



Union Church of Belgrade Lakes  
United Methodist Church

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## Union Rider

## August 2024



Dear Members and Friends of  
Union Church,

Greetings in the name of the  
One who reminds us that God  
gives us each day our “daily  
bread” and then encourages us to share  
generously from the bounty of our received  
blessings.

The promise of “daily bread” is one that has,  
mostly, become inconsequential to us, and  
mostly, taken for granted. We turn our attention  
to Jesus’s “flashier” miracles of healing body  
and mind. Father Richard Rohr invites us to  
consider those healing stories differently: ***“The  
point in all the healing stories of the  
Gospels is not simply that Jesus can work  
miracles. It is not for us to be astounded  
that Jesus can turn five loaves and two fish  
into enough for five thousand people, not  
counting women and children. That is  
pretty amazing, and I wish we could do it  
ourselves, but what Jesus does quite  
simply is feed people’s immediate needs.  
He doesn’t talk to them about spiritual  
things, heavenly things, or churchy things.  
He doesn’t give a sermon about going to  
church. He does not tell us what things we  
are supposed to be upset about today. He  
knows that we can’t talk about spiritual  
things until we take away people’s  
immediate physical hunger. When so much  
of the world is living at a mere survival  
level, how can we possibly talk about  
spiritual things? The important thing that  
God seems to want to be doing in history is  
to create a community of compassion  
where people care about one another. It is***

***not only the feeding that matters to us, it is  
also the caring for other people’s hunger  
and needs. Jesus never once talked about  
attending church services, but he talked  
constantly about healing the sick and  
feeding the hungry. That is what it seems to  
mean to be a follower of Jesus.”***

Later in this newsletter, you will find an  
introduction to our 2025 Stewardship  
Program. (Yes, it’s that time of year already!)  
The theme for our program this year is ***“Bread  
for the Journey,”*** and it’s not just our own  
Union Church journey that we’ll be lifting up.  
It’s also the ways in which we, by sharing our  
faith and our bread, become “food for the  
world,” for it is true that the bread that can  
come from our hands may be the only Christ  
some people ever know.

The financial stewardship of our own assets  
and our beloved Union Church’s assets are  
challenging at any time, and no less so in  
these current times, as we face great volatility  
in the prices of just about everything we have  
the need to consume, and in the value of  
whatever financial investments we might hold.  
And Yet! We find ample opportunities to  
recognize where God’s grace has been both  
sufficient and abundant in enabling Union  
Church of Belgrade Lakes UMC to receive and  
share ***“Bread for the Journey.”*** The process  
by which we perennially prepare financial  
forecasts and craft an annual operating budget  
for the church is what Oswald Chambers calls  
“gracious uncertainty.” And he describes it this  
way: “Most of us look upon uncertainty as a  
bad thing. We think we must reach some  
predestined goal, but that is not the nature of

spiritual life. The nature of our spiritual life is that we are certain in our uncertainty... Certainty is the mark of the commonsense life – gracious uncertainty is the work of the spiritual life... We are not uncertain of God, just uncertain of what He is going to do next.”

Even and especially in the midst of what is uncertain and even volatile, let us be encouraged to remain faithful to God. We may be gloriously and graciously uncertain of how God will come in – but we can be certain that God will come, and God will enable us to receive and share **“Bread for the Journey.”** God is so good!

Together In Christ’s Love and Service,

*Pastor Eleanor Collinsworth*



**“He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity...”** 2 Corinthians 9:10-11

The Bible is full of stories in which God provided bread – the most basic substance of nourishment – to sustain God’s beloved ones. In John 6:35, Jesus said, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry...” The Apostle Paul encouraged new Christ-followers to generously share their faith and their bread. And so, **“Bread for the Journey”** has been chosen as the image and phrase we will lift up to guide us as we decide how we will support the ministries and missions of Union Church of Belgrade Lakes UMC going forward into 2025. We will explore and celebrate how we are ever becoming food for the world in our worship services on August 11,

18, and 25. Our Stewardship Program will culminate in Covenant Sunday on August 25. Please be watching your mail, our church emails, and Facebook page for more information on this year’s Stewardship program.



We will be sharing Coffee Hour each Sunday in August. Coffee Hours will be hosted by SPRC on August 4 & 11, and by the Finance Committee on August 18 & 25.

Our 2024  
**“Joys and Celebrations Love Offering”**  
Recipients are Belgrade-Rome Food Pantry & Good Shepherd Food Bank.

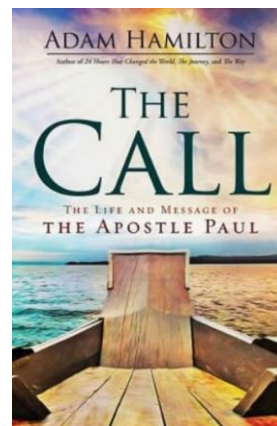


*Joys and Celebrations total (as of 7/28/24) is \$1332.85. Our yearly goal is \$3,500.00.*



The **Union Church Yard Sale** is being held on Saturday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., with set-up all day on Friday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>. A sign-up sheet for workers is posted in Friendship Hall.

## Summer Bible Study!



On Wednesday, July 17, a summer Bible Study started. We’ll meet for a time of prayer at 9:45 a.m., to be followed by the study of the book, *The Call: Life and Message of Paul*, written by Rev. Adam Hamilton. The study includes DVD segments with each of the six lessons.

**Boxed Mac & Cheese**  
**Boxed/Canned Pasta**  
**Peanut Butter**  
**Canned Beef Stew,**  
**Chicken Noodle & Tomato Soup**



## Bread Of Life Ministries

**Our Next Bread of Life Homeless Shelter Dinner will be Tues., August 20, 2024.**

Please email us at [unionchurchmaine@gmail.com](mailto: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. At this time they are housing around 50 residents.

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 warm clothing such as: Wool Hats, Gloves, Hand and Feet Warmers. Please drop off items at the church and we will deliver at our next meal delivery.

They are also always in need of pillows, bath towels and face cloths, and bed-in-a-bags (twin size). Bedding is important because the shelter clients take it with them when they move to apartments.

### **Bread of Life Soup Kitchen Wish List:**

Bottled Water, Sandwich-size Zipper Bags, Coffee Creamers.



### MEETINGS AT A GLANCE:

Worship & Music 8/5 @4:30PM  
Trustees 8/7 @4:30PM  
Knitting Group 8/12 & 8/26 @1PM  
Church Council 8/25 @10:45AM

## 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 are led in our efforts by the **Missions and Outreach Committee**.



### Organizations Supported So Far in 2024:

- **Maine Justice Foundation, Augusta, ME**  
Serves the LGBTQ community and the poor and vulnerable, facing employment & housing discrimination, domestic violence, homelessness.
- **Adaptive Outdoor Education Center**  
Supports programs that empower adaptive athletes towards a healthy, active and rewarding life.
- **Neighbors Driving Neighbors** – Serves folks who are homebound and unable to get to doctors' appointments, shopping, errands, etc.
- **Belgrade Central School** – Monthly donations of snacks and school supplies.
- **Kenneth Workman Youth Sports Program**

### Organizations Supported in 2023:

- **Bread of Life Ministries**
- **Vernon Valley Lodge 99 A.F. & A.M.** – the Bikes for Reading Program for local school children
- **United Methodist Camp Mechuwana in Winthrop, ME**
- **Center for All Seasons After-School Programs and Summer Camp**
- **Belgrade/Rome Food Pantry**
- **Pastor's Discretionary Fund**
- **Prayer Shawl Ministry**
- **Belgrade Public Library**
- **Belgrade Fire & Rescue**
- **UMEM (United Methodist Economic Ministry, located in Salem & Howland, ME)**



## SHEBLE CAMBERSHIP FUND

Summer fun is well under way... and Union Church is

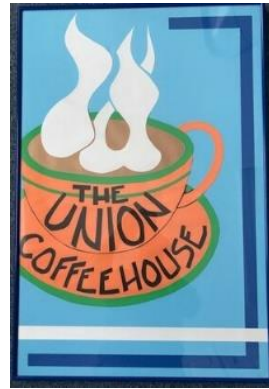
providing summer camp experiences through the Jack and Barbara Sheble Campership Fund.

The inspiration for creating the Jack and Barbara Sheble Campership fund was in discovering and recognizing the joy and fond memories from summer camp Jack held throughout his life. Let's pay it forward enriching summertime camp experiences to our community. Won't you help us grow the Campership Fund?

The Campership Committee is offering camperships to Belgrade Parks and Recreation Department, Center for All Seasons, in Belgrade, Camp Mechuwana, United Methodist Church Camp, in Winthrop Maine, and possibly others. Stay tuned for unfolding plans for this summer!

If you have questions, please reach out to Pam Mackill, Committee Chair, at 617-852-4293 or email at [flowerfairypm@gmail.com](mailto:flowerfairypm@gmail.com), or email the church at [unionchurchmaine@gmail.com](mailto:unionchurchmaine@gmail.com). You can also reach out to any of the Committee Members: Lynn Matson, Diane Dunn, Hilary Tatem, Gwen Chase, or Pastor Eleanor.

Thank you.



The Union Coffeehouse closes out the 2024 season by welcoming Chris Poulson and Pam Tyler (and LEFTY, TOO!) to the Coffeehouse stage.

Chris, Pam, and Lefty McAuslin are a local trio covering folk and rootsy rock and blues

songs. With Chris on guitar, Pam on bass and percussion, and Lefty on the saxophone, their blended vocal harmonies will keep you engaged and looking for more. Chris and Pam share similar musical backgrounds growing up in musical families in Northern Maine. They eventually moved to central Maine where they both enjoyed years of music in bands and other combos. Pam owned and operated Riverside market and cafe and lives in Oakland. Chris, organizer of our Village Green Concerts in the summer, resides in Belgrade Lakes with her husband. Lefty, who was raised in Gardiner, has played in bands and jazz groups for years and provides the extra ingredient that makes this trio so special. Together, these three wonderful musicians will provide an enchanting and fun musical coda to this season's Coffeehouse schedule.



Please show your support for this Union Church community outreach program by coming to the Union Coffeehouse and bringing your friends. The concert will start at 7 PM in Friendship Hall and Chris, Pam, and Lefty will start the show. They will be followed by the serendipitous group of performers who show up for the Open Mic time. We'll offer the wonderful fresh baked goods, and coffee, tea, and lemonade that have become a hallmark of the Union Coffeehouse. We hope you will come and enjoy this wonderful concert. Please direct any questions about the programs to Don Petersen. We look forward to seeing you there.

## Union Church Presents Carolyn Enger In Concert

The Union Church is proud to present a multi-media piano concert by the internationally celebrated concert pianist, Carolyn Enger on Tuesday, August 6, at 7 PM, in the sanctuary. She has been using our piano to practice during her visits to Belgrade Lakes and offered to do a concert for the church and the local community. Ms. Enger's concert, Resonating Earth, creates a meditative space for listeners to engage with music and environmental art in order to inspire environmental action. An hour-long cinematic concert collaboration with video artist and Peabody-winning producer Elliott Forrest (WQXR), artist and activist J. Henry Fair, and visual storyteller Myles Aronowitz, Resonating Earth pairs Enger's live piano performance of music from the Baroque period to the present with arresting natural imagery. This diverse program invites the audience to think about a range of periods, locations, and communities, and to reflect on the relationship between humans and nature—from the environment's impact on composer output, to human impact in the era of industrial acceleration.

A reception will be held at the church following the concert. Please plan on coming to this amazing concert and show your support for this community outreach event. You can direct any questions about the concert to Don Petersen.

## Strawberry Social



The Strawberry Social was a hit with July 4<sup>th</sup> visitors to Belgrade Lakes Village. Shortcakes, dogs and sausages sold out!



Many thanks to all who volunteered at the event!



United Methodist Church  
67 Main Street  
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**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 in all that we say and do...

