

From winter into spring...what's happened...what's to come...



# Waterford Congregational Church UCC

*Minister: Rev. Doretta Colburn*



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Sunday Worship & Church School at 9:30 am



Newsletter - March, April, May 2020



## THOUGHTS FROM THE PULPIT...

I spotted a small flock of birds fluttering about the shrubs on the side of our house the other day. I thought at first they were juncos, but at closer look I saw their rusty throats and blue backs – they were bluebirds! – six of them flitting from bush to fence avoiding the newly fallen snow on the ground. In search of food, no doubt, with an occasional perch on the tall dried blades of last summer's grasses to pick at what is left of the seed heads. I was surprised and delighted at the same time to see them there, a foretaste of Spring and warmer days.

Our yearnings might be similar these days. While the snow of winter offers its own beauty and enjoyment, the darker days can drudge on and on. It's just about now, that I wish I had planned for a mid-winter vacation to a place where daylight lasts a bit longer and the warmth of the sun can renew my body,



mind and spirit. Then, when back home again, the promise of Spring seems more tangible.

Yet, I am always reminded on a spiritual level of the importance of facing darker days; days when we look deep within ourselves in honest awareness, patience and love. It is in and through this time where we are able to find strength and renewal for the journey of life before us, where we can reunite with ourselves in a way that often gets pushed aside in the busyness of life and where we can grow in wisdom, faith and affirmation. If you meditate perhaps a good mantra these days could be – I am love and peace.



Traditionally, we journey through the season of Lent, in spiritual communion with Jesus' time in the wilderness – a time of deep contemplation and faith. It is a perfect moment, especially in New England, as we slowly emerge from the physically dark, cold days of winter to explore where we are in our spiritual journey, our personal relationship with God and how that matters in our lives. As we begin our journey within, may we know above all things that we are unconditionally loved by our Creator.

May that truth wash over us with a sense of personal acceptance and peace as we dig deep within our souls to strengthen our relationships with God, with others and with ourselves.

I think back to my grandparents' well that was just outside their kitchen door. I remember looking down into its darkness, the damp smell and cold air lifting up from its depths left a chill of curiosity with a bit of fear and yet, I can still taste the incredible crispness and clarity of the water unmatched by any I had ever known. How it nourished and quenched the thirst on a hot summer day!

That imagery always comes to mind when I consider the wonderful possibilities that emerge from the dark places of life. May we find ourselves nourished in body, mind and soul and our thirst satisfied by the living water of this remarkable life.

Blessings and peace along the journey, *Doretta*



*This year our **Lenten Booklet** is being distributed over the 7 weeks of Lent at our Sunday services as inserts in the bulletin. We want to thank all who made contributions to these reflections and hope that many of you will find them thought provoking as you journey through Lent. While there are not writings for each day of Lent, we invite you to take time for your own personal reflection. If you will be away during all or some of these Sundays, we can print up all the inserts for you.*

*We will also have three evenings of conversation around our Lenten theme of **Loving God's Earth**. The first is at John and Dodi Wait's on **March 1st at 7:00 p.m.** On **March 11<sup>th</sup>** we will meet at Nancy Engdahl's and on **March 25<sup>th</sup>** our gathering will be at Henry and Joy Plate's. Each of these gatherings will begin at 7:00 p.m. We hope you will join us for these conversations and reflections as we grow together as a faith community.*

## MODERATOR'S NOTES...

We are well into the new year and I can feel wonderful energy emanating from the congregation. This energy was reflected in our Annual Meeting where we had a great turnout and were feted to a super brunch. It was a time to celebrate the successes of our various committees in the betterment of church and community. It was also a time to thank all those who have volunteered their efforts in these endeavors.



I feel that we have taken in a deep breath and let it out as you do upon reaching the top of a hill, looking at a great view — Ahhh, beautiful. Then we turn to see new hills to climb and views to enjoy. But...first we should look at our map, to be sure we are headed where we want to go.

The Church Council will be doing just that by reviewing the Five-Year Plan we have embraced as a congregation — celebrating what we have accomplished, tweaking areas that need more attention,

and identifying things we have promised to address. We will ask for your input as we did with the initial plan. We are too small and involved a congregation to not do this together and we will be richer for the experience.

As we go through this process, other projects move apace. We want to make sure all our members feel the warmth of our church family. If you know of anyone that needs meals, a ride to an appointment, a trip to the dump, or a game of scrabble, please let the deacons know so they can scout out someone who can assist.

We are starting a new "Sharps on the Flat" concert season in March to bolster our Good Neighbor Fuel Fund.

We continue to embrace our community and world through our "Climate Conversations," learning how to live with, as well as in, our shared environment.

All these things are possible because we have imagined it and are making it real. We are the Little Church with the Big Heart and it is beating with more strength every day.

God Bless you all, *Al Struck*, Moderator



## NEWS FROM THE DEACONS...

Our new team of Deacons met on Feb. 11<sup>th</sup>. We spent time organizing our supplies and becoming comfortable with the monthly and Communion duties for the team. There is lots of positive energy with this group which includes: Ted Nixon, Dianne Morse Leonard, Myra Maltby, and Pam Williams.



We started planning our very busy and exciting Easter Season. Palm Sunday is April 5<sup>th</sup>. This year our church will be hosting the Seder Meal followed by our Maundy Thursday service, April 9<sup>th</sup>. April 12<sup>th</sup> there will be a Sunrise Service, Breakfast. and Church Service at 9:30. More information will be available soon.

Please contact any of us with wishes, needs or concerns so we can review them at our monthly meetings.

Shalom, *Pam Williams* – Chair



## MISSION MEMO...

What a beautiful winter morning as I write this report! However, it is very cold at -10 degrees. These are the mornings that people who have received a CWS (Church World Service) blanket are especially thankful for our generosity. We have done many wonderful projects to share our mission within our local community, the State Level Missions, and World Wide Projects. We met our goal of being a "5 for 5" church again this year as well as providing many Animals through Heifer International this past Christmas. A BIG "Thank You" to all who support the many opportunities to share in our Mission Projects.

We will meet on March 3 at Carol Madsen's home to consider the next **Heifer International** program, planned for late spring or early summer. We will send information as our plans come together. *PS It's not only heifers, it might be a baby alpaca...or bees...or pigs!*



In the month of March we will have the opportunity to participate in **One Great Hour of Sharing**, one of the "5 for 5" Special Mission Offerings. This project channels resource's for international programs in health, education, agricultural development, emergency relief, refugee ministries, and both international and domestic disaster response. Together we are changing lives!

Thank you all, *Pam Williams* - Chair



## MUSIC NOTES...

In January we bid farewell to our organist, Mary Huhn, who, together with her son, Lloyd, and daughter-in-law, Judy, added so much beautiful music to our Sunday services. And on the next Sunday we welcomed our new organist, George Wiese of Lovell, Maine, who has settled in well and is charming us with wonderful tunes on our Mason & Hamlin reed organ and on piano and trombone! Celebration of Black

History Month

through music on

February 23rd was just one of his ideas we have implemented to strengthen our music program here at W.C.C.



**George & Tabby play a trombone duet**

Our dedicated choir members are filling the sanctuary with beautiful music on a weekly basis. If you have any suggestions for pieces you might want us to sing, please let me know. Thanks, as always, to Kay Leslie for her dedication at the piano keys.

We are planning our first 2020 **Sharps on the Flat Concert** on Saturday, March 28th with harpist Elizabeth Roth and our own George Wiese. More

information will be coming through posters and event posting. We are working on at least two more *Sharps on the Flat* concerts this year... stay tuned!

Music is alive in our little church! Thank you all for your support.

Yours in song, *Jane Morse*



## CLIMATE CONVERSATIONS... Doretta Colburn and Kerry Johnson



Session 3: **Tues, Dec. 3: Stories from the Frontlines**

More than 50 participants engaged in a lively conversation with our three expert panelists: **Scott Vlaun**, Executive Director of the *Center for an Ecology-Based Economy*, **Deb Perkins**, Director, *First Light Wildlife Habitats*, and **Colin Holme**,

*Director of Lakes Environmental Association (LEA).* This program provided first-hand insight into the challenges we are facing and offered specific ideas about how we can make a difference by responding immediately. Scott focused his remarks on the challenges faced in local and global food production. As a wildlife biologist, Deb helps eco-minded people conserve nature in their own environment. LEA, under Colin's leadership, continues its efforts in the region in mobilizing people to respond through citizen science supporting LEA's network of professional scientists.



**Session 4: Tues, Jan. 7:  
Talking about the Climate Crisis**

How do we talk with each other about the climate crisis in ways that both inspire and lead to action? How do we influence others to act through honest, real, practical, and meaningful conversation? **Tyler Kidder** of *The Onion Foundation* and the *Maine Climate Table*, a partnership of over 200 individuals and organizations, led this important, interactive session. She provided tools and techniques that

speak from the heart and can make our communication count.

**Session 5: Tuesday, Feb. 4: Working with Organizations in Maine**

**Lisa Pohlmann**, CEO, *Natural Resources Council of Maine* spoke with the group about outreach, influence, and activism. She gave us a clear sense of what groups and organizations like hers are doing to actively address the climate crisis and protect our environment, and she also provided insights into what the State of Maine is doing and how we can influence that work as well. Her session was a lively invitation for us to directly impact decision-makers and thought leaders about our individual and collective responsibility to protect and preserve Earth.



**Session 6: Tues, March 3: Youth-Led Environmental Work**

Young people are deeply concerned about the health of the environment, the impact of the climate crisis and the inequity of who has historically had power and voice in the work. *Maine Environmental Changemakers* is a youth-led network that connects young Mainers passionate about the environment with peers and mentors working in the sector. They take on a wide array of environmental projects while developing leadership,

communication and other skills as they create a more inclusive and equitable environmental approach. Several young Changemakers will share their exciting projects with us and offer insights into how we can help and participate in their important work. **Hadley Couraud** of Changemakers will lead the session.

#### Session 7: **Tues, April 7: State of Birds - Decades of Change**

*Maine Audubon Society's* **Nick Lund** will help us understand how climate change impacts our bird populations—native and migrating— and how we can protect them.

#### Session 8: **Tues, May 5: The Transportation Climate Initiative (TCI)**

Join **Will Sedlack** of the *Maine Conservation Alliance* and a panel of experts in talking about Maine's transportation challenges and possible solutions to curbing emissions.

**\*\* STAY TUNED** for information on a late-April **Earth Day Fair**, including hands-on activities for children and adults like building bird and bat houses, tree planting, and other environment-related activities. \*\*

## CHURCH ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE REPORT...

Forty five people attended our **BYOB&S LUNCH** (bring your own bowl & spoon!) after the church service on Sunday, February 23. Usually happening on Super Bowl Sunday, it was delayed this year, but no less delicious and no less fun! Many thanks to the soup makers -



**Hot soup & fresh bread make for a warm gathering amid the February chill! Clara Hamlin agrees!**

Cathy Griffin. Arlin Bigelow, Joy Plate, Ginny Raymond, Jean Struck, and Nancy Engdahl - for a variety of tasty soups. Thanks, also, to our talented bread baker, Myra Maltby, for five different kinds of bread. We know it was a success since very little soup or bread was left!

Mark your calendars for the **3 Lenten Discussion Groups** coming up, each at 7 pm:

March 1 at the Wait home; March 11 at the Engdahl home; March 25 at the Plate home.



Other upcoming CAC events:

- March 15 - join us to celebrate **National Pi Day** (and Albert Einstein's birthday) with pie & ice cream following church.
- April 15 - a visit to the **Bethel Gem Museum** with lunch in Bethel to follow. We'll meet at the church at 9 am to carpool, leaving at 9:15. The tour with a docent will take 1 1/2 hours and will cost \$15.00. Financial assistance is available...contact Doretta.
- April 26 - after church we'll carpool for a visit to **Pilgrim Lodge's Open House** from 1 to 3pm. More information to follow.
- April 30 - we are planning a 6 pm **Lasagna Dinner and Movie**.



These events and dates are listed on the church calendar below. If you have questions, please contact me or someone from the committee.



For the CAC Committee, *Nancy Engdahl*

## WEBSITE UPDATE

Our new church website is in full swing. To access the site, you may Google *Waterford Maine Congregational Church* and click on WEBSITE. Or type in your URL [WCCUCC.com](http://WCCUCC.com) (not to be confused with [WCCUCC.org](http://WCCUCC.org) which is another church). The website has video links to recent Sunday Sermons, information from the Climate Change meetings and copies of our Newsletters. Although I'm a rookie webmaster, I hope you check it out, and find something you like.

Feedback is always appreciated, *Ginny Raymond*





# MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR GAIL NIXON

JANUARY 17, 2020



**Son-in-law, Nicholas White**



**Ted Nixon**

*Gail brought one of her favorite anthems to our choir. It was sung in her memory at this service by a choir of 28 singers.*

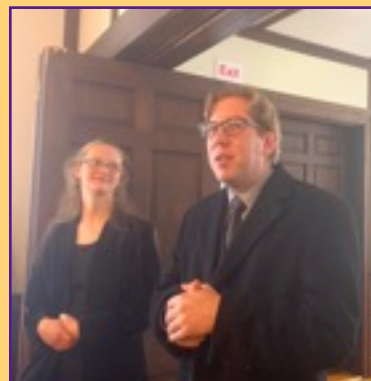
"HOMEWARD BOUND" by Katherine Jenkins

In the quiet misty morning  
When the moon has gone to bed  
When the sparrows stop their singing  
And the sky is clear and red  
When the summer ceased its gleaming  
When the corn is passed its prime  
When adventure's lost its meaning  
I'll be homeward bound in time

If you find it's me you're missing  
If you're hoping I return  
To your thoughts I'll soon be listening  
And in the road I'll stop and turn  
Then the wind will set me racing  
As my journey nears its end  
And the path I'll be retracing  
When I'm homeward bound again

Bind me not to the pasture  
Chain me not to the plow  
Set me free to find my calling  
And I'll return to you somehow

## Wilkins House Reception



*George Wiese & Tabitha Day speak of how Gail and Ted, their good friends, introduced George to our church as organist.*



## NEWS FROM THE PEWS



In January one of our church's annual summer friends, **Waltye Rasulala**, (*red jacket in photo at right*) was the soprano soloist as part of a special concert presented by the **North Carolina Chamber Music Institute** in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The various musical works were all written by Afro-American or Afro-French composers. The songs Waltye sang were: "Daybreak in Alabama" - Ricky Ian Gordon (b. 1956); "Night" - Florence Price (1887-1953); "Feet o' Jesus" - Florence Price; and "Dream Variations" - Margaret Bonds (1913-1972). Hopefully, we will hear at least one of those pieces in our church next summer!



**Cherie and Ed Range** sent in these photos from their recent lunch in New Port Richey, Florida with **Bobbi Whichard and Del and Irene Angers**. They report that they miss their Waterford friends (but maybe not the snow?) and look forward to seeing us in the spring.







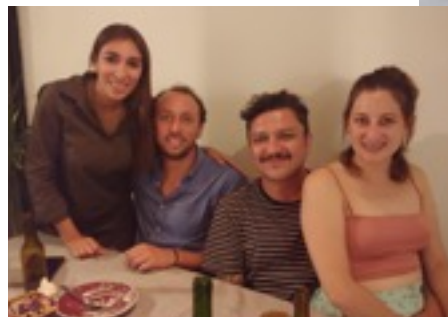
💖 **Joy and Henry Plate** had a very special Valentine's Day gift this year - the birth of their first great-granddaughter, **Genevieve (Evie) Cote**! Kelsey, Evie's mom, is the Plate's granddaughter. And...Jameson is the "Super Brother"!



Matt, Evie and Kelsey Cote



**Carol Madsen's** Adventures in Chile: Visited my sister and 3 of her kids and 3 of her grandkids in Santiago, Chile. (Probably my 15-20th visit over the past 44 years.) While there my sister and I took a 4-day trip to the south of Chile to the Patagonia region and viewed Cave of the Maledon, the prehistoric sloth, and the Torres del Paine, a big national park in the south. Beautiful... But even more important to me was time with family. Here are photos are of my sister, her daughter and grandkids and then her son and daughter and their partners. What a pleasure to spend time with family in the southern part of the world!





What fun **Denny and Ginny Raymond** had during School Vacation week with their granddaughter, **Emmi**



**Lynn**, visiting from Lunenburg, MA. Emmi loves playing with their three Shelties, pictured here, Angel Baby (adopted Oct 26), Little Miss Underfoot, and Skipper Boy. Her favorite game to play with them is Hide N Seek. She hides and they search her out. Emmi adores feeding them their breakfasts and suppers. She also likes to get them to do their tricks: sitting, circling, and fetching. They are imperfect performers, so that makes it interesting. The Shelties adore her, so it is quite a love fest!



## Calendar

**Sun. March 1 at 7:00 pm - Lenten Discussion** Location: the Wait home

**Tues. March 3 at 6:30 to 8:00 pm - Climate Change Panel Discussion**

Location: Wilkins House • Topic: Youth-Led Environmental Work • Leader: Hadley Courad

**Sun. March 8 - Daylight Saving Time begins**

**Wed. March 11 at 7:00 pm - Lenten Discussion** Location: the Engdahl home

**Sun. March 15 - following the church service - Pie (Pi) Day**

Location: Wilkins House

**Fri. March 20 - 7 to 9 pm - *Bach Birthday Bash 2020***

*with James Kennerley on the Kotschmar Organ*

Location: Merrill Auditorium, Portland • Tickets at [Porttix.org](http://Porttix.org)

*Celebrate what would be German composer and organist Johann Sebastian Bach's 335<sup>th</sup> birthday. Bach is known to many as the "high priest" of the pipe organ. Kennerley will perform some of the composer's masterpieces, as well as his own re-imagined versions of Bach favorites.*



**Wed. March 25 at 7:00 pm - Lenten Discussion** Location: the Plate home

**Sat. March 28 at 7:00 pm - Sharps on the Flat Concert**

**Elizabeth Roth - harpist & vocalist; George Wiese - accompanist**

Location: Waterford Church

**Tues. April 7 at 6:30 - Climate Change Discussion**

Location: Wilkins House • Topic: State of Birds: Decades of Change • Leader: Nick Lund

**Thurs. April 9 at 5:00 pm - Seder Dinner in the Wilkins House - Cost \$9 per person**  
**7:00 pm - Maundy Thursday Service in the Sanctuary**

**Sun. April 12 Easter Sunday**

Sunrise Service at Keoka Beach followed by  
Breakfast in the Wilkins House  
Easter Service at 9:30 am



**Wed. April 15 - trip to Bethel Gem Museum** followed by lunch in Bethel. 9 am: meet at church to carpool. 9:15 am depart. Cost for museum tour with docent: \$15.00.

**Sun. April 26 - Open House at Pilgrim Lodge.** Carpool after church to the lodge.

**Thurs. April 30 at 6:00 pm Lasagna Dinner and Movie** Details to follow.

**Tues. May 5 at 6:30 - Climate Change Discussion**

Location: Wilkins House • Topic: The Transportation Climate Initiative • Leader: Will Sedlock



**March**

1 Kelsey Morse Brockett  
2 Jared Whichard  
19 Ted Colburn  
22 Mary Huhn  
26 Wynne Johnson  
28 Happy Chapman

**April**

5 Rachel Thibodeau  
6 Karen Fillebrown  
10 Darylann Leonard  
11 Al Struck  
12 Dwight Smith  
14 Dodi Wait  
16 Scott Smyth  
17 Joanne MacKinnon  
19 Del Leonard  
20 Hannah Leonard  
24 Clara Hamlin  
25 Myra Maltby

**May**

2 Pam Williams  
2 Emmi Brannan  
8 Ella Brannan  
8 Lauren Hewson  
10 Sharon Harrison  
13 Saige Winslow  
17 Rebecca Sylvester  
25 Jane Kimball  
29 Kay Leslie  
31 Dot Gilrain



## CHURCH LEADERSHIP 2020



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



**As winter turns into spring, let's remember  
the old Irish blessing...**

*May the road rise up to meet you.  
May the wind be always at your back.  
May the sun shine warm upon your face,  
the rains fall soft upon your fields.  
And until we meet again,  
may God hold you in the palm of his hand.*

