child is Born
unto us
a **Son** is given
and the government
shall be upon his shoulder
and his name
Shall be called
Wonderful Counsellor

THE MIGHTY GOD
The everlasting father
THE PRINCE OF PEACE

ISAIAH 9:6

