



Waterford Congregational Church UCC

Minister: The Rev. Doretta Colburn

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Website: wccucc.com • **Facebook:** Waterford Congregational Church

**Because of Covid-19, our actual church services are suspended until further notice.
Visit our website to see and hear videos of Rev. Doretta Colburn's armchair
sermons, together with Bible readings and musical offerings.**



Newsletter...August 2020...Covid-19 Continues...



THOUGHTS FROM OUR MINISTER...

Dear Friends and Church Family,

Many have things changed and not changed since our last newsletter at the beginning of the summer season! We remain physically apart in many ways, most notably for Sunday worship. Committee and Council meetings take place via Zoom. Our Sunday "services" are recorded for our website and Facebook page and we regularly stay connected through emails, snail mail and phone calls. All of that remains the same and yet a bit different. You may have noticed that we now have a "choir" for our Sunday recordings, a scripture reader each week and the start of Reflections from members and friends who wish to share, along with those I have been posting each week. These are such wonderful additions as we carry our faith forward in new ways.

There have been other changes, too that have caused us sorrow. The passing of Whizzer Wheeler in April and Happy Chapman in June have touched our hearts as we reached out to their families with our love and care.

I think back to March when we stopped having worship services and meeting together as a faith community. At the time we had no idea how long this would last or how we could "be" church without being together in our beautiful sanctuary. I marvel now as I stand witness to the extraordinary ways we have held together and held one another up. Some have developed social "pods" in which they feel comfortable and responsible to each other. Volunteers have reached out with meals to feed those in our community with the help of Melby's Market and made



Rev. Doretta Colburn checks on the bison at her Beech Hill Farm home. (Photo from the Lewiston Sun Journal)

deliveries to and for the local food pantries. There has been a regular stream of phone calls to check in, notes that express care, volunteering to shop for another, and even a birthday drive-by parade for Ralph Sylvester on August 1st! These are just a few ways that our *little church with a big heart* is making a difference.

As difficult as this time has been and is, we have been given an opportunity to put our faith into action in meaningful ways. The pandemic and the growing awareness of systemic racism are added to the challenges we face as people of faith in a God of love, compassion, harmony, justice, equality and peace. We have been challenged to take what we talk, sing and pray about on Sundays and share that love in all that we say and do. We might consider that when Jesus called his disciples together he was on the move and invited them to come along with him. They met in different locations. They moved about the countryside. They shared a message of love through their actions and their words.

I am as eager as everyone else to get back to being in worship together, holding study groups, fellowship times, and mission opportunities with all of you. Yet I feel a sense of gratitude, as well for the perspective this time has offered us – a time to act on our faith in new and creative ways, a time to open our eyes to see more clearly the needs around us and how we might respond, a time that has enabled us to see our faith in daily action through acts of compassion and love, support and solidarity, a time that has allowed us to witness the blessings that God has given us of extraordinary love in the gift of one another, the gift of community.

How blessed we truly are.

In Faith,

Doretta

Please feel free to call me any time at the farm 207-583-2515 or on my cell 860-235-2711. You are also welcome to email me at colburndoretta@gmail.com. In addition, I hope you will consider submitting a Reflection to share with our church family.

LETTER FROM THE MODERATOR...

Good afternoon,

I've just finished lunch and am waiting for a person to come and pick up our kitchen wood stove. It's been 40 years since we had it reconditioned. I feel like such a *Mainah*. "Use it up, wear it out, make it do, or do without!"

At our recent Council meeting we decided to continue to keep the church building closed. But, that doesn't mean we aren't having church. Doretta emails us thoughtful weekly reflections to ponder. On our website, her Sunday sermons bringing the word of God to us in a message that we all can understand, enjoy, and find peace in. Jane organizes music for each service. George continues to play the organ. At first, I felt funny singing alone at home to create a virtual choir. But thinking about each choir member singing hymns alone/but together gives me a feeling of community. Pam has done a wonderful job getting folks to read the lessons each week, adding another note of normalcy to our video service. So, you can see we **are** having church services weekly with spirit, joy, and the knowledge that we are getting through this together.



I hope we all are keeping in touch with each other, too. We can see each other safely, keeping a "social distance". I would rather call it "physical distance" because we can be social all the time. I don't want to be socially distanced from anyone! Join us for the bi-weekly Zoom Fellowship calls (see page 4, below.)

As we say goodbye to July, the gardens give us their bounty. Should we freeze or can? Are there open car windows at the Post Office to dump in our excess zucchini and run like heck, not to be caught? The heat has been tough, but we still cool off at night. Did you see the comet? I missed the sightings. Guess I will have to wait the 3,000 years!

I miss you all dearly. I smile as call up your faces in my memory, and am hopeful that we will be back together soon. Stay well. Keep in touch. Love one another.

Peace, *AL*

CLIMATE CONVERSATIONS CONTINUE...

On Tuesday, July 7 we had a wonderful Zoom presentation by Nicholas Lund of Maine Audubon on the State of Maine Birds. He was gracious to record this for us so that we could give you, who were not able to attend, a chance to be a part of what he shared. It was a very knowledgeable and informative presentation that we trust you will enjoy. For those of you who were in attendance via Zoom, it might be a chance to review the great information Nick presented to us. You will find the link to this presentation on our Website under "Climate."



TRUSTEES REPORT...

Although church services have been closed for the past four months, the trustees have still had a few projects to keep us busy. This spring we did the outside spring cleanup, and with help of Dodi, and Jean & Al Struck, we have the garden areas looking very nice. Thanks to Ted Nixon, the plants in the garden have been watered regularly.



The big project for this year has been painting the side of the church facing the common and also the rear of the building. This was completed in July. We plan to paint the driveway side of the church next summer, which will complete the outside painting project over a three-year time frame.

If there are any issues that need to be addressed, please let one of us know.

Regards from the Trustees,

John Wait, Kerry Johnson, Richard Maurer

NEWS FROM THE DEACONS...

What a beautiful summer we are having! Although it started out a little dry it has turned around and we are getting rain and warm sunny days. The miracles of God's Earth amaze me every day.

The Deacon's continue to connect with our church families by phone calls, e-mails, and Fellowship Zooms. It has been great fun to see our friends and church family on Zoom. The details for our next zoom will be sent to you all by the Clerk, Stephenie Michaud. Hopefully you can join us.

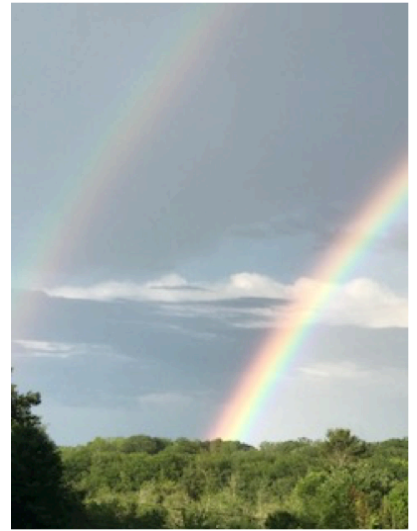
At the end of June we started reading Scriptures again. They are now shared on the Webpage along with the Sermons and Music. We have had a few people recording the readings and sending them to Ginny to post. If you would like to read scriptures in the future please let me know. If you need help with the recording we have people willing to help, I even did my first reading and it went very smoothly with Stephenie's assistance.

This has been a challenging and unknown path that we have been on for the past 5 months, and we still have many unanswered questions about our churches future, however we have continued to faithfully be connected and supportive of each other. Every moment is full of wonder and God is always with us.

"Yet I am always with you; you hold me by my right hand."

Psalm 73:23

Shalom, Pam



Reminder: FELLOWSHIP ZOOM CALLS
August 9 at 5 pm • August 13 at 7 pm
September 10 At 5 pm • September 13 at 7 pm

MUSIC NOTES



Even though we have not been attending services in the church building, I am busy providing music each Sunday for the website service. It has pushed me to grow musically and perform many songs! It often takes many "tries" before I get something okay to share, and I usually leave in a mistake or two so you know it is real!

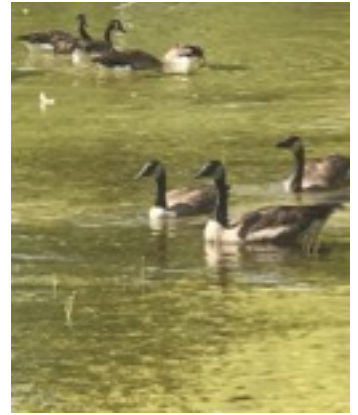
The best news is that the choir is now recording virtually and that is going really well. Kay records the piano track, which I send out to the choir. Then they send me their voice recordings, and I use a blending software to match everyone up and create a choir. It has been fun to do and I am learning more every week! I hope everyone enjoys this music. Many thanks to Ginny who puts it on the website.

If anyone would like to try singing with the virtual choir, please email me and I will add you to the list of choir members. Don't be shy! Also, if you have any hymn requests, please email me. We are using hymns from the black hymnal (New Century).

Yours in Music, *Jane Morse*
jmorse3191@gmail.com

MISSION MEMO...submitted by Pam Williams

The Mission Committee met on the shores of McWain Pond...amid gale force winds! We reviewed our Mission Statement and feel we are meeting our goals as well as can be expected with Covid-19 shut downs. We looked at our yearly calendar for mission offerings. "Our Churches Wider Mission" offering has been sent to the conference office. "One Great Hour of Sharing" offering was about to start just as Covid-19 hit; the treasurers will send our offering of \$100.00. We definitely want to continue with the **5 for 5** offerings and will use Mission Funds to accomplish this goal. Our next offering will be "Strengthen the Church"; we will send an all-church Shout Out for this. October is "Neighbors in Need" and December is "The Christmas Fund"



Please mail donations to the Church: P.O. Box 59, clearly marked for the offering you wish to support.

Our big "Heifer International" event of "Filling the Ark" is postponed until next summer; this will be a multi-church/community event. We'll do a smaller activity in early Fall and a Christmas Animal event in December. Watch for more news about these projects in the coming weeks. "Heifer International" holds live chats about their mission and the work that is happening right now. They are now in New York City with Karen Washington, founder of "Rise and Root Farm," to talk about the importance of farmer cooperatives in building food justice for all! Please take a moment and see all the wonderful things happening around the world.

ANNOUNCEMENT...

Fall 2020 Classes At The Maine School of Ministry NOW OPEN for REGISTRATION

- This fall of 2020, **MESoM** is offering two classes on ZOOM for continuing education for lay leaders or ordained clergy and ministry students in formation of all denominations.
- Please take a look, and consider registering for one of these classes.
- Two auditors will also be permitted in each class at half the full tuition rate.

"Biblical Storytelling for a Virtual Worship and World" taught by the Rev. AbbyLynn Haskell

NOTE: This class is now full, but we could place you on a Waiting List in case someone drops before the class begins in September. Please send me an email if interested. rbaard@maineucc.org

"New Testament Part One: The Gospel and the Gospels - Early Christians Tell Their Stories" taught by the Rev. Dr. Larry Kalajainen

For more information on each class and to register, please go to the Maine Conference United Church of Christ website at www.maineucc.org/ministries/mesom

You may circulate this information widely to anyone in your circles who may have an interest. Feel free to contact me with questions about these classes, or other matters important to you.

Blessings on your ministry in your church and community here in Maine and beyond,

Ron Baard

The Rev. Dr. Ron Baard, Acting Dean, Maine School of Ministry

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WE REMEMBER...

William Augustus "Whizzer" Wheeler

October 24, 1938 - April 7, 2020



Although Whizzer was not a regular church-goer, he was an interested and generous supporter of the Waterford Church. Meg, his wife of 54 years, reports, "He loved the fact that some of the Gage family (especially Mary Gage Rice from whom we inherited our Waterford home) were very loyal to the church. We had Whizzer cremated and planned to spread his ashes in Waterford's Elmvale Cemetery where we had two plots, one for Whizzer and one for me. On July 25th we gathered 14 family members for a family-only service at Whizzer's plot in Elmvale. It was a beautiful day, and we asked our Sarah's son Andrew, age 18, if he would sing his grandfather's favorite song, *The Battle Hymn of the Republic*. He willingly accepted, and we all joined in for the 'Glory, Glory, Hallelujah' part. It was quite wonderful! Son Seth had written and delivered a fabulous eulogy. It is a day I will treasure forever. I really think Whizzer would have felt just fine about it."

Happy Hamlin McDaniels Chapman

March 28, 1930 - June 22, 2020



Our church lost a dear friend with the passing of Happy Chapman. She lived 89 of her 90 years in Waterford and was an active part of the community in many ways. She was devoted to the church and helped out wherever she was needed. Church services were her favorite time of the week. She always arrived with a smile and stayed through the coffee hour to chat with one and all. We will miss her friendly, dignified, smiling face.



NEWS FROM THE PEWS

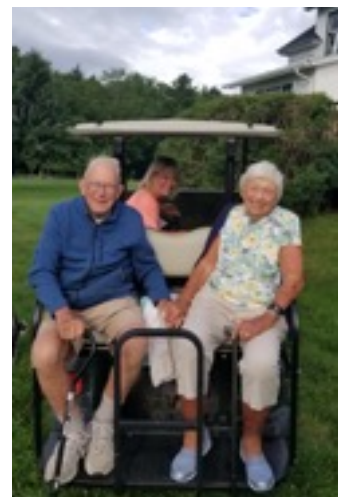


The Plates & Their "Chauffeur"



Henry and Joy...being driven in their golf cart by visiting daughter, **Karen Shelnutt**. Karen and her husband, Rex, were here for 2 weeks from Georgia and were able to enjoy some of our great Maine weather. Other family members are expected later this summer.

The Plates are also enjoying their new outdoor deck, attached to their farmhouse, with a beautiful view over the fields, lake and to the mountains.



Summer Days at the Roys

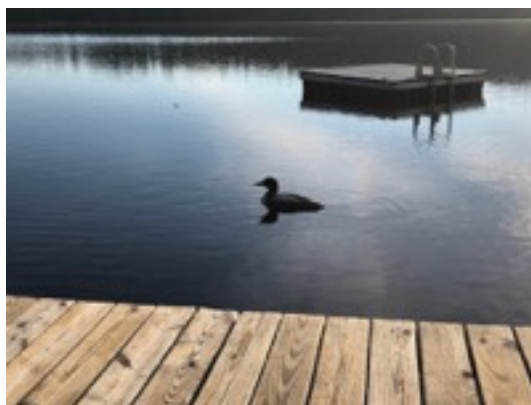
Bill had a visit from this guy while having his morning coffee and checking emails on Monday 7/13.

One of the benefits of working from home is having coffee on the dock and "collaborating with colleagues," even of the feathered variety.



Also, we were gifted a Sunfish sailboat and neighbor, Peter Leslie, was kind enough to provide some sailing instruction.

Sharon took this photo (at left) on August 4 at sunrise on the day of the tropical storm.



Bobbi Whichard is Delivered to Waterford



Bobbi was planning on "summering over" at her home in Florida this year. But then...the weather got hotter, and "numbers" got higher down in Florida...Arlene and Bruce thought it best to get Bobbi to Waterford. Bruce made the phone call to his mom, "Pack your bags; your ride will be there in a few days." Bobbi was not sure what to think, but when Jared and Bruce arrived in Florida a few days later, she was packed and ready to go! The three travelers climbed into their RV and headed north.

About 14 hours later, Grandma was treated to a surprise "social-distancing" visit with one of her college classmates. Betty Marker lives in Nellysford Va. and the two ladies have not seen each other in years...a great surprise for both! After a quick visit, the RV continued northbound.



Chance, the hard-core poodle, watches a beautiful sunset over McWain Pond.



It was a quick trip...lots of driving in a short period of time...but Bobbi is once again in Maine for the summer, enjoying cool swims in the lake with Arlene almost every day. Plus...Bobbi's granddog, Chance loves her morning walks with GMA.



The Morses — Family Fun in Popham



Ivy is tuckered out after a day at the beach.



Owyn loves the waves.



Peter and one of many stripers caught so far.



A Move for the Raymonds



As many of you know, we have moved! We now live at 86 Hubbard Trail right here in Waterford. Our mailing address (PO Box 94) has not changed nor have our phones.

We had many reasons for our move, but the bottom line is that we have downsized and rid ourselves of unnecessary possessions. We have lots to do at our new location to make it "ours" and lots of time to do it. The really nice part of this change is that we now can easily walk to our summer camp, The Compromise, on Keoka Lake.



Our granddaughter, **Emmi**, visited us, helping (?) us move out of the farm. During a quick stop at the Wilkins House, Emmi and our Shelties, Little Miss Underfoot and Angel Baby, enjoyed the shade in the Church Memorial Garden.

Here we are on our front porch with Little Miss Underfoot and Angel Baby. We, they, and our three cats are becoming quite at home. Come visit...**Ginny & Denny**



A Request from the Lymans 🤔

Kay reports that **Dick** has been in Norway Rehab for several weeks. His medical condition is improving. And his sense of humor is very much with him...he loves receiving funny cards! Please send your funny cards to him at: Dick Lyman, Norway Center for Health and Rehabilitation #5601, Norway, ME 04268.



McWain Pond Boat Parade



It was a beautiful day for the Annual **Fourth of July** Boat Parade, which was started by Bob Hanger and his wife Ellen in a single small aluminum boat over 50 years ago. She sat in the bow, holding an American flag, while "Commodore" Bob navigated the boat around the lake, ringing a bell to celebrate the holiday and welcome in another summer on the pond. This year 25 boats took part. Among those either participating (or "spectating") were: the **Hangers, Whichards, Plates, Williams, Hewsons, Leslie, and Roys.**



With so many events cancelled this year, this Parade provided a joyful sense of normalcy.



The Colbath's JOMO (Joy of Missing Out)



Mary & Bill are enjoying the pleasures of the *unbusy* life on their deck or at the beach.





Summer Activities for the Hambletons



Brenda reports: We have always loved our days in Waterford. This year it is especially nice to have such a beautiful place to "socially distance." Life on the lake helps restore peace in our lives. Our kids are also enjoying having a place to safely use their vacation time. My daughter took this beautiful photo of our dock while she was here with her new husband (married September, 2019) and our two granddogs.



Spinning Stars



Patchwork of the Crosses

Our days are spent on or in the water. I tried paddle board yoga with Erin from Good Health is a Habit. I was both on and in the water for that.

At night I am hand sewing (no machine involved) two quilts using a technique known as English Paper Piecing (EPP) that Gail Nixon taught me. We were going to do the Spinning Stars pattern together and I miss her.

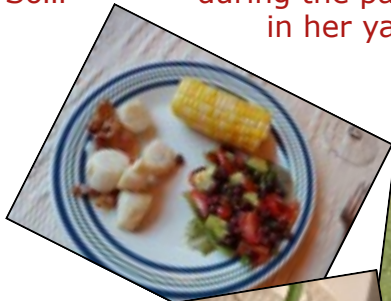
I really enjoyed Ginny and Denny's estate sale...my first opportunity to shop in months!



Carol's Pandemic Projects



So... during the pandemic, **Carol Madsen** has been focusing on food, bugs, and things growing in her yard. And, oh yes, working with the Rotary Club to help food pantries.





Al Struck's Garden Reflections on Hope



In this season of questioning, I want to share an insight I had as I worked in our garden; it's a powerful analogy for all of us. I hope the photos will also convey these thoughts.



The cold weather of April seemed a bleak time to plant. We waited for the snow to stop and the ground to have warmth; then we went to the Paris Farmers Union, bought our seeds, and I tilled the garden plot. The earth was dark and rich. We had a good idea of what we wanted where. We planted with hope. That's what we do. We hope the ground will be warm enough. We hope the seeds will be viable. We hoped there will be enough rain, enough sun. Although we have no control over these things, we still continue to hope.

Then the shoots sprouted, the leaves flourished, and the blossoms appeared. We are still hoping, but are now encouraged by what we see...by seeing that if we work the land and get on our knees and sweat, the plants do grow...the bees do come and pollinate...the fruit does appear.



And now, our hope is rewarded! We see the vegetables and beautiful flowers in our garden. If we did not hope, there would be nothing. We trusted that forces beyond our control would align to give us the bounty we now enjoy.

We must continue to hope in this time of uncertainty. We must hope for health for ourselves, our families and our friends. Hope is non-denominational. Hope is universal. Keep hope in your heart and the fruit you are hoping for will come. You need to work for it, but hope is the starting point.

Keep hoping!



👣 Challenges for the Waits 👣

What has kept the **John and Dodi** occupied this summer with no company visiting?? Maine Adaptive!! Each month they have provided challenges for volunteers and their participants to accomplish. During the month of July, John and I were busy completing over 30 tasks to complete a Scavenger Hunt Challenge. The pictures show us completing some of the tasks.



One Sunday morning we walked from our house down Mill Hill to South Waterford. We stopped in Werner Park (visit a new park), we viewed historical plaques that are in place in South Waterford (visit a museum), took pictures of the new dam and waterfall at Watson's Mill (visit a waterfall), and on our return walk up Mill Hill picked up an



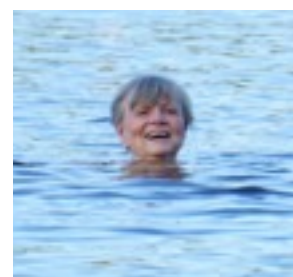
overstuffed plastic bag of trash (pick up litter). In a little over an hour we had accomplished 4 tasks, and really enjoyed ourselves, plus we were not even two miles from home.

PS: We accomplished all the tasks on the challenge except for one; and that was to view the full moon on July 5th. That was a totally cloudy evening. Shucks, I missed out on what could have possibly been a very romantic evening!



🚣 The Leslie's...Interesting Times 🏊

- Kay —**
- McWain Pond swimming/water aerobics
 - creating a church newsletter/taping piano music for the choir
 - books rediscovered - 1946 book *"Bright April"* by Marguerite de Angeli is considered the first children's book mentioning racism in America. Out of print now, there is a new edition coming out in November 2020. My mother read it to me when I was 6 or 7 years old. It made a tremendous impression and still does!
 - good movies - *"Fisherman's Friends"* is delightful!
 - working on lobster roll sale for Deertrees Theatre - next summer is their 85th anniversary!



- Peter —**
- Harrison Food Bank deliveries
 - helping friends and neighbors
 - grilling outdoors over a wood fire
 - working on boats
 - restoring a neglected tennis court
 - paddle boarding/kayaking/sailing

...And, hopefully, a family visit in August....

Ralph Sylvester's Birthday Parade(s)

August 1 started out as any other summer day for Ralph. But his mailbox was unusually full the days prior. Ralph was about to celebrate his 96th birthday.

Bruce showed up at Ralph's house in Auburn about 9:30 am, to assist Ralph with some yard work. While Bruce was trimming the shrubs, Ralph's neighbors Dave and Debbie came over to wish Ralph a Happy Birthday. About 10:15, as Ralph puts it, "...excuse the expression, but ALL HECK BROKE LOOSE".

Up the street marched a gentleman playing the bagpipes, followed by a Police car, lights a-blazing; the Auburn Fire Engine #3, with more lights; followed by "STORMY", the WCSH weather vehicle piloted by Steve Sherburne, the Chief Photographer for Channel 6. Steve jumped out of Stormy with TV cameras over his shoulders, filming everything.

Another 15 decorated cars passed by Ralph, all wishing him a Happy Birthday. A group of about 10 motorcyclists then appeared, each driver saluting as they passed by Ralph. Even the decorated Honor Flight Maine trailer was in Ralph's Auburn Parade. What a special surprise!



But wait there is more.....Bruce and Ralph then drove to Waterford to have a birthday meal prepared by Arlene and Bobbi. Ralph was eagerly awaiting this home cooked meal and a visit with Jared to talk about cars, new and old, about WWII, and about Honor Flight trips they both have been on. They compared Champlain College and Bates College, never at a loss for words. After a delicious meal, eyelids starting to get heavy, Jared invited Ralph to come outside to see his old car.



Little did Ralph know a second

parade, this time from his Waterford Family, was about to begin. Arlene escorted the parade into the dooryard, Ralph, once again smiling from ear to ear, listened to "Happy Birthday to You" sung by Dodi as she appeared through the roof of John's truck. Ralph waved and gave virtual hugs to ALL. When Arlene asked, "What's next?", Ralph shed a tear saying, "Nothing can top this. My Church Family is so kind to me!" After the second parade concluded and the birthday meal had settled, it was time for ice cream cake and yummy cup cakes!



August 1 had started as any other day, but ended in a truly special 96th birthday celebration for Ralph, who thanks you all for the birthday cards, the happy thoughts, and for taking part in his Birthday Parade(s)!



August

1 Ralph Sylvester
3 James Long
3 Diana Wright
9 Lauren Bedard
10 Meg Wheeler
19 Lydia Sylvester
21 Marion Brennan
23 Ellie Winslow
24 Denny Raymond
27 Caren Long
30 Ginia Brannan

September

27 Ginny Raymond
29 Bruce Whichard
29 Ted Nixon

October

1 Bill Colbath
2 Isaac Sylvester
4 Joseph Sylvester
5 Colleen Winslow
6 Chyanna Millett
7 Bobbi Whichard
10 Peter Leslie
12 Henry Plate
18 Bruce Bedard
24 Hanna Thibodeau



Virtual Hugs

God be with you 'til we meet again.
By His counsels guide, uphold you.
With his sheep securely fold you.
God be with you 'til we meet again.



CHURCH LEADERSHIP 2020



- Moderator: *Al Struck*
- Clerk: *Stephenie Michaud*
- Trustees: *John Wait, Kerry Johnson, Rich Maurer*
- Treasurers: *John & Dodi Wait*
- Assistant Treasurer: *Ralph MacKinnon*
- Stewardship: *Kerry Johnson*
- Deacons: *Myra Maltby, Ted Nixon, Pam Williams, Dianne Morse Leonard*
- Church School: *Myra Maltby*
- Missions: *Pam Williams (Global), Nancy Engdahl (Local)*
- Church Activities Committee: *Nancy Engdahl*