



Waterford Congregational Church UCC

Minister: Rev. Doretta Colburn

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Maine 04088

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Website: wccucc.com

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



Newsletter - June 2026



***THOUGHTS FROM THE PULPIT...

Dear Friends,

Just as these summer days see an increase in the natural wonders around our farm teeming with vitality, our church embraces the increased flow of friends and family, regulars and visitors who join with us during this season of warmer days. Sundays feel like joyous reunions and cheerful celebrations as we come together in fellowship, friendship, and for personal and spiritual reflection. It is truly a special time that brings a sense of deep renewal and energy to the mission of our church: *service, music, spirituality.*

As in the past, we plan to host at least three outdoor services if the weather works in our favor. Guest musicians will share with us on Sundays when George is on vacation and guest ministers will offer inspirational words on the occasions of my absence on a few Sundays. These opportunities reinforce what it means to know *unity in community* as we experience other voices, music, and perspectives allowing us to expand our own understandings.



I am deeply grateful for the gift that is Waterford Congregational Church which I often refer to as Waterford *Community* Church because of our presence in our town and beyond breaking down barriers that separate and instead inviting in to share together. Our diversity is what gives us strength and our common values hold us together.

These challenging times are vital times. In them we recognize our need to unite our voices around the values of love and justice, peace and harmony. These are times that draw us together and remind us what our faith is all about – loving God, loving neighbor, and loving self. Following those instructions that Jesus defined as the greatest source of good are not always easy. Sometimes they are particularly difficult to live by when the worldview is disturbing which is exactly why sharing together whether on Sundays and/or in between matters. It is a space in which we can find support in facing our common challenges and be compassionately present to one another as we seek to become our best selves.

I believe that these are what make Waterford Congregational (Community) Church a space we turn to and return to. We cherish the friendship and fellowship as we journey side by side.

See you at church and about town!

Blessings, *Doretta*

***LETTER FROM THE MODERATOR...

Dear Friends,

There's nothing like a deadline to get the laptop keys clacking...not as loud and satisfying as a typewriter, but close. Kay is a wonderful muse. She is gentle but firm getting this and other pieces of news from our many contributors.

Jean and I have literally just returned from our first grandchild's college graduation from Bennington College in Vermont. Besides the rain and it being cold enough to snow it was a wonderful commencement. Now there is a word...*commencement*...not celebrating the past four years but, instead, looking at the beginning of whatever the future has to offer.

Our last Council meeting felt like a *commencement* celebration. We shook off our winter coats and began looking forward to the new season(s) and what could be accomplished concerning our goals of Service, Spirituality and Music. Service is really booming and so is getting our church into the eye of the community.

We are creating a **July 4th parade float** that will knock your socks off! Last year's float theme was "The Beach Boys" and this year it is "Peace Train." For more information you'll have to be at the parade, celebrating the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, to see for yourselves.

We will be having our first church-sponsored **Red Cross Blood Drive on July 9th** in the afternoon. More information to follow. The Red Cross was very helpful by coming to town and viewing the Wilkins Community House, making sure it was a suitable venue for a drive. We passed with flying colors. We need a minimum of 30 donors! Please watch for where to call for a time slot. Walk ins will also be welcomed!

There will be a **family activity** on Keoka Lake involving canoes, kayaks, chocolate, marshmallows, and graham crackers. Date to be determined.

The Sharps on the Flat music committee is busy getting **musical groups** confirmed for the summer season to draw you away from the lake for an hour or so to enjoy a variety of live performances.

Then, the **BIGGEST AND BEST SALE OF CLOTHES, GEAR AND TOYS EVER**, will be held in September. Proceeds will be applied to our community help funds like the fuel fund and helping neighbors fund. What a great way to get great quality clothing into the hands of our community members and extend that assistance through these other avenues. (See sale report below for more details)

Summer outside services are planned to bring in folks who may be daunted by attending inside a church, another choice. This is another great opportunity to hear our superb speaker, Pastor Doretta Colburn...her thoughtful message will follow you long after the sermon is ended. Of course embellishing these and all our services is the musical magic of our Music Director, George Weise. His knowledge of the hymn repertoire is a perfect musical match for Doretta's message. Sitting on the green lawn of our church garden, hearing the birds, feeling the breeze and listening to Doretta and George's spiritual and musical offerings is my idea of being close to the maker in the best way possible.

You can see this *is* the "*Commencement*" of our summer activities...and "our"... includes all who are reading this letter. We are all part of this new seasonal beginning given as a gift to us. I hope to see all of you at these various activities of celebration of summer with the Waterford Congregational Church.

Gotta go! Time to put the summer squash in our veggie garden. See ya soon!

Peace, *Al Struck*, Moderator



The poster features a green and white color scheme with a background of a sunlit garden with a wooden bench and musical notes. At the top, it reads "Waterford Congregational Church" in a large, bold font, followed by "joyfully announces its summer Outdoor Services CALENDAR". Below this, a small text block states: "With music highlights and a serene garden setting, this is both meditative and spiritually restorative. Please join us as we celebrate our services in nature." A dark green rounded rectangle on the left lists the service dates: "SUNDAYS", "July 5", "July 26", "August 30", and "9:30 a.m.", each accompanied by a small icon (calendar, leaf, musical note, leaf, and clock). At the bottom left is the WCC logo (a church icon in a circle), and at the bottom right is the address "15 Plummer Hill Road, Waterford".

***DEACON'S REPORT...

The Deacons met May 12th to review our Easter services and discuss the summer season.

•We are planning three outdoor services, weather permitting. (See poster above.) ••Plans are in the works for Sundays when Doretta and George will be away this summer. Watch the church email for more details as the summer progresses. •••Communion will be held the first Sunday of the following months: June, August, October (World Communion Sunday) and December. •••We are grateful for Coffee Hour, Flower and Peace Prayer sign ups weekly (the sign up sheet is on the bulletin board above the Coffee Hour table) and for all that offer to read scriptures. •••At the state level the UCC church is working to support our immigrant population and we talked about what we can do locally. •••If you have anyone you wish Doretta or the Deacons to look in on please let one of the deacons or Doretta know.

From your deacons, *Dianne, Doss, Kerri and Rachel*

***TRUSTEE'S REPORT...

Wilkins Community House:

- The installation of the heat pumps for the Wilkins Community House is completed. They are being used as needed for heating and air conditioning. This was made possible by two grants and a fund raiser that is still in process. We thank all those people who have donated to the project so far.
- The light bulbs in the main hall have been replaced with LED bulbs. The main hall is much brighter with this change.

Church:

- The railings for the handicap entrance in the rear and side of the building have been repaired.
- First light fixture on the left rear side of the Sanctuary has been repaired and is back in place.
- The rheostat switches for the lights in the Sanctuary have been replaced

If there are any issues to be addressed, please contacted one of the Trustees

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

***THE CHURCH ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE (CAC)...

There will be a summer *Trivia Night*, probably in July or August. We will keep you posted.

If any of you want to host a trivia night, please let us know.

***SEPTEMBER SALE REPORT... Larry Griffin

This is your invitation to join the CAC planning committee for the **largest sale of high quality used clothes, sporting and household goods, and toys that Waterford has seen in years!** We teamed up with **Shore Country Day School** in Beverly, Massachusetts. The school made our sale the focus of its *May Giving Day Service Project*. Proceeds will go right back into our community through projects such as the Fuel Fund and the Good Neighbor Fund.

Families donated the items and students, teachers, parents and grandparents sorted, boxed and labeled the boxes. A Shore parent donated his moving van and his

personal time, and he drove the

entire load up to the Wilkins Community House on May 13. Our crew was ready to unload when the truck arrived.

We already have half a moving van full of boxed

and labeled clothing, toys, and sports equipment for all ages stored on the Wilkins House stage.

We are all welcome to goods as well. We will accept donations on the Sundays preceding the Sept.12 sale;

Therefore - Sunday, Aug. 30 and Sunday, Sept. 6. Summer residents or others needing to drop off at another time earlier than these dates may contact Larry Griffin : thelarrygriffin@gmail.com and I will happily arrange a drop-off.

Now...we need **VOLUNTEERS** to plan the best way to display items, advertise, and conduct the friendliest sale in the State of Maine. We plan to set-up on Friday, September 11 and conduct our sale on Saturday, September 12, 2026. If you are interested in helping us create our plan, please either email or text Larry Griffin. thelarrygriffin@gmail.com; 508-932-7009.



***MUSIC NOTES...

The music committee is getting ready for the summer season. **7 pm on July 29** is the date for the candle-lit **Sebago-Long Lake Music Festival concert** at our church. Our lovely Steinway grand piano will be featured at that concert. More details to follow.

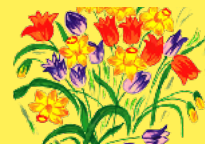
The Mahoosuc Community Band looks forward to its summer outside concert between the Church and Wilkins House. Last year's enthusiastic crowd is a big reason that Waterford is now a must on their summer schedule. Monday August 17 at 6:30 pm to be confirmed.

Mainely Clarinets will present a new program of summer music called "Summer Soiree" with such lyrical pieces as *Pachelbel's Canon*, *Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring*, *Reverie* by Debussy and others; with a bit of jazz thrown in. We are looking at a date in late July/ early August. Stay tuned. In addition, they have been invited to provide the musical portions of our Sunday service on August 30, including all the hymns, transposed by George into a key that is comfortable for congregational singing.

A variety of other **soloists** and **musical groups** will fill in for George at the Sunday services while he is on vacation this summer.



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.

***Del & Dianne on Memorial Day...by Dianne Morse-Leonard

Del and I are enjoying being grandparents of our first grandchild who somehow is

already 8 months old! William keeps me busy when I babysit him one day each week. On Memorial Day we shared a lobster feast at Ben and Tiffany's house with Del's brother Jon and his wife El (taking the photo).



***You Don't Just Pull the Rope...A history lesson...Bruce Whichard

Five years ago, because so many people had asked me questions about ringing our historic Paul Revere church bell, I contributed an article for the church newsletter - September 2021 edition. But...people are still asking...so here is an excerpt from that article describing some of what I learned from Mr. Bill Fillebrown, the church bell ringer for many years. He taught me a bit about the history of the bell and much about the intricacies of ringing it, in preparation of turning the bell ringing over to me.



I had my first experience of simply "pulling the rope" for a Sunday service. Following the service, Mr. Fillebrown took me aside and gave me a history lesson I will never forget... a little of the history of the Waterford Church and of the Paul Revere Bell. The act of ringing the church bell has meaning



behind it; there there is a specific way it should be done. Back in the day, each church bell had its own cadence. Our bell cadence is two rings followed by a five second silence; then two rings with another five second silence. This sequence is repeated a total of five times. Then there is a longer silence (ten seconds), after which the sequence is repeated again. This bell ringing is done 15 minutes prior to the start of the service. The special cadence would let "those coming from away, know the direction of

the Waterford Church." Each church had its own cadence. The pauses between the bell ringing helped people from away to calculate, by the echo, approximately how far away they were from a particular church. I learned a lot that Sunday morning and am proud that Mr. Fillebrown chose me to ring the church bell and that he gave me a much-appreciated explanation and history lesson as well.

***Beautiful Vista...from Martha Long

Here's a view of Jordan Pond which I was able to capture while hiking recently in Acadia National Park. There were many more spectacular sights to be seen there as well. Late May is a good time to hike there - no crowds, few black flies,...serenity and beauty.



***Not Just Dogs...from Ginny Raymond

Lately I have been telling mostly about my Maine Sheltie Rescue foster dogs, but I don't just have dogs in my life!! I have wonderful grandchildren too! Two of my grandkids live in Texas, and are always doing wonderful and surprising things. More about them in our next newsletter. Three of my grandkids, Ginia's girls, live in Lunenburg MA. So let me crow about them!

Emmi, the youngest of the three girls, is graduating from 8th grade this year. She has made honor role and loves building creative content on various social media platforms and has quite the following.

Ella is graduating from High School this year. She was awarded a certificate of Academic Excellence for Artistic Exploration. Ella's art was on display in her High School as an AP art student. She is a talented artist and at-home fashion designer. We are all excited to see what her next steps in life will be!

Eva is finishing her first year at Worcester State University with near perfect grades. She is studying business! Her big plans this summer is a trip to Brazil! So exciting!

We look forward to some fun times at our camp, The Compromise, on Keoka Lake this summer. We are dreaming about our Corn Roasts and listening to frogs in Frog Hollow.

Happy Summer all! *Ginny*

***Joy Sends Her Greetings...

After our first winter totally away from McWain Pond in many years, the extended Plate family looks forward to our return around June 17. Mom (Joy) will be around for almost 9 weeks, with Bob and family there for the first 3 and Karen and Rex there for the last 2 weeks. We look forward to lobsters, parades, lake time, and catching up with friend!

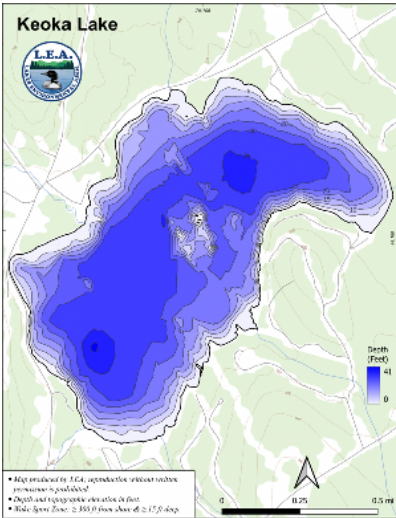


A recent gathering with the Lunenburg MA family, including their dog!



Ewok Brannan (Ginia's dog) met his older self in church...Doogie Bowser MD (Dell Foss's little man).

***Keoka Lake Watershed Event...submitted by Tom Hammett



Hi from Nepal! We love Keoka Lake for its beauty and the activities that we share. Coming up is watershed event which you might find of interest. It will be an outreach and education program addressing the need for increased awareness of the importance of the Keoka Lake watershed and help us appreciate the connection to water quality, water supply, sedimentation, and other aspects important to those who use Keoka Lake. We'll have tables to display Keoka Lake watershed materials and maps, and display and distribute information about our lake - part of the Portland water supply! Date: July 11

from 1 - 4 pm. To learn more, give suggestions, or participate in any way, please contact me.

Tom Hammett himal@vt.edu

WATERFORD BREAKFASTS

Wilkins House - 19 Plummer Hill Road

June 20 • 7/4 • 7/15 • 7/29 • 8/12

☀️ Serving 7:30-10 🍃 \$12 Adults ❤️ \$8 Children 4-12

With selections of Scrambled Eggs,
Bacon, Sausage & Pancakes
.....
also serving Muffins, Donut holes
.....
with Juice, Coffee, Tea
Featuring Waterford's Colonial Hill Real Maple Syrup

WATERFORD
SUMMER
TRADITION

♥️

GOOD FOOD
.....
GREAT PEOPLE
.....
OUR COMMUNITY

🌸 Save the Dates: 🌸

- Sat, June 20 - Breakfast - 7:30-10 am
Wilkins Community House
- Sat, July 4 Breakfast 7:30-10 am
Parade/Church Float. 11 am
- Sun, July 5 Outdoor Church Service
9:30am
- Thurs, July 9 - afternoon - Red Cross
Blood Drive - Wilkins House
- Sat, July 11 - Keoka Lake Watershed
Event: 1 - 4 pm - Wilkins House
- Wed, July 15 - Breakfast 7:30-10am
Wilkins Community House
- Sun, July 26 - Outdoor Church Service
9:30 am
- Wed, July 29 - Breakfast 7:30 - 10am
Wilkins Community House
- Wed, July 29 Sebago-Long Lake
Concert - 7 Pm
- Wed, Aug, 12 - Breakfast 7:30 - 10am
Wilkin Community House
- Mon, Aug 17 (date tentative) -
Mahoosuc Community
Band Outdoor Concert - 6:30 pm -
Church Parking Lot
- Sun, Aug 30 - Outdoor Church Service
with Mainely Clarinets
- Sat, Sept 12 - Huge Yard Sale - Church
& Wilkins House - (see article
above) Stay tuned for more details.



JUNE

1 Martha Long
 11 Bill Roy
 12 Dianne Morse
 Leonard
 16 Susan Leslie
 12 Peter Morse
 29 Nancy Engdahl
 23 Gale Bell
 25 John Wait
 29 Louann Bell
 29 Sharon Roy

JULY

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

AUGUST

3 James Long
 3 Dianna Wright
 12 Ray Kearns
 21 Marion Brennan
 27 Caren Long
 28 Ginia Brannan

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, Rachel Pitman,
 Dianne Morse-Leonard, Kerri Sooter*
Music Director: *George Wiese*
Church Activities: *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. Thank you!

Couldn't resist this New Yorker cartoon!



"And, for being careless with the environment, put tiny, hard-to-remove stickers on all their fruit."



...God Be With You 'til We Meet Again...



