



# Dixfield Congregational Church Newsletter

MAY 2026



## NEW MEMBERS—PART 1

Instead of the article from Pastor Matt Andrews this month and next month, there will be pictures of the new members of the Dixfield Congregational Church. Thirteen people attended new member classes and then were welcomed by the congregation on April 5. It is wonderful to have so many new members!



Chris Araujo



Nicole  
Cummings



Reynaldo  
Hernandez



Peggy Morse



Ben  
Skibitsky



Ed "Will"  
and Danielle  
Williams

The Church on the Hill  
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### Easter Services at the Church on the Hill

Easter fell on April 5 this year so the beginning of April was a busy time for the church family. The Morris family organized a Messianic Passover Seder meal at the church on Thursday evening which was very well attended. A Good Friday service was held the next night in the sanctuary. The service consisted of the Seven Shadows Readings, seven passages from Matthew and Luke. Ralph Sherrick, Reggie Wing, Kristi Andrews, and Mary Dailey had volunteered to be readers. At the end of each passage, one of seven candles was extinguished until the congregation was left in darkness and everyone left in silence. The Easter vigil began at the end of the Good Friday service. There had been a sign-up sheet for people to sign up to spend time alone in the sanctuary over the course of the weekend. The vigil ends on Easter Sunday morning with the Sunrise Service, which is usually held outside. It was cold and rainy this Easter morning, however, so the Sunrise Service was held in the sanctuary. The service started at 6:00 a.m. and was followed by a delicious Easter breakfast in the annex. Before the 10:00 a.m. Easter service, the Altar had been decorated with many flowers that had been brought to church by members of the congregation. During the worship service, the Easter choir led the congregation in a few hymns. At the end of the service, new members were recognized. All of the Easter services were well attended and it was wonderful to welcome so many people as new members of the church.



Photo at left: Easter choir members—front row from left to right : John Glaus, Kristi Andrews, Darlene Berry, and Deb Morang; back row from left to right: Reggie Wing, John Morang, Prudence Schofield, and Dinah Morris.

Photo below: New members being introduced to the congregation





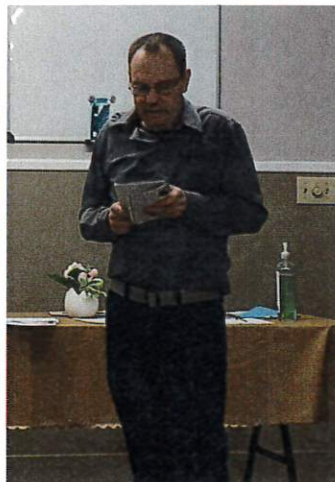
### Seder Meal

Lent and Holy Week were a busy time at Dixfield Congregational Church on the Hill, with many different events where people had the option to gather, slow down, and reflect on the "reason for the season." On Thursday night of Holy Week, a group of about 25 folks streamed into the fellowship hall bearing pans and casserole dishes, but this was not to be just a regular ol' church potluck! One child wasn't too pleased to be dragged to church on a school night, but we were sure pleased to see him because we had some readings for a child, and a hidden object that needed to be found by a child!

The tables were set with special items to celebrate a Messianic Passover Seder. The Passover Seder is a meal that has been celebrated in much the same way for thousands of years. It is a meal that Jewish people are instructed to eat to remember their miraculous Exodus out of Egypt. Jesus would have eaten it growing up, and he ate it for the last time with his closest friends the night he was betrayed. The meal includes drops of wine that recall the 10 plagues, a dish that recalls the mortar used to make bricks, bitter herbs that recall the suffering of the enslaved Hebrew people and matzah or unleavened bread to recall the haste in which they fled into the desert.

Johnnie Morris officiated the meal with readings from a seder guidebook (Haggadah) written by Messianic Jews (people of Jewish descent who recognize Jesus as the Messiah). The purpose of the meal was to shed new light on Jesus's role as the final "Paschal Lamb" whose sacrifice saves us from Death. After the Seder, we enjoyed a potluck meal of traditional Jewish dishes lovingly prepared by those in attendance.

- Dinah Morris





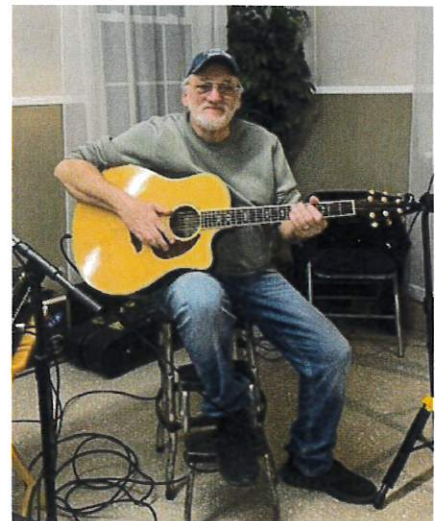
## Easter Vigil

We have recently celebrated Easter at our church. One of the activities that we do is the Easter Vigil. We usually start it right after the Good Friday service and end it just before the sunrise service. The Vigil is a time to be in the church for an hour to pray, listen to Christian tapes, read devotionals or just meditate. My experience has been a little of all of these. One year I sat in all four corners of the pews and prayed for the people that usually sit there. Another time I sat where the Pastor sits on the pulpit. Another time I sat at the organ and then in the choir loft. It is truly a time of reflection on what our faith means to us. My wish for all of you is that next Easter season you take an hour and do the Vigil.

- Bev Glover

## Coffee House with Dennis Moro

The annex was decorated with white tablecloths and candles on the evening of Friday, April 10 for a coffee house with Dennis Moro. Dennis is a singer-songwriter who started playing at age 11. He is a member of the Maine Old Opry and is actively involved with the Country Music Association of Maine. He entertained the audience with his mix of original songs and country music. Various delicious desserts were available to purchase and enjoy all evening. A good time was had by all, including Dennis who is looking forward to another opportunity to play at the Church on the Hill.



## Coming Soon

Ralph Sherrick will be leading a Bible study on the Lord's Prayer on Wednesdays from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the church annex starting May 27 and running through June 24. All ages are welcome. For more information, text Ralph at 207-357-7727,

### The Lord's Prayer Matthew 6:9-13

Our Father which art in heaven,  
Hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done  
in earth, as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our debts,  
as we forgive our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil:  
For thine is the kingdom, and the  
power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.