



# Waterford Congregational Church, UCC

2018  
October/November  
Worship and Church School  
9:30 a.m.

## From the Pastor:



Beloved Friends, As it says in the Ecclesiastical passage: "*To everything there is a season*"...and the season has come for me to leave. I have loved my time with you, dear Waterford Congregational family and friends. This community is deep and rich, reaching beyond walls to offer God's compassion and love. It has been such an honor and privilege to be serving as your pastor for almost six years.

As many of you know my parents live in Germany and spending time with them has now become more important and precious. Additionally, our daughter Carolyn is expecting our first grandchild the end of January. Scott and I are overjoyed to be grandparents and look forward to spending time with the baby.

As my clergy ethics require, I will not return to participate in worship or on special occasions. I cannot return to baptize new babies or to officiate weddings or memorial services. However, I *will* continue to love you, and I will always hold you in my heart and keep you in my prayers. You have encouraged and supported me well. I will always be incredibly grateful to God for calling me to this church, and to each of you for the myriad ways you have enriched my life and deepened my faith.

I look forward to hearing about your various ministries and will keep you in my thoughts and prayers.

Let me leave you with a blessing that is one of my favorites:

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

With much gratitude, Rev. Petra Smyth



## FROM THE MODERATOR

Dear Friends,

We have just finished a wonderful summer of church activities and plans for the fall. Our committees are moving forward pursuing our vision of Spirituality, Music and Service. At our September Council meeting Petra submitted her verbal notice of leaving her call at our church. I am sure you can imagine the reaction of the Council. Of course, while coping with being stunned, we were understanding of the reasons Petra shared. However, we quickly got on board and began to grapple with the process of finding a replacement minister. I was asked to contact the UCC and find out the actual process. This I did. The Rev. Darren Morgan from the UCC is our contact. He led us in an informational meeting on September 23.

At that meeting he explained the two-step process we need to pursue. The first step is to engage an “Interim” minister. Rev. Morgan explained that there are not many pastors trained to help with this process of developing a profile to identify the kinds of skills we as a church are looking for in a new minister. To get that person on board we needed to complete a form. Both Myra and Kerry helped me complete it with the data supplied by various committee chairs. Once UCC receives it, Rev. Morgan will speak with available “Interim” ministers to see who might be interested in working with us. We hopefully will have this ready to go following Petra’s last Sunday with us on October 28th.

The Interim Minister will assist us in completing our church profile. This 42-page document will explain to prospective ministers just who we are, where we came from, where we are going, and what our vision is for getting there. As you can see, we have a set of tasks before us. I have no doubt that we are up to working through them, and in the process, keep our church strong.

This is a good point to stop, take a breath and remember where we started when Petra joined us and where we are now. Petra brought a new level of energy to our church. It took a lot of us some time to get up to speed, but once we did we were movin’! We began to look around and realized that it had been years since we had explored the mission of our church.

The visioning work we did and the conclusion we arrived at revitalized us and gave us energy to pursue our three areas of focus: Spirituality, Music and Service. Each of these areas has seen growth — be it in the work being done by folks in the service itself and with other churches, the concert series that has been started, and the mission work and collaboration with the town to reach out to others in our community. We are letting our light shine!



During Petra’s remaining weeks with us we will have opportunities to celebrate what we have accomplished with Petra as our spiritual leader. As we have grown, we have changed for the better. Part of the process mentioned above asks what kind of skills we will be looking for in our new minister. They will be different from the time when Petra was called to where we are now. Petra has grown and so have we.

So, my friends, like the good Yankees we are (transplants and native born), we will roll up our collective sleeves, give Petra a well-deserved bear hug as she prepares to move on and then turn our energies to keeping this “Little Church with the Big Heart” moving forward to God’s greater glory.

Peace,  
Al Struck  
Moderator



# CALENDAR

## OCTOBER

14th, Sunday, 10 a.m.

World Communion Sunday  
East Stoneham Church

14th, Sunday, 3 p.m.

Sharps on the Flat concert  
at the Wilkins House

20th, Saturday, 10 - 2 p.m.

Holiday Mission Fair & Lunch  
at the Wilkins House

31th, Wednesday, Time: TBD

Trunk or Treat  
on the Common

## NOVEMBER

4th, Sunday, 8:30-9 a.m.

Time-change Breakfast  
at the Wilkins House

13th, Tuesday, 7-8:30 p.m.

Writing Workshop for Lenten booklet  
at the Wilkins House

## BIRTHDAYS

### OCTOBER

1 Bill Colbath

3 Issac Sylvester

4 Joseph Sylvester

5 Collen Winslow

6 Chyanna Millett-Cordwell

7 Bobbi Whichard

10 Peter Leslie

12 Henry Plate

18 Gail Nixon

18 Bruce Bedard

24 Hanna Thibodeau

### NOVEMBER

6 Eli Ross

7 Jeff Winslow

11 Shelia Durgin

12 Agnes Lahti

14 Gabe Gabrielsen

15 Arlene Whichard

25 Brian Sylvester

26 Sally Hom

### The Back Pew - Jeff Larson

Well.. so much for the  
golden  
years.



and so at age 75, Abraham receives word from the 'boss' that retirement will be delayed. **Genesis 21-4**



HAPPY BIRTHDAY  
TED NIXON

Karen Fillebrown, photo

## Send a Guess to Baby Picture

[WaterfordCongregationalChurch@GMAIL.com](mailto:WaterfordCongregationalChurch@GMAIL.com)

Last Newsletter's Pixie:  
Jane Morse

Or give a note to Ginny

The answer will be in the December/January Newsletter  
along with the winner's name.

Winners:

Jean Struck  
&  
Kerry Johnson



He's a straight shooter!  
Who is he??!

Thar's a new  
sheriff in town!



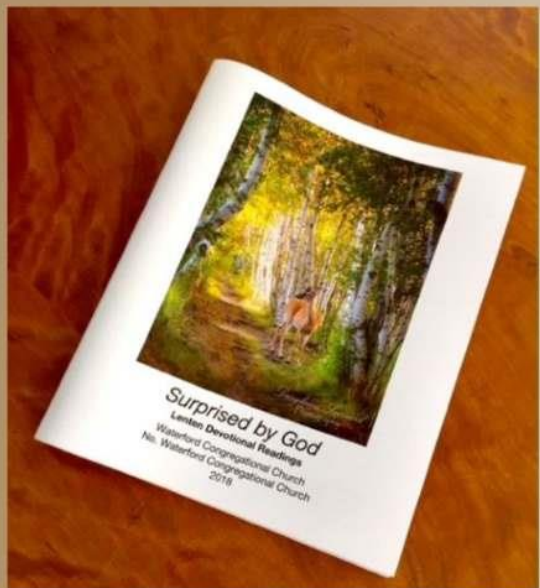


## Announcing the 2019 Lenten Reflection: *How Has God Challenged You?*

The Church Activities Committee has chosen the theme for the second edition of the Waterford Congregational Church's booklet of Lenten Reflections. We are asking everyone in our church family to share a story, a poem, an essay, a captioned photograph, or a work of art that reflects a personal experience of God challenging them.

To start your thinking, we suggest that you might ask yourself these questions:

*When have you felt that God is pushing you to do something risky, beyond your comfort zone? How did you respond? What was the outcome? When has life seemingly thrown something at you that you feel incapable of handling? How did you respond and what part did God play in your response? Have God's challenges made us fearful, or have they inspired or excited us?*



The WCC Lenten Reflections booklet from the 2018 lenten season.

God is the greatest mystery in our lives. We experience God's presence in every possible way: In joy and exhilaration, in longing and despair, in loss and grief, in beauty, and in anger. Just as we cannot predict the future, we cannot know how God operates or why events unfold as they do. When our faith is strong, we know that God will guide and teach us how to stay on the path to a Christian life.

When we ask God's guidance, we never know what the response might be, or how to interpret God's message to us. Through our faith, we trust that God's goodness and generosity are constants in our lives. When prayers are answered, we rejoice, our gratitude is boundless, our faith is affirmed. When it seems they are not, we may flounder in our discouragement. We may feel anger or grief, abandoned by our God. We may feel unworthy of God's love. Living in faith is an ongoing struggle with what it means to be a human creature of God's creation on a journey full of challenges though the ultimate mystery. Living in faith means learning to practice deep listening so that we might come closer to understanding God's presence in our lives. Sharing these experiences in our faith journey also deepens our connections to each other.

The mechanics of the process of producing the book follow a timeline ending just before Lent, which begins on Wednesday, March 6, 2019. We hope to have pieces for each day of the Lenten season. These reflections will form our daily devotionals for the 40-day period.

We encourage all contributors to include a pertinent scripture with their submission, though this is not a strict requirement. All submissions must run no longer than 350 words. Any that do may need to be edited down. Editing assistance can be provided, if necessary. And if you need some help with the actual writing, that can also be arranged.

To encourage your participation, Kerry and I again will be offering a basic writing workshop—on Tuesday, November 13 from 7 to 8:30 pm in the Wilkins House where you can share ideas, hopefully learn some helpful techniques, and perhaps even get a good start on your contribution.

In order for the Lenten Booklet to be delivered in time for Lent, your contribution **MUST be received by Monday, Feb. 1, 2019**. Please send your piece to [sallyvholm@gmail.com](mailto:sallyvholm@gmail.com).

We hope you will prayerfully consider this opportunity to share a reflection of your faith journey by contributing to the 2019 Lenten Booklet. Thank you. —Sally Holm



## From the Deacons:

Over the past years the Deacons were blessed to have Petra as our leader. So much of what we do is either inspired or led by the minister of the church. We wish Petra all the best in wherever her future journey takes her and may our thanks and prayers go with her as she leaves Waterford Church. She will be missed more than she knows.

The Deacons are already starting to plan for the upcoming Advent season as it is really not that far away.

Waterford Church has been invited to celebrate World communion on October 14th at the East Stoneham Church. Service is at 10:00 AM. Please join us in sharing with them.

If you know of anyone who might be in need of a little extra care, please remember to reach out to one of the Deacons and let us know.

--Myra Maltby



Stoneham Church



SERRV sales tables at the Wilkins House Summer Breakfast



## From the Mission Committee

We will be hosting a Holiday Mission Fair and Luncheon on Saturday October 20, 2018 from 10:00 to 2:00 in the Wilkins House. We will be selling SERRV Christmas items and other gifts from SERRV. See the flyer on the next page for more details.

October is *Neighbors in Need* month. The *Neighbor in Need* offering which we will receive the entire month of October supports the UCC's ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. Two-thirds of the offerings are used by the UCC's Justices and Witness Ministries to fund a wide array of local and national justice initiatives, advocacy efforts and direct service projects. *Neighbors in Need* also supports our American Indian neighbors in the UCC. One third of the offerings support the UCC's Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM). Today there are 20 UCC congregations on reservations and one urban, multi-tribal UCC congregation in Minnesota. *Neighbors in Need* help make a Just World for All possible. For this to occur, it needs your support. Envelopes will be on the back choir rail in the Church. On your checks please print *Neighbors in Need*.

In November the Mission Committee will be helping the CAC with Thanksgiving Baskets. Stay tuned for more information in the coming weeks.

Enjoy this beautiful Fall weather, Pam Williams

# Holiday Mission Fair & Luncheon

Sat. October 20th 10am ~ 2pm

@ Wilkins House, Plummer Hill Rd, Waterford

The Mission Committee of Waterford Congregational Church is pleased to be selling handcrafted products from around the world through SERRV\*, Soup and Sandwiches.

\*SERRV is a non profit, fair trade organization started in 1949. SERRV empowers small scale artisans and farmers to earn a fair living from their work, thus, breaking the cycle of poverty and building stronger communities, both here in the US and worldwide.



## Luncheon Menu:

Corn Chowder or Hearty Vegetable Soup	\$3
Egg Salad or Chicken Salad Sandwiches	\$4
Soup and 1/2 Sandwich Combo	\$5
Coffee	\$1
Hot Apple Cider	\$1



## From Stewardship



As we move into autumn we on the Stewardship committee, would like to remind you that we are also about to embark on this year's Stewardship campaign. By the end of October you will be receiving our request for pledges. As usual, we will be counting on your generosity.

This past year your participation was terrific. Your pledges and contributions allowed us to meet all our financial obligations. Not only did you participate financially, but you also gave of your talents and time to make this an extraordinary year of community and faith. Our church is strong and vibrant, and growing more so each year, thanks to you.

This year our Stewardship theme will be:

*Each new day is God's gift to you.  
What you do with it is your gift to God.*

With that theme in mind, we will be looking forward to sharing our gifts with each other in God's name.

More to follow.

Kerry Johnson and The Stewardship Committee

## News from The Church Activities Committee



A 2017 Thanksgiving Basket

We shall again be supporting the Halloween Trunk-or-Treating at the Common. If you would like to participate, information will be coming about the time to park your car on the Common. You will enjoy meeting all the little gremlins who will stop by your trunk for a treat. The committee will be meeting the day before to carve pumpkins to spell out WATERFORD.

The CAC will again be sponsoring the Annual Time-Change French Toast Breakfast on November 4th, serving juice, coffee, French toast, sausage and bacon. Cooks Myra and John will serve breakfast buffet-style from 8:30-9:00. Come and enjoy the extra hour with church friends.

If anyone knows of a family who might be in need of a Thanksgiving basket, or a senior who might be alone or would enjoy a basket, would you call me at 583-6677 or give me a note in church.

Nancy Engdahl, Chairman

## From the ONA (Open and Affirming) committee

The ONA committee has been meeting for the past couple of months to explore the possibility of the Waterford Church to become Open and Affirming. The following is a piece of literature that has been taken from the "Open and Affirming Coalition" for the United Church of Christ.



### "All Are Welcome" Isn't Enough

Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people of faith often experience emotional and spiritual injury in churches that condemn their capacity to love and seek love. Because they've learned that "All Are Welcome" usually doesn't apply to them, they can't assume that any church will be safe for them and their families.

A public welcome by an Open and Affirming (ONA) church sends a clear message to LGBT seekers that they have a home in the United Church of Christ.

A congregation's affirmation and support through an ONA covenant can be a life-changing and life-saving experience – especially for LGBT youth.

A public welcome to LGBT seekers helps churches grow. When new ONA churches attract new members, many of them are young straight couples starting new families: they identify with the values ONA represents and want their children to learn the faith in a welcoming church.

By adopting an ONA covenant, a congregation is taking seriously St. Paul's admonition to "accept one another, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God." (Romans 15:7, NIV)

--Myra Maltby

## Wilkins Community House



Thank you for your continued support of our Wilkins Community House by attending our events. Since the summer breakfasts concluded, we've had senior lunches, the third Tuesday of each month, by Jasmine Merrill and assisted in the kitchen by Betty Becker and Myra Maltby, among others. They have been popular and well attended.

We are about to start the potluck suppers. The first one will be Thursday, October 18, at 6 PM. They will be the 3rd Thursday of each month, except for December. Our first hosts will be Nancy Engdahl, and Ginny and Denny Raymond. They are a great way to see local friends and meet new ones. Please bring a dish/salad or dessert to share. Drinks are provided. We look forward to seeing you all at them.

Nancy will be bringing a sign-up sheet at the first supper as well, so you may sign up to host some month that is convenient for you. Instructions to hosting are available. Just ask!

The Wilkins House is a wonderful venue for birthday parties, anniversaries and any other special occasions. Please contact Nancy Eaton at 747-8572 to schedule your event.

Thank you – Denny Raymond





## Basement Sale: GONE!!

After 15 years it was decided to put an end to the summer indoor yard sales. Where did all the stuff go you ask?

- Some things went to a special needs adult whose house burned down and who needed items for his apartment.
- Others went to the progress center where they sew items for the cancer resource center. Craft supplies that also went to them.
- Items went to several thrift shops.
- Other things went to people-in-need of dishes and other household items.
- Bless the person from Pawsabilities who took the remaining things to sell, helping the beloved rescue dogs and cats who are waiting to be adopted.

A special thank you goes to Kelly Wells Grenier who helped me start the sales up in the basement, to the late Mac Bean who made it possible to get down there by building the steps and to the late Lois Grigg who became my right-hand person. Thank you also to Mary Colbath, Joy Plate, Dell Foss, Ralph MacKinnon, John Wait, Rich Maurer, Greg Tingley, Clara Hamlin, Sue Van Dehey and Patty Tingley for helping me purge and take stuff to the waste station. If I have forgotten anyone, I'm truly sorry. Without your help I would have given up this project years ago.

Thank you for supporting these sales, Karen Fillebrown



Postcard of Waterford  
1925



# Music News

Choir will take a break on both October 7 and 14.

Choir has been singing some new pieces over the summer and fall. This will continue into the winter, as I have been adding new music to our library. It has been fun to learn new music!

October 14th at 3:00 we will hold our second concert in the Sharps on the Flat series. Hope to see you all there! We have a third concert planned for December.

If anyone wants to share special music during a Sunday worship service, please contact me.

Our music mission continues! We hope you all enjoy our commitment of bringing more music to our community.

-- Jane Morse



Waltye Rasulala  
Ginny Raymond, photo  
August 12



Ginny Halligan on flute.

Happy Chapman, Sally Holm  
and Kerry Johnson  
enjoying the moment.

Arlene Whitchard, photos  
September 16



Ginny Halligan with Jane Morse and the chorus  
Nancy Engdahl, photo

## Petra on Mount Tire'm - September 23rd



Karen Fillebrown, photos



# Sharps on the Flat

## # Concert

*The Woodwind Quintet plays mostly "classical" in style, with pieces by Gounod, Faure, Elgar, Bach, Mozart, as well as Greensleeves, and "Happy Together" by "The Turtles."*



# Sunday, October 14  
3 p.m.

Waterford  
Congregational Church  
15 Plummer Hill Road  
Waterford Flat

*Donations will be kindly accepted. Proceeds will go to the Sweden Food Pantry for which the Waterford Congregational Church supports. There will be a short intermission.*

*A division of the MMS Chorale,  
the 18 voices of the Maine Music Society Chamber Singers delight in singing a cappella.*







### **SOUND TRAVELS OVER THE WATER**

As a child growing up, my parents always told me, “sound travels over the water”. THAT IS TRUE! One late August night, about 8:00 p.m., we heard a new sound resonating out on Lake McWain. It was not the cry of a loon, it was not the hum of a motorboat, it was not the laughter of campers enjoying a fire at the lake; but it was a brass horn trumpeting out TAPS, traveling across the lake, echoing off the mountains. By the time we made it down to the lake’s edge to investigate where this beautiful and tranquil rendition of TAPS was coming from, the final notes had played. This left our investigation on going.

We talked to our neighbors, who also heard TAPS the night before. We talked with fishermen who were out on the lake, who were also thrilled to hear TAPS. Word traveled quickly around Lake McWain, neighbors talking to neighbors, everyone enjoying the mysterious playing of TAPS. How honoring to our great Veterans, how beautiful the sound rolling down the lake, bouncing off the trees, echoing through the mountains.

But what was the source of this mystical and reverent playing of TAPS? We all now came to lake’s edge slightly before 8:00pm, to stand at attention, to remove our hats, to salute, and to remember our Veterans, and loved ones who are not with us anymore, as TAPS serenaded Lake McWain.

Our investigation finally came to a close, when we discovered that Tom Lentz, Stephanie Michaud’s son, Pam Williams’ grandson, who is also a veteran of the Marines, was the source of Lake McWain’s enjoyment of TAPS.

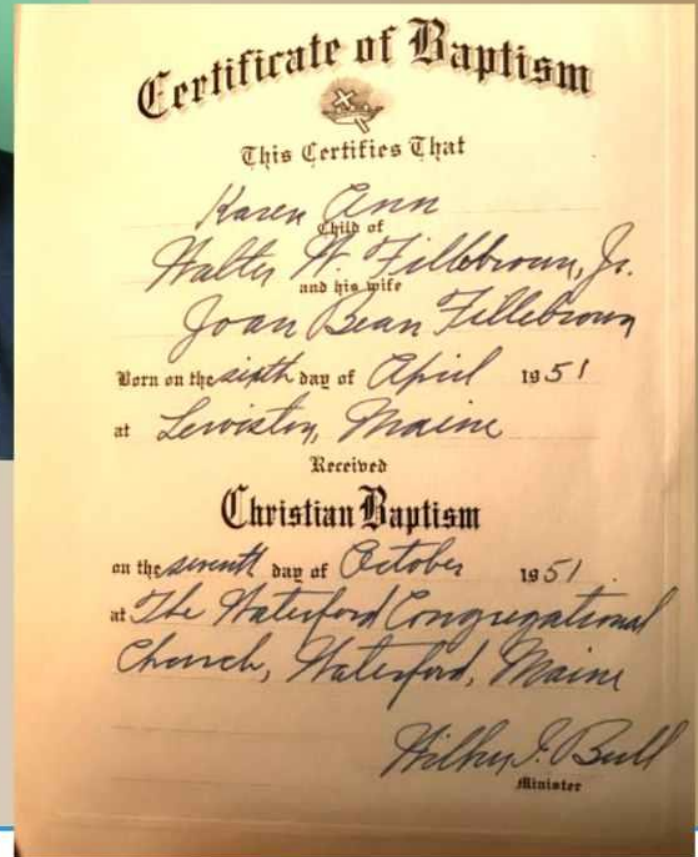
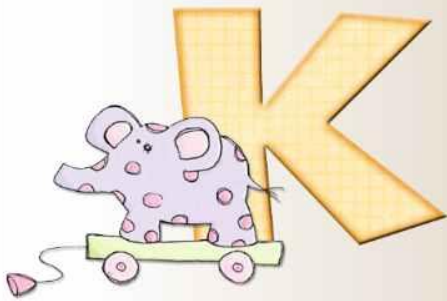
Tom was playing his trumpet, not only because his grandfather Lloyd had asked him to play that particular song, but Tom was honoring his friends and fellow Marines. Little did Tom realize, the positive effect his lone respectful trumpeting had on the hearts, minds and souls of so many individuals who were fortunate enough to hear him play; nor did Tom realize how the “audience” grew nightly, around the shores of Lake McWain, as folks eagerly awaited Tom’s solemn tribute.

Yes, Dad, sound does travel over the water!

WE ALL THANK YOU, TOM -- Bruce Whichard



# CHURCH HISTORY



My father gave me an envelope some years ago and just recently I looked in it again and to my delight saw my baptism card was in there.

Imagine 67 years ago on Oct 7, 1951 I was Baptized in the Waterford Congregational Church by Rev, Wilbur Bull.

--Karen Fillebrown







## News from the Pews

Denny and I went to Fort Worth to visit our "other" grandchildren, Olivia and Owen.  
Here are a few pictures which also include our son and his wife, Will & Susan. --Ginny Raymond

