



# 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 - November 2023



### THOUGHTS FROM THE PULPIT...

Dear Friends,

There has never been a stronger impulse in my life than to share, with a sense of urgency, the critical importance of being in community, particularly in these times. As we navigate our lives, when things are bright and cheery, as well as in darker moments, it is an absolute truth that we need one another to share with and in whom we can find support along the way. We don't have to be of like mind in everything, but with kindness and respect, come together with deep listening and sharing in a way that celebrates what we have in common. And there is more we have in common than differences.

Recently, I was on a zoom call in which we began by typing into the chat our name and a word that would reflect what feelings we were bringing with us in that moment. Sadness. Despair. Numbness. Fear. Worry. Grief. Those words expressed what the majority of us were carrying with us to the meeting. Expressions of these troubling times. No one would argue with such emotions. They are real and they are deeply sorrowful reactions to the state our world is in today. **And yet**, those written expressions of emotion were followed up every time with gratitude that in the midst of such feelings we were together, albeit over zoom, to share with one another, to hold each other in our thoughts, and to build one another up in our efforts to not merely cope, but to encourage and inspire us to face these times with wisdom and active hope.

Margaret Wheatley in the newest edition of her book [Who Do We Choose to Be?](#) writes about the confusion of our times. Facts we once relied on to guide us, are not necessarily reliable anymore in the midst of misinformation that we struggle to sort out. She says,



*"when we can't make sense of things, we naturally become confused. For most, confusion is desperately avoided. Only a few folks welcome it as an invitation to discovery. Confusion can lead to curiosity or it can lead to fear and withdrawal, recoiling from the threats posed by uncertainty."*

I think Wheatley is right. I also believe that as people of faith, even when we are tempted to withdrawal, our hope invites us to remain open to the opportunities and the possibilities before us. She also says, "curiosity leads to adaptive responses." That I see as our motivation. It is not about a hope that we merely ponder in our minds, but that is active in our decisions and our behavior. What can we learn about these times that stimulates positive action? Who can we choose to be for one another? How can we show up for each other – sharing and supporting? Who can we include and in what way? I imagine Jesus faced his days with similar curiosity.

We, as a church, have a gift to offer the broader community. At the very core of our faith is the truth of love that transcends everything. It is not that we have all the answers nor can the church itself solve the problems of the world. But what we can do, we must do – discover and implement ways in which that love can support and bring us all together as one humanity and one part of this magnificent universe. As a church, may we work tirelessly to be who Love desires us to be.

Blessings,  
*Doretta*

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

Hello to all members and friends of the Waterford Congregational Church,

Greetings on a misty, rainy October Saturday...following the gorgeous days we had both this week and last week too. I looked up the term "Indian Summer" and came away dissatisfied with the answer describing unseasonably warm weather and hazy air. James Audubon suggested that it originated from the "Indians" setting fire to the grasses on the prairies to the West. Whatever the origin/reason, Indian Summer 2023 was enjoyed by all. Folks were out walking, riding bikes, and doing things that this past real(?) summer didn't often allow.

As Jean and I were bucking up wood for our stove, we got hot and sweaty enough to take a dip... twice...in Keoka. Bracing describes the sensation, once I could unclench my teeth. Sailing was another boon. After weeks of calm, flat water there were a number of days when I was sailing hiked out to my knees, battling across the lake. This week there was a nice breeze blowing Kurt Hilaris and me around the lake like a couple of swans. It was wonderful being warmed by the sun and propelled by the wind with just the sound of the water parting around our boats.

You may wonder why I'm recounting such events here. Well...maybe I have jogged a recent memory of your own as you gaze, smiling, into the middle distance. And, besides the enjoyment of sharing these events, it is an homage to the Creator of this world. By recognizing the gifts He has provided for us, we can begin to understand how ephemeral it all is... how important it is to care for what we see, feel, breathe and share.

Our Church Council is looking at the responses you all shared about WCC's role in the *community*. That word came up over and over again. We are a Church community. We are the



Waterford community. We are members of the Human Race community. You have been clear that you want us to reach into the community and share our gifts, address needs, support efforts of other groups doing similar things, and rejoice together as small steps occur from our work. We are raising awareness that the word "Community" is smack in the middle of The Wilkins Community House title. We are emphasizing that this is its purpose...to give everyone a place to gather and do things together. Later in this newsletter I will go into more detail about these new ideas.

In these memories of the summer gone by, I hope to have started you thinking about how to enlarge our sense of community. I look forward to hearing your ideas...

Peace, *Al Struck*

### AN UPDATE FROM AL...Familiar Faces

Start the coffee, go out for the paper, wave at any car going by, and head back inside. It has been a tense time waiting for word on the locale of the murderer of eighteen people. I grab a cup of coffee and open the paper and that's when I see the pictures of all eighteen people, victims, on the front page. Most, if not all, are smiling at the photographer and friends behind the camera. They are arranged like a surreal class picture. What strikes me immediately is the ordinariness of each person. No movie stars, no airbrushing. Just regular folks. Maine folks. Our folks. They look like you and me. Like our kids and their friends. Except that in an instant, in the midst of laughing, throwing a strike cheering a good pool shot it all ends. No good-byes, no final hugs, just... what? We hope peace. They all deserve it. Every one of them. God knows where the pain is. It is among us, the living, and will be for a long time. And what about anger? How could there not be. A piece of your life has been stolen from you with no hope of return. Do you think you might be angry?! What do you do with that anger? Some seek grief counselors, pastors, friends. A heavy lift. A first small step toward acceptance of this unnecessary reality.

I'm not going to quote stats on the number of deaths, the number of shootings. We've heard them all before. Until people with power know what we want and act on it, it is inevitable that we will be right back here too soon. We must act to end the carnage.

### TRUSTEE'S REPORT...

I am happy to report that the repairs to the church from the storm a few years ago have finally been completed. This has been a long process but we are very pleased with the finished product.

The furnaces in both buildings have been serviced and both furnaces are in good condition.

With the retirement of Peter Morse from plowing the church parking lot, Peter's son-in-law, Mike Brockett, will be plowing the church parking lot this winter.

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...

We have been busy, as usual, with meetings, planning, and helping Doretta in any way we can.

As of July 9<sup>th</sup> the deacons no longer are collecting offerings during Sunday's services. There are collection plates at the back of the sanctuary to leave offerings either before or after the service.



*The Friday Night Brass*

July 23<sup>rd</sup>, on a beautiful sunny morning, we held the worship service outdoors with a 10-piece jazz ensemble conducted by George. Following the service was our annual Ice Cream Social.



August 27<sup>th</sup> we held a special coffee hour at the Wilkins House to say goodbye to Jane Morse. A gift of a special platter made of ceramic tiles with a picture of the church on it was presented to her.



*Jane Morse*

ceramic tiles with a picture of the church on it was presented to her.

October 1<sup>st</sup> was World Communion Sunday which was celebrated with homemade breads from around the world. After the service the breads were enjoyed during coffee hour.

October 15<sup>th</sup>, the Oxford Union Association met at the Waterford Church at 2:00PM. After a short worship service in the sanctuary, everyone went over to the Wilkins House for a program and refreshments. All were invited to attend. Thank you to those who provided finger foods.

Moving on.....Advent season is not too far away. We are already planning the service for Advent Sunday which is December 3<sup>rd</sup>. On the 17<sup>th</sup> our conference minister will be preaching along with Doretta and a special coffee hour will be at the Wilkins House.

I send a monthly email to people who usually read scripture on Sunday mornings. If you would like to read scripture and you are not on my email list, please let me know as we could use more readers. Thank you to those who have supplied snacks and flowers and peace candle moments.

Please do not hesitate to speak with a deacon (Myra Maltby, Ted Nixon, Dodi Wait) with any concern you might have. Don't forget...we live stream on Facebook every Sunday.

*Myra Maltby* for the Deacons: Myra, Ted and Dodi

## THE CHURCH ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE...

The CAC met on October 11th to plan activities for the 2023-2024 season. We discussed:

- Doretta will present her **trip to Iona, Scotland** on Sunday, November 12th at 3:30 pm at the Wilkins House. Cookies and cider will be served.



*Iona, Scotland*

- Knowledge of performing **CPR** in an emergency situation is something we think is very important to know. We shall try to get information on how our church could sponsor a class. If anyone has knowledge about this, would you contact one of us.
- Save the date for our next **Saturday Night Trivia Contest**...January 20th. Our previous two Trivia Nights were a big success and enjoyed by several in our community. Back by popular demand will be our talented host, Doretta Colburn.

If you have requests for programs that you think would be enjoyable, please contact us. We'd love your ideas!

*Nancy Engdahl*, chair...Doretta, Myra, Denny, and Dodi

## MUSIC NOTES from George...

It was a very musical summer at WCC!

On August 27th we celebrated Jane Morse's many years as Music Director upon her retirement from the position. The choir sang an anthem called "Let it Shine," composed by legendary church musician Don Besig, who a year earlier had written accolades to Jane after hearing the WCC choir sing another of his anthems.



*Jane Morse*



*Laurie Turley*

It's been a pleasure to welcome pianist, vocalist, and songwriter Laurie Turley of Bridgton to WCC several times this summer. Her music is always uplifting and inspiring. Another highlight of the summer was two visiting instrumental ensembles.

"Mainely Clarinets" and "The Friday Night Brass" both added



*Mainely Clarinets*



*Katherine Rhoda*



*Harpeleik, one of Katherine's unique vintage instruments.*

wonderful music to our worship services. And then "The Mahoosuc Community Band" filled the outdoor air with music at the August Sharps on the Flat Concert.

In September, we welcomed multi-instrumentalist Katherine Rhoda for a morning of special music. Her selections were recorded and are archived with the Sept. 24th service on the church website.

"Without skipping a beat" the choir has continued singing each week, led by George and accompanied by Kay. Choir rehearses on most Sunday mornings at 8:30 and anyone is welcome to join! We are currently choosing music for the Thanksgiving and Advent season.

We look forward to another visit from the "Mainely Clarinets" on December 10th, followed by a season of favorite Christmas songs.

## CLIMATE CONVERSATIONS: What Can WE Do?



Our church sponsored three well-attended conversations in the Wilkins House this past summer/early fall.

- August 24 - Eco Heat Maine presented a program on the benefits of heat pumps hosted by Climate Conversations and PEERWaterford.
- September 13 - Kelley Halter Schaeffer, of Waterford, spoke on "Navigating the Emotional Impact of Climate Change" hosted by Climate Conversations and Resilient Harrison.
- October 17 - Jonathan Fuller of Pine Tree Power and Senator Rick Bennett shared with us their views on the value of consumer-owned power.

## WE REMEMBER...

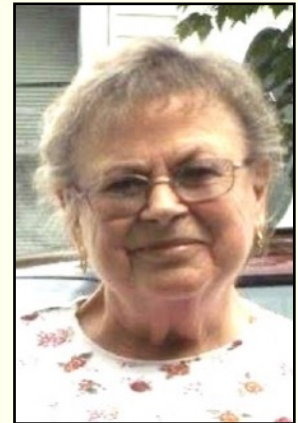
### Joanne MacKinnon

April 17, 1936 - October 11, 2023

*Joanne was born in Amsterdam, New York and spent most of her married life in New Jersey. She is survived by her husband, Ralph, of 66 years; her five children; and her 10 grandchildren.*

*She loved raising her family. She also enjoyed breeding and showing her golden retrievers, reading, and cooking. When she and her husband, Ralph, moved to Waterford in 2004 she joined the Waterford Historical Society and served as a trustee. She also became a faithful member of the Waterford Congregational Church.*

*We miss her smiling face and her active involvement in our church services and community activities.*



### Ralph Lewis Sylvester

August 1, 1924 - November 5, 2023



*Born in Lewiston, Maine, Ralph graduated from Bates College in 1950, and Stonier School of Banking at Rutgers University in 1959. He married Elaine Miller of Auburn and they shared 70 happy years together, traveling throughout the United States. He served in Europe in the military during WWII. Later he was employed in banking. Ralph was active in many community activities and devoted to Bates College. His full obituary will appear in the Lewiston Sun Journal. Our church is fortunate that he and Elaine were invited to Waterford by former minister, Anita White, to attend our community breakfasts and later to become associate members of our church. Services and celebrations are being planned in memory of our dear friend. See page 11 of this newsletter for more information.*





# 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](mailto:ksleslie@me.com).*

## Long-Awaited Cruise for the Hambletons



Brenda reports: My husband and I left for a cruise around Africa on October 8 and will return, just in time for Christmas, on December 22. We were supposed to go on this trip in 2020 but COVID delayed it. We are pretty excited as we have only been to limited places in Africa previously. We also got an upgrade on our room so we will be enjoying everything it has to offer. I have done some research on the places we are visiting and created a website with the information. If you would like to follow along with us I will be blogging on the site. The website is:

[www.brendaandmick.com](http://www.brendaandmick.com) and the password is: Grand Africa2023. We hope to be back up in Maine in January.



## Whichard Family News...

Happy faces at the wonderful Waterford Fall Foliage Road Race!



*Jared, Bobbi and Hope*

This was Hope's first "competition" of any type! Considering she comes from a long list of award-winning pups, we are glad Jared gave her the opportunity! Now if only the rest of us can get Hope to behave as well for us as she does for Jared!

Denny Raymond gave Jared and Hope some pointers from the days when he ran the race... I gather they were points well taken! 😊



*Jared and Denny*

## Special Fall Visitors for Ted Nixon...

Being a member of the Waterford church family has been a true blessing in my life. My son, Jim, who has been living in Florida for a few years, visited with his partner, Juanita, here in New England and Waterford. She is a grandmother and an excellent photographer. Juanita had not been in this part of our country before and was here to see the changing colors and visit in Waterford and in Norway, where Jim's son, Anthony, lives with his wife, Abby and their two sons - Declan, age 1 1/2 years and older son, Chase, who is in 4th grade. I furnished supper for all of us. It was a heartwarming time!

## Patty Tingley Shares Historical Photo...

The Lake House fountain in Waterford Flat is shown frozen in the winter in an old photo taken before 1900. The Tingleys refurbished the fountain and then invited the community to celebrate as they turned on the water and the fountain flowed once again.





## Greetings from the Raymonds...

So much has happened since our May Newsletter. Can't tell it all... so, where to start?

In August, we were visited by our Ft. Worth son, Will, and our grandchildren, Owen and Olivia, pictured here with us at church with 'Ginia and Eva. Wish Will had brought a small bit of that Ft. Worth weather with them (being ridiculously hot and dry there). Though damp in Waterford that week, it was so fun having them here!

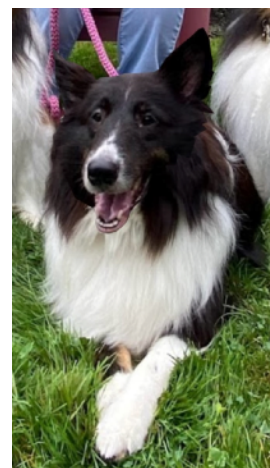


In September, we had the fun of visiting Provincetown, MA with my brother, Chapin, and sis/law, Deborah. Again, Mother Nature was not kind, as it was wet the whole time, but that did not dampen our spirits. Enjoy this silly picture of us next to the Pilgrim Monument with the great Atlantic behind us. Did you know the pilgrims landed in Provincetown a whole month before going to Plymouth? I had no idea!!

And on the Sheltie front, we have had two rescues from Maine Sheltie Rescue\* in the last few months. The first one is Myla, an overweight, happy girl who was adopted to a wonderful home in Freeport. She is the happiest, most well adjusted, loving dog I have experienced, unusual for a rescue. We only had her here for 2 weeks! Pictured here on her adoption day...



The rescue we have now weighs on the other end of the scale! Josie Fay is a hugely underweight, anxious and a very timid pooch. She comes to us from a puppy mill in Missouri where 31 dogs were rescued. (You may read about the rescue on the MSR\* website.) Our job is to help her acclimate to home living, discover security within herself, and ultimately find a home that will continue her reconditioning and give her love. It is a slow go for us, but every day is better for her. Here is a picture taken in the car on her way to Waterford from her week of quarantine in October.



Denny and I wish you all a happy Thanksgiving and hope your Christmas is cheery!



## Family Time for Doretta...

The four sisters had a very special get together. It doesn't happen that often which makes it EXTRA special! And near a birthday, too!

From L to R: Marlene, Brenda, Sharon, and Doretta.



## Halloween in North Bend, Washington...

Kay Leslie spent two weeks in the Pacific Northwest visiting with son Patrick, his wife, Shannon, Reese (7) and Johnna (6). Martha Jean joined in and she and I drove to Walla Walla to visit grandson James for Family Weekend at Whitman College where we heard an amazing "sampler"



*Martha Jean ... wrong way?*



*Martha Jean and Heather*

concert of the variety of musical groups on campus - from classical orchestra to jazz band to choral selections. Also, watched soccer; had time for hiking; and were treated to a delicious dinner in James dorm room, prepared by James, his roommates and friends!

We then returned to North Bend for another 10 days. MJ had just completed a 2-week walk on the Camino Trail from

Portugal to Spain with her cousin, Heather Leslie. They found the experience a challenge, but a lovely and meaningful balance of physical activity, nature, camaraderie, and reflection.

For the rest of the stay it was all things HALLOWEEN!



*James and Martha Jean*



*Reese (Hermione) standing; Johnna seated with ice princess white collar; and two of their neighborhood friends in front of their decorated home.*



## NOVEMBER

6 Eli Ross  
 7 Jeff Winslow  
 8 Rev Doretta  
 Colburn  
 14 Gabe Gabrielsen  
 15 Arlene Whichard  
 25 Brian Sylvester  
 26 Sally Holm

## DECEMBER

1 Eva Brannan  
 21 Carol Madsen  
 29 Kerry Johnson

## JANUARY

5 Joy Plate  
 6 Sue Van Dehey  
 11 Tabitha Day  
 13 Brenda  
 Hambleton  
 17 Sherry Bedard  
 21 Petra Smyth  
 27 Mary Colbath

## 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*

Church School: *Myra Maltby*

Missions: *Nancy Engdahl*

Church Activities Committee: *Nancy Engdahl,  
 Myra Maltby, Denny Raymond, Dodi Wait*

Communications: *Pam Williams & George Wiese*

Webmaster: *Ginny Raymond*

Church Historian: *Dianne Morse Leonard*

Live Streaming Coordinator: *Tabitha Day*

## 🍁 SAVE THE DATES 🍁

- **Sun. Nov. 12** 3:30 pm - Doretta's Trip to Iona at the Wilkins House
- **Tues. Nov. 21** 11:00 am - Memorial Service for Ralph Sylvester at Pinette Dillingham and Lynch Funeral Home, Lewiston ME. Buffet lunch to follow at "The Den" at Bates College.
- **Wed. Nov. 22** at noon - a short Military Honors burial service for Ralph at the Maine Veterans Cemetery, Augusta
- **Sun. Dec. 3** 9:30 am - Advent Sunday Service
- **Sun. Dec. 10** 9:30 am - Mainely Clarinets will provide special service music
- **Sun. Dec. 17** 9:30 am - Maine United Church of Christ conference minister, Marisa LaViola, will share in our worship.

*Please check your email inbox for further announcements of upcoming special services and events during November and December.*

## 🍁 GRATITUDE — A THANKSGIVING THOUGHT 🍁

*"Thankfulness is the beginning of gratitude.  
 Gratitude is the completion of thankfulness.  
 Thankfulness may consist merely of words.  
 Gratitude is shown in acts."*

*— Henri Frederic Amiel*











