

Waterford Congregational Church UCC

Minister: Rev. Doretta Colburn

15 Plummer Hill Road, P.O. Box 59, Waterford, Maine 04088

Email: waterfordcongregationalchurch@gmail.com

Facebook: Waterford Congregational church UCC

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



Newsletter - October 2024



THOUGHTS FROM THE PULPIT...

Dear Friends,

On this threshold of autumn with promising color about to burst forth, I take a moment before I step forward to embrace it and give thanks for the generosity of summer days. It was a rich time, as I glance back over my shoulder, marked by family visits, vacations, and a retreat of which I am exceedingly grateful. Ted and I treasure the time we spent visiting our family in England and that they more recently were able to return to Maine for a few weeks along the coast. What a joy to have the opportunity to become more fully acquainted with our newest grandson, Troy! In August we took a wonderful trip to Alaska filled with fantastic wanderings and explorations that will remain with us in our memories. Following, I took a joyful adventure to Chesuncook Village in the North Woods of Maine, miles north of Greenville along a dirt road. It was there I lead the Sunday service in the Chesuncook Village Church with George at the organ, a faithful gathering of folks, and a sweet little dog. It was a delight to stay in the parsonage, a well-kept cabin beside the church and be relatively off the grid for a few days of contemplation and renewal.



These times and more with family and friends made for a special summer and reinforced how grateful we are to live in Waterford, that some of our family joined us here a few years ago, that I have the joy of being the pastor of Waterford Congregational Church, UCC, and that both Ted and I are continually enriched by our involvement with the church and the community.

We feel so blessed and yet, it is not without the awareness of change that touches our lives in different ways. That change sometimes means loss. We've seen dear friends move away, loved one's pass on, and we prepare for the seasonal changes that draw others whom we treasure away for the winter months. It is in such moments that the blessings we share and the support we offer one another lift us and remind us of the love that has brought us together and the significance of our diligence in keeping the doors wide open throughout these times as a continual invitation and a welcome back. We are more than church, we are a vibrant and beloved community striving to do our best and be our best.

I invite you to join me in deep gratitude and excited anticipation as we build upon our faith and the role we play in spreading love and kindness, justice and peace throughout our communities and beyond.

With a grateful heart, *Doretta*

"All shall be well, all shall be well...for there is a Force of Love moving through the universe that holds us fast and will never let us go." - Julian of Norwich

LETTER FROM THE MODERATOR...

Good Afternoon Everyone,

Ahhh...I believe God made these special days just for Mainers to enjoy with our friends and family. The sky is a Robin's egg blue, but if you know your sky colors it is different from a summer blue. There is just a hair paler, maybe a very thin cloud cover, to differentiate it from other seasons. Against it is the beginning of the change in the trees. Some of the trees this year are going quickly. Their rust colored leaves clogging the brook. Boy, they all disappeared in the rain yesterday. The yellows are eye-wateringly bright, seeming to have their own inner light, which I enjoy walking under as though in a hall of illuminated leaves. We are planting Daffodils to surprise us next spring. And crocus to add a bit of color at that time. Lots of things have said goodnight and good bye for the year. We look forward to their return next season. I don't know about your veggie garden but ours was kind of wonky. The zucchini were close to non-existent. Cukes were wonderful and the Tomatoes were out of sight. Beans were grade C , the

kale a B as was the swiss chard. And then, it seemed to end rather abruptly. Now that plot is put to bed with six loads of manure nicely turned in.



As I turn my gaze to the church steeple, which I glimpse of from our yard, I think of the wonderful fellowship we have enjoyed this summer: folks from away rejoining us and melding in as if they have never left; events around town, like the Fourth of July Parade, where you

see everyone again; and the Wilkins Community House breakfasts which were well attended.

The fall holds some facelifting for the WCH. A new stove will grace the kitchen; the old Steven King horror monster will no longer be looking for unsuspecting human sacrifices. Then we'll begin on the new stairs to the main entrance and to the kitchen. The WIFI project to put the church and WCH on line will be done this fall. This will give us a strong signal for Sunday service sharing and will allow us to have internet access at the WCH for talks and community use.



The Council has been discussing changes in our operation during meetings. We are trying "Martha's Rules" which has changed our agenda to be more streamlined and hopefully more efficient. The other discussion has to do with the number of and participation in committees we support on the Council. There is a great graphic that Larry Griffin has developed to very clearly explain how it works and how it actually multiplies the availability of Council members. More on that next time.

The Deacons and CAC are planning services heading into the winter season and how to get folks out and away from their TVs and computers. Jean and I will be hosting the next Trivia night which should be a lot of fun, again!

That pretty much sums up the summer and the beginning of this busy fall season. I pray for those who are leaving us to continue their journey elsewhere; those who will be staying and living with us as we head into winter; and those who are taking a respite but will be back again next year.

Peace to you all, *Al*

Congratulations to Doretta! On September 25th she celebrated the 30th anniversary of her ordination!

TRUSTEES REPORT...

This past summer the septic tanks in both buildings have been pumped. The service for the furnaces in both buildings is scheduled for the middle of October.

(Ginny Raymond's report and photos of the moving and selling of the Wilkins House stove is below...)

We reported in the May Newsletter that we had two projects that we are working on in the Wilkins House. The first one was a grant to have three heat pumps installed in the Wilkins House, unfortunately we did not get the Grant.

The second project in the Wikins House is the replacement of the entrance steps. This project is scheduled to be completed this fall.

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

Regards from the Trustees, *John Wait, Larry Griffin, Ted Colburn*

Moving the "Behemoth" Stove from the Wilkins House kitchen...Ginny Raymond



Last July, the Friends of the Wilkins House decided to get rid of the stove and purchase a replacement. Our family had been very successful in selling items on FaceBook Marketplace. So...it was decided to



sell the stove that way. We needed the stove for the 4 summer breakfasts, so were in no rush to have it removed. The group that worked on this project were John Wait, Tony Butterall, Denny and me.

There were several interested parties. We even had an interested buyer come look at it and pass it by. She wanted an auto start which is not possible with this old fellow. Two other interested buyers could not muster the manpower to move it. The alternative was having a junk man come get it. We were about to give up in our September meeting, but I did have two more interested parties, so I contacted them. Within 24 hours, we had a solid offer and a down payment. The rest is history.

DEACONS' REPORT...

It has been a very quiet summer, any Sundays that we tried to schedule an outdoor service, the weather was not cooperating.

We were able to fill the pulpit with supply pastors when Doretta was away. And one more Sunday, October 20th, our former pastor, Petra Smyth, will return to help us. Hope you will all be able to welcome her on that Sunday.

Thank you to all the "summer people" that helped contribute to our snacks and flowers over the summer.

There was a "Goodbye Coffee Hour" for Kerry Johnson and Sally Holm, as they will be moving to Massachusetts within a few weeks. A special serving plate, decorated by Sharon Harrison with a painting of our church, was presented to them for all the work they have done for our church during their years in Waterford. They will be missed.

We are now working on services for Advent and Christmas. We, again, will be having 2 services on Christmas Eve...5:30 PM and 11:00 PM.

If anyone is interested in becoming a member or associate member of the Waterford Congregation Church, please contact Doretta or one of the deacons.

Myra Maltby on the behalf of the deacons: Dianne Morse-Leonard, Dodi Wait, Myra Maltby

THE CHURCH ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE...

The CAC will meet on October 3 to start planning social activities for the year. Committee members are Myra Maltby, Doss Hasson, Denny Raymond, and Nancy Engdahl. If you have any ideas for events you would like to see happen, contact any one of us so that we can bring new ideas to the meeting.



Stay tuned for more information about the French Toast Time Change Breakfast on November 3 and the next Trivia Night to be hosted by Jean and Al Struck.

Nancy Engdahl



A SUNDAY VISITOR...



Silhouetted against the clear blue sky, this Great Blue Heron perched on the roof of the Wilkins House during the prayer moments of our September 22 Sunday service.



MUSIC NOTES...

The Sebago-Long Lake Music Festival wrapped up its western Maine Community Concerts with SLLMF artists playing Beethoven, Beethoven, Bialen and Villa-Lobos in a special *Sharps on the Flat* concert at the Waterford Congregational Church. Performers were Susan Rotholz on flute and Eliot Bailen on cello. The couple play each summer at the Festival, usually for two weeks, and have generally stayed right here in Waterford. The performance was enjoyed by all. Thank you to everyone who attended and showed their appreciation. The Festival performs five Tuesdays each summer at 7:30 pm at Deertrees Theatre in Harrison. Free to the public are Open Rehearsals on Mondays 10AM-1PM. For more information, go to <https://sebagomusicfestival.org/>.

Another musical highlight was the return of "Mainely Clarinets" to play for two September Sunday morning services. The ensemble includes our very own Al Struck.

And many thanks to Denny Raymond for playing the piano for those two Sunday services.





News from the Pews

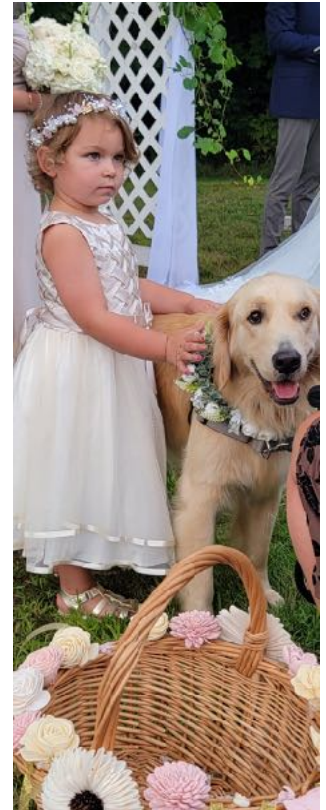


We hope you enjoy receiving these newsletters. If you know someone who would like to be added to our newsletter list; or if you would like your name added to our birthday list; or should you choose to unsubscribe...please email ksleslie@me.com.

A Beautiful August Wedding...



Hannah Leonard, daughter of Darylann and Keith Leonard and granddaughter of Nancy Engdahl, and Brandon Goud were joined in matrimony at King's Hill in South Paris on August 17th. The flower girl was Nancy's 3-year-old granddaughter and the flower dog was Winnie, pet of the bride and groom. The couple lives in Wiscasset in the home Brandon and his father built. Hannah is currently



teaching first grade in the Bristol Elementary School.

Gathering at the Plate Farm...

Joy reports that many in her large family will gather at the farm in early October. It's bound to be a very active and festive time with children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren! Photos to follow in the next newsletter.



Greetings from Kay Lyman...

I have had a fine summer with my son, Jon, here for more than two months from Oregon with his two small dogs.

The Sweden Church was thrilled to have Doretta preach for her fifth and last summer. George has enchanted us, playing our organ and choosing wonderful hymns. I'll be back at Church in Waterford by mid-October.



Al Reflects on The Angels of Stephen's Memorial...

I have been in the presence of Angels! Last Sunday afternoon I started experiencing pain in my side. My seventy-five-year-old body took an Ibuprofen and moved on. By early Monday morning we knew this was beyond aches from pulling weeds. We hit the ER at 5 am, where I entered the realm of Angels.

The big doors whooshed open and, as I entered, an envelope of calm surrounded me. Hands lightly guided me and made me comfortable. They asked questions only when information was needed. We could see each other's faces, the practiced movements, looks of concern but not panic. I can't imagine what it was like during COVID when no faces could be seen and all were robed in disposable plastic.

Labs, vital monitors and a C scan led to one conclusion. Though it was the end of this surgeon's day, he came to see me. He knew I was anxious to know, though we had never met, and he knew that his words would help,



though we had never spoken to each other. Angels know these things. Appendicitis. One cure, removal, ASAP. Then the pain killer, the soft landing in the land of nod.

That afternoon I was moved to my own room. They knew this would be best to prevent confusion following the

procedure. Dr O would do the operation. RN's Brendon, Kim, Pam, Melissa were part of the first line all week. CNA's Sarah, Alex, Kelly...a list too long to remember, but each so solicitous, so real. Practiced in reading the situation, they knew when to joke, knew when no jokes would be appropriate. Always the gentle touch with eye contact that says, "I care. You are all that counts for me at this moment."

The surgery was quick as far as I was concerned. I was in stasis; my clock was on hold. With Muzak was playing, I waited for the next available Service Rep. Then I was back in the room, my room, a familiar place, oh...I see. Not happenstance...planned. The Angels know.

Procedures were done quickly, but without haste. Educated eyes took in the data and recorded it. Always the question and the touch, "How are you, how do you feel?" And the wait for your answer, because it's important; they really wanted to know. Monday through Thursday the level of care got better, if you can believe it. As they got to know me and what the Doctor required, it folded neatly into their actions, and I got better, quickly.

On the last day it rained, but everyone had a smile for me. I was going home! They had done their jobs. I was better and could continue what they had started. The doors whooshed behind me. I could feel their smiles and see their waves until the doors closed. I was going home, better because I had met the Angels of Stephens Memorial Hospital.

Halle's Story...from the Raymonds...



On June 21st, little 10 lb. (undersized for a Sheltie) Halle came into Maine Sheltie Rescue (MSR) with three other Shelties from an Amish farm in Missouri. The other Shelties went to other foster homes and Halle came to Denny and me. As with any puppy-mill female dogs, there is always a possibility of pregnancy. So, on the following Tuesday Denny and I had her vetted, and we were told she had two puppies that would make an appearance within the next two weeks. And, sure enough, on June 30, she delivered 2 sweet Sheltie girls.

As it turned out Denny and I were out that evening, and when we got home, Halle looked up at us as if to say, "Look what I did!" She had given birth all on her own to two precious puppies that MSR named Dixie and Piper. Our daughter, Ginia, suggested we turn our guest room into a puppy room, remove the bed, and let Halle take over with her two little girls. We covered the floor, made a potty spot for the pups, and hauled in our large kennel.

Yup, Mama and puppies took over our lives. Mama Halle had no vocabulary when she arrived, so along with her puppy duties, we needed to teach her to at least recognize her name and to come, stay and sit. As for the puppies, they started out as mouse-sized, quickly became guinea pig-sized, and now are almost as big as their mama. Piper (now Ripple) has been adopted to a young lady in northern Maine who works for a veterinary and is into dog training. Dixie (now Izzy) is being adopted on September 29th and will live with a young couple who also volunteer with MSR in Portland, so we hope to see her often. We are now looking for a good new-home match for Halle. We expect her to be placed in early October.

We will now take a well-deserved fostering-break; however, another foster Sheltie will come our way. We have fostered 20 Shelties since 2015, including Halle and her pups. It is hard to let them go, but very satisfying to see these beautiful dogs go to wonderful homes.





OCTOBER

- 1 Bill Colbath

- 4 Lisa Hammett

- 6 Chyanna Millett-Cordwell

- 7 Bobbi Whichard

NOVEMBER

- 8 Doretta Colburn

- 11 Shelia Durgin

- 14 Ed Gabrielsen

- 15 Arlene Whichard

- 25 Brian Sylvester

- 26 Sally Holm

DECEMBER

- 1 Eva Brannan

- 10 Kay Lyman

- 21 Carol Madsen

- 29 Kerry Johnson

Church Council

2024



Moderator: *Al Struck*

Clerk: *Larry Griffin*

Trustees: *Ted Colburn, Larry Griffin, John Wait*

Treasurers: *John & Dodi Wait*

Assistant Treasurer: *Ralph MacKinnon*

Stewardship: *John & Dodi Wait, George Wiese*

Deacons: *Myra Maltby, Dianne Morse-Leonard, Dodi Wait*

Music Director: *George Wiese*

Church School: *Myra Maltby*

Missions: *Nancy Engdahl*

Church Activities Committee: *Nancy Engdahl, Doss Hasson, Myra Maltby, Denny Raymond*

Communications: *Al Struck & George Wiese*

Webmaster: *Ginny Raymond*

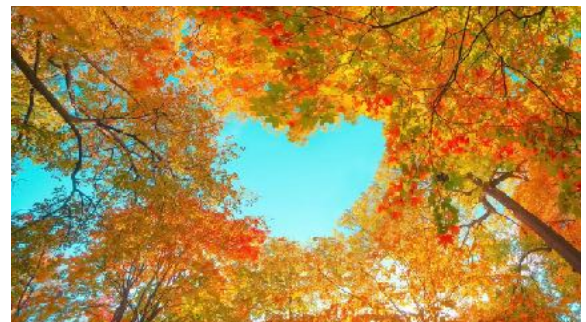
Church Historian: *Dianne Morse-Leonard*



Live Streaming Coordinator: *Tabitha Day*



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Thank you!



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