



Union Church of Belgrade Lakes  
United Methodist Church

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## Union Rider

## September 2024



Dear Members and Friends of Union Church,

Greetings in the name of the One who provides us with "Bread for the Journey" – the

Bread of Life, the Bread from Heaven, the Bread of Eternity!

Indeed, "Bread for the Journey" has been the theme of our 2025 Stewardship Program that is now wrapping up. And it's not just the "Bread for the Journey" that we receive; it's the "Bread for the Journey" that we provide to others in need of it, in whatever form they most need it. On each of the three Sundays in our Stewardship Program, we heard testimonies from three of our church members of how they receive "Bread for the Journey" in their own faith lives – Lynn Matson, a long-time Union Church member; Diane Dunn, a newer Union Church member, and Colleen Crabel, a seasonal Union Church member. Their testimonies were powerful and very heartfelt, and I am grateful for them! If you have not yet returned a pledge card that captures your covenant to support the mission and ministries of Union Church of Belgrade Lakes moving forward into 2025, I am praying for you as you prayerfully consider that. If you didn't receive a pledge card, or misplaced the one you were sent, cards are available on the white table in Friendship Hall. And for those who have returned a pledge card, many thanks for the covenant you are making.

At those times when we are encouraged to consider giving to others and to others through the church, I am reminded of our relationship

between faith and good works. It's a facet of our lives as Christ-followers and God-lovers that has inspired much debate among Biblical scholars and theologians. The apostle Paul gives very practical instruction concerning this relationship, thankfully. While faith in Christ is the ultimate avenue by which we are saved from sin and death, our faith should show itself in doing good. Paul's prescription for the churches to which he wrote letters – and in turn, for us – is that they would excel in stewardship through generous giving. In 2 Corinthians 8 and 9, Paul uses the phrase "grace of giving" to describe his request of the Corinthians. Indeed, Christian giving flows from an outpouring of God's grace in Christ. In other words, when people experience the freedom of the Gospel, they are motivated to give back in all areas of life. Rather than in obedience to a command from God or Christ, generosity is a gift in which Christians participate, because they have first been the recipient of generous and grace-filled giving. And this kind of giving is contagious! Paul says, "Your plenty will supply what they need, so that in turn their plenty will supply what others need, and even what you need. The goal is equality." May we truly "excel in this grace of giving."

On a personal note, I am thankful for the wonderful ways my recent birthday was celebrated in our worship service and coffee hour with kind words, cake, flowers, and balloons. Your birthday greetings in the many forms I received them were greatly appreciated. You all are the best!

And finally, in these weeks in which we say "Farewell" to our seasonal friends, I do wish

that you would “fare well” in these months in which we are apart! Please know that I hold you close in prayer, and I pray for all of us together as we receive and then share “Bread for the Journey,” staying connected to God, and connected as our beloved Union Church community of faith.

Together In Christ’s Love and Service,

*Pastor Eleanor Collinsworth*



**Our Choir is taking some time off to give their angelic voices a rest.**

**They will not be singing the month of September.**

**We look forward to their return in October.**



Coffee Hour will be hosted by Lay Leadership Committee on September 22.

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



**Food Pantry Donations Needed**

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



*Joys and Celebrations total (as of 8/125/24) is \$1751.85. Our yearly goal is \$3,500.00.*

## **Bible Study**

On Wednesday, September 11, a new Bible Study will start. Watch your email for complete details.



## **Bread Of Life Ministries**

**Our Next Bread of Life Homeless Shelter Dinner will be Tues., September 24, 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 9/9 @430PM

Missions & Outreach 9/11 @1130AM

Knitting Group 9/23 @100PM

Finance Committee 9/23 @630PM



**HARVEST FESTIVAL 2024**

**UNION CHURCH OF  
BELGRADE LAKES, ROUTE 27**

**October 5, 2024  
10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

**AUTUMN CAFÉ features:**

• BRATS/HOT DOGS

• HANDMADE CRAFTS

• HOME BAKED GOODIES

• HARVEST KITCHEN including CANNED GOODS, FROZEN SOUPS

**PLUS OUR FAMOUS  
HELD ONLINE!**



**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)**



## Concert Pianist Carolyn Enger

Internationally celebrated concert pianist, Carolyn Enger presented a multi-media piano concert Tuesday, August 6<sup>th</sup> in the sanctuary.

Ms. Enger's concert, Resonating Earth, created 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 paired Enger's live piano performance of music from the Baroque period to the present with arresting natural imagery. This diverse program invited the audience of 50 people 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 was held at the church following the concert.

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## Annual Yard Sale

A light rain fell on the morning of August 3<sup>rd</sup>. But that did not dampen the spirit of the many volunteers who worked in groups to set up inside and outside of the church, to sell donated goods, breakfast sandwiches, hot dogs, coffee, soda and water.



The shoppers also enjoyed a “good find” or “bargain.”



Everyone brought their smiles and did an amazing job!

Thank you to all who volunteered or donated.



## Missions & Outreach Committee Hosts BBQ at Summer Day Camp



On August 14, the Missions & Outreach Committee members (plus friends!) hosted an “End-of-Summer-Camp” BBQ for the 75-plus kids, counselors, and staff at the Town of Belgrade Recreation Day Camp at Center

for All Seasons. Burgers and hot dogs were grilled and served, as were chips, watermelon, juice boxes, and ice cream cups. Firsts,

seconds, and even thirds made for many full and happy tummies!



Dan McGlashing, Recreation Director, are leading the children of our community well, as evidenced by the many, many polite “thank-you’s” that were received.

Thanks to the several people who devoted their time to this wonderful form of ministry and outreach in our community!



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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...