

Keeping the Faith August 13, 2026

Dear Ones,

Well, it's almost time! And as Sunday's little "oops I forgot to write a sermon" situation demonstrated, I am definitely ready!

A few things to note:

- 1) New directories will be available on Sunday. It includes the list of vestry members and, as an insert, the pastoral care procedure (which for most of you is this: call a warden) and a phone tree should you need to disseminate information quickly. Please remember the directories are not for public view, to avoid any chance of scammers getting hold of your phone numbers and email lists.
- 2) Take photos! You can send them to the church's email, and Liz will pick a few to have printed and post. Include in your message a short description of what was going on in the photo. My hope is that you will take photos that fit each of the Team categories on the bulletin board near the bathroom, so that when I return I will be able to see all the things you did while I was away.
- 3) If the last two months are any indication, there will be new people for me to meet when I return. I trust you to welcome them, encourage them to sign up for a name tag, and include them as much as they want to be included. One of your many gifts is the ability to make space for the stranger. You were doing it before I arrived 12 years ago, and I am confident you will continue to do so while I'm away.

Continue to be flexible, patient, good-humored. There will be glitches, but I know you will all roll with them and figure out what to do. Store up those stories to share with me, too! Pray for me, as I will be praying for all of you. Know that I am missing you already, and am deeply grateful this isn't a final goodbye.

Have fun, and I'll see you in three months.

In the meantime....*keep the faith*,

Nancy+

THIS SUNDAY'S READINGS

Genesis 45:1-15 * Psalm 133 * Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32 * Matthew 15:10-28

BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES

Bruce & Patty Watts 8/18, Sue Emerson, 8/19, Bonnie Trundy 8/21, José & Carolee Garcia 8/22

CREATION CARE TIPS

A Handy-Dandy Guide to Environmental Jargon, Part 1

Over the next several weeks I will bring you information on some of the words that confuse or turn off many people when "experts" talk about climate change.

RECYCLE: We all know that recycling centers accept some forms of paper, and/or metals, and/or plastics, and/or glass. But the definition? Merriam Webster states, in the fourth definition: "To make ready for reuse." That's a simple, but all-encompassing explanation.

Humans did not invent recycling. Dinosaur poop was recycled naturally millions of years ago to become fertilizer for the plants that Apatosaurus and Triceratops ate. Some of the water they drank left their bodies through breathing, and the rest of the water left them in the form of urine. Dirt filtered the liquid, water evaporated, rose, and condensed in the atmosphere, forming clouds. Then the rain came down. That's part of the water cycle; that's natural recycling.

And the leaves that are so green right now –except for the reddish ones on the tips of maple branches that are dying – will fall in two months and decompose into humus and natural fertilizer. That’s some more natural recycling

But modern recycling? That’s more complicated, because humans took raw natural materials and made new-fangled stuff called paper, plastics, alloys, and polymers. It’s sometimes difficult to recycle man-made materials, because they contain many different components. One example is the brick-pak juice box that is so convenient to put in a lunchbox. The paper box has a layer of aluminum foil, layers of paper, and layers of plastic. Removing the plastic might require heat so high that the paper would burn, igniting the plastic. OOPS! That won’t work! The very thin foil is fragile, so it may shred, and the box is small but cumbersome to handle. Oh, maybe a different package would work better!

What do you recycle? Is there something that your recycling center accepts that you haven’t been recycling? Maybe now is a good time to start.

– Patty Watts, Christ Church Earth Keeper

Hurt not the earth—neither the sea—nor the trees. Revelation 7:3

CALENDAR

SUN:	10:15 AM	Eucharist/In-person and online
	3:00 PM	Episcopal House Church in Bethel
WED:	9:00 AM	Eucharist/Bible Study
THU:	7:15 PM	Zoom Compline

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Coffee Hour Coffee hour on Sunday will be a potluck.

Directories Paper copies are available in the office. This version includes the phone tree we will use during Nancy’s sabbatical for any emergency announcements. You can also request a PDF version.

Blood Drive The Norway Center for Health & Rehabilitation will host an American Red Cross blood drive on Tuesday, August 18, 2026, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Appointments can be scheduled at RedCrossBlood.org using the sponsor code NORWAYME or by calling 1-800-RED CROSS.

A/C in church is not functioning. Vestry is reviewing proposals for new heat pump units for church, offices and guild room.

Ministries We need additional ushers and eucharistic ministers. Please leave a note for Liz if you’re interested in either of these positions.

The rector will be on sabbatical August 17 through November 17. Please contact wardens Jen Lehr and/or Nancy Mering with pastoral concerns during that time.

Sunday School is on hiatus for the summer.

Nametags Please wear your nametag while you're here. You can leave it in the basket outside Nancy's office as you leave and it will be returned it to the board. ***If you are one of our regular summer visitors, please sign up for a nametag you can wear when you are with us.***

For ongoing and up-to-date information about diocesan activities and news, as well as news from other congregations, sign up for **the DioLog**. <https://episcopalmaine.org/newsletter/>

MINISTRIES LIST

	<u>This week:</u>	<u>Next week:</u>
Lector 1:	VOLUNTEER	Nancy Mering
Psalmist:	Fran Martin	Br. Matthias Tanner
Lector 2:	Jill Cunningham	Bruce Watts
Acolyte:	Peter Hammond	Michelle Christoph
Euch. Minister:	Patty Watts	Peter Hammond
Usher:	Janet Harvey	David Mering
Altar Guild:	Jen Lehr	Michelle Christoph
Coffee Hour:	Potluck	Allison & Jason Long
Counter:	Peter Hammond	Carolyn Tanner
Closer:	Nancy Mering	David Mering