



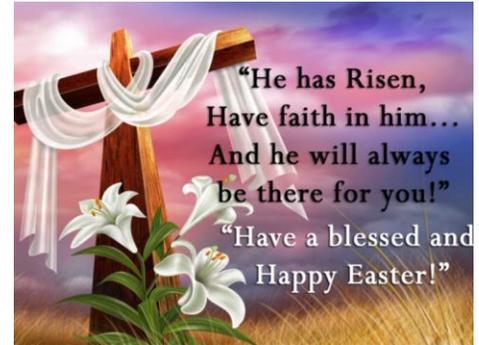
Union Church of Belgrade Lakes

United Methodist Church

Location: 67 Main Street, Belgrade Lakes, Maine
Mailing Address: P. O. Box 133, Belgrade Lakes, Maine 04918
Phone: 207-495-3599
Church Email: unionchurchmaine@gmail.com
Pastor's Email: unionchurchumcbelgrade@gmail.com
Website: unionchurchmaine.org

Union Rider

April 2022 Newsletter

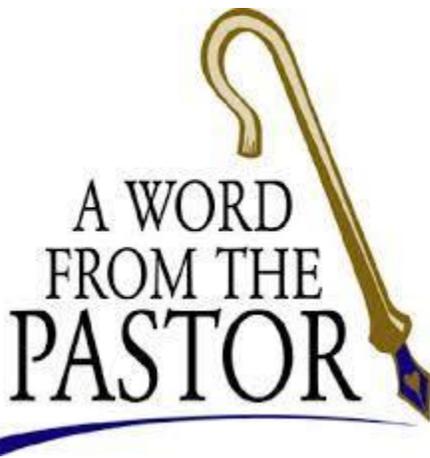


Dear Members
and Friends of
Union Church,

Grace and peace
to you in the name
of the One who
calls us onto "The
Way" and then
walks beside us
on each step of

of Lent, we will explore "The Free Way," and "The Other Way", in a Service of Palms and Passion on Palm Sunday, as we begin Holy Week. I encourage you to plan now to attend one or more of the special services during Holy Week (see details elsewhere in this newsletter) to further experience "The Way" that leads to the Cross, and then the divine promise that waits on the other side of it.

This year, my journey on "The Way" through Lent has been affected/impacted/disturbed by the war in Ukraine. How about you? I am reminded by the unfolding events of Holy Week and by the unfolding events in Ukraine that as humans, we fear. We are afraid of what we can't control, and what we don't understand. Death, war, and global pandemics are at the top of that list! And as humans, we forget. But how could we possibly forget the words and life of Jesus, and the promise of Easter? The suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus happened centuries ago, and yet those events have been preached and sung and celebrated over and over. Of course we remember. But do we remember the resurrection of Jesus so profoundly that it shapes the way we live each day? I confess I need to be reminded. When I look at the world around me in frustration, in dismay, in fear, even, I need to be reminded that this is the world created by God and loved by God. I need to be reminded that Jesus lived, died, and rose from the dead to eternal



the journey...

As I write this, are mid-way through our journey on The Way – the Way that leads to the Cross and then beyond, into the fulfillment of the most precious of God's promises – that of life everlasting. Did you know that the earliest followers of Christ were identified as those who belonged to "the Way" (see Acts 9:2)?

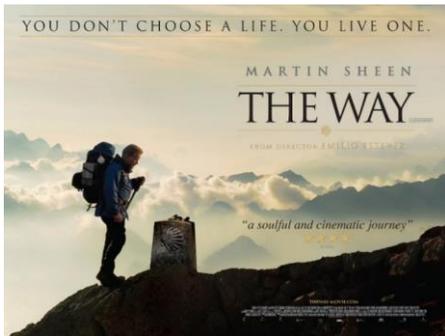
On the 1st Sunday of Lent, we explored "The Wandering Way" and were reminded that "all who wander are not lost," and that sometimes, it is in the wandering that we discover our true selves. On the 2nd Sunday of Lent, we learned of "The Way Around" and considered how we travel through this life and all the twists and turns we encounter – those we choose and those upon which we stumble. On the 3rd Sunday of Lent, it was "The High Way" that we explored, and on the 4th Sunday of Lent, it was "The Way Home," from the perspective of the Parable of the Prodigal Son. In the final weeks

life to reconcile this world to himself, to God. Easter reminds us: "Do not fear!" Easter reminds us: "Do not forget!" Thanks be to our Creating God, Redeeming Christ, and Sustaining Holy Spirit!

Together in Christ's Love and Service,

Pastor Eleanor Collinsworth

It's Movie Time!

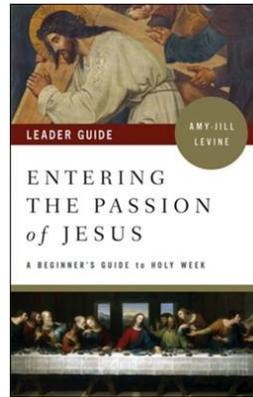


The movie, "The Way," has provided the theme for our worship experiences in Lent. "The Way"

is a powerful and inspirational story about family, friends, and the challenges we face while navigating this ever-changing and complicated world. Martin Sheen plays Tom, an easily-irritated American doctor who comes to France to deal with the tragic loss of his son (played by his real-life son Emilio Estevez). Rather than return directly home, Tom decides to embark on the historical pilgrimage "The Way of St. James," or the "El Camino de Santiago" to honor his son's desire to finish that journey that he only got to start. What Tom doesn't plan on is the profound impact this trip will have on him. Through unexpected and oftentimes amusing experiences along "The Way," Tom discovers that "You don't choose a life, you live one." The movie will be shown in Friendship Hall on Thursday, April 7

at 2 p.m., and again on Sunday, April 10 at 6:30 p.m. You are invited to one or the other! And you are invited to bring a friend...or two!

Sign Up Sheet Posted in Friendship Hall!



**ENTERING THE
PASSION OF JESUS by
Amy-Jill Levine**

**March 9th through
April 13**

Dive deep into the history of the last days before the crucifixion. Jesus' final days were full of risk. Every move he made was filled with anticipation, danger, and the potential for great loss or great reward. Jesus risked his reputation when he entered Jerusalem in a victory parade. He risked his life when he dared to teach in the Temple. His followers risked everything when they left behind their homes, or anointed him with costly perfume. We take risks as we read and re-read these stories, finding new meanings and new challenges

In *Entering the Passion of Jesus: A Beginner's Guide to Holy Week*, author, professor, and biblical scholar Amy-Jill Levine explores the biblical texts surrounding the Passion story. She shows us how the text raises ethical and spiritual questions for the reader, and how we all face risk in our Christian experience.

Day: Wednesday Mornings (10 a.m.)

Evening: Wednesdays @ 6:30 p.m.



Willing to Wait

Bible in a Year:

- [Deuteronomy 3–4](#)
- [Mark 10:32–52](#)

Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains.

[James 5:7](#)

Today's Scripture:
James 5:7–12

Waiting can be a culprit in stealing our peace. According to computer scientist Ramesh Sitaraman, few things “inspire universal frustration and ire” in internet users as waiting for a sluggish web browser to load. His research says that we’re willing to wait an average of two seconds for an online video to load. After five seconds, the abandonment rate is about twenty-five percent, and after ten seconds, half of the users desert their efforts. We’re certainly an impatient bunch!

James encouraged believers in Jesus to not abandon Him while they were waiting for His second coming. Christ's return would motivate them to stand firm in the face of suffering and to love and honor one another ([James 5:7–10](#)). James used the example of the farmer to make his point. Like the farmer, who waited patiently for “autumn and spring rains” (v. 7) and for the land to yield its valuable crop, James encouraged believers to be patient under oppression until Jesus returned. And when He returned, He would right every wrong and bring shalom, peace.

Sometimes, we're tempted to forsake Jesus while we wait for Him. But as we wait, let's “keep watch” ([Matthew 24:42](#)), remain faithful ([25:14–30](#)), and live out His character and

ways ([Colossians 3:12](#)). Though we don't know when Jesus will return, let's wait patiently for Him, as long as it takes.

By: [Marvin Williams](#)

Reflect & Pray

What's hardest about waiting for Jesus' return?

How's His return an incentive for living out His character and ways?

Jesus, I'll wait for You. Though the world is dark and filled with pain, suffering, injustice, and uncertainty, I'll wait for You.

Though I don't know the day or the time, I'll wait for You.



**FRIENDS
AND
NEIGHBOR
LUNCHEON**

Thursday,
April 14, 2022
from 11:30 to 1 p.m.

While we are unable to share this time together; while you are eating your lunch, pray for those who usually join us for lunch on this day for fellowship!



Our 2022 Global Mission Initiative Is Going to The Sheble Campership Fund

**Joys & Celebrations Total
As of 3/27/2022:
\$368.00**

**Our yearly goal is
\$2,500;**



**SHEBLE
CAMBERSHIP FUND**



**Meetings at a
Glance:**

April 2022

Belgrade Senior Resource Meeting: 4/24 @6 p.m.

Missions & Outreach: 4/13 @ 11:15

Prayer Shawl: 4/11 and 4/24 @ 1 p.m.



Our Mission Ministries

Through the year in this Newsletter we highlight our mission projects and programs where we serve God through Christlike compassion, mercy and transformation; reaching out, lifting up, building up.

We will list some of the ways during 2022 contributions from Missions and Outreach through your support received in our weekly worship offerings, pledges and special giving.

Center for All Seasons Summer Camp –
In June We donated \$200 worth of snacks for the kiddoes. Summer Camp End of year BBQ was held on August 15th with this committee providing/grilling hamburgers and hot dogs as well as fruit and ice cream for as many as 75!

The Belgrade Rome Food Pantry with special monthly “Wish List” donations; January through December we will be fillin’ our shopping cart. - Many thanks. Look for Wish List later in the NL.

Kenneth Workman Youth Sports Program -
Ever notice the sign at the **Belgrade Ball Park**? Our donation each year supports this local youth program and shares our active presence in the community in Christ’s service. \$150 was donated on June 9th.

Maine Justice Foundation, Augusta, Maine. We supported this work that serves the LGBT, gay community those of whom are among the poor and vulnerable among us, facing issues of employment and housing discrimination, domestic violence, homelessness. In this manner we extend our church Welcoming Statement into the community beyond our own worship doors.

Our \$500 donation was sent on **February 10, 2022.**

Messalonskee High School – In November we sent \$500 to support the High School’s Food Pantry. Each year their empty Bowls project supports our local Food cupboards and the Food Cupboard at the High School we will continue to contribute and will share information of this year’s project in March as it becomes available . In April we sent a donation of \$500 for their Food Pantry .

Bread of Life Ministries. Through the year, each month we provide a Tuesday evening meal for the residents of the temporary Shelter Program. It’s been a blessing to meet folks there and see how this ministry gives them both shelter and a boost to what is next as they move forwards in life by God’s grace. We will again contribute to this program in 2022. In November we sent a donation of \$500 to support their Christmas Wish List for their residents. Our Christmas Eve Offering this year again was sent to the Bread of Life Homeless Shelter.

Waterville Homeless Shelter – In late December we shared with them a donation of \$500

Vernon Valley Lodge 99 A.F. & A.M. – We again are sponsoring the Bikes for Reading Program for local school children by sharing with them \$200; sent in November. Jim Webster is a key member of this group

Adaptive Outdoor Education Center – We again supported this program in 2022 as an affirmation of their annual Ski-A-Thon that supports programs that empower adaptive athletes towards a healthy, active and rewarding life. A \$100 donation was sent on **February 10, 2022.**

Neighbors Driving Neighbors, this local ministry program serving to help folks who would be otherwise home bound was supported with our **\$500 gift on February 10, 2021** and through the engagement of those offering to serve as drivers, and part of the programs leadership

Winthrop, Maine: United Methodist Camp Mechuwana. Due to Covid they have been unable to hold camp weeks; however the Camp put together a Food Program to share meals with those in need. Many folks/students stepped to help with this. On June 9th we sent a \$500 donation towards this much needed program. The year-round camp and youth programs happening there transforms lives of children and youth.

Pastor’s Discretionary Fund – With generous donations we are able to assist families with urgent housing needs; **and will continue helping through 2022.** Each specific in their own way are able to be a means of God’s Grace in troubling times. To date \$1,018.29 has been expended.

Prayer Shawl Ministry. This group meets twice a month (2nd and 4th Monday @ 1 p.m.) and distributes prayers shawls to both women and men who are dealing with health issues and or hospital stays. A special Prayer Shawl was made with love and gifted to Dottie Matson for 100th Birthday.

Belgrade Central School – The Mission and Outreach Committee at their August meeting found that the school could use donations of snacks and school supplies and will be working closely with the School Administrators as to their **needs in 2022. We will be dropping off a donation (\$200 worth) of snacks for the kiddos when they come back from winter break.**



- Craft Shows –

The Town of Belgrade will host a series of craft

shows at the Village Green. The shows will be on the last Sunday of the month from May to September, with an additional show on Saturday, Oct. 8 (Harvest Festival Day). (May 29, June 26, July 31, August 28, September 25)

Each show will be from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. (Rain or Shine) and will feature wares created by local artists and crafters.



Bread Of Life Ministries

Our Next Bread of Life Homeless Shelter Dinner will be April 19th

Please email us at unionchurchmaine@gmail.com for those of you wanting to designate your participation in this ministry; we are looking for many volunteers. Signing up is important so that we are aware of what you will bring so that we can complete planning for whatever else needs to be prepared and donated. Thank you!

We would like to encourage as many volunteers as possible to help donate items for this dinner.

At this time they are housing around 50 residents.

Thank you to Pastor Eleanor, Lynn & Kip, Sharron, JoAnn, Tony, Hilary, Carol and Kathy for sharing in this ministry on February 15th.

We share a hot meal on the 3rd Tuesday of each month.

In addition to providing the Bread of Life Homeless Shelter with a hot meal every month; we have learned that they are in need of the following items which includes sweatshirts, hoodies (Lg/XL), gloves and scarves. If you are interested in donating, please drop off and we will deliver at our next meal delivery.



Pillows



Bath Towels

Face Cloths



Twin size bed in bags

Bedding is so important to us because the shelter clients take this with them when they move into their own apartments

Soup Kitchen Wish List

Bottled Water





Sandwich Ziplock Baggies

Coffee Creamer



CHURCH COUNCIL

SUNDAY, May 1st

10:30 A.M. In Person right after our Worship Service

EVERYONE WELCOME AND ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND



Food Pantry Donations Needed



LAUNDRY SOAP

DISH SOAP

FOR THE ROME/BELGRADE FOOD PANTRY

ANY AND ALL PERSONAL CARE ITEMS ARE ALWAYS NEEDED



Finance Committee Update



As followers of Christ, we are His **disciples**. We pledge to live as Christians and to be His hands and feet in the world, in our community, and to each other. Discipleship entails a commitment. It involves our financial support of the ministries of Union Church as well as the commitment of our time and our talents. During this special season of the liturgical year, we are called to follow Christ through the dark days of the Lenten season and are rewarded with the celebration of Easter and the resurrected Christ.

If one of the measures of the health and wellbeing of discipleship is its commitment to Mission and Outreach, then Union Church is very much alive and well! Through February 28, 2022, the net operating income (that is, the difference between total income and total expenses) was \$710. Total income for the first two months of 2022 was \$27,682 (89% of the total was derived from pledges received) while our expenses totaled \$26,972 which was 95% of the projected expenses. Let us commit to insuring that our unrestricted checkbook balance remains strong for the remainder of the year.

Union Church is grateful for your continued faithful stewardship and discipleship. We pray that the blessings of this Easter season fill each of our lives with joy and compassion. Halleluiah!

Thanks for your faithful and generous support.

Respectfully,
Tony Mastromarino



Worship Opportunities During Holy Week

April 10th thru April 17th

Holy Week provides opportunities to worship in purposeful and reflective ways. Scripture, special music, and visual symbols will help us to once again experience the passion of Christ and the joy of his resurrection. Our Holy Week worship services will be offered in-person and

will be live-streamed. What a great time to reconnect with your faith community, share in meaningful worship experiences, and invite neighbors, friends, and family members to share them with you!

April 10 – Palm Sunday



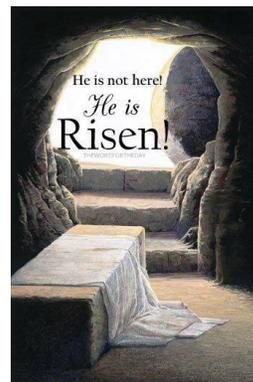
Thursday, April 14 –

Maundy

Thursday: 7 p.m. service, with Holy Communion

Friday, April 2 – Good

Friday: Pray, Fast and Meditate on the Passion of Christ. Our Sanctuary will be open from 12 p.m. – 3 p.m. And again from 6 p.m. – 7 p.m. Please come spend some reflective time.



April 14 – Easter Sunday!

Sunrise Service, 5:45 a.m. at the Belgrade Lakes Golf Club
Join us at the gazebo near the clubhouse.

Easter Sunday Celebration Service at 9:30 a.m., with Holy Communion – safely in-person and live-streamed on Facebook and the church website (unionchurchmaine.org)



**UMCOR
International Disaster
Response
and Recovery for
Ukraine**

Country: Global
Advance #982450

The United Methodist

Committee on Relief (UMCOR) responds to dozens of unsung disasters every year. UMCOR is there even when the news cameras are not. Whether it is the South Asia tsunami or cholera in Cameroon or Ebola in West Africa, UMCOR is there: sowing seeds of hope and empowering communities to step forward to a new and better future. When a natural or human-caused disaster strikes outside of the United States, UMCOR serves as the primary channel for United Methodist assistance. This includes supports refugees fleeing disasters with food, water, hygiene and other essential nonfood supplies and temporary shelter. UMCOR cooperates with local bishops, district superintendents, and church leaders to help them develop their own response mechanisms. UMCOR trains disaster response coordinators for each district or region to:

1. Categorize disasters
2. Recognize common phases or stages of disasters
3. Balance needs vs. capacity to respond
4. Create a disaster-response plan
5. Use material resources and volunteers efficiently
6. Network with local and national partners
8. Adhere to Sphere Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response & ICRC Humanitarian Code of Conduct

The coordinators use this information and training to network with other local groups and governments to respond to

emergencies in their areas. This increases the capacity of local disaster response units.

By giving through the Advance, 100% of your donation reaches your chosen mission project or ministry.

458 Ponce De Leon Ave, NE,
Atlanta, GA 30308

<https://umcmmission.org/advance-project/982450/>



Union Church of Belgrade Lakes
United Methodist Church
67 Main Street
P.O. Box 133
Belgrade Lakes, Maine 04918

Our Mission is to live our experience of God's love
in all that we say and do...

Our Vision is to be a growing spiritual faith community in the
manner of Christ, where all are welcome and cared for...