

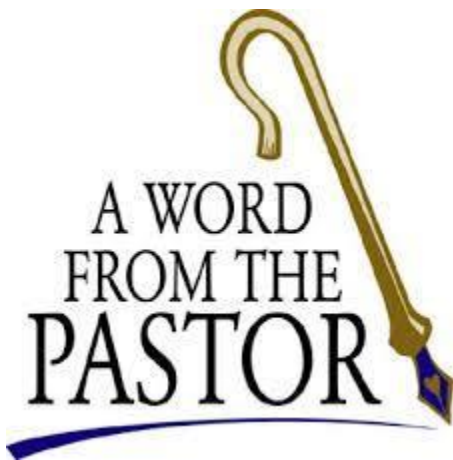


Union Church of Belgrade Lakes
United Methodist Church

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Union Rider

October 2023 Newsletter



renews us, as well.

As you are reading this, I am nearing the end of the one-month “renewal leave” with which you all have gifted and graced me. And I am so very grateful to you for this opportunity. It has been a time for reading, for creating, and for connecting with old friends – there just never seems to be enough time for that, does there? I think above all other things, these four weeks that will conclude on October 1 have given me an opportunity to re-set in a number of ways. By that, I mean re-set priorities, re-set healthy habits, and re-set routines that I hope and pray will enable me to become more fruitful in a few areas of my life. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

The reading that I have done during my time of renewal has focused on what it means to be the hosts of “A Bigger Table” in our life as a faith community...and what “The Ministry of

Dear Members
and Friends of
Union Church,

Greetings in the
name of the One
who not only
sustains us in all
things and
seasons, but also

Ordinary Places” might look like. I have also been reading about what it means to be living in a time of “Emergence Christianity,” a term created and defined by church scholar Phyllis Tickle. I look forward to opportunities to share my learnings with you.

I will be re-entering the life of Union Church in a very full season, as the month of October begins! Elsewhere in this newsletter, please take time to read about our outdoor (weather permitting) “Blessings of the Animals” Service on Sunday, October 8...and our annual Harvest Festival on Saturday, October 7. And – our third-annual multi-generational pumpkin-carving event on Sunday, October 29!

I have been reminded in many ways that, into the disorientation of our times, and what can feel to us like disintegration, God always speaks to us a word of hope. Our challenge comes in keeping our ears open to hear that hopeful word, and in keeping our eyes open to see the hope of God at work around us. The circumstances of earthly life may take any one of us away, for a time short or long, from this place, but they are not the end of God’s story. The claims we stake, guided as we are by God, will endure.

I have been, and will continue to be praying for each of you, and I pray for all of us as we continue to strive to stay connected to God and our beloved Union Church community of faith in these times of uncertainty and turmoil! Let us be supported by our faith, strengthened by the joy of the Lord, and upheld by God's abundant grace. Let us never forget that we are...

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



All the Answers

Bible in a Year:

- [Song of Songs 1-3](#)
- [Galatians 2](#)
-

The Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things. [John 14:26](#)

Today's Scripture & Insight: [John 14:15-26](#)

Dale Earnhardt Jr. describes the awful moment he understood his father was gone. Motor racing legend Dale Earnhardt Sr. had just been killed in a horrific crash at the end of the Daytona 500—a race in which Dale Jr. had also participated. “There’s this noise coming outta me that I can’t re-create,” said the younger Earnhardt. “[It’s] this bellow of shock and sorrow—and fear.” And then the lonely truth: “I’m gonna have to do this by myself.”

“Having Dad was like having a cheat sheet,” Earnhardt Jr. explained. “Having Dad was like knowing all the answers.”

Jesus’ disciples had learned to look to Him for all the answers. Now, on the eve of His crucifixion, He assured them He wouldn’t leave

them alone. “I will ask the Father,” Jesus said, “and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever—the Spirit of truth” ([John 14:16-17](#)).

Jesus extended that comfort to all who would believe in Him. “Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching,” He said. “My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them” (v. 23).

Those who choose to follow Christ have within them the Spirit who teaches them “all things” and reminds them of everything Jesus taught (v. 26). We don’t have all the answers, but we have the Spirit of the One who does.

By: **Tim Gustafson**

Reflect & Pray

What big questions trouble you? How do you sense the Spirit of truth (the Holy Spirit) guiding you in this?

Heavenly Father, help me to seek You for the answers I need. Help me trust You completely and find real peace in You.



[Pumpkin-Carving Time!](#) [October 29th](#)

It’s time for our “third annual” Pumpkin-

Carving Party! This year, it will take place after the worship service, at 10:45 a.m., on Sunday, October 29. We would like to have a few jack-o-lanterns as decorations here at the church for Village Trick-or-Treating on Halloween, so we need your help! Those attending are asked to bring their own carving tools and a pumpkin if they have one. There will be a limited number of pumpkins provided for those who don’t already have one. And here’s the great thing about a Pumpkin-Carving Party: you just might be able to partner with someone who’s

willing to do the parts of the job that aren't your favorite, be it digging the "guts" out of the pumpkin, drawing the face or design, or carving! Teamwork!

The pumpkin-carving will conclude with a free Day's Store pizza lunch! For planning purposes, please sign up for this fun event either on the sign-up sheet in worship services or by contacting the church office (by phone or e-mail).



Our 2023 Global Mission Initiative Is Going to The Bread of Life Homeless Shelter

Joys & Celebrations
Total as of 9/24/2023:
\$2,542.40

Our yearly goal is
\$2,500



Bread of Life
Homeless Shelter



Sharron Burnell shared this beautiful sunset after Storm Lee passed through on Saturday, September 16th.

Meetings at a Glance:

OCTOBER 2023



Worship & Music

Committee: 10/10 @ 4 p.m.

Prayer Shawl: 10/9 and 10/23 @ 1 p.m.

Belgrade Senior Resource Meeting: 10/23 @ 6 p.m. at the Town Office

Finance Committee: 11/6 @ 6 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 2023 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 the school year has begun, we will once again support by providing and/or after school activity supplies. On 3/17 we provided funds (approximately \$225) for the kiddos and 3 counselors to go bowling due to bad weather and the Center being utilized for voting. On April 19th we sent a check in the amount of \$1,420 from the Returnables for them to purchase a picnic table for the North Belgrade Community Center. The picnic table is now in

place! On 8/16 we will hold the annual end of camp season BBQ with the theme being crazy hat! Anne McCandlish will be providing hats for the members of the M&O Committee to wear and Dan will have a crazy hat craft day so the kids will wear them too!

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 April 19th.

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 8, 2023.**

Messalonskee High School – On April 19th we sent \$150 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. This was to add to the \$350 shared at the Empty Bowls Dinner to make our total donation \$500.

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 2023. In December we will be sending a donation of \$500 to support their Christmas Wish List for their residents. Our Christmas Eve Offering this year again will also be sent to the Bread of Life Homeless Shelter. We also donated \$15 Gift Certificates (\$375) for Hannaford the week of Christmas to the 25 Volunteers at their Soup Kitchen.

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 \$500; and will be sent this donation in 9/26/2023. 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 8, 2023.**

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 8, 2023** 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 2023.** Each specific in their own way are able to be a means of God's Grace in troubling times. To date \$2,996.61 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 2023.** In June we donated \$ towards their music program which were proceeds from the Anne Meyer's Memorial Concert presented by Tom Mueller, organist.

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 \$200 was sent to support the volunteers who have provided recent CPR Classes

UMEM – Just this week we sent a donation in the amount of \$2,000 to support their ministry of helping folks who need assistance with heating and/or electrical expenses



Bread Of Life Ministries

Our Next Bread of Life Homeless Shelter Dinner will be October 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 50 residents.

Thank you to Cheryl, Liza, Tony, Kelly, Susan, LaLa and for sharing in this ministry on September 19th.

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 Warm Clothing including the following items: Wool Hats, Gloves, Hand and Feet Warmers. 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 Creamers



Food Pantry
Donations Needed

**MONTH
OF
OCTOBER**



**“FLAVORS
OF FALL”**

**COFFEE/TEA, HOT COCOA MIX,
APPLESAUCE**

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



**Finance
Committee
Update**

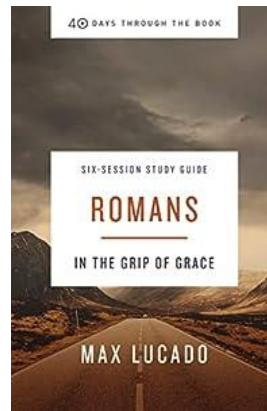
Although the Stewardship Campaign for 2024 has formerly ended, responses continue to trickle in. If you have already returned your pledge card for 2024, **THANK YOU!** If you have not yet returned your pledge card, it is

NOT too late to do so as the finance committee is preparing to finalize Union Church's Ministry-Needs budget for 2024. To date, 33 pledges totaling \$65,040 have been received out of 47 pledges for this current year (a response rate of 66%) totaling \$114,530. Two of the 33 pledges received so far are new pledges.

As 1 Corinthians 4: 1-2 reminds us, "This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God (i.e., discipleship). Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy." In 1 Peter 4:10, we are further reminded that "As each has received a gift, employ it for one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace." So, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God, let us serve one another in joyful gratitude with whatever gift(s) we have received.

Through the first two-thirds of the year, our unrestricted checkbook balance is a robust \$48,408, and our various escrow accounts are healthy. As far as the church's year-to-date statement is concerned, through August 31, 2023, expenses totaling \$109,093 exceeded income totaling \$108,783 by **\$310**. Our expenses were nearly 10% less than our projections while our income actually exceeded our projections by nearly 4%. These accomplishments could not and would not be possible without YOUR faithful and generous contributions to the mission and ministries of Union Church...THANK YOU and may God continue to bless us throughout the remainder of 2023 and into 2024 and beyond! The vitality of Union Church to **THRIVE** and to make an impact in our community depends on our collective response as stewards of God's abundant grace.

Blessings to each of you!
Tony



BIBLE STUDY OCTOBER

Beginning October 11th

The core idea of the book of Romans is that we are saved from sin by the grace of Christ. The apostle Paul unpacks the power of grace in a way that can completely change your life...

Max Lucado welcomes you and your group into the knowledge and freedom of grace with his exploration of Paul's letter to the Roman church. Throughout the study, you'll explore the book of Romans with Max to gain a deeper understanding of its context and content, focusing on central truths such as:

- The extent and power of sin.
- The amazing reality and availability of God's grace.
- The battle we're still in, and the hope we have despite the lies of the enemy.
- The grand story—from creation to restoration—that we're all a part of.
- The call to live in fellowship with each other and with Christ.

When we truly understand the power of grace, it sets us free from *having* to do good, so that we *can* do good. A true understanding of grace should not shackle us to works but liberate us to live in the presence of Christ.

EVERYONE WELCOME!



**World
Communion
Sunday
October 1st**

Laura Grams will share several different Loaves of her homemade bread to be on display for this special service. Thank You, Laura!

World Communion Sunday is observed on the first Sunday in October, this day calls the Church to be the universal, inclusive Church.

The day was first observed by Presbyterians in 1936, "This was their attempt to bring churches together in a service of Christian unity—in which everyone might receive both inspiration and information, and above all, to know how important the Church of Jesus Christ is, and how each congregation is interconnected one with another.

This observance was adopted by the Federal Council of Churches in 1940, and shortly thereafter observed in Methodist and Evangelical United Brethren churches.

Coffee Hour Socials in October



Hey everybody, we be holding our old-fashioned coffee hour on Sunday October 22nd; after the 9:30 service and before our Church Council Meeting. Nothing fancy, just a snack, and coffee or tea to enjoy while we talk with each other. We hope you will plan to spend a few minutes catching up with your church friends, grabbing a snack and attend the meeting. Thank You!

Mark your calendars to make time to stay for fellowship each Sunday In October.

Don Petersen
Worship and Music Committee

New Meeting Owl Available For Meetings



The Union Church Technology Committee has purchased a Meeting Owl device that allows remote attendees on Zoom meetings to see and hear all the other folks at the meeting without the moderator having to turn the laptop computer around. The Meeting Owl sits in the center of your meeting and zooms in on whomever is speaking. You can now include your remote committee members equally during your meetings with technology that captures everything using a 360-degree camera with auto-tracking, microphone, and speaker to give everyone an immersive experience. With more of our seasonal members taking an active role in various church committees, this amazing new device will enhance their participation during the times they are not in the local area. It will be available for meetings starting in September. Please see Don Petersen for information on how to use it. Don is still in the process of getting this all set up for us to use.

2023 Craft Shows



The Town of Belgrade will host one more craft shows

at the Village Green, Saturday,
Saturday, Oct. 7 (Harvest Festival Day)

Each show will be from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
(Rain or Shine) and will feature wares
created by local artists and crafters.



HARVEST FESTIVAL 2023

**Fall is arriving
way too soon; I
am sure we can all agree!**

Octoberfest will be held on October 7, 2023 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Be thinking about ways you can help out - many hands needed! Lots of volunteers needed to make this a success again this year. Hoping that each and every one of you will come join us in the fun and fellowship as we share in our preparations. It is a great way to connect with old friends, meet new friends and get incorporated into the life of the church and community.

Craft Table – If you have any crafts you would like to share, please feel free to bring them to this event.



Bobbi will hold a Craft Day at her home on Saturday, 9/9 @ 10 a.m. And will provide you with lunch!

Bake Shop – We are grateful for any and all donations 😊. We have observed that the small breads (pumpkin, apple, spice, etc.) go very well. And smaller cakes and pies. Also, cookies other than chocolate chip (most everyone makes them); Folks are looking for your grandma's favorite recipe cookies.

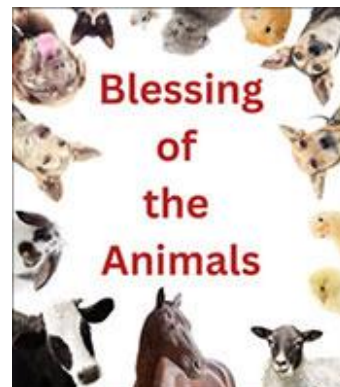
Harvest Kitchen – Looking for homemade soups for the freezer (soups of all kinds that we will provide containers for). Canned goods, jams and jellies, pickles, etc. If you are having a hard time finding jam jars; Carol may have plenty to share; please contact her at vicromeo@aol.com

Silent Auction – Carol will again chair this portion of our HF; it will again be online and we will have to be selective of the items we do place on the auction as we will be incurring fees associated with this way of holding it this year. Please consider a donation; thank you.

Brats and Hot Dogs – We are looking for Grillers! We would like a few volunteers to cook and serve these during the day so no one is at the grill the entire time.

In the meantime; save the date, start canning, crafting, woodworking, picking out your recipes for baked goods and soup for the freezer. If you know any shopkeepers; see if they would be willing to donate something to our Silent Auction. Or check with family and friends to see if they would donate an item. Look for “really good” things in your attic or basement that you can donate to the auction, or make something using your special talents. Please contact Christine Emmons (Chair) at Christine.emmons@mainegeneral.org or Carol Johnson at vicromeo@aol.com (Chair of Silent Auction) if you have any comments, or questions/ideas and would like to step up and volunteer.

Thank you and God Bless!



**BLESSING OF
THE ANIMALS
SUNDAY**

**WHEN:
OCTOBER 8th
TIME: 11 a.m.**

WHERE: VILLAGE GREEN

Sunday Morning after our Worship Service (to give those of you in attendance time to run home and get your fur babies) we will have a special time to bless your beloved pets. Feel free to bring your furry (or not so furry) friends over to the Village Green to receive their blessings.



**TUESDAY
OCTOBER 31ST
5 p.m. to 7 p.m.**

We will be filling the trick or treat goodie bags on Wednesday, October 25th @11:30; right after Bible Study; come join us for some fun!



CHURCH COUNCIL

Sunday, October 22nd

10:45ish; Right After Our Worship Service

EVERYONE WELCOME AND ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND
You do not have to be a member of the church... please join us!



See You Next Summer;

Stay in Touch Over the Winter Months

It is so hard to believe that some of our Summer Folks have headed back to their Winter Homes. We have so enjoyed our fellowship time with you over the summer. We pray that your travels are safe and will keep you and your families in our prayers over the Winter. We will keep in touch through our emails/calls and Newsletters. Please call or contact us if you would like any prayer request during our Worship Services. We look forward to seeing you again in June.



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