



Union Church of Belgrade Lakes

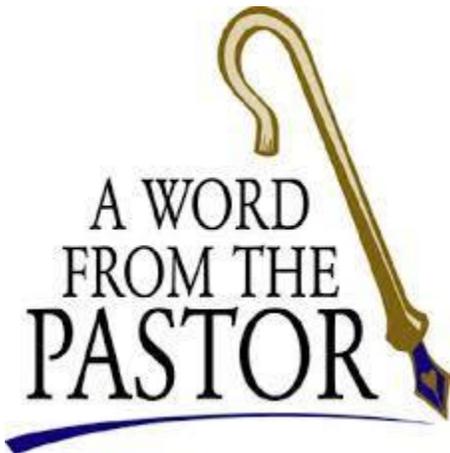
United Methodist Church

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Union Rider

August 2021 Newsletter



Greetings in the name of the One who envisions wonderful things for us, and then equips us to discover and achieve them!

As I write this, we have just

revitalized the "Vision 2020" effort we began in February 2020. "Vision Walks" have been scheduled for the next few weeks, and YOU are encouraged to participate in one of these small-group gatherings. The 90-minute (or so) "Vision Walk" is designed to help us remember/discover the past blessings of Union Church, attune ourselves to the present realities and opportunities, and envision what God's call might be for our church community as we move forward into the "20's"! Please watch for e-mail's that will list the dates and times of scheduled "Vision Walks" and reach out to us by e-mail or phone call to sign up for one of them. Sign-up sheets are also available in Sunday morning worship services. You are vital to this process, whether you are a long-

time

member of this church community, or a new part of it; whether you are with us year-round, or with us seasonally!

In addition to our "Vision 2020" project, we have also arrived at that "certain time of year" in which we intentionally turn our minds and more importantly, our hearts, toward caring for the resources God has entrusted to us. We describe this time using rather business-like terms – "budget projections," "forecasted income," "pledging units," "commitment cards"... We also describe this time using Biblical and spiritual terms like "tithing," "prayerful discernment," "faith commitments"... Collectively, it is called the annual Stewardship Program! Later in this newsletter, please look for more information about this year's program, themed "Better Together!" And please read about how we will use a children's folktale in our worship services on August 8, 15, and 22 to help us explore how we can be "Better Together!"

As challenging as financial stewardship of our own assets and our beloved Union Church's assets are at any time, the challenge has been even greater as we are journeying through the

COVID-19 global pandemic. And Yet! We have found ample opportunities to recognize where God's grace has been both sufficient and abundant! I lift up just a few of the many ways God is gracing us and equipping us for ministry in such a time as this. We have been graced abundantly by the wise technology investments made a few years ago that have enabled efficient and reliable livestreaming of our worship services. Through them, we were able to make a seamless transition to livestreamed worship services. Just last month, a "Technology Upgrade Project" was completed that improved our camera system for livestreaming not just Sunday worship services, but also special services such as baptisms, weddings, and funerals/memorial services. Earlier this spring, we completed the "Pathway to Tomorrow" capital project, as our parking lot paving was completed.

I am a humbly grateful pastor! I know that new people are being reached, and touched, by the ministries and missions of Union Church. God is so good!

Together in Christ's Love and Service,
Pastor Eleanor Collinsworth



"Better Together!"
– this is the Stewardship Program theme your Finance Committee has selected, looking forward to a new giving year that will begin in January,

2022. Soon you will receive a letter inviting you to be part of this Stewardship Program, as we celebrate the many ways God calls us and equips us as Union Church of Belgrade Lakes UMC to be "Better Together!" In our worship services in the month of August, we will

explore the children's folktale **Stone Soup**, and what the story has to tell us about being good and generous stewards of all with which God has blessed us. We will look at Scripture passages in which stones are prominently featured. All of it culminates in Commitment Sunday on August 22. May God richly bless our efforts to be good stewards of all God has entrusted to us!



Jesus Restores Us

[Psalms 4–6](#)

[Acts 17:16–34](#)

The Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them.

[Genesis 3:21](#)

Today's Scripture & Insight:
[Genesis 3:17–24](#)

Although Sam had done nothing wrong, he lost his job on the assembly line. Carelessness in another division led to problems in cars they built. After several crashes made the news, wary customers stopped buying their brand. The company had to downsize, leaving Sam out of work. He's collateral damage, and it isn't fair. It never is.

History's first collateral damage occurred immediately after the first sin. Adam and Eve were ashamed of their nakedness, so God graciously clothed them with "garments of skin" ([Genesis 3:21](#)). It's painful to imagine, but one or more animals that had always been safe in the garden were now slaughtered and skinned.

There was more to come. God told Israel, "Every day you are to provide a year-old lamb without defect for a burnt offering to the Lord; morning by morning you shall provide it" ([Ezekiel 46:13](#)). *Every. Single. Day.* How many

thousands of animals have been sacrificed because of human sin?

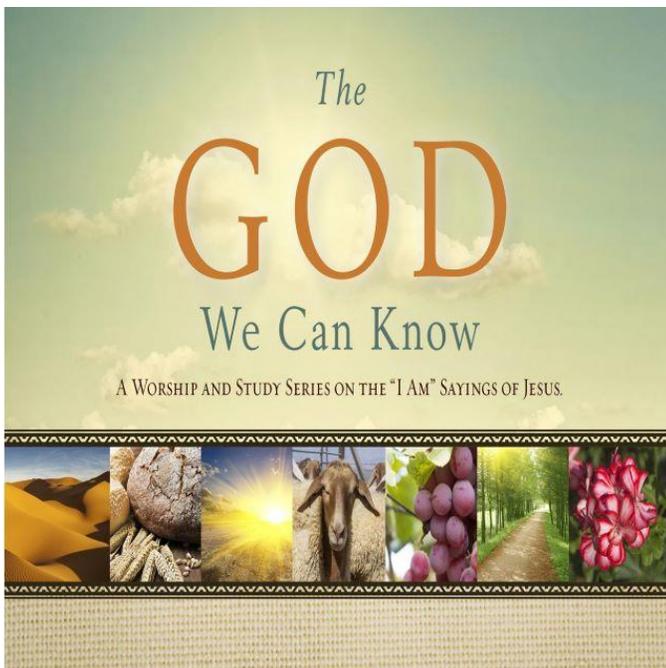
Their death was necessary to cover our sin until Jesus, the Lamb of God, came to remove it (John 1:29). Call this "collateral repair." As Adam's sin kills us, so the Last Adam's (Christ's) obedience restores all who believe in Him (Romans 5:17-19). Collateral repair isn't fair—it cost Jesus' life—but it's free. Reach out to Jesus in belief and receive the salvation He offers, and His righteous life will count for you.
By: **Mike Wittmer**

Reflect & Pray

When have you suffered for someone else's mistake? When have you benefited from someone's success, and how should you think about both situations?

Jesus, I believe in You, and I know Your life counts for me.

NEW BIBLE STUDY SERIES



(Author – Rob Fuquay)

Getting to know God means getting to know ourselves. The more we know who God is the more we know who we are. The Gospel of John records several declarations of Jesus known as the "I Am" sayings. This 7-week study is designed to explore each of those sayings and will help you find and form an answer to the most essential question in the Christian faith, "Who do you say I am?"

One by one, Jesus' statements grab our imagination, reveal more about his identity and purpose, and connect us to the God of Moses, who spoke the first "I Am." These significant yet ordinary images (bread, light, shepherd, vine, and more) give us insightful ways to experience Jesus and point us to a God who wants to be known.

We began this new series on Wednesday, July 11th

PLEASE JOIN US; EVERYONE WELCOME
Wednesdays 10 – 11 a.m.



**FRIENDS
AND
NEIGHBOR
LUNCHEON**

Thursday,
August 12, 2021
from 11:30 to 1pm.

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



Good Shepherd Food-Bank

Feeding Maine's Hungry

Our 2021 Global Mission Initiative will continue to be donated to the Good Shepherd Food Bank (donations will be sent to them quarterly)

**Joys & Celebrations Total
As of 7/25/2021: \$1,673**

Our yearly goal is \$2,500;



Meetings at a Glance: August 2021

SPRC: 8/10 @ 4

Worship Committee: 8/10 @ 7 p.m.

Missions & Outreach: 8/11 @ 11:15 (BBQ @ CFAS)

Prayer Shawl: 8/9 and 8/23 @ 6:30 p.m.

Finance Committee: 8/24 @ 10 a.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 2021 contributions from Missions and Outreach through your support received in our weekly worship offerings, pledges and special giving.

Center for All Seasons Summer Camp BBQ will be 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 Good Shepherd Food Bank

We will continue to support this work that provides food to local food banks throughout Maine. "Feeding families living with food insecurity makes an impact that goes beyond a nutritious meal." (At our February 23rd Church Council Meeting it was approved our Joys and Celebrations monies will be sent to this organization through 2021)

The Belgrade Rome Food Pantry with special monthly "Wish List" donations; January through December we will be fillin' our shopping cart. - Many thanks. January we are accepting donations of Toothpaste, Toilet Paper and Shampoo.

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 17, 2021.**

Messalonskee High School – In April 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 June we look to provide leadership and participation in their Baccalaureate program for new graduates.

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 2021. In Late December we sent a donation of \$500. Our Christmas Eve Offering this year again was sent to the Bread of Life Homeless Shelter. As of Sunday, December 27th we have received \$805! Thank you!

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

Vernon Valley Lodge 99 A.F. & A.M. – We sponsored the Bikes for Reading Program for local school children by sharing with them

\$200. Jim Webster is a key member of this group

Belgrade Historical Society – We shared \$200 for their Townhouse restoration project in which they will be opening up to the public in the future. Preserving Belgrade History for Future Generations

Maine Adaptive Sports – We will again support this program in 2021 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 17, 2021.**

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 17, 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 were 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 2021.** Each specific in their own way are able to be a means of God’s Grace in troubling times. To date \$1,924.06 has been expended.

Prayer Shawl Ministry. This group meets twice a month and distributes prayers shawls to both women and men who are dealing with health issues and or hospital stays. Prayer Shawls were sent to both Elisha McKenney and David Stevens in April

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 2021. To date we have dropped off two carloads of snacks during their school year.**

Maine Home for Little Wanderers, Waterville, ME – On February 17, 2021 we sent \$1,000 in memory of Joan & Dick Tripp. All three of their children were adopted from this wonderful organization.

Pine Tree Camp for Special Needs Adults and Children – As part of Barbara & John Sheble's general donation a \$5,000 gift was given to this camp so they could build a greenhouse and have a garden this summer



Our Next Bread of Life Homeless Shelter Dinner will be August 17th

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 30 residents.

Thank you to Meg, Cheryl, Gwen, Betty, Tony, Sharron, JoAnn and Kathy for sharing in this ministry on May 18th.

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. 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 because the shelter clients take this with them when they move into their own apartments

important to us



United Methodist Economic Ministry

They have kicked off their own Stronger Together Capital Campaign Program. The purpose of this campaign is to complete long-needed capital improvements that will allow us to continue to serve our communities for years to come. With a successful campaign, UMEM will install a new roof over the Salem Thrift Shop, convert the Salem bunkhouse for four season living, and build designated storage/sorting buildings at our Salem and Howland locations.

In late December we sent them a donation in the amount of \$1,000 from the Missions & Outreach Budget Line Item.

They are in need of donations to help with their operating expenses and need volunteers.



Finance Report

GRATITUDE:

I am reasonably confident that each of you shares my

feelings of gratitude and sense of accomplishment that I have experienced over the years at Union Church. There have been transitions and challenges no doubt, but we have not only survived, but have grown in the process. We have succeeded and we will continue to succeed in large part through a **cooperative** spirit of having worked together to achieve our objectives of serving our community ---being Christ's hands and feet in the world.

Union Church has provided (and will continue to provide) assistance to numerous neighbors by partnering with community agencies and organizations who know that Union Church can be counted on in times of trial.

-Countless persons have been comforted and embraced by the many prayerful shawls that have been distributed to those in need of comfort. The group of women behind this ministry have lovingly been given the moniker 'the knit wits'.

-There is much more than just the tangible manifestation of the food provided monthly to those in need at the Bread of Life. Those individuals sense and know that Union Church cares about them, knows they are important, and is willing to meet their physical needs.

-Food insecurity is a very real and pervasive problem in our local communities. Union Church reaches out in an effort to address and meet those needs, most especially among the school-aged youth of our area.

Working together we will continue to provide support for these and other community ministry needs. To continue to be successful, we each need to recommit and rededicate our time, our talents, and our treasure to Union Church.

To date, that is, through June 30, 2021, Union Church's finances seem to be relatively good. Income for the first half of 2021 totals \$69,882 which is 95.2% of projections. Over the same period, expenses totaled \$76,084 which is 90.7% of projections. Although the net operating income for the first six months was a negative **\$6,202**, the checkbook balance is in the black and healthy.

With our continued support during the second half of 2021, I am confident that we will end the year in the black and we will have contributed our full apportionment to the New England Conference having paid a total of \$21,076 in Mission Shares.

We are about to launch our annual stewardship campaign on August 8. You will each be receiving a letter from the Church urging you to consider renewing your pledge to Union

Church for 2022, inviting those who do not currently pledge to consider joining that 'contingent' as it will assist us in projecting our budget. Importantly, I am encouraging each of us to prayerfully consider increasing our annual contribution in 2022. A **preliminary** draft of the 2022 budget reflects an increase in expenses of \$2,602 more than this year, a modest increase of just 1.55%. The projected expenses for 2022 are estimated to total \$170,642. Accordingly, a balanced budget in 2022 would require a total of \$127,342 in pledges compared to a total of \$107,182 pledged in 2021. That is an increase in pledges totaling \$19,710. We will await God's response.

As a starting point, I encourage each of us to consider our own blessings and invite us all to respond in **gratitude** to God's faithful presence in our lives. **TOGETHER**, the faith community of Union Church can and will be better equipped to meet our goals and to serve our community and each other. Together, we will continue to be a blessing to others.

Thank you for your generous and committed faithfulness throughout the current year. Let us continue to be the presence of Christ in our world.

Give and you will receive!
Blessings and gratitude to you all!
Tony Mastromarino
Finance Committee Chair

Union Church Technology Upgrade

Union Church has been upgraded of its video streaming technology the week of July 11th); it now will allow for significant

improvements to the online presentation of our Sunday services as well as enhancements to our in-person services. The upgrades, approved at the Church Council meeting on February 23, were proposed to address 4 key areas:

-Congregational requests for a zooming camera to get a clearer view of what's happening at the pulpit as well as to focus on additional areas of worship interest;

-A desire to continue the upward attendance trend enabled by our livestreaming by improving our video and audio capabilities to make our services more relevant to a younger demographic;

-A view to the future where new technology will allow us to better clarify and illustrate the Message both in-person and online;

-The ability to offer expanded hospitality options for special services such as projected photo montages at weddings and memorial services.

The technology upgrade will include both hardware and software elements to improve our ability to more effectively present the Word to our congregation, both in-person and online:

-A zoomable camera to focus in closer on what's happening in the altar, choir, and organ areas;

-The ability to easily add recorded music to both in-person and livestreamed services;

-And the ability to project text, pictures, or videos on the front walls of our sanctuary for special services.

The Technology Committee is asking you to email us as to your experience viewing on our Website as to the clarity of sound and picture.

It will help us in assuring it is a wonderful experience for you our members as well as those from the community who choose to watch.

Thank you!

Respectfully Submitted,
Don Petersen, Chair of Technology Committee



VILLAGE GREEN MUSIC SERIES

Thursdays 6:30-8:00 PM

July 1st//Mes Amis
July 8th//Bob Colwell Trio
July 15th//The Cowboy Angels
July 22nd//Ryan Michaud
July 29th//Denny Breau
Aug. 5th//Rick Ray
Aug. 12th//Sandy River Ramblers
Aug. 19th//Joey Charles
Aug. 26th//The Laura Hudson Project
Sept. 2nd//Chris Poulson & The Social Club

SPONSORED BY G&L CONTRACTING AND
CRAIG'S CARPENTRY/NORTH BAY ESTATES

For more info call 207-495-3481 or email
recreation@townofbelgrade.com



Food Pantry
Donations Needed

**MONTH
OF
AUGUST**

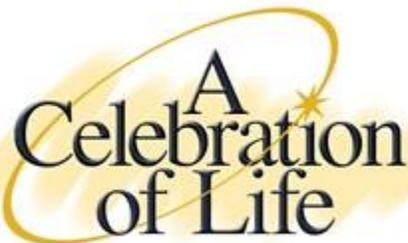


DINNER'S ON THE GRILL

**MUSTARD KETCHUP
RELISH**

**FOR THE ROME/BELGRADE
FOOD PANTRY**

**PERSONAL CARE ITEMS NEEDED:
TOOTHBRUSHES (INDIVIDUAL)
TOOTHPASTE (REG SIZE)
DEODORANT (GENERIC)
SHAMPOO (GENERIC)**



CELEBRATION
OF LIFE
(MEMORIAL
SERVICE)
FOR HORATIO
CASTLE

SATURDAY,
AUGUST 21ST
@ 10 A.M.

Please come join Val and family as they hold
this special service. Come and share a
time of stories and remembrance of his
life faithfully well lived.

Craft Shows



The Town of Belgrade

continues to host a series of craft shows at the Village Green. The shows will be on the last Sunday of the month with an additional show on Saturday, Oct. 9. (August 29, September 26 remaining)

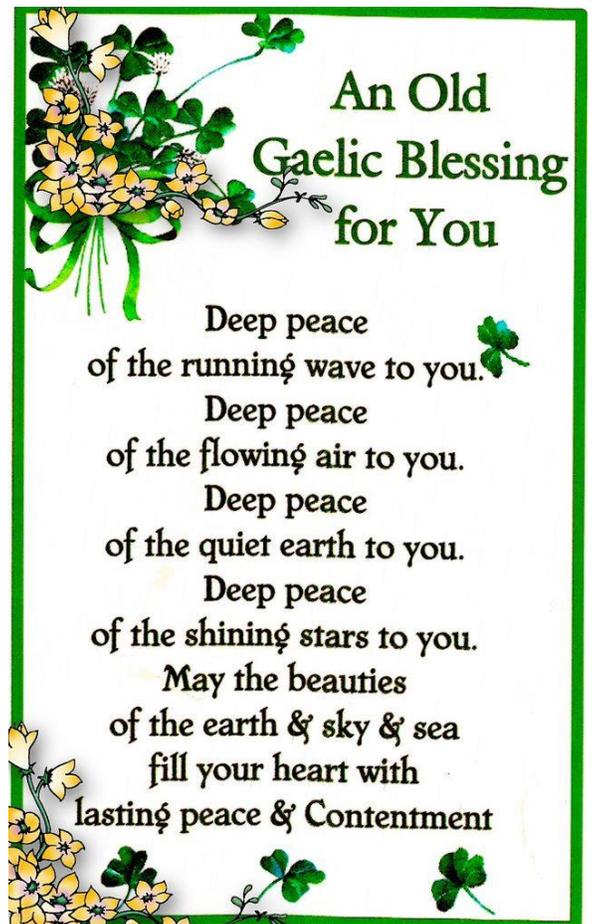
Each show will be from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. and will feature wares created by local artists and crafters.



Alice VanDerwerken at the Farmer's Market



Sharing Pictures/Prayers, etc. shared by members of the Congregation



GAELIC BLESSING Shared by Carol Johnson

Happiness Cake

Ingredients

- 1 cup good thoughts
- 1 cup kind deeds
- 1 cup consideration for others
- 2 cups sacrifice
- 2 cups well beaten faults
- 3 cups forgiveness

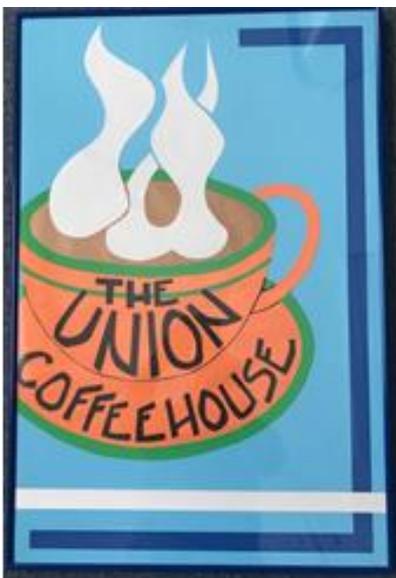


Directions

Mix thoroughly. Add tears of joy, sorrow & sympathy. Fold in 4 cups prayer, faith & blend well. Fold into daily life. Bake well with the warmth of human kindness. Serve with a smile. It will satisfy the hunger of starved souls.



ANA showing off her pipe cleaner Dragonflies



Surprise Guests!

NOTE: New Time: 6:30

UNION COFFEEHOUSE

Hey Everybody,

Our second **Union Coffeehouse at the Village Green** will take place on **Saturday, August 14**, with a rousing concert by **John and Ellen Gawler and**

They will bring us an assortment of old and new sounds from many folk traditions. The Gawler's accompany interweaving harmonies with fiddles, banjo, wooden banjo, and guitar, as well as a few surprises. Whether they are crooning a poignant ballad or delivering a rollicking fiddle tune, their unique arrangements are especially engaging and often go along with anecdotes of historical or humorous content.



Although the Gawler's may be best known for their extensive collection of dance tunes in the Scots-Irish and French Canadian traditions, their repertoire may include a gutsy "Sweet Honey in the Rock," an *a capella* work song, or an amusing ode to everyday life. With their infectious spirit and sparkling musicianship, the Gawler's have earned a beloved place in the delighted hearts of varied audiences across the Northeast.

Please bring your own chairs and refreshments. And be sure to stay for the serendipitous group of performers who show up for the Open Mic time following the featured performers. I'll look forward to seeing you all at the Union Coffeehouse this summer. And be sure to bring along some friends and neighbors. Let me know if you have any questions.

All the best,
Don Petersen

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...