



ISLANDS COMMUNITY CHURCH
NEWSLETTER
JULY 2026

ISLANDS COMMUNITY CHURCH

P.O. Box 281

Bailey Island, ME 04003

PRAYERS

Please join us in especially remembering the following people in your daily prayers:

Health and Healing: Laurie S; Jack S; John S; Gill Mudford; Henry Rupert; MG; Dale Perkin.

Strength and Support: Family of Norma Conway; Family of Henry Rupert; Family of Cindy MacDonald; Laura Knitweiss and the family of Sarabeth; family of David Shaw. God, we pray for the wellbeing of all. May love be our way.

Continuing Prayers: Liz Gleason; Kiernan; George Kinser; Brenda Bonney; Luca; Jacinda; Ed Roney; Bruce Bickford; Bruce Langford; Roger R; Liz Bouve and family; Paula; Ron and Angel; Nick Soliotis; Phyllis Simard; Jean S; Kim Johnson; Jean Richter; Willy Wilson; Donna McNelly; Hannah; Carol; Mary Perry Morgan; Susan Harrington; Roger, Josh; Rosemary Dunlap; Katy Huff; Laura; for all who love and support those living with mental health and other chronic health conditions.

Prayers for our first responders and for those serving in the military. God, we pray for a unified vision of peace and for policies that provide all with basic human rights, justice, safety and effective health care. We pray for compassion, tolerance of diversity and of varied viewpoints.

If anyone would like to have a person's name included in the Prayer List, please contact Jody Breton at maineofficiants@gmail.com

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Members: Gayle Hays and Hugh Hardcastle (co-chairs), Ed Striewski, Jody Breton, Angie Arndt, Lori Burkhardt, Paul Campbell, Janet Alexander, Tuckie Westfall, Nancy Kinser, David Breton, and Cindy Mudford.

In the month of July, Ordinary Time continues. Ordinary Time in Christianity refers to the liturgical season that occurs between the major celebrations of Christmas and Easter, focusing on the life and teachings of Jesus and the ongoing growth of the Church. This period continues until Advent.

Spiritual Meaning of July

July symbolizes spiritual growth, transformation, abundance, and the courage to express your inner self. July, the seventh month of the year, carries deep spiritual significance. In numerology, the number 7 is sacred, representing spiritual awakening, introspection, and divine wisdom, encouraging self-reflection and a deeper connection with the universe or your inner guidance. Spiritually, July is a time for renewal and transformation, marking the midpoint of the year and inviting you to release outdated habits, embrace personal growth, and realign your goals.

Speakers for June 2026

- July 5 – Rev. Jeff Huot
- July 12 – Rev. Angie Arndt
- July 19 – Rev. Ginger Rickeman
- July 26 – Rev Jody Breton

Coordinators for the next few months

- July – Hugh Hardcastle
- Aug – Jody Breton
- Sept. – Lori Burkhardt
- Oct. – Paul Campbell

Prayer List

To add someone to the prayer list, fill out the prayer list form, see Jody, or email Jody at maineofficiants@gmail.com. Please ask Jody to remove names of those who have recovered. Reminder, permission must be given prior to adding a person's name to the printed prayer list.

Pastoral Care

If you could use Spiritual Companionship (a listening ear), please reach out to Angie at angiearndt12@gmail.com or call 207-318-9429.

Spiritual Support Group

Rev. Angie Arndt is facilitating the Spiritual Support Group. The group is a confidential place to explore your spiritual life and share compassionate conversation about life's big questions. The group plans to meet once monthly in July and August. For more information, please contact Angie at angiearndt12@gmail.com

Altar Guild

The altar cloth for Ordinary Time is green. Guild members include Ed Striewski, Jody Breton, Dave Breton, and Cindy Mudford.

Music

The choir was saddened to learn of the passing of choir member, Norma Conway. Norma brought a kind, soulful presence to the group. She will be very much missed.

Ed Striewski, music director, has a great sense of humor and fills the choir members with the wish to sing well. From jazzy anthems to old favorites, he brings out the best in all the music played. Choir members include Margaret Broughall, Carol Ryberg, Lori Burkhart, Brooke Smith, Laurie Smith, Janet Alexander, Gayle Hays, Rose Lawrence, Ellen Hoebeke, Dan Hoebeke, Ed Robinson, and Andrew Brassington. In June Sam Crocker, Gayle's grandson, joined in the singing. Interested in being a choir member or want to hear a specific hymn? See Ed Striewski.

Inspiration

"This... is the birthday of your National Independence, and of your political freedom." — Frederick Douglass

"You have to love a nation that celebrates its independence every July 4th... with family picnics where kids throw Frisbees." — Erma Bombeck

"July is hollyhocks and hammocks, fireworks and vacations, hot and steamy weather, cool and refreshing swims." — Jean Hersey

"In July, even the smallest seed believes in miracles — why not you?"

"Half the year behind, half ahead. Welcome, July — let's dream with fire instead."

"July is hot afternoons and sultry nights and mornings when it's a joy just to be alive." — Hal Borland

WHAT'S NEW AT ICC

The following are links for online information for your benefit and to share with interested community members or people who might like to learn about the church.

ICC's website address is: islandschurch.org

ICC's email address is: welcome@islandschurch.org

ICC's Facebook Page is: [IslandsCommunityChurchMaine](https://www.facebook.com/IslandsCommunityChurchMaine)

ICC's Instagram Page is: [IslandsCommunityChurch](https://www.instagram.com/IslandsCommunityChurch)

OUTREACH

Members: Co-chairs: Surrey Hardcastle (tel 833-0092; surrey@comcast.net) and Laurie Smith, with Mary Leeman, Marnie Mcfarland, Peg Orlando, and Mary Robinson.

OASIS FREE CLINICS

Oasis Free Clinics is one of the organizations which ICC has generously supported over many years.

For 30 years, Oasis Free Clinics has quietly and consistently filled a critical gap in Midcoast Maine — providing free medical and dental care to neighbors who otherwise might go without.

What began as a small volunteer-driven effort has grown into a vital community resource serving uninsured and underinsured residents across the region. As Oasis Free Clinics marks its 30th anniversary this year, the organization is celebrating not only the thousands of patients who have received free care, but also the

remarkable network of partners, volunteers, businesses, faith communities, staff and supporters who made those three decades possible.

Since its founding in 1995, Oasis Free Clinics has operated on a simple but powerful belief: healthcare is a community responsibility. That belief has inspired physicians, dentists, nurses, hygienists, optometrists, counselors, office staff, churches, banks, construction companies, nonprofits and an incredible group of volunteers to contribute their time, expertise, funding and encouragement. Oasis Free Clinics is a non-profit, no-cost primary care medical practice and dental clinic, providing exceptional, patient-centered care to uninsured members of our community.

Over the years, **Oasis has expanded to a full-time, full-service primary care practice**, a prescription assistance clinic providing close to \$1 million in free medications each year, and a free dental clinic serving hundreds of people who lack access to dental care. Oasis is the largest free clinic in Maine. Oasis serves residents of Brunswick, Harpswell and the Islands, Freeport, Durham and Sagadahoc County.

For more information, or to make a donation to this amazing organization, please contact www.oasisfreeclinics.org

ICC COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

Ping Pong and Puzzles Every Tuesday, 1:00-3:00

*The word is out - Ping Pong at Islands Community Church on Tuesdays is FUN! We now have **two** tables in play (thank you to Mary and Ed Robinson's daughter for the 2nd table) due to more and more players showing up for good times at table tennis. Puzzling and snacks add to the enjoyment.*

Yoga Classes

*Yoga classes are offered **Monday mornings from 9-10 and 1st and 3rd Thursdays from 5-6 pm** in the lower level of the church. Instructor Kelly Merrill is a native islander who has been teaching yoga for 7 years. All classes are suitable for **ALL LEVELS**, staying within a gentle practice of movement and breath.*

NORMA CONWAY

We bid farewell to our dear friend, Norma Huff Conway. Raised on Orr's Island within a close-knit community, Norma lived with her parents and grandparents in the family homestead, where she passed away on June 21. An only child, she learned responsibility early, assuming the role of homemaker when her mother became unable to do so and caring for her grandparents until their deaths. Later, Norma extended this same compassion by welcoming her ailing mother-in-law into her home, providing care for seven years.

She expanded her caregiving skills by serving as an EMT volunteer during the early years of the Orr's Island Rescue Service. The island installed four "Red Phones" for emergency calls in private residences, one of which was located in Norma's home. The old "Fire Barn," situated just around the corner, housed the fire trucks and the emergency vehicle at the time—a modified hearse purchased secondhand from Brackett's Funeral Home.

From a young age, Norma was involved in the local church and in her most recent years particularly enjoyed participating in the ICC choir, despite her elementary school teacher having once discouraged her singing. For several years at the two-room Orr's Island School, Norma's teacher was her crotchety Aunt Daisy. Daisy Gilliam's name uniformly evoked unfavorable comments from generations of island adults who had been in her class. During a Christmas program rehearsal, Aunt Daisy pointed at Norma with a scowl and announced, "Norma, your voice sounds horrible. Do not sing; just move your lips." Norma complied, even though she knew she was not singing off-key; it was the girl behind her who, as the saying went, could never "carry a tune in a bucket."

Norma will be remembered not for seeking recognition or praise, but for her quiet kindness and the joy she found in her family and friends. Her signature, "Hugs, Norma," was a true reflection of her soul.

NEW FROM THE PEWS

"Under God" The words "under God" were taken from Abraham Lincoln's famous Gettysburg Address, "...that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth..." On June 14, 1954, President Eisenhower stood on the steps of the Capitol Building and recited the Pledge of Allegiance for the first time with the phrase, "one nation under God."

Fire? Every summer, we would be on the highway a few miles out of the city on our annual vacation to a cabin someplace on a lake in Wisconsin, when mom would wail, "Oh my goodness! I think I left the iron on." We would turn around to check, but as I recall, not once was it ever plugged in. Mom feared that all our belongings would burn up in a fire caused by her forgetfulness. When I was 14 years old, we were headed out of Chicago for Lake Geneva and, sure enough, Mom gasped, "I just know I left the iron on." My father didn't say a word, just pulled over onto the shoulder of the road, got out, opened the trunk and handed her the iron.

Corn - Each year a Nebraska farmer grew award-winning corn which he entered in the state fair where he'd win a blue ribbon. Interviewing him, a newspaper reporter learned his secret to growing award winning corn. The farmer shared his seed corn with his neighbors. "How can you afford to share your best seed corn with your neighbors when they are entering in the same competition as you each year?" the reporter asked. "Well," said the farmer, "The wind picks up pollen from the ripening corn and swirls it from field to field. If my neighbors grow inferior corn, cross-pollination will steadily degrade the quality of my corn. If I am to grow good corn, I must help my neighbors grow good corn." The farmer's corn couldn't improve unless his neighbor's corn also improved. So it is with humans. Those who choose to be at peace must help their neighbors to be at peace. Those who choose to be happy must help others find happiness, for the welfare of each is bound up with the welfare of all.

Pews - While on vacation, Abby and her husband visited a local church. They liked to sit close to the front, so they entered a pew in the second row. As they settled in, an usher came up to them, tapped lightly

on bench, and said, "This pew is saved." Abby's husband replied, "So are WE!"

Picnic - The minister's 6-year-old daughter had been naughty all week, so her mother gave her a harsh punishment, telling her she couldn't go to the Sunday School Picnic on Saturday. On Saturday, her mother felt she had been too harsh and changed her mind. When she told the little girl she could go to the picnic, the child's reaction was one of gloom and unhappiness. "What's the matter? I thought you'd be glad to go to the picnic." her mother said. "It's too late!" the little girl said. "I've already prayed for rain!"

Signs:

~ Hotel Egypt: If you require room service, please open door and shout, "Room service!"

~ Hotel, Paris: Please leave your values at the front desk.

~ Hotel, London : The lift is being fixed for the next day. During that time, we regret that you will be unbearable.

~ Hotel, Moscow: across from a Russian Orthodox monastery - You are welcome to visit the cemetery where famous Russian and soviet composers, artists and writers are buried daily except Thursday.

~ Hotel, Zurich: Because of the impropriety of entertaining guests of the opposite sex in the bedroom, it is suggested that the lobby be used for this purpose.

Trade in - A farmer went to town to buy a pickup truck advertised in the paper. After telling the salesman the truck he wanted, they sat down to do the paperwork. When the farmer was handed the bill, he declared, "This isn't the price I saw!" The salesman told him how he was getting extras such as power brakes, power windows, special tires etc., making the price higher. Needing the truck badly, the farmer paid the price and went home. Several months later, the salesman called the farmer saying, "My son is in 4-H and he needs a cow. Do you have any for sale?" The farmer said, "I have a few cows that I would sell for \$500.00 each. Come look at them and take your pick. The salesman and his son spent a few hours in the field checking out the cows and finally decided on one. The salesman proceeded to write the \$500 check, but the farmer said, "That's not the final price. You're final bill will include the cow with extras: Basic Cow -

\$500.00, 2-tone exterior - \$45.00, Product storing equipment - \$60.00, Extra stomach

- \$75.00, Straw compartment - \$120.00, 4 Spigots @ \$10 each - \$40.00, Leather upholstery - \$125.00, Dual horns - \$45.00, Automatic fly swatter \$38.00, Fertilizer attachment - \$185.00: Total - \$1,233.00

Not Welcome - An impoverished old man applied for membership to a wealthy church. The pastor tried to put him off with all kinds of evasive remarks. The old man realized he was not welcome and told the pastor that he would pray about it. Several days later he returned. "Well," asked the pastor, "Did the Lord give you a message?" "Yes Sir, He did" was the old man's answer. "He told me it wasn't any use. The Lord said, 'I've been trying to get in that same church myself for ten years and they won't let me in either.'"

Fuel - Sister Marry was truly a religious woman. Besides for her duties as a nun, she was also very active in the hospitals visiting sick patients and taking care of their needs. The one day she ran out of gas, the only container she had to put gas in was a bedpan. She walked 2 blocks to the gas station, filled up the bedpan with gas and went back to her car. As Sister Mary started tipping the gas into the fuel tank, the traffic light turned red and she had an audience witnessing the spectacle. Just as she finished pouring in the last drops of gas a man opened his window and yelled, "I swear! If that car starts I'm becoming a religious man!"

Nuts! - A pedestrian stepped off the curb to cross the street when a car came careening around the corner and aimed for him. The man sped up, but the car changed lanes, still coming at him. It came so close, that the man froze in the middle of the road. Coming within a foot of hitting the terrified man, the car swerved at the last possible second and screeched to a halt. The driver, a squirrel, rolled down the window and said, "See, it's not as easy as it looks, is it?"

Bloopers -

~Janet Smith has volunteered to strip and refinish the communion table in the sanctuary.

~The bride was wearing an old lace gown that fell to the floor as she came down the aisle.

Worship Service

Sunday at 9:30AM

*Communion is always
served
the first Sunday of the
month*

Guest Speakers:

***July 5: Rev. Jeff Huot
July 12: Rev. Angie Arndt
July 19: Rev. Ginger Rickeman
July 26: Rev. Jody Breton***

****Flowers:***

***July 5: Lori Burkhart
July 12: Surrey Hardcastle
July 19: Rose Lawrence
July 26: Marcia Potter***

****Refreshments:***

***July 5: Lori Burkhart
July 12: Surrey Hardcastle
July 19: Rose Lawrence
July 26: Marcia Potter***

**If you are able to help out,
please contact Charlie Libby at
wj4@comcast.net*

JULY 2026

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The Islands Community Church is a non-denominational church based on the teachings of the Bible. The church is led by a Board who invite ordained ministers, lay people and chaplains to celebrate the service. Communion is offered monthly on the first Sunday. Outreach and community service are important aspects of the church mission.

Weekly Worship Speakers: The church has an active Worship committee responsible for inviting ordained ministers, lay people and chaplains to celebrate the service each Sunday. These ministers are rooted in a diverse array of faiths including Congregational, Episcopalian, Baptist, Presbyterian, among others. They are primarily based in the mid-coast region, including Portland. The variety of speakers at the Sunday services are appreciated by the attendees, as each offers his or her personal insights on their journeys and the teachings of the Bible.

PASTORAL CARE and COUNSELING: Rev. Angie Arndt provides pastoral visits and counseling. Angie can be reached at 318-9429 or at angiearndt12@gmail.com.

COMMUNION is served the first Sunday of the month and is available at home for those unable to attend church. If someone wishes to receive Communion at home, please call Hugh Hardcastle at 833-0092.

JULY

Birthdays:

07/01 Ed Robinson
07/19 Lauren Leeman
07/23 John Ferraro
07/24 Peg Orlando

Anniversaries:

07/02 Beth and Bob York
07/13 Elizabeth and Art Dyer

Note: *If your birthday or anniversary is in this month, and it is not noted, please contact Mary Robinson at mrobinuk7@gmail.com*