

Spring...into Summer! There is much to celebrate!



Waterford Congregational Church UCC

Minister: Rev. Doretta Colburn

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**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 - May 2021



THOUGHTS FROM THE PULPIT...

Dear Church Family and Friends,

When I last wrote for our church newsletter we could see the end of winter around the corner. Today, we stand on the edge of summer, though the temperatures recently would suggest not. Still, it is a marvel here in New England where we witness the changing seasons and all that they bring. Even the black flies that have officially arrived, mark a seasonal change. It is that rhythm that is so fulfilling to me; satisfying in the deepest sense for there is always something to look forward to.

While we have experienced an entire year and more of being apart from worshipping together as we had for as long as we can remember, it has been a season of growth in many ways. We have learned how to remain connected in different, yet meaningful ways. Our sense of what is truly important in our lives has become fine tuned to the relationships that fulfill us. We have taken more time to care for matters that make a positive difference and examined more closely our personal relationship of faith and hope. Yes, it has without a doubt been a year unlike any other and one we do not want to repeat, but we cannot deny the positive experiences of growth that have also come in the midst of it all. Perhaps the most powerful lesson that has arisen from the struggles, the heartache, and the fear is that while we have been a part we have never been alone.

Today, we look with hope to the future for we are a vibrant church filled with energy and spirit. We eagerly wait our worshipping together again when the time is right and we can



all feel safe. We celebrate our strength as a community that has held fast through tough times and remains committed to service however and whenever we can. We look ahead with purpose as we work to change the injustices we see in our world through our actions and our words. We strive to do our part in building a healthier and sustainable planet for future generations. We look toward the coming months and years knowing that we have the capacity to make a mark of faithful service on our community and leave a legacy of meaningful service.

As we wait, I invite you to dream with me. Imagine what you see our church becoming and doing in the future when we do get back together. Dream about the possibilities. Consider what gifts and talents you can bring to strengthen our church community. As the "*little church with a big heart*", what do you see encompassed in that heart? We have so much potential and I see each of you as a significant part of who we are and who we are becoming.

Blessings, *Doretta*

LETTER FROM THE MODERATOR...

Dear Friends,

It is so good to have this opportunity to write to you in this wonderful newsletter that we all contribute to and that is put together with such loving care by Kay. We are into spring. That is what the calendar tells me, though the thermometer belies that. We have tilled the garden and have peas and kale in the ground as we speak. The annual trip to Young's greenhouse has occurred with a full palate of colors tucked into the back of the car to be put into the ground to brighten our view. The daffodils were and continue to be outstanding this year. The crocuses trumpeted the demise of the snowbanks and left soon after. And now we are in May.



I know the question on everyone's lips is, "When are we going to be able to get together again?" Please know that the Church Council has wrestled with that question for the past six months. We formed a task force to look at this issue using a series of 46 questions related to our size, size of building, number of services, use of bibles and hymnals to mention a few of the 46 questions. We feel that we can answer positively to most of them, except the question of space and the recommendation of how many people can occupy our sanctuary at one time, safely. We are hoping for more information later this month as the Governor addresses this question.

A serious question we, as a Council, have debated is: "If vaccinated, can we come together?" We requested a legal opinion from the UCC counsel about asking if a person had been vaccinated. The question that stemmed from that was: What do you do with that information? The general consensus on the Council was first, discomfort in asking the question in the first place, and second, that the information would create a possible segregation of members in the sanctuary. We strongly objected to these ideas. Our target is to all meet while adhering to the state guidelines.

We all understand how important to all of us it is to come together once again. Please understand that the Council will keep safety first as a criteria for getting back together.

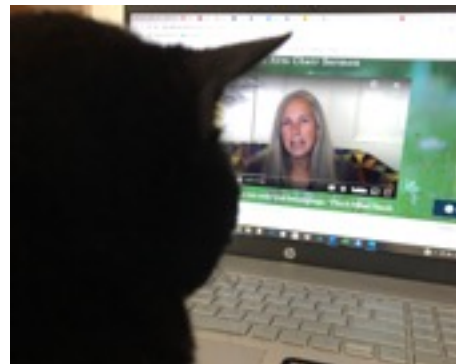
We are looking at alternatives, however. We had sunrise service-Live!-at the town beach, which was well attended and was a great celebration of Christ's defeat of the grave. The Deacons have this question on their agenda. Our church committees have not slumbered during the pandemic and we hope to see more activities that will safely bring us together.

With that "teaser" for this newsy newsletter, I pray for our church, our congregation our community, country and the world. May we find the answers to our questions and come safely through to the other side.

Peace, *Al Struck*

WEBSITE INSPIRATION...

In these trying times, I have been looking at the purposes of the Church Website, WCCUCC.com, and there are some that are very obvious. The website is giving us the opportunity to spread the word and the gospel; it brings us together in one thought; we are uplifted by the spiritual gifts of our pastor, Rev. Doretta; and we enjoy the musical sharing of George Wiese, the virtual choir (sewn together by Jane Morse) and the music shared by our gifted friends like Al Struck, Preston Harrison, Denny Raymond, Jane and George.



But I have also been thinking about what else it does. In John 8:8 (where the town folk want Jesus to condemn the adulterous woman), it says "Again He stooped down and wrote on the ground." Now there have been masses of sermons and papers written about why he did that. But in my thinking about it, it seems like today our world, like that woman, has been adulterated by many fears: primarily now, the fears propagated in the news concerning the Covid virus. I think that, for a half hour each week, our website gives us an opportunity to stoop to the ground and write in our thoughts God's message, whatever it may be for that week. We separate ourselves from the antagonizing fears of the world and listen to the good that is ours to have.

Thank you all who have been partaking in these messages. According to WIX (our website carrier), we had 78 *unique site visitors* this month. We are reaching out well beyond our regular church attendees with our website news and inspiration. *Ginny Raymond, Webmaster*

DEACONS' UPDATE...



On **May 23 at 9:30**, we will have an outside service between the church and the Wilkins House (weather permitting.) Pentecost happens fifty days after Easter, the day that the Holy Spirit descended on the Apostles, causing them to speak in tongues. On Pentecost we celebrate the gifts given to us through the Holy Spirit, the spirit of God poured out among us - no matter our gender, age, or status.

Pentecost grounds us in the past with words of the prophets and launches us into the future with the call to dream dreams and see visions. This day is celebrated as the birthday of the church; please come and celebrate with us. We encourage everyone to wear the color Red to symbolize the spirit. And please wear a face mask. Chairs will be placed/grouped with social distancing in mind; everyone is welcome.

Shalom, *Pam William*

TRUSTEE'S REPORT...

It has been a quiet two months for the Trustees. We have removed the drape from the front of the church and plans are to paint the trim during the month of May. We will also change the light fixture behind the pulpit.

James Long and Sons will start the permanent repairs to the roof of the church and the repairs to the chimney in late May. The clean up of the church grounds from the damage in December will be completed in May.

The water supply in both buildings is still off, we will turn the water on mid-May.

The Trustees are planning to complete the painting of the outside of the church this summer with the painting of the parking lot side of the church.

Regards from the Trustees – *John Wait, Kerry Johnson, Larry Griffin*



MUSIC NOTES...



Hi everyone! Our choir has proven their dedication this spring by recording many anthems! I hope everyone enjoys our recordings. Kay is an amazing accompanist and always gets the job done with her lovely light touch. Al Struck has delighted us with several clarinet pieces. He records 2-3 parts which I merge them together to create a multidimensional musical piece. Thanks, Al!

If anyone would like to perform a musical piece, put together a duet, or anything like that, just let me know. I am especially interested in special music for summer. I just need to know the title, composer, and arranger of the piece for licensing purposes. Because we are streaming music, we have purchased a copyright license to cover us for using music on our website.

Enjoy the spring weather and the black flies!
Yours in song, *Jane Morse*, Music Director

COMMUNICATIONS CONTINUED ...

Here is a photo of the booklet, "Strength for Troubled Times" which was announced in our February newsletter. It is made up of the inspirational sermons and reflections of our minister Doretta from March - October 2020. The booklet was created by Sally Holm; the cover photo was taken by Darylann Leonard, who spotted the dramatic rainbow and raced to Plummer Hill Road in time to capture it on film as it appeared to end at the Waterford Church!

We have distributed the booklets by delivery and/or mail and are leaving some extra copies around town. If you haven't received one, please let Sally know (617.803.1450), and we will get one to you.



TWO JUNE EVENTS...announced by the Maine School of Ministry (MESOM)



The Maine School of Ministry & The Shalem Institute
In proud partnership presents:

MESOM June Summer Intensive Contemplative Leadership in Times of Change: Building Resiliency

Led by Rev. Dr. Margaret Benefiel and Rev. Dr. Ron Baard

Online on Zoom June 8 - 11, 2021

Cost \$350 To Register: <https://www.maineucc.org/ministries/mesom/>

AND

Resilience for Social Activists...With Rev. Dr. Margaret Benefiel

Saturday, June 12th 2021 – 10:00 am to 5:00 pm (EST) – \$75 – Via Zoom

We are rewarded for *drive, decisiveness, productivity, and long work hours*. This year in particular, in the social justice arena, burnout is rampant. When we add in other layers of anxiety and grief, there is yet more exhaustion and despair with which activists must contend.

What might it look like for you to step back and take time to cultivate depth in your inner life, to step off the treadmill and take time away for personal reflection, in order to *develop more resilience*? What might it look like for your leadership to arise from a core of contemplative grounding and compassion?

This will be an experiential workshop, in which your own experiences will serve as the basis for reflection and discernment. Stories of resilient activists and principles of resilient activism will complement personal reflection.

Margaret Benefiel is the Executive Director of the Shalem Institute for Spiritual Formation.

To register go to: <https://www.maineucc.org/ministries/mesom/>

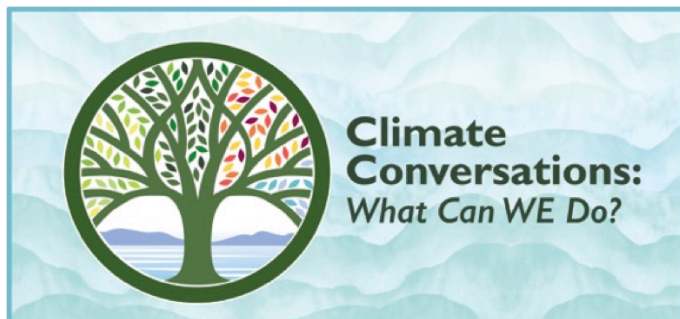
Scholarships available — email Rev. Dr. Ron Baard at rbaard@maineucc.org

LET'S TALK ABOUT RACE - DISCUSSION GROUP...

Sponsored by the Waterford Congregational Church, UCC, Waterford, ME

The 6-month series of discussions about White Privilege is entering its last phase. We are talking about how we have seen White Privilege impact our lives. The readings, short films, and discussions have been very interesting and informative. The participants are from diverse backgrounds, making the conversation that much more interesting. There will be two more sessions in this series.

CLIMATE CONVERSATIONS...



There have been two Climate Conversations on Zoom since the February Newsletter. And now the organizers and other interested parties are deciding on the most productive ways of moving forward. Specific information will be sent soon.

In the meantime, we'd like to draw your attention to an event presented by the Waterford Library about how to make our landscapes more

friendly to the environment. On **Saturday, June 26 from 11:00 am to noon** **Deb Perkins** of *First Light Habitats* will be leading a walk-and-talk entitled "Landscaping for Biodiversity and Water Quality." Many of us will remember Deb as a featured speaker at a Climate Conversation in the Wilkins House over a year ago. **Deb** calls herself "*The Personal Ecologist*" and with 25 years ecological experience in the Northeast she can help us all to better understand the natural world and make recommendations for creating a personal habitat which serves both the land and the land owner's wishes.

We will visit a local waterfront property for the hour-long program and professional consultation. **Deb** will guide us on a walk along the shoreline, and cover the following topics in an interactive style:

- native plantings and landscaping practices that promote biodiversity and protect water quality
- how to build bird and pollinator habitat at home
- eco-friendly and low maintenance lawn alternatives

Participation limited to 20 participants. Reservations required.

Please Rsvp waterfordmelibrary@gmail.com to register or for more information.

Due to current CDC guidelines, social distancing remains in effect.

Deb Perkins will be available after the walk for further consultation at the Library.

Donations appreciated.

**Friends of the Wilkins House have announced that
due to Covid-19 safety concerns, there will be no Community Breakfasts this summer.**



NEWS FROM THE PEWS



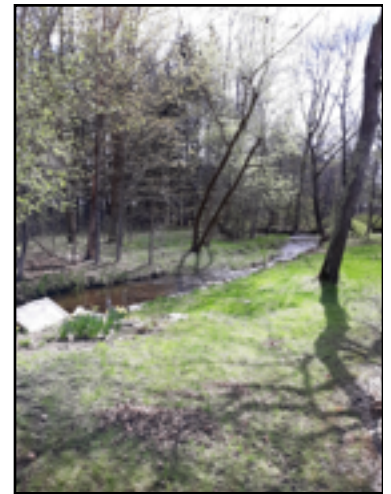
We hope you enjoy receiving the Waterford Church Newsletter. If you know someone who would like to be added to our newsletter list. Or if you would like your name added to our birthday list; Or should you choose to unsubscribe...please email ksleslie@me.com.



A Reflection ... Al Struck

Have you noticed in the past year how the throwaway line, "How are you?" has taken on more gravitas? People lean in and their expression changes to one of inquisitive heartfelt concern. You can feel it in phone conversations, on zoom and even email. "How are you" expands to - are you well, what is your mental state, how is the job, the family. I think the act of speaking has changed to reflect this attempt to make more personal our verbal interactions. People linger, take time to converse across the fence, across the street, even across the country. It is a way to do a self check. How am I? Do I feel okay? What is okay?

Then I receive one of the reflections that Doretta sends out. I see all of us reading it, absorbing its message, feeling the comfort I know Doretta means for us to feel, together. I go to the Sunday service on line and hear and see members of the congregation reading scripture, listen to the choir, enjoy and sing along with George's wonderful organ playing. And again I find comfort in Doretta's interpretation of the reading and how it fits with our everyday life. Then I can answer the question above, "I am good, it is well with my soul." Next time you ask that question, be sure to listen to the whole answer...for the layers of information the response contains. May it bring you peace to have connected with another.



Spring on Kedar Brook.



Ed (Gabe) Gabrielsen Returns To Maine...

Five years ago, as the music director at your church, I began to think about going into ministry. Well, after a lot of work and study, last year I graduated from seminary. During my internship year, I met a wonderful woman, and last year we got married. In April, I was ordained into ministry. Now, I live in Camden with my beautiful wife, Shari, and I am looking for my first full-time call to a church. Life is so full of interesting twists and turns, and the journey continues. I think of you all in Waterford often, and I am grateful for my time with you there, and for the opportunity you gave me to sing with you. With much love and many blessings, Ed Gabrielsen.





Nancy Engdahl's Two Granddaughters...



My second grandchild, **Hannah** Olivia Leonard, celebrated her 21st birthday on April 20th. Hannah will be a senior next year at St. Joseph's College, an education major following in her grandparents' footsteps. To our great delight, our third grandchild was born to son David and his wife, Angela. **Sarah** Angela Engdahl is David's first child. born on April 8th. Sarah helped Hannah celebrate her birthday, though she found it hard to stay awake. Birthday photo in her tutu was taken by Auntie Darylann Leonard.



A Special Graduation in the Wait Family...

"You cannot do a kindness too soon because you never know how soon it will be too late"
Ralph Waldo Emerson



This was so true for our family, when LaSalle Academy in Providence RI offered to come out to the house and confer grandson Robert's high school diploma so our son-in-law, JJ, could witness his son's graduation. The faculty and the seniors on the baseball team made the trip to our daughter's house to confer the first diploma of the 150th class at LaSalle Academy. It was a wonderful day that JJ got to witness and be a part of.



At right:
The proud grandparents and father, JJ!



Bob Plate Films Ice-Out...

Ice-Out on McWain Pond (April 6, 2021)

I was in Waterford for a short 36-hour visit with my parents in early April, but my timing turned out to be perfect. Looking down from the hill at the lake during the morning, I could still see the ice cover, but when I looked again in the early afternoon, it seemed I was seeing open water. I thought I'd missed all the excitement, but I decided to take a walk down to the lake to check it out.



I've never seen an ice-out before and didn't know what to expect. I didn't even realize at first that this was the "real thing", but I was fascinated by the cracking and groaning of the ice, and how the ice actually pulsed up and down, as if the lake were breathing.

During the next 90 minutes, I was blessed with the most amazing display of nature as the lake awoke from its winter slumber . . . I felt I quite literally watched the changing of the seasons. I sat there with a big grin on my face as I took pictures and videos until I was down to just 1% battery.

The following link should take you to a playlist of 7 videos I posted in YouTube:

[McWain Pond Ice-Out 2021 - YouTube](#)

There are short descriptions under each video as to what was happening. Turn up the volume to hear the sounds of the ice and water. "Play All" will take you through all 7 videos in sequence.

If the link does not work, you can also view the videos by going into YouTube (www.youtube.com) and searching on the following: **mcwain pond ice-out playlist**

Bob Plate



Bobbi's Lucky Find...

I have made it through the winter! Did spend time going through "boxes" and this poem is one item I came across from way back that I enjoyed reading once again. I guess this is just one reason why I enjoy Maine so much, especially Waterford and the people here. And now the daffodils.....

Maine... by Sandy Kiess

*Gulls sweeping in from the restless sea
to nestle along the rocky shore --
The quietness of a wilderness lake
surrounded by oaks and pines and more.
There's a gentle solitude for all to behold
echoing a loon's eerie cry.
I love Maine from her wave-battered coast
to the snow-capped mountains
that touch the sky.*



New Toy for the Raymonds...

Queen WILLOW Bee and ANGEL Baby are modeling our newest toy! We purchased this 'Shuttle Craft' to speed from our home on Hubbard Trail to The Compromise, our camp, on Amy Trail! It is a mere 5 minute walk, which of course the dogs love, but with our new ride, we can quickly speed our supplies one way or the other. Plus, I know of three girls (our granddaughters) that can hardly wait to try it out!

Happy Spring!! Ginny & Denny



News from Ted Nixon...



We have found a very good home for our beautiful horses, Sonia and Tor, in Morrill, Maine, near Belfast. It is a fine location with a large barn, spacious grazing acreage and thoughtful new owners who have been familiar with Fjord horses for generations. They could use all the tack: harnesses and saddles, a hay elevator, plenty of hay, and a two-horse trailer. Gail's daughter Kate, together with Al and Jean Struck, has been very helpful in this transition of the horses to their capable, caring new owners.



from Kay Lyman...

A belated thank you to the members of the Waterford Congregational Church for the thoughtful gift, just before Easter, of a plant of yellow Ranunculus. It is one of my most favorite plants and bloomed beautifully through the month of April. I am hoping that I can help it to bloom again. I was feeling sad as Easter, without a service in the sanctuary, approached; so John and Dodie delivered it at just the right moment. The beautiful spring has lifted my spirits, and I am working to ready everything before the summer and knee replacement surgery on June 30.



Update from James Long...



It has been 3 months since my back surgery in Connecticut to fuse 6 vertebrae. At 6 weeks I was flying high...poster boy according to the surgeon. The therapy at our hotel was going really, really well. And I was quite comfortable with the pain. Then we came back to Maine and "all Hell" broke loose. Having no therapy for 10 days was a setback. And, although the surgeon called for "fascia release therapy" in that area, the hospital here does not do any "hands on therapy." It is so helpful to release the fascia at the incision area. The fascia

is a covering similar to lace, about the size of spaghetti strands, rubbery feeling. It provides slip and slide for the layers of muscles, ligaments and tendons to move independently of each other. It took time to find another therapist knowledgeable in this technique.

It takes from 3 to 6 months from after the surgery for the fusions to have healed enough to feel good. But the fusions will still not be strong enough for me to do anything physical to any degree. This is when people often get into trouble and destroy the surgery. So...no lifting, bending, or twisting for another 3 months and then 6 more months for a completely healed back. I'm on my way again to the finish line!

As always, Caren is a trooper - taking care of me as needed, working, taking care of the horses and the house, preparing meals, and doing everything possible - exhausted but hanging in there. That's my precious girl...Happy Mother's Day!!

God is good and very gracious...always taking care of me. Thank you, God!



MAY

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

JUNE

3 Barbara Allen
11 Bill Roy
12 Dianne Morse-Leonard
12 Peter Morse
16 Susan Leslie
20 Nancy Engdahl
23 Gale Bell
25 John Wait
26 Kerry Hewson
29 Louann Bell
29 Sharon Roy

JULY

1 Steph Michaud
5 Jane Morse
14 Preston Harrison
17 Jean Struck
18 Ralph MacKinnon
27 Emily Thibodeau



CHURCH LEADERSHIP 2021



Moderator: *Al Struck*

Clerk: *Stephenie Michaud*

Trustees: *John Wait, Kerry Johnson, Larry Griffin*

Treasurers: *John & Dodi Wait*

Assistant Treasurer: *Ralph MacKinnon*

Stewardship: *Kerry Johnson*

Deacons: *Pam Williams, Myra Maltby, Ted Nixon,
Dianne Morse Leonard*

Church School: *Myra Maltby*

Missions: *Pam Williams (Global),
Nancy Engdahl (Local)*

Church Activities Committee: *Nancy Engdahl*

Communications Coordinator: *Sally Holm*

Webmaster: *Ginny Raymond*

Church Historian: *Dianne Morse Leonard*



Dates to Remember...

Wed, May 19 - LET'S TALK ABOUT RACE
6:30 - 8:00PM on Zoom

Sun, May 23 - PENTECOST SUNDAY
9:30 Service Outside the Church

Sat. June 26 - 11 am - noon Waterford Library
"Landscaping for Biodiversity and
Water Quality" - Deb Perkins

*updates or changes regarding activities and
events will be emailed to you when dates have
been decided



