



Highland Avenue United Methodist Church

Highlander News

Gardiner, Me. 582-2303
Reverend Dr. Ruth Merriam

Worship: 9:30 am
Lay Leader: Patsy Tessier

November 2022 - January 2023

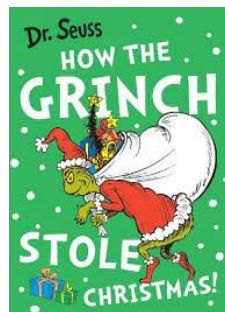
INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- 2 *Welcome Addison to our church family.*
- 4 *It's not too late to join Bible Study and enjoy the excitement!*
- 5 *Concert brings in \$1500 for hurricane relief.*
- 6 *Advent is a time of preparation. Come join us for this holy season.*
- 7 *Help out families in need through our annual Giving Tree.*
- 10 *Here are several more opportunities for you to help those in need.*

Highland Avenue UMC
35 Highland Avenue
Gardiner, ME 04345
Pastor's Cell: 624-1539

Website: www.highlandaveumc.net
HAUMChurch@gmail.com

From the Pastor



When I was little, listening to Clement Moore's poem, "Twas the Night Before Christmas" was the 'sine qua non' of the holiday. 'Christmas couldn't happen without it!' But times, they are changing, and now, that poem seems to have been supplanted by a 'new' piece, "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" by Dr. Seuss. It was actually written in 1957, but now, these 65 years later, it seems to have come into its own.

I love that book, even more than Moore's poem, because it's not about Santa Claus—it's about the spiritual meaning of Christmas... A quick recap: The Grinch hated the Christmas season; the noise, the feasting, and the singing. So he decided to put an end to it all! To that end, he goes down chimneys and retrieves presents, he commandeers the food. But what he can't do—is to put a stop to the singing. People sing anyway. And then it is, that he discovers—as long as people SING, Christmas is going to happen—no matter what he tries to take away.

And do you remember how the book ends? Here it is: "The Grinch hadn't stopped Christmas from coming. It came! Somehow or other, it came—just the same! It came without ribbons. It came without tags. It came without packages, boxes or bags!"

(I wish that more of us could believe that—don't you?)

So, the question to ask ourselves is... 'Could the Grinch ever steal Christmas from US?' Could he succeed in robbing us of hope, or of upsetting our sense of inner peace? Could he make us feel less than loveable or sap us of our happiness?

The Good News is—regardless of how we might answer those questions, Christmas is going to happen anyway!

That's because Christmas never was meant to be solely about gifts. It's about the Giver; the Giver who offers permanent hope, in the form of Jesus Christ. It's about the Giver who offers peace, in the form of everlasting life. It's about the Giver who offers us

Please see GIVER, pg. 8

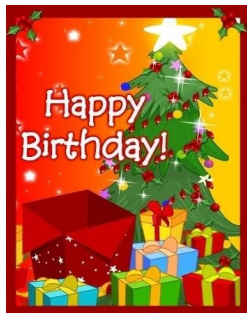
People in the News



Happy Birthday to:

December

- 1 Dianne McCollor
- 4 Ben Garwood
- 5 Tyson Shardlow
- 8 Patrick Rush
- 10 Jim Hynson
- 10 Paula Moore
- 13 Heather Brown
- 16 Myron Smith
- 17 Earle McCormick
- 22 Carol Sinclair
- 24 Sandy Batten
- 26 Bruce Hudson
- 27 Arianna Elise Hatt



January

- 1 Tyler Evan French
- 2 Genevieve Garwood
- 3 Bea Hicks
- 7 Bob LaPlante
- 13 Anna May Toman
- 15 Becky Allen Duca
- 18 Damon Hicks
- 20 Clara Szakas
- 21 Alexandra Nickless
- 22 Emily Sparrow
- 25 Alana Lufkin
- 30 Pamela Mitchel

Wishing a Happy Anniversary to:

Scott and Cheryl Ramsay - Dec. 4
 Barb and Lew Gipson - Dec. 9

“Our Purpose”

Our Mission is to welcome all people to experience God through Jesus Christ; to empower them as disciples with a faith that works in real life and send them into the world to serve in Jesus’ name.

It’s a Girl!



On August 29, **Addison Blayke Chadbourne** was welcomed into the family of Lee-Anne, Caleb and Alaina Chadbourne.

She is loved by her grandparents Rusty and Paula Greenleaf, aunts Lindsey and Lauren Greenleaf and Great Grandmother Connie Greenleaf, Great Grandparents Kim and Denny Greenleaf .

Other family members are Grandparents Kelly and Larry Chadbourne, Aunt Tiffany, Uncle Eli Chadbourne, Great Grandparents Shirley and Phil Chadbourne. Tanya Wallace and Robert Wallace.

Congratulations and welcome to our church family!



A Time for Children



Pastor Ruth and Penny share some words of wisdom during recent worship services.

More People in the News



Yeah! They're Back

The choir, led by music minister, Ralph Chaney, is back after a long hiatus. Hallelujah!

Back Row: *Jim Brown, Sandy Nisbet, Dick Merriam, Phil Garwood, Rich Nickless*

Front Row: *Heather Brown, Connie Greenleaf, Diane Willoughby, Pastor Ruth Merriam, Pam Mitchel*

(Many thanks to Cheryl Ramsay for the picture.)

Pastoral Visits



Kay Ericson

Ruth recently visited with two friends from our congregation.



Dianne McCollor

A Note of Thanks

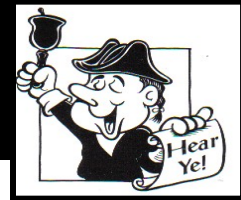
HAUMC Family,

Thank you so much for your prayers, kind words, and financial support throughout this difficult process. It was so comforting to know I had so much support. I appreciated all of the thoughtful encouragement!

Thanks again,
Morgan (Rush)



Committee and Group News

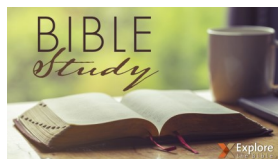


The Tuesday Morning Bible Study

9:30 a.m. – Fellowship Time;
10:00 – 11:00 a.m. The Study

We are a good-sized group of as many as a dozen people who come together every week. We pray, we sing, we respond to challenging questions – and we discuss!

Currently, we are reading the Gospel of Mark, alongside John Ortberg’s book, “Who Is This Man? The Unpredictable Impact of the Inescapable Jesus”. And as we study, we ask ourselves the question: ‘Who is Jesus - to me?’ Our goal is to move past intellectual exercises to a spiritual place of deeper commitment. So may it be!



From the Trustees

Lynda Moreshead

The sign on the front lawn has been replaced. Phil Garwood and Pam Mitchel will decide during the winter to put a landscaping plan in place. Rich Nickless is working with John Canty to repair a hole in the parking lot.

It was reported that the railings and stairs outside need work to save anyone from getting hurt. An estimate was obtained and repairs will be done.

The parking lot wall is starting to need repair and this will be watched and something will be done in the spring.

The elevator has been approved for a year. Mike Madore will again do snow removal. Thanks to all who work so hard to keep everything at church working and safe.

A Lay Pastoral Visitation Workshop

On Saturday, October 22, Pastor Ruth led a Workshop for any interested congregants in the Cooperative Parish. Five people attended, and we covered topics such as how to form a “Ministry of Caring”; possible program ideas; the pairing of parishioners (the visitor and the visitee), so as to best cultivate meaningful and ongoing relationships. We discussed the ‘do’s and don’ts’ of a good visit; and highlighted the most important aspect of ANY call – to find Christ in the other person, and to let the other person find Christ in you.

In the second hour, Patsy Tessier, demonstrated how to make the coveted ‘Chicken Pot Pies’ which get delivered as part of the Frozen-Food Ministry – (prepared for those who have just come home from the hospital, etc). Quick breads and homemade applesauce are also included.

Covid clearly has changed some of the rules – in terms of hospital visitations, etc. But essentially, our purpose will always be the same, and we are undeterred!



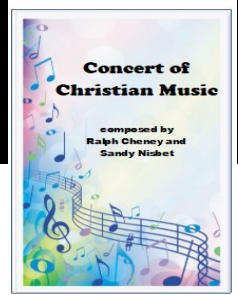
UM Men’s Breakfast

Phil Garwood

The United Methodist Men will meet for breakfast on **November 19 at 8am**. Other men from the River churches have been invited, and at this point, four have responded that they will attend. Plans for December and January meetings will be decided at a later date.

All are welcome!

Concert of Christian Music



“My Lord, What an Afternoon!

It was a concert; it was a worship service! It was a time for drinking in inspired and inspiring music; and it was a time for giving – to the Florida victims of Hurricane Ian.

There were 139 people in the congregation, who gave more than \$1500 dollars as relief money, and more is coming in.

“Concert of Christian Music” was designed by Sandy Nisbet, who with Music Director, Ralph Cheney, presented joyful sound – in the form of solos - played on the Hammer Dulcimer and on the piano; duets – sung by Ralph and a member of the Randolph UMC congregation, a husband and wife team; and also by a mother and daughter! “The Winsome Souls Quartet” was back in fine form! And then, as the concert’s finale, the Highland Avenue United Methodist Church choir sang three resounding anthems which were composed and arranged by ‘Cheney and Nisbet’. It was the accomplished David Stetson who accompanied the musicians, either on the piano or on the organ – offering a spirited background to all that were present.

After the concert, guests were invited for fellowship and refreshments, which were provided by The United Women of Faith.

It was a time to remember! And to God be the glory!



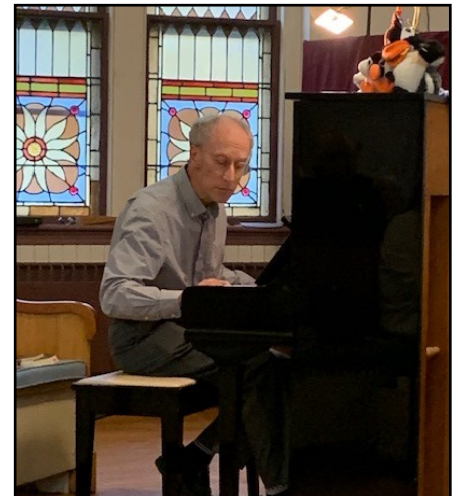
Sandy Nisbet, Rae Brown, Haley Downs, Ralph Cheney



Phil Garwood



Jim and Heather Brown



Dwight Littlefield

Here are a few pictures from the concert. We will be posting a recording of the concert and more pictures on our website soon. Stay tuned. (Many thanks to Pam Mitchel for the pictures.)

Advent Celebrations



Worship During Advent



With November fast coming to a close, we are excitedly reading for Christmas. November 27 is the first Sunday in Advent, and is traditionally known as “The Hanging of the Greens Sunday” The celebration will

begin not at the customary 9:30 a.m. hour, but at 8:30 a.m. where we will join together in the Fellowship Hour for a true Continental Breakfast (Not eggs and bacon but crescent rolls and fruit). Men in the congregation will be the servers. The choir will not rehearse that day, so as to have this special hour in which to socialize. Then, after breakfast, we’ll process upstairs to see the sanctuary decorated in full splendor – thanks to Rusty and Paula Greenleaf! The Advent Wreath will be on display, and we will light the first week’s candle of “Hope”.

The second Sunday of Advent will be on December 4, when we will observe Holy Communion, and light the candle of “Peace”. The title of the message that day will be “Jesus’ Wish List”.

December 11 marks the third Sunday of Advent, when we light the candle of “Love”. The accompanying sermon will be titled, “Let It Be”.

Then, comes the fourth Sunday of Advent, December 18, when we will light the candle of “Joy”, and hear a message titled “Glory in the Darkness”.



And THEN comes Christmas Eve, which – this year- falls on a Saturday night! We will gather in the Upper Parking Lot at 4:00 p.m. for a Carol Sing. And then at 5:30 p.m., we will enter the sanctuary for the beautiful candlelight service of “Lessons and Carols”.

On Sunday, Christmas morning, we will be treated to a service called “These Gifts We Bring”, wherein – patterned after the “Little Drummer Boy” song, we will give OUR best to the Christ child. Some in the congregation might play an instrument, or sing, or read a favorite story – anything we want to offer Him – given from the heart.

Also - we will be graced to have the congregation of The Randolph United Methodist Church join us for this special service.

*Merry Christmas,
Everyone!*



As we enter the year 2023, we can appreciate the fact that New Year’s Day – January 1– falls on a Sunday! What a perfect time to partake of Holy Communion and to observe the “Covenant Renewal Ceremony”! The message of the day is a question: “What’s on Your Bucket List?”

The following Sunday, January 8 is Epiphany Sunday when the Wise Men arrive at the manger. Will you get to hear “The Donkey’s Serenade”? Come, find out!

And then, the following Sunday falls on January 15, Martin Luther King, Jr.’s Birthday, when we observe Human Rights Sunday. The year’s focus will be on the work carried out by Mamie Till-Mobley, the mother of Emmett Till, who was slain as a 14 year old boy, visiting relatives.

*“I was GLAD when they said unto me,
‘Let us go into the House of the Lord’”*

More Seasonal Happenings



Annual Giving Tree

The Caring Team has selected The Giving Tree once again as December's mission project. The Giving Tree will be done the same as last year. **Jaye Trimm and her elves** will do the shopping for needs this year. They are asking for monetary donations early so they can get things in time (especially with shipping delays). Donations can be mailed to **591 Pond Road, West Gardiner, Maine 04345**. The need is significant again this year so every contribution helps and is sincerely appreciated. If any of you have questions please contact **Jaye Trimm** at **207-582-5996** or email ajemike1@roadrunner.com.



SAVE THE DATE!

Sunday, December 4th at 2:00 p.m.
At the Green Street UMC,
13 Green Street, Augusta

All of the Cooperative Parish Churches are invited to join together for a festive afternoon of caroling. Invite your friends and family and share the joy of the season.

[**Editor's note:** Thanks once again, Jaye and elves for all your work towards making this ministry work year after year.]



December 4
10:30 am—Noon

The United Women in Faith (UMW) will hold a mini fair this year following worship on December 4 for our congregation and friends. Some of the old familiar favorites will include:

Cookies ~ Cooked Food and Candy
Country Kitchen ~ Crafts
Free Coffee

Items can be dropped off from 2-4 p.m. on Saturday or before church (8:30—9am) on Sunday. Please have your items priced.

We will need people to stay after the fair to help clean up. Come and enjoy!

Names for Advent Bulletin Insert



List the names you would like included below. Please indicate whether it is **in memory** or **in celebration** of your loved one and list the names as you would like them on the insert. Please give to Vicki by **November 23**.

Loved one(s)

Your name (as you want it listed)

Worship News



Worship Committee News

The Worship Committee met on Tuesday, October 24. We as a committee are blessed to have Pastor Ruth who is incredibly efficient, as she has her sermons scheduled weeks in advance. At this meeting she reported she is set from 11/27/ 2022-01/15/2023.

All ushers have volunteered through the end of the year. These friends have also been asked to do the collection each Sunday. Thank you to these special people.

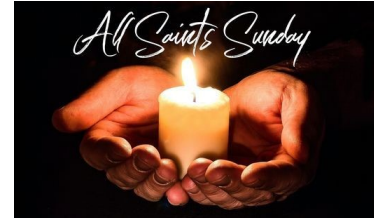
An idea was talked about with respect to sharing joys and concerns using the microphone. The person having the microphone would go to the person speaking so that everyone on Zoom could hear these. So far this hasn't worked but we are not giving up.

At this writing we are so happy about the wonderful concert we had on 11/6. It was fun to share the musical time with Randolph and the wonderful voices they added to our Highland Avenue voices. None of this could have been made possible without the time and talent of Sandy Nisbet and Ralph Cheney. Thank you both so much for all the time you put into this concert. We received \$1500.00 for the Florida Hurricane Relief Fund from some incredibly generous people. And it was amazing to see 139 people in the sanctuary to hear this music and this didn't include any of the performers.

This will be my last report for this year. We will meet in January to begin planning for the new year. As I have said before if anyone has ideas, concerns or comments, please let any of the committee know we are here to serve all of the congregation.

Wishing everyone a blessed holiday season: Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Worship Committee Chair
Connie Greenleaf



All Saints' Sunday

All Saints' Sunday: October 30, was marked with a celebration of Light. We specifically remembered the Light that had been reflected by loved ones who had died this past year. Each individual named was honored with a lit candle. We gave thanks for their earthly lives, and now – for their lives eternal.

The following were the saints who were honored:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Winona "Nonie" Smith | Raymond E. Morang |
| Dorothy "Dot" Shores | Gene Thompson |
| Marilyn Brown | Robert Hebert |
| Tanya Moulton | Jane Malcolm |

• GIVER

Continued from page 1

unconditional love, no matter who we are or what we do! - And it's about the Giver who wants each of us to know (more than anything else in the world), the joy for which we were created.

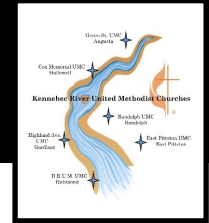
And that's why we sing! And that's why the Grinch can't steal Christmas, no matter how hard he tries.

Have a VERY blessed Christmas!

Pastor Ruth



Parish Presentations



A Tribute Paid to Saint (Mother) Teresa



In honor of All Saints Day, on Tuesday, November 1– and then also on Monday, November 14 Pastor Ruth gave a ZOOM Power Point presentation on the life of Mother Teresa.

In October of 1981, Pastor Ruth was given permission to take a leave of absence from serving her three Rural Minnesota churches, so as to volunteer 9 weeks of time to work with the Missionaries of Charity in Calcutta. While there, she was blessed to have been able to interact with Mother Teresa – from which stemmed a fervent and life-long interest in her life and work.

Part I of the presentation offered a biographical sketch of Mother Teresa’s life, including some little-known facts, such as her father’s murder, for example. Then Part II was divided into two segments: 1). the ‘Dark Night of Her Soul’, and 2). Pastor Ruth’s personal remembrances of what she was like.

One of Mother Teresa’s personal credos was beautifully expressed by Kent Keith, who wrote the poem “Anyway”. She had it posted on the wall of the Mother House. “People are often unreasonable, illogical and self-centered; Forgive them anyway. If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives; Be kind anyway. If you are successful, you will win some false friends and some true enemies; Succeed anyway. If you find serenity and happiness, they may be jealous; Be happy anyway. The good you do today, people will often forget tomorrow; Do good anyway. Give the world the best you have, and it may never be enough; Give the world the best you’ve got, anyway. You see, in the final analysis, it is between you and your God; It was never between you and them anyway.”

Reportedly, some of the last words Mother Teresa ever spoke, were uttered as she looked at a picture of Jesus, and said “Jesus, I have never refused You anything...”

She gave Him the best she had...anyway.

Traveling the El Camino

On Sunday, October 23, we were treated to an excellent narration by Michael Record, on his recent pilgrimage to ‘Santiago de Compostela’. He began his walk in the Spanish city of Oviedo, taking the trail known as the ‘Camino Primitivo’ (the Original Way). From there, he averaged about 20 miles a day – until he reached his final destination which was a total of 200 miles away.

When asked the highlight of this trek, this was Michael’s response: “For me, the highlight of the camino was the community of pilgrims. ‘Peregrinos’ hail from every country in Europe and across the world. Many languages are spoken, though English is common. Students and retirees walk side by side. Despite these differences, kindness and acceptance seemed universal to me. Pilgrims supported each other with encouragement, advice, unsolicited snacks, and camaraderie on the trails, at meals and in the ‘albergues’ (pilgrim hostels). Local hospitality was truly cloaked in kindness and patience (usually with my attempts at speaking Spanish!)

One can walk or cycle the route; divide the journey over multiple years; carry possessions or forward them to the next lodging. I would be delighted to discuss the pilgrimage with you and wish you a ‘buen camino’ wherever your next journey takes you.”

Thank you, Michael, for letting us join you – on your birthday, no less!

Welcome, Volodya Klevanskyi, Luda Klevanska, Doug and Holly Stevenson!

On Saturday, November 19, at 4:00 p.m. we are going to give a red carpet welcome to the Stevensons and the Klevanskyis. Doug and Holly Stevenson of Wayne, Maine, decided to become sponsors for a lovely couple from Ukraine. Currently, they are living in a homestead which had been owned by Doug’s late mother. Come to find out what life in America has been like for them. What have their biggest surprises been? What do they miss most about life in Ukraine? What plans do they have for the future?

Following the conversations, we will share a supper together in the Fellowship Hall. Come, do come, ready to learn and ready to care!

Outreach Opportunities



Greetings from Chrysalis Place Food Center!

Bev. Fernald LaPlante



The Board of Directors, officers, volunteers and clients would like to join me in sending a huge **THANK YOU** to the congregation of HAUMC. Your generosity is appreciated more than words can really express! As I have mentioned before, our numbers have been increasing and each week we register new clients. In

our regular client numbers we are now serving between 80 and 90 households who come to our facility. Many of these households have several children and many also are multi-generational or several “family” units living in one residence. In addition to the folks who come on a pretty regular basis, we have seen increased numbers of households calling and needing an emergency order. Last winter that was approximately 3 per month and since August it has increased to 6. We offer a Senior Home delivery of food and the number of households who participate in the program after meeting the qualifying conditions has risen from 30 last winter to a current number of 48. Your generosity has helped us to increase our capacity to serve all these members of our communities. We can always use food or money donations and when we need more assistance, HAUMC answers the call!

As we approach the colder months the outlook appears to be quite dark for many. Having to prioritize food needs, shelter, heat and health care is an almost impossible task for some. If Chrysalis Place can make those choices a little easier with the continued support of HAUMC, it would definitely be a great blessing to those who need assistance. As the holidays approach and we are so very thankful to our loving and generous God, it is a wonderful time to share our blessings with those who have needs. I know this congregation will do just that and should rest assured that they have the sincere gratitude of those who receive their help.

You Can Help Those in Need

- ❖ **TURKEY DONATION:** Chrysalis Place is sponsoring our annual Turkey Donation Day on **November 19** from **8:30 am -2:30 pm** at **Goggin’s IGA** in Randolph and on Water St. in Gardiner in front of **Goldfinch’s Creamery** . We will be collecting turkeys and/or monetary donations to be used in the Christmas Basket Project. A donation of a turkey or money to buy items for the baskets will be greatly appreciated!!
- ❖ **FEED-A-FAMILY:** Highland Avenue UMC is collecting food items to donate to Chrysalis Place this month. Meal suggestions are available in church and on our website (www.highlandaveumc.net). We are also **ALWAYS** in need of monetary gifts in order to purchase those items which are not donated. Your generosity is sincerely appreciated and your gifts are used to help our neighbors and friends who are experiencing food insecurity. Thank you!
- ❖ **GIVING TUESDAY:** **November 29** is a day designated for donating to your favorite charity. This year especially there are many needs and this is a chance to help.



Snack cupboard at Gardiner Area High School. Food was bought with donations from HAUMC.

In Our Prayers



Prayer Requests



Cheryl Anastasio
 Lorie Attebury
 Gloria Bargetzi
 Doug & Sandra Bowie
 Chris Call
 Henry Charest
 Lynn Cheney
 Don Chimera
 Gretchen Clark
 Larry Colgan
 Dwight Cooper
 Lori Cowling
 Crosby, Reuben, and family
 Edward Crosby III
 Kimberly Curry & Michael Preston
 Peter Dennis

Nick Dunton
 Tom Dunton
 Nancy Ezhaya
 Janice Farnham's mom
 Griffen
 Heidi Haskell
 Les Henshaw
 Dr. Michael Hoyt
 Lynn Gerard
 Lainey Goodwin
 Bea Hicks
 Becky Hicks
 Bart Hill
 Alan Hynson
 David Hynson
 Bob Jackson
 Linda Jamison
 Courtney Keach
 Jack Kolwalski
 Kevin Kramer
 Lisa
 Rick Lovely
 Judy Lumbert
 Ricky M.

Please Pray For:

Betsy Mankins
 Darlene Manzo
 Quinton Martin
 Cameron McAllister
 Stanley McCurdy
 Joe McVety
 Judy Meserve
 Ian Michaud
 Chris Mitchel
 Jim Montell
 Don Moody
 Paula Moore
 Herb Moreshead
 Dan Mullins
 Carla Parsons
 Karen Perry
 Joe Phillips
 Sylvia Quint
 Cora Ramsay
 The Ramsay Family
 Pam Shaw
 Sam Shaw
 Laurie Smith
 Steven Smith

Thelma Smith
 David Snow
 Edyth Spackman
 Kristin Stahl
 Ann Stinson
 Carolyn Szady
 Tamy
 Terry Tatlock and family
 Lisa Thibeau
 Casi Totten
 John True
 Barbara Veregge
 Baby Walter in MA
 William

People of Seoul, Korea
Hurricane victims
People of Uvalde, Texas
People of Ukraine
People of Afghanistan
Coronavirus Victims
Victims of Violence
Victims of Natural Disasters

In Our Thoughts and Prayers



Our church was once again saddened by the loss of one of our saints, Tanya Moulton. She passed away peacefully on October 11, surrounded by her family.

Tanya was a beloved member of Highland Avenue UMC. She was a member of the Merry Mets and always helped out at church suppers and fairs. You could depend on a smile from her whenever you would meet. That was especially

evident when a group from the church went to Captain Lewis Residence to serenade her on her birthday, August 27.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to her family and friends. May you all find peace in the wonderful memories of Tanya and the knowledge that she is in the loving arms of our Lord, reunited with her loving husband Bill.



Highland Avenue United Methodist Church
35 Highland Avenue
Gardiner, ME 04345

TIME DATED MATERIAL

HIGHLANDER NEWS

**We welcome your suggestions and contributions to our newsletter. Contact the pastor or church secretary with your news.
Tel: (207) 582-2303**

Pastor..... Rev. Dr. Ruth Merriam
Lay Leader..... Patsy Tessier
Music Minister.....Ralph Cheney
Treasurer..... Gene Anastasio
Financial Secretary..... Kitty Cogley
Church Administrator
& Newsletter Editor.... Vicki Record

**Worship 9:30 AM
All are welcome !!**

Come Sing With Us!

Caroling Gathering

Friday, December 24

4:00 pm

We will plan to meet at the church in the upper parking lot to sing some of our favorite Christmas songs and carol for the neighbors of Highland Avenue UMC (weather permitting). Ralph will accompany us from the sanctuary.

Come join the fun!



Christmas Eve
—Candlelight Service—

December 24

5:30 pm



Lessons and Carols

Please join us!