



Union Church of Belgrade Lakes

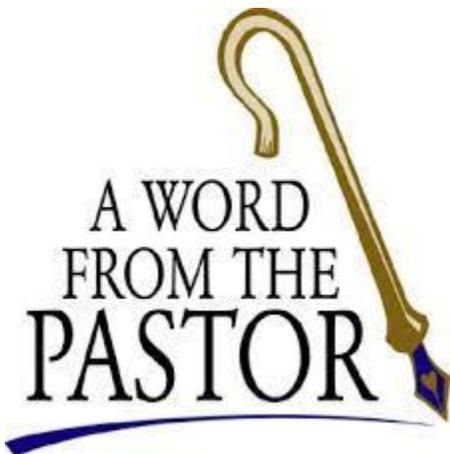
United Methodist Church

Location: 67 Main Street, Belgrade Lakes, Maine
Mailing Address: P. O. Box 133, Belgrade Lakes, Maine 04918
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Union Rider

June, 2020 Newsletter



Dear Members and Friends,

Grace and peace to you in the name of the One God – Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer – who walks with us in all the seasons of

life. As I write this, “Spring has sprung,” and we are enjoying our first tastes of the summer season to come! It is, of course, a summer like no other, as we grapple with the prolonged effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. This time is testing and trying our faith that God truly wants the very best for us in all things. And yet, there have been faith lessons learned. And we find ourselves so very appreciative of what we might call the “simpler” things in life. Above all, I am thankful for the faithfulness of the Union Church community, and for the ways we are reaching out to serve our neighbors in all places in these difficult times.

The most exciting thing I could possibly share with you at this point is the fact that your church leaders and church staff are beginning to work on what I am calling our “Re-Entry Plan.” That title resonates deeply with me, for as a child of the 60’s and 70’s, it makes me think of the manned space program. I recall watching live television broadcasts of space

capsules making their re-entry into earth’s atmosphere at the end of their space missions. A quick Google search reminded me that there are two types of atmospheric entry: uncontrolled and controlled. The results of uncontrolled entry are usually very bad – catastrophic, even. On the other hand, controlled entry, while carrying some calculated risk, can be done safely. And it has been done safely many, many times throughout the years of “manned/womanned” space travel.

The “Re-Entry Plan” underway for Union Church will very much be a controlled re-entry. We are fortunate to have access to ample resources designed to guide our efforts, and we are fortunate to have people in our midst with the knowledge to assist us. Thanks be to God! The wisest advice I have encountered is this: rather than setting a date for in-person worship services to begin, build a solid, comprehensive re-entry plan and use the plan to determine when it is as safe as possible to resume in-person worship services. We will have the most controlled re-entry we can possibly design. The Worship Committee has begun meeting (by ZOOM video-conferencing) to build the plan, as have the Trustees (also by ZOOM video-conferencing). And each of you reading this has a role to play in the “Re-Entry Plan.” I trust that each of you will make your own wise decision about when “re-entry” into in-person worship is right for you. Certainly, if

you are feeling ill in any way, it's "not yet." If you or someone you live with has compromising health conditions (acute or chronic), it's "not yet." If you desire to continue to "stay well at home," it's "not yet." Only you know what is right and timely for you!

In order to provide opportunities for all to worship, we will continue to live-stream (on our church website and our church Facebook page) our 9:30 a.m. Sunday worship services for the foreseeable future. This will provide worship options for those people who need and want to continue to stay safe at home. Each person making the wisest choice for their own health and welfare, and the health and welfare of others, is of utmost importance!!

One thing is becoming abundantly clear – when we complete our "Re-Entry Plan" and begin in-person worship services, they will be different in many ways. So "stay tuned" for the latest developments. As your pastor, I humbly ask for, and deeply appreciate, your willingness to be flexible as we navigate the re-entry process, as we learn how to live and worship differently under these new conditions, in these ever-changing and ever-challenging times.

May good health and God's most abundant blessings be yours now and always.

Together in Christ's Love and Service,

Pastor Eleanor Collinsworth

CHURCH NOTICE!

Since 500 people can safely be in Home Depot... This week's services will be held in plumbing. Bring your Bible.



HAPPY AND BLESSED FATHER'S DAY!

While most Dads are unable to be with their families this year, may this be a prayer you share with them to provide them some love and peace:

We hold all Fathers and those who are like Dads in our thoughts and prayers during this time of difference.

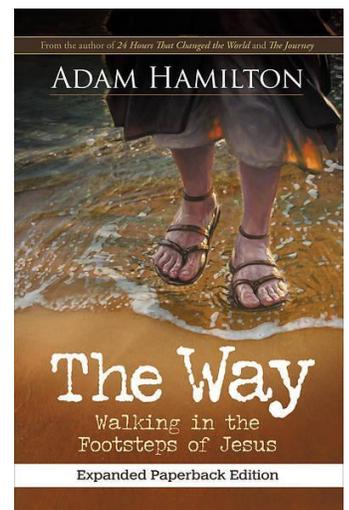
Lenten Bible Study

**Resuming
Wednesday
June 3rd
@ 10 a.m.**

We will inform you of the start up date when determined.

The third volume in Adam Hamilton's Bible study trilogy on the life of Jesus.

Travel with Adam Hamilton as he retraces the life and ministry of Jesus Christ. Fascinating video from his personal travels to the Holy Land give you a "first-person" experience while his biblical wisdom and historical knowledge provide thoughtful and insightful commentary. Especially fitting as part of a 40-day



churchwide emphasis during Lent and Easter. The Paperback includes devotions for each chapter and photos from Adam's trip to the Holy Lands.

Pastor Eleanor will also share pictures of her trip to The Holy Land.



Exploring Church Membership

If you have been attending Union Church for a while now, and if you like what you have experienced as part of this worshipping and serving community of Christian faith, then you are invited to join Pastor Eleanor in a couple of informal gatherings to explore becoming a member of Union Church. **The first Class was held on Sunday, March 8th after our morning Worship Service.** It was a time of informal information-sharing and conversation. There will be at least one more Class if not two; dates for those will be announced soon. If you would like to be part of these gatherings, or if you know someone who might be interested, please contact Pastor Eleanor, or one of our Lay Leaders (Kathy Gerard and Carol Johnson). This is an exciting time of new growth at Union Church, and we welcome those interested in having a part in it!

The next Class will be determined once we don't have to "Social Distance" ourselves.



Living in the Branches

Bible in a Year: [1 Kings 10-11](#),
[Luke 21:20-38](#)

Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into God's love and keep you strong.
[Ephesians 3:17 nlt](#)

Today's Scripture & Insight:
[Ephesians 4:14-24](#)

As I shared with my counselor my roller-coaster of emotions after a stress-filled week, she listened thoughtfully. Then she invited me to look out the window at the trees, lush with autumnal oranges and golds, the branches swaying in the wind.

Pointing out that the *trunks* weren't moving at all in the wind, my counselor explained, "We're a bit like that. When life is blowing at us from every direction, of course our emotions will go up and down and all around. But sometimes we live as if we only have *branches*. Our goal is to help you find your own *trunk*. That way, even when life is pulling from all sides, you won't be *living* in your branches. You'll still be secure and stable."

It's an image that's stuck with me, and it's similar to the image Paul offered new believers

in Ephesians. Reminding them of God's incredible gift—a new life of tremendous purpose and value (Ephesians 2:6–10), Paul shared his longing that they'd become deeply “rooted and established” in Christ's love (3:17), no longer “blown here and there by every wind of teaching” (4:14).

On our own, it's easy to feel insecure and fragile, pummeled by our fears and insecurities. But as we grow in our true identity in Christ (vv. 22–24), we can experience deep peace with God and each other (v. 3), nourished and sustained by Christ's power and beauty (vv. 15–16). **By: [Monica La Rose](#); Our Daily Bread**

Reflect:

When do you feel most “blown here and there” by life's challenges? How might remembering your identity in Jesus encourage and strengthen you?

Pray: *Jesus, thank You for the overwhelmingly good news that the strength needed to withstand life's challenges isn't our own. Help us to grow ever-deeper roots in Your love and our place in Your family.*



**FRIENDS AND
NEIGHBOR
LUNCHEON**

**Thursday,
June 11, 2020
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



**Their regular meetings are on Saturdays
from 9AM to 10:30AM
in Friendship Hall.**



**UNITED
METHODIST
WOMEN'S
YARD SALE
POSTPONED UNTIL
2021**

SADLY; WE HAVE HAD TO MAKE THE DECISION TO PLACE THIS EVENT ON HIATUS THIS YEAR DUE TO COVID-19 AND THE SOCIAL DISTANCING REQUIREMENTS.

THIS WAS NOT AN EASY DECISION TO MAKE AS THE PROCEEDS FROM THIS EVENT GO TOWARD MAKING SURE CHILDREN AT THE BELGRADE CENTRAL SCHOOL HAVE WINTER CLOTHING

If you are able and have the space; please store your yard sale items so you can share them with us next year! We would greatly appreciate it.

Should you feel so inclined and would like to donate toward the BELGRADE CENTRAL SCHOOL WINTER CLOTHING PROGRAM, We would be most grateful. Please make your checks payable to UMW and send your donations to Union Church of Belgrade Lakes, P. O. Box 133, Belgrade Lakes, ME 04918.

THANK YOU!



Matthew 25 Ministries Empty Pill Bottle Recycling

The United Methodist Women's Group will be collecting empty, label free pill bottles.

There will be a box specific for this project placed in Friendship Hall in the near future

In developing countries, medicines—when actually obtainable—are often dispensed into hands, pockets, leaves or any other available container. Matthew 25 Ministries accepts donations of basic medical supplies such as empty pill bottles to help

improve health care quality in developing nations. Donations of clean, unlabeled pill bottles help the poorest of the poor in many ways: Medicine can be distributed in sterile containers. Pill bottles that are not appropriate for shipping are recycled for cash that goes towards Matthew 25:Ministries' programs.

This plastic recycling program keeps thousands of bottles out of landfills each year. Placing a nickel, dime or quarter in each pill bottle helps with shipping costs to send the bottles to developing countries.

Matthew 25: Ministries accepts the following types of empty pill bottles:
Prescription pill bottles
Large and small pill bottles
Pill bottles with and without child resistant caps
Over-the-counter pill bottles.

You can help improve the quality of health care in hospitals and health clinics in developing countries by saving and donating basic medical supplies such as pill bottles.

Acceptable collection items include:

- Prescription and over-the-counter pill bottles
- Large and small pill bottles
- Pill Bottles with and without secure caps (child-resistant): **Caps are a must!**

Pill bottles that are not appropriate to include with shipments of medical supplies are recycled and may generate revenue that supports Matthew 25: Ministries' programs. If you wish to prepare bottles for shipment rather than recycling, please adhere to the following guidelines:

- Bottles included in shipments of medical supplies must have an all plastic lid.
- Sort bottles by color and type.
- Remove labels, leaving no glue or residue.
- Wash bottles in very hot water and dish soap.
- Rinse and dry thoroughly.

- Replace lids on clean, dried bottles.
- Place clean, recapped bottles in large ziplock bags marked "Clean Bottles." These will be blended with medical supplies.

THANK YOU!!!



The United Methodist Women's Group is also collecting glasses you are no longer able to use; either readers or

prescription. We have a basket for them to be placed in on the stairs in the Sanctuary. They will be delivered to the local Lion's Club.

Thank You!



Good Shepherd Food-Bank
Feeding Maine's Hungry

Our 2020 Global Mission Initiative will be donated to the **Good Shepherd Food Bank** (donations will be sent to them quarterly)

Joys & Celebrations Total
As of 5/24/2020: \$810

Our yearly goal is \$2,500; Our first quarter goal is \$625; Weekly Goal \$50



Meetings at a Glance:
June 2020

Worship Committee: 6/9 @ 7 p.m. online with Zoom

Prayer Shawl: 6/8 and 6/22 @ 1 p.m.
At your own homes; keeping everyone in prayer while you knit

Finance Committee: 6/23 @ 9 a.m.

Trustees: TBD



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 2020 contributions from Missions and Outreach** through your support received in our weekly worship offerings, pledges and special giving.

The Good Shepherd Food Bank

We will 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)

The Belgrade Rome Food Pantry with special monthly “Wish List” donations; January through December we will be fillin’ our shopping cart. - Many thanks. “March Madness”: Chili, Hash and Stew

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.

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 March 3rd.

Messalonskee High School – In December 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.

We have Pints of Maple Syrup still available - *again* this year for your Summer enjoyment and purchasing. With Fair Trade pricing 100% of the purchase price goes to assist their ministry programs that transform lives in here in Maine; \$600.

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 2020. **Our Christmas Eve Offering of \$487 was mailed to them December 30th**

Maine Adaptive Sports – We again support this program in 2020 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 in February.

Neighbors Driving Neighbors, this local ministry program serving to help folks who would be otherwise home bound was supported with our **\$500 gift in February 2020** and through the engagement of those offering to serve as drivers, and part of the programs leadership

Winthrop, Maine: United Methodist Camp Mechuwana. Scholarship support of campers will be forwarded in **May of 2020**. 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 2020** Each specific in their own way where we were able to be a means of God’s Grace in troubling times.

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.

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 2020**

The Committee will develop a schedule of monthly mission giving in 2020. We will update the above listing monthly as these occur.



Bread Of Life Ministries

Our Next Bread of Life Homeless Shelter Dinner has once again been rescheduled for June 16th

There is a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall for those wanting to designate their participation in this ministry. 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.

They now house as many as 50 folks. This means we need to step up our game and provide them with more items to share for a hot meal on this date and every 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 to us because the shelter clients take this with them when they move into their own apartments.

Thank you!

Maple Syrup



\$12 per pint
We only have pints left

We support the ministry at the **United Methodist**

Economic Ministry in Salem Township, as we extend the grace of God outward regionally. 100%, all of the funds raised from sales go directly to the Economic Ministries that help folks, that equip them for work readiness and life; Home Repairs, Thrift Shop, Food Cupboard, Christmas Gifts, Winter Clothing (New Coats and Boots), Backpacks (school supplies, essential clothing) Program, Life Skills, work.

Pick Some up for Gifts of any occasion!



Finance Committee Update

The theme phrase for our 2020 annual Stewardship campaign was “Grace

Aplicity for 2020”. As a community of faith we pray and believe that such is the case. However, we and everyone else in the world have been dealt a deadly blow earlier this year and we all continue to struggle through the crisis even now, some 4 months later, and who knows for how much longer. It is during this time in particular and perhaps more than ever, that we need to be the hands and feet of Christ in our community. **WE** are called to be His disciples to minister to others. Although our worship services have been modified to a virtual format, we cannot and have not altered our reaching out to those in need, especially during these unprecedented times and circumstances.

Our continued faithful response of financial support to Union Church is essential. Generosity abounds among our members, and for this we are grateful. However, in May, at least through May 24, contributions received totaled only **\$5,297**. This value is down considerably from last month and total income through May 24, 2020 is \$17,900 less than last year through May 31, 2019. To date, expenses are about \$1,200 less than last year. It is essential that the gap between income and expenses be narrowed. Your continued support of Union Church’s operation and ministries is gratefully appreciated and ensures that we will have “Grace Aplicity for 2020”.

Respectfully Submitted
Tony Mastromarino



“Pathway to Tomorrow” – Union Church Capital Campaign

Last Summer I announced that the church was embarking on a year-long Capital Campaign to raise \$45,000. The funds are to be used to make several improvements to our church facility including the brick walkway, new signage and new lighting in front of the church; new decking on the ramps and stair landings and an enlarged and paved parking lot in the rear of the church. I am pleased to announce that to date we have received gifts and pledges totaling \$37,650

That means we need to raise \$7,350 to reach our goal. I want to extend a heartfelt THANK YOU to those who have already contributed and invite everyone else to make

If you would like to contribute, please make out a check to Union Church and write “Capital Campaign” on the memo line. Put it in the offering on Sunday morning or send it to the church office. Union Church of Belgrade Lakes, UMC, P. O. Box 133, Belgrade Lakes, ME 04918.

Thank you,
Lynn Matson,
Chair, Staff Parish Relations Committee



**RETURNABLE BOX
@BELGRADE
TRANSFER
STATION**

NOTE: During this Covid-19 Crisis our Returnable Bin (all returnable bins) are not available; we are in hopes it/they will return soon.

We are hoping you are storing your returnables until our box is available again...

THANK YOU!



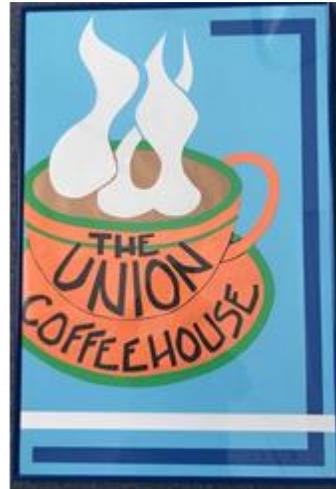
United Methodist Economic Ministry

Is in need of items to stock their food pantry. Any and all non-perishable items are appreciated

We have identified two drop off sites for non-perishable food and paper products:

Union Church of Belgrade Lakes, UMC,
Contact the church office to arrange a time
207-495-2677 or
unionchurchmaine@gmail.com

Bath UMC, Contact the church office to
arrange a time 207-443-4707 or
bathumc@me.com



**Union
Coffeehouse 2020
Summer Season
Becomes COVID-
19 Victim**

The Union Coffeehouse is announcing that its 2020 season will be cancelled due to concerns about

spreading the COVID-19 virus to both entertainers and audience. This popular Union Church ministry has been a staple of the church's community outreach since 2006. The 2020 schedule of summer performers was slated to be a mix of both new and former headliners – Bill Berlinghoff, The Racket Factory, Gilead Road, and Simons and Goodwin. Each of these fine acts was disappointed to learn of the season cancellation, but look forward to a possible return next year. We're also sure that our audiences will be disappointed since they won't have the wonderful baked goods from the Union Church Baker's Corps to munch on during the concerts.

Fortunately, the Mid-Winter Blahs Coffeeshouse was held in February, so we didn't miss the entire 2020 season. Martin Swinger performed an outstanding concert in the middle of winter that gave everyone in the audience some needed brightness and warmth to sustain them through the rest of the cold weather. We'll look forward to the 2021 Union Coffeehouse season to bring more music back into the Time of Coronavirus. Stay safe and stay well.

Respectfully Submitted,
Don Petersen



Transfer Station accepting flags ready for retirement

The Belgrade Transfer Station is accepting faded and tattered American and state flags ready for retirement. Those flags will be turned over to the American Legion for a proper and respectful disposal.

The Transfer Station is open from 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Wednesdays, 7 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturdays, and, from Memorial Day through mid-October, noon-5 p.m. Thursdays. Retired flags may be given to any of the facility's attendants.

This was one of the United Methodist Women's Group events for this year. If you would like to drop them off at Church, please do so and we will be sure to get them to the Transfer Station.

Flag Day this year is Sunday, June 14. Flag Day honors the history and meaning of the American flag. To celebrate Flag Day, Americans are encouraged to obtain a high-quality American flag and display it in a prominent location outside of their homes.



CONGRATULATIONS TO ~

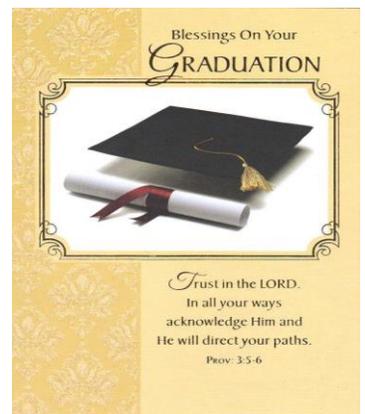


Skye Webb, daughter of Hollie and Kevin Webb is graduating from Maranacook High School in Winthrop. She will be attending UPEI (University Prince Edward Island, Canada) studying Animal Sciences working towards a Vet Degree



Lance Templin, son of Christina and Anthony Wilson is graduating from Maine Arts Academy in Sidney. He has enlisted in the US Marine Corp Reserves and will attend the University of Maine, Augusta

Please join us in celebrating and praying for them as they begin their new life journeys.



Operations Giving Tree

This giving tree is located in Friendship Hall on top of the Hope Chest. It has been there for some time now. However; this seems to have become a not so known opportunity for us to give in another way. Ever wonder how you might help keep our church operating like a well-oiled machine?... We place envelopes that list areas of our everyday operating expenses with a suggested amount (you may donate any amount you wish), such as Office Supplies, Electricity, Fuel Oil, etc. As we all know these expenses seem to increase each and every day. Your donations are a gift to help with our budget in a way that pledges may not.



Thank You!

DORA'S 90TH BIRTHDAY BASH



"Unto thee O God, do we give thanks, unto thee do we give thanks; that that they name is near they wonderous works declare."
" Psalm 75:1

Thank you to all who sent cards, called, and came out to the farm for our "masked" party to help celebrate my mother's 90th birthday. It turned out to be a wonderful day and surprise for her. Thank you all for your kindness!

Alice VanDerwerken



And Now for Your
Funny Bone,
shared by Betty

Two Week
Notice??

I hope they give us two weeks notice before sending us back out into the real world. I think we'll all need the time to become ourselves again. And by "ourselves" I mean lose 10 pounds, cut our hair and get used to not drinking at 9:00 am.

New monthly budget: Gas \$0 Entertainment \$0 Clothes \$0 Groceries \$2,799

Breaking News: Wearing a mask inside your home is now highly recommended. Not so much to stop COVID--19, but to stop eating.

Low maintenance chicks are having their moment right now. We don't have nails to file and paint, roots to dye, eyelashes to re-mink, and are thrilled not to have to get dressed every day. I have been training for this moment my entire life!

When this quarantine is over, let's not tell some people.

I stepped on my scale this morning. It said: "Please practice social distancing. Only one person at a time on scale."

Not to brag, but I haven't been late to anything in over 6 weeks.

It may take a village to raise a child but I swear it's going to take a vineyard to home school one.

I wanted zombies and anarchy. Instead we got working from home and toilet paper shortages. Worst Apocalypse. Ever.

You know those car commercials where there's only one vehicle on the road - doesn't seem so unrealistic these days.

They can open things up next month, I'm staying in until July to see what happens to you all first.

Day 37: The garbage man placed an AA flyer on my recycling bin.

People keep asking: "Is coronavirus REALLY all that serious?" Listen y'all, the churches and casinos are closed. When heaven and hell agree on the same thing it's probably pretty serious.

Never in a million years could I have imagined I would go up to a bank teller wearing a mask and ask for money.

Home school Day 1: I'm trying to figure out how I can get this kid transferred out of my class.

Okay, the schools are closed. So do we drop the kids off at the teacher's house or what?

For the second part of this quarantine do we have to stay with the same family or will they relocate us? Asking for myself.

Coronavirus has turned us all into dogs. We wander around the house looking for food. We get told "No" if we get too close to strangers and we get really excited about going for walks and car rides.

The dumbest thing I've ever bought was a 2020 planner.

I was in a long line at 7:45am today at the grocery store that opened at 8:00 for seniors only. A young man came from the parking lot and tried to cut in at the front of the line, but an old lady beat him back into the parking lot with her cane. He returned and tried to cut in again but an old man punched him in the gut, then kicked him to the ground and rolled him away. As he approached the line for the 3rd time he said, "If you don't let me unlock the door, you'll never get in there."

Enjoy your day. You don't have anything else to do.

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...