



## June 2025 Newsletter



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

### THOUGHTS FROM THE PULPIT...

Dear Friends in Faith,

I am writing this following an extraordinary day at our church. During our morning worship we received 9 new members into our faith family! And on Pentecost Sunday, commemorating the movement of the Holy Spirit transforming lives, it could not be more fitting. Our bulletin cover featured the word cloud from our Weaving the Future visioning with “community” bold and smack dab in the middle because it is truly what we are all about. Whether members, regular attendees, occasional visitors, or online friends, we at Waterford Congregational are a growing gathering of sojourners sharing in friendship and faith with one another. That could not have been more obvious in our gathering this Pentecost and we already know of others who are looking forward to joining us soon, as well.



This suggests to me an essential characteristic about Waterford Congregational that lies behind this movement. Is not that we all believe in the same way or share in the same understandings or that we even get the same thing out of our being together. As a matter of fact, I don't think it has to do with sameness as much as it does about our diversity that finds us

sharing in mutual respect and acceptance of who we each are – unique and wonderfully made.

And yet, within our differences there is woven something we share in common. It is the tangible essence of place. Not just any physical place, but one that grounds us and that holds us offering a steady support along our journeys as we seek to live fruitful and meaningful lives.

I simply cannot contain my joy when I consider the ministry we share at Waterford Congregational! I wait and watch with eager anticipation for where the Spirit leads us from here. The possibilities and potential are surely beyond our imagination. Let us then be open to amazement as we witness the transforming of our individual lives and participate in the Spirit's work in our church community drawing us out into the world with the message of life-changing love.

Pentecost blessings and deep gratitude,

*Doretta*

## LETTER FROM THE MODERATOR...

Dear Friends,

It has been a hard winter since our January Annual Meeting. Two of our congregation, Denny Raymond and Kerry Johnson, and a beloved community member, Martha Eaton, passed away. Each contributed to our intersecting communities in innumerable ways. They will be sorely missed.

Yet in the midst of these heartfelt losses the seasons continued to turn. The snow melted, the ice went out, the daffodils appeared, and...the birds returned with their full-throated voices celebrating spring and the renewal of life which had lain dormant under the snow. We had mourning doves nesting over our porch the past few weeks and we just saw the chicks fly off into the nearby trees.



Church activities and the Wilkins Community House activities kept folks busy this winter. We had monthly potlucks. There were game nights for middle school students, which really “caught on” in the spring when 20 kids showed up. Larry Griffin is the pied piper of Waterford! He also started using the WCH for grown-up game nights, two times. The first night was take no-prisoners “Corn Hole”. We had 5 games going at once. The second night was volleyball. There were 10 or 12 of us thrashing this slow motion ball, which led to a number of long exciting rallies. We all look forward to doing this again (as soon as we don't need ibuprofen as a side dish at every meal!) Trivia night was also very successful with the question developers showing no mercy! Climate Conversations continued with a discussion about a local Solar Farm and its benefits. In the same vein The 3<sup>rd</sup> Earth Day celebration took place with a really good turnout. This year included a food truck and a band!

Easter week was well organized by the Deacons, Doretta, and George. During Lenten season Doretta led groups that did readings going "deeper" into what Lent is and where it is leading. From the palms given out on Palm Sunday, the somber message on Maunday Thursday, an opportunity to do quiet personal reflection on Good Friday, and finally rejoice as the sun broke the horizon on Easter morning and we sang "Alleluia" with George on his pump organ. The breakfast the Deacons provided was delicious. George and Tabitha outdid themselves with a Ginormous French Toast lasagna. Speaking of food, we also had Pi Sunday and Souper Sunday with a variety breads made by Myra. We do enjoy breaking bread with each other don't we?

The choir has been in good voice, singing their way through winter into spring. There is a new grand piano to accompany them that was a gift from a friend of George's. A Steinway! There is a plan to revive Music Sunday this summer. Stay tuned (I couldn't help myself) for more information.

The Good Neighbor Fund and Oil Fund are used to assist folks in town. This is how we reach out to our friends and neighbors without fanfare. We are here for each other. If we can help people over a rough patch, we will. The Church Council is exploring other avenues of outreach for local needs and those farther afield and will share our ideas as they develop.

That, my friends, is what they call a "wrap" in the news business. I'm looking forward to seeing many more of you as you return "home" for the summer, to Waterford and our Little Church with the Big Heart.

Peace,

*Alan Struck*, Moderator

## TRUSTEES REPORT...

The trustees have developed a To Do list for 2025. Some of these are repair projects and some are future projects. We have done repairs in both buildings with more on our list which we will continue to address.

### **Wilkins Community House:**

- 1) We will be replacing the entrance door to the kitchen.
- 2) We plan to put Window Dressers on all the windows to reduce heating costs.

### **Church:**

- 1) Railings have been added to the stairs going up to the Pulpit.
- 2) The parking lot, the cracks will be filled and the parking lot will be sealed.

If there are any issues to address, please contact one of the trustees.

Regards, The Trustees - *John Wait, Larry Griffin, Ted Colburn*

## DEACONS' REPORT...

The Deacons would like to thank our minister, Doretta, for her tireless efforts these past few months, especially during Lent. Her spiritual leadership and words of wisdom on faith, hope, and love are so welcome and needed in today's world.

We also need to recognize the blessings that our Music Director and Organist, George, brings to us each Sunday with his gifted, skilled, and accomplished musical talents. The church's new Grand Piano is a great addition to our worship services. Thank you, George and Kay, for using your talents on the ivories.

At the Sunday service on June 8 we were pleased to welcome nine new members to our church family.



*L to R: Tabitha Day, Sharlah-Mae Day, Larry Griffin, Ray Kearns, Kerri Scooter, Sara Stockwell, Patty Tingley, and George Wiese.*

### LOOKING AHEAD:

Mark your calendars on June 22<sup>nd</sup>/ and July 6<sup>th</sup>/ (weather permitting) we are looking forward to the return of our outdoor services.

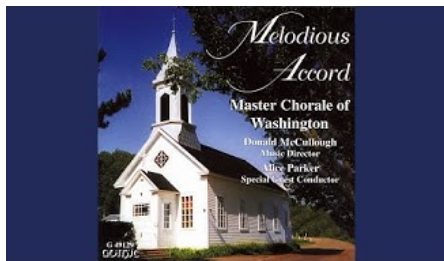
### STAY TUNED:

The Deacons are in conversation with the local food pantries as to how we can best be of service to them. We hope to have a plan in place by mid-July.

*Dodi Wait* for the Deacons:

Dianne Morse-Leonard, Kerri Sooter, Dodi Wait, and Myra Maltby

# MUSIC NOTES...



Greetings!

I'm delighted to bring back the tradition of "**Music Sunday**" at Waterford Church this summer. It'll be a little different this year...

A choir of 30+ voices will sing "**Melodious Accord - A Concert of Praise**," by well-known composer, Alice Parker, whose centenary we celebrate this year. The piece is accompanied by a brass quartet and a harp.

On **Sunday, August 3rd** the piece will be performed twice, once at 9:30am for the WCC church service, and a second time at 4:00pm as more of a concert.

We invite all interested singers to join our choir for this special performance...no audition! Rehearsals in Waterford will be on Monday evenings at 5:30 beginning June 23rd. Spread the word about August 3rd!

---George Wiese, Music Director



## Save the Dates

- Sun, June 22 Outdoor service at 9:30 am (weather permitting)
- Fri, July 4 Breakfast at Wilkins House 7:30 - 10 am  
Book Sale at Library 8 - noon  
Open House at Historical Society Museums 8 - noon  
Vendors on the Common 8 - noon  
Parade - starts at 10:30 am at the school  
PTO Duck Run - Kedar Brook Bridge
- Sun July 6 Outdoor service at 9:30 am (weather permitting)
- Fri, July 25 Concert by Sebago-Long Lake Music Festival in out church at 7:00 pm.
- Sun, August 3 **Music Sunday** (See above)

## WATERFORD BREAKFASTS

Wilkins House - 19 Plummer Hill Road  
 July 4 & July 16 July 30 & August 13  
 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

*Above: Eddie & Elliot Girzone are part of the set-up team.*

And...The **WATERFORD FARMERS MARKET** every Monday, June through August from 2 - 5pm on the Waterford Common. Rain or shine!



## WE REMEMBER



### *Dennison Baldwin Raymond...August 14, 1946 - February 8, 2025*



Thank you to all who gave in memory of Denny. He loved our Little Church with a Big Heart!

Having been married here in the Waterford Church in 1971, through the years, Ginny and Denny have always attended this church while visiting town. Moving here full time in 2005, Denny enjoyed singing tenor in the choir, reading scriptures for Sunday services and substitute playing the piano when needed. He was also very active in Wilkins House activities, as manager for several years, then assistant manager in the more recently. He is known as the pancake man for having cooked pancakes for 18 years at the Summer Breakfasts. Recently, friends hung a commemorative picture near the new Wilkins House stove to honor him.

Denny is pictured here with Maine Sheltie Rescue Mascot, Miss Kelly Barker, Rescue Halle (together on the cart landing); and with his most recent Shelties adopted from MSR (on the seat) Miss Mitzi Mae and Little Manny Boy. Over the years, Denny and Ginny have adopted 6 rescues from MSR and fostered 15 Shelties as well.



### *Kerry Adams Johnson...December 29, 1940 - March 16, 2025*



Born in Brooklyn, NY and raised in Wantagh, Long Island, NY Kerry earned degrees from Gettysburg College, Queens College NY, and Syracuse University. He worked and lived in Beirut, Lebanon; at the University of Maryland; in New York City; and Andover, MA.

In 1986 he met his future wife, Sally V. Holm, a producer at ABC News. They were married in this Waterford Church on May 6, 1989. After adopting their daughter, Wynne, the family moved to MA where Kerry became an international consultant. Upon retirement they moved to Waterford, where both Kerry and Sally became active members of our church and community. For health reasons they recently moved to Woburn, MA to be near their daughter and her family. We are fortunate to have known Kerry's energy, his kindness, his creative ideas, and his big smile!

Kerry is survived by his wife Sally, his daughter, Wynne; son-in-law Bobby Ghiozzi; grandson "Gabey"; brother Richard and wife Janet; sister Cynthia Rossini and husband Donald, and many beloved nieces and nephews.



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

### The Hammett's New Family Home...

Tom & Lisa spent a happy week in their "new" family home at 667 Waterford Road in March, and their daughter, Laura Margaret, came with her husband, Adam Kirk, and their infant son, Liam, for a week in late April. They enjoyed introducing Liam to Mt. Tirem and Lake Keoka for the first time (see photo), and Laura Margaret was pleased to be able to represent the family at the lovely memorial service for Kerry Johnson while they were there. Wilson officially receives her PhD in Public Health from UCLA on June 13, and ALL the Hammetts look forward to being back in Waterford for much of August and September this year. Tom will be fully retired from Virginia Tech as of the end of August, and he looks forward to singing with the church choir when we are in residence.



### Happy Anniversary to the Wrights!...

June 11th is our 65th anniversary! Pretty good for this ugly, old, Irishman and his lovely wife!



*Stan & Diana Wright*



## Spring at the Strucks...



*A gaggle of daffodils!*



*A sure sign of spring is preparing the ground.*



*Mourning dove chicks nesting on our roof.*

Al and Jean celebrated their 56th wedding anniversary on June 7! And they also celebrated the graduation of their grandson, Holden Struck on June 5! Congratulations all around! 🎉

## Ralph's MacKinnon's New Great-Granddaughter...



Katie's daughter, Eloise Jo McLean, was born Friday May 30th. 8lb 3oz and 21" long. Her Dad is well over 6 feet tall...better get a basketball for Eloise! That's Grandmother Nancy in the photo as well.



# An Amazing Italian Journey...

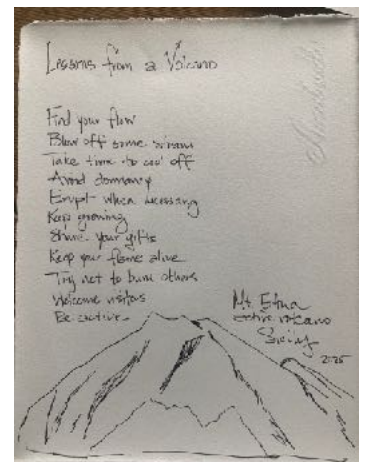
Kay Leslie was joined by daughter, Martha Long, sister, Marilyn Ehlers, and niece, Heather Leslie on a 2-week trip to Sicily and Southern Italy. It was active trip...very educational, both historically and culturally...spectacularly beautiful...and fun to travel as a family group. Here are a few photos:

*Below: First stop - Taormina, Sicily. This is the view from our hotel where we spent 4 nights and did day trips each day.*



*Above: Our wonderful tour guide, Daniela. A true Sicilian, she was well-versed in it's history and culture. She was also fun-loving and very caring...the perfect leader for our group.*

*Right: Our only cloudy day of the trip was on the active volcano, Mt. Etna. The small figure is Martha who was hiking a more strenuous trail than I. The poem she wrote about Mt. Etna is below. Luckily, the volcano did not erupt until about 2 weeks later when we were safely home! And it was dramatic, but mostly steam, not lava. No one was burned!*



**Lessons from a Volcano**  
*Find your flow... Blow off some steam... Take time to cool off... Avoid domancy... Erupt when necessary... Keep growing... Share your gifts... Keep your flame alive... Try not to burn others... Welcome visitors... Be active.*



*Above: View of Matera, Italy from a Paleolithic cave where humans lived as far back as the Paleolithic era. Our hotel in Matera was built inside several such caves.*



*Right: Front row- Martha and Kay. Back row- Marilyn and Heather at a roadside stop while driving along the Amalfi Coast. Lemons are a big thing in Italy and some of them are enormous!*

*Right: And there was dinner, music and dancing in Lecce!*



# Bob Ross in New Hampshire...

Here's my modest deck garden, way over here at Eastman in Grantham NH...

*Cheers, Bob*



## JUNE

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

## JULY

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

## AUGUST

3 James Long  
3 Diana Wright  
10 Meg Wheeler  
12 Ray Kearns  
16 Susan Leslie  
21 Marion  
Brennan  
27 Karen Long  
28 Ginia  
Brannan



# Church Council 2025



**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, Dodi Wait,  
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](http://wccucc.com/donate), or follow the QR code link (above) with your smartphone. To use the link, move your phonecamera over the QR code. When you see a border on the corners, it's ready to go.

Thank you!



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









