



Union Church of Belgrade Lakes

United Methodist Church

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Union Rider

JULY 2022 Newsletter



A WORD FROM THE PASTOR

Sustainer! Summer has arrived in Belgrade Lakes – let us rejoice and be glad! Our seasonal friends have returned and are returning – let us rejoice and be glad!

We are in a season of experiencing the many aspects of the Holy Spirit in our times of worship and Bible Study together. In our weekly Wednesday morning Bible Studies, we are exploring the book of Acts – the Acts of the Apostles, that is – chapter by chapter. The Holy Spirit is featured very prominently in the account of the early church of Christ-followers. In our worship services, we have just concluded, in late May and June, our celebration of the holy days of Christ's Ascension, Pentecost Sunday, and Trinity Sunday. Now and in the month to come, we are exploring Paul's letters to the Galatians and the Colossians. Jesus's early followers are learning what it means to be blessed by the presence of the Holy Spirit, as we are re-

Dear Members
and Friends of
Union Church,

Grace and peace
to you in the name
of God our
Creator, Christ
Jesus our
Redeemer, and
the Holy Spirit our



learning how the Holy Spirit is and can be present with and for us.

It is good to be reminded of the abiding and sustaining presence of the Holy Spirit in these days and weeks in which the news of our nation and world is to too often not good. And that's to say nothing of that with which each of you/us might be struggling in our own lives and in the lives of our loved ones. For my fellow Upper Room daily devotional readers, I was moved by the devotion I read just this morning (on June 21). I was impactfully reminded of these words from Paul's letter to the Romans 8:22-27:

"We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God."

The thought of the Spirit interceding for me, when I have not the words to pray, is an immensely comforting thought. Or when my own praying is, in the words of Franciscan Richard Rohr, both “constant and impossible.” And I am comforted by these words of the writer of the June 21 Upper Room devotion – “God, I have no more words. Please let my steps be prayers and my breath be praise.” While it is difficult to explain or describe the concept of the Holy Spirit, I know it when I feel it, or when I see it in action. Thanks be to Creator God, Redeemer Christ, and Sustaining Holy Spirit! I pray that the time we are spending in Acts, and in Paul’s various letters give you a new or renewed sense of the Holy Spirit present with you, and in our beloved faith community here at Union Church!

May the many blessings of summer life in the Belgrade Lakes, good health, and God’s felt presence be yours now and always.

Together in Christ’s Love and Service,

Pastor Eleanor Collinsworth



The Message of the Cross

Bible in a Year:

- [Job 1-2](#)
- [Acts 7:22-43](#)

The message of the cross is . . . the power of God.

1 Corinthians 1:18

Today's Scripture & Insight:

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

Zhang was raised with, in his words, “no God, no religion, nothing.” In 1989, seeking democracy and freedom for his people, he helped lead students in peaceful protests. But the protests tragically led to the government’s

intervention and hundreds of lives lost. For his part in the event, Zhang was placed on his country’s most-wanted list. After a short imprisonment, he fled to an outlying village where he met an elderly farmer who introduced him to Christianity. She had only a handwritten copy of the gospel of John but couldn’t read, so she asked Zhang to read it to her. As he did, she explained it to him—and a year later he became a believer in Jesus.

Through all he endured, Zhang sees that God was powerfully leading him to the cross, where he experienced firsthand what the apostle Paul states in 1 Corinthians, “The message of the cross is . . . the power of God” (1:18). What many considered foolishness, a weakness, became Zhang’s strength. For some of us, this too was our thinking before we came to Christ. But through the Spirit, we felt the power and wisdom of God breaking into our lives and leading us to Christ. Today Zhang serves as a pastor spreading the truth of the cross to all who will hear.

Jesus has the power to change even the hardest of hearts. Who needs His powerful touch today?

By: [Alyson Kieda](#)

Reflect & Pray

How did you view the message of the cross before you received Christ as your Savior? Who might benefit from hearing your story?

Jesus, thank You for leading me to You through the cross. I would be lost without You!

**WELCOME
HOME
SUMMER
CHURCH
FAMILY**





FRIENDS AND NEIGHBOR LUNCHEON

Thursday,
July 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 6/26/2022:
\$1,186.75

Our yearly goal is \$2,500



Meetings at a Glance:
JULY 2022

Worship Committee: 7/12 @ 5:30 p.m.

Missions & Outreach: 7/13 @ 11:15

Prayer Shawl: 7/11 and 7/25 @ 1 p.m.

Belgrade Senior Resource Meeting: 7/25 @ 6 p.m. at the Town Office



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 –
As summer will be upon us, we will once again provide snacks for the kiddos. We will also sponsor children who would like to attend summer camp.

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. \$200 was donated on May 17th.

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 April we sent \$500 to support the High School’s Food Pantry. A food pantry is located at MHS to serve their students and families. They also hold an event each year called Empty Bowls project which supports our local Food cupboards and the Food Cupboard at the High School. 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. They are back to holding in person camp outings! If you have children/grandchildren who would like to attend, please sign them up soon; their camping sessions are filling up fast. On April 13th 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.

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 dropped off a donation (\$200 worth) of snacks on April 18th for the kiddos when they got back from their Spring break.

Belgrade Public Library – On May 17th we sent a donation of \$100 to the Sandra Fuller Fund (Collection of Children's Classical Book)

Belgrade Fire & Rescue – A donation in the amount of \$500 was sent to support the First Responders Bench that will be placed at the Town Office.



- 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). (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 July 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 Sharron, Meg, JoAnn, Tony, Cheryl, Louise, Ann McCandlish, Julie Michelitch, Pastor Eleanor and Kathy for sharing in this ministry on June 21st.

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



Food Pantry
Donations Needed

MONTH
OF
JULY



SUMMER AT LAST

**Baked Beans, Hash,
Canned Pasta**

**FOR THE ROME/BELGRADE
FOOD PANTRY**

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



**Finance
Committee
Update**

Union Church's mission statement is "...to live our experience of God's love in all that we say and do..." and our Vision is "to be a growing spiritual faith community in the manner of Christ, where all are welcome and cared for." Each of our church committees attempts to fulfill those commitments by nurturing our members spiritually and by living our lives in service to our community and beyond. As Christians, therefore, we are charged with living our faith in our community. We need to heighten our awareness of this obligation and more consistently act as Christ-followers on a daily basis. These responsibilities can and will only be fulfilled at and through Union Church if we each continue to provide our financial support. As a community of faith, we give thankfully in response to all we have received and for all that our contributions support. It is through our faithful and generous support that we are able to help others in our community.

Through the first 5 months of 2022, income totaled \$56,706 of which \$48,506 were pledges received. Total income was 91.4% of projections. To date,

loose offerings are only 57% of projections. For the same period, total expenses were \$66,257 which was 93.4% of projections. The net operating income was a negative **\$9,551**. Nevertheless, our unrestricted checkbook balance was \$40,079.

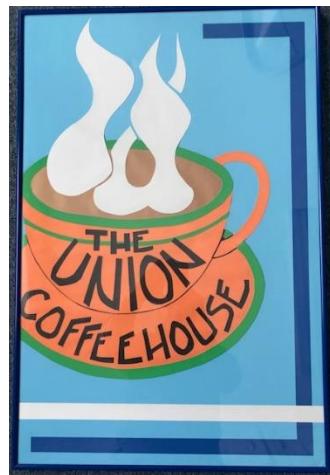
Your generosity and faithful commitment are very much acknowledged and greatly appreciated. Many thanks for your continued support of our Mission and our Vision as a faith community in Belgrade Lakes.

Respectfully,
Tony Mastromarino



So, you're here for the summer and you miss singing with your church choir or community chorus back home. Even with all the wonderful things to do here in Maine during the summer, do you still miss that music boost or the harmonic high you get from singing with a group of friends? Well, how about making some new music friends by joining our choir? You don't need to read music or have a strong voice, but you do need to enjoy singing with a friendly, welcoming group. Talk to Don Petersen or to any of our choir members about how much fun we have, and about the wonderful health benefits of singing. Or, just show up at our next rehearsal in the sanctuary at 6:30 PM on Tuesday evenings. We hope to see you there.

Musically,
Don Petersen, Choir Director



Union Coffeehouse 2022 – We're Back!

Mid-Summer Union Coffeehouse on the Green

For the mid-summer concert of our 2022 season, on **Saturday, July 9, at 7 PM**, the **Union Coffeehouse on the Green** will feature

the delightful music of **Simons and Goodwin**. The tight-knit harmonies of Renee Goodwin and Bob Simons have made them a perennial favorite here at

the

Coffeehouse.

This wonderfully talented folk-singing duo performs both original and traditional folk and popular

songs complemented by Bob's intricate guitar accompaniment. There is a warmth that comes through their songs and it makes you feel like you're listening to old friends.



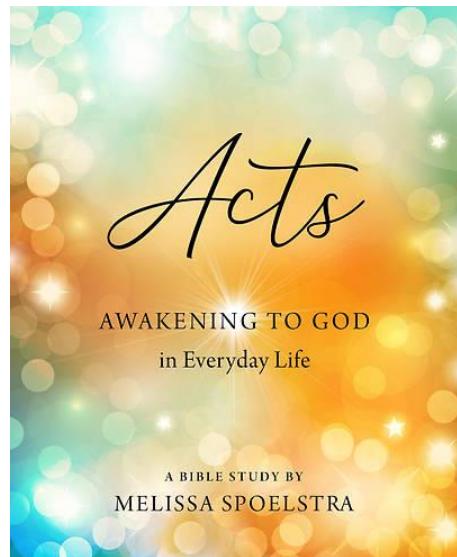
Weather permitting, the **Union Coffeehouse** will, once again, be held on the **Belgrade Village Green** right here in the village. Please show your support for this wonderful Union Church community outreach program by coming to the concert and bringing your friends. The music will start at **7 PM** and **Simons and Goodwin** will start the show. As always, an Open Mic time follows our featured performers. It never fails to provide an eclectic mix of local talent for your enjoyment. **Since we'll be outside, please bring a chair or blanket to sit on as well as some goodies to enjoy during the show.** In case of rain, we'll move over to Friendship Hall here in the church, our traditional venue. We're looking forward to seeing you for this mid-summer concert of the 2022 summer season.



**Saturday,
August 20 -
The Union
Coffeehous
e is pleased
to bring back
Mark
Mandeville
and**

Raianne Richards to close out our 2022 season on Saturday, August 20. Raianne and Mark are clearly inheritors of a timeless legacy, creating music that is both original and evocative of a rich tradition. Blending distinctive voices and a wide range of accompaniment (guitar, harmonica, ukulele, clarinet, penny whistle, electric bass), their songs have been well-received by audiences around the eastern United States and Canada since 2010. Transcending the genre of folk Americana, their music echoes inspiration from traditional folk duos and singer/songwriters like Ian & Sylvia, Kate Wolf and Neil Young – combining beautiful harmonies and a lyrical intensity, while establishing a unique sound of their own.

Please show your support for this wonderful Union Church community outreach program by coming to the **Union Coffeehouse** concerts and bringing your friends. The concerts will start at 7 PM in Friendship Hall and the featured performers start the show. They will be followed by the serendipitous group of performers who show up for the Open Mic time. We don't know whether we'll be able to offer the refreshments and baked goods that have become a hallmark of the Union Coffeehouse. We'll have to keep an eye on what COVID is doing and make our decision as we get closer to the performance dates. We hope you will come and enjoy the wonderful concerts that we are able to offer this year.



**Current
Bible
Study**

Whether it's because of distractions, busyness, or a case of the blahs, we can experience a drift toward indifference in our spiritual

lives. We have a need for an ongoing spiritual awakening if we want to become more aware of God's presence and activity in our everyday lives.

We continue on the journey with the first followers of Jesus and witness the birth and growth of the early church through spiritual awakening to the power of God's Spirit, message, freedom, grace, mission, and direction.

From their experiences you will learn postures that will help you attune your own spiritual heart to experience God's presence, hear God's voice, and see God at work all around.

This study offers a fresh encounter with God to prepare you to:

- Face daily battles
- Be able to discern the messages of our culture
- Be ready to share God's love with others always

**Everyone welcome; please join us!
Wednesdays 9:45 a.m. – 11 a.m.**

**Friends of the Belgrade
Public Library
Book Sale**

Book Sale

*Gently Used Books, Baked Goods,
Silent Auction!*

Sunday July 3rd
9 am – 1 pm

**Belgrade Center for All Seasons
1 Center Drive, Route 27**

YOUR HEALTH IS IMPORTANT TO US! Please follow current social distancing guidelines and use hand sanitizer.
For information, call 649-4238.



Sponsored by:



The Friends of the Belgrade Public Library



**DURING OUR
June 19th 9:30 a.m.
WORSHIP
SERVICE; WE
HONORED ALL
OUR GRADUATES**

**Sharing more pictures of these others that
have graduated from High School**



George Rizzo (grandson of Frank and Gail Rizzo) graduated from Highland High School, Warrenton, VA and is going to George Washington University in DC in the Fall DC



Juliet Meas
(Daughter of Vinan Meas); graduated from Yarmouth Academy and will Attend Keene College in NH in the Fall



Kaylin Weltz (Niece of Cheryl Cook) graduated from George Stevens Academy And will attend EMMC in the Fall to Become a Medical Assistant



Zachary McKenney (son of Julie and James McKenney) graduated from Messalonskee High School

Other Graduates (sorry no pics): Levi Shafer (Son of Linda Shafer and Grandson of Pat Foster) from High School, he will attend Taylor University in Indianapolis. Winter Webb (Daughter of Kevin and Hollie) from Maranacook High School, she will attend UNE to become a PA. Charles Mastromarino (Grandson of Tony & Nancy) and Thomas Michelitch (son of Terry & Julie) from Middle School

Monday
July 4th

**Come Volunteer at our Annual
Strawberry Shortcake Event
We Have Lots of Fun!!!**

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!!!

**UNION CHURCH OF BELGRADE LAKES
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**



**STRAWBERRY SHORTCAKE
SALE \$5**



**SELTZER
OR WATER
\$1**



HOT DOG \$2



**SAUSAGE
\$3**

WHEN: JULY 4TH

TIME: 11 AM TO 3 PM



**Karen Munson Stepping Down From
Many Waters District
Superintendent Position**

Rev. Dr. Karen Munson's, DS Farewell was held on June 17th from 6:00-8:00 at the UMC of Auburn. It was well attended. We shared a gift in the amount of \$250 to support her wish for donations towards the Youth Taize Trip.

**Couple of Beautiful Sunset Pictures
Nancy Kelly took at
their place on Long Pond**



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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...