



Dixfield Congregational Church Newsletter

AUGUST 2026



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

I'm sure we're all familiar with the phrase, "Get a clue!" It's certainly no fun to be on the receiving end of that statement, but there's no mistaking the intent of the person saying it. They're letting us know (in no uncertain terms!) that we don't really understand what is going on. Since it's also an insult, it's meant to sting a little too.

It can be quite surprising when we come across instances in the Bible where Jesus himself is the one speaking a zinger like that toward someone. Funny enough, Jesus' barbs are always directed at the most religious people in his culture, usually referred to as "experts in the law" of some kind. It's easy to infer how frustrated he was with them for being so familiar with the words of the law, but so far from perceiving God's real heart for all of his people.

One of my favorite "zinger moments" happens in Matthew 9, where we read that Jesus is being judged by the super-religious for spending so much time "with tax collectors and sinners." Jesus famously responds, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick." But we might not be as familiar with the next verse, in which Jesus tells these experts in the law, "Go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

A professor of theology once explained to me that Jesus telling this Pharisee, "Go and learn what this means," would have been just as insulting as telling an expert in some topic today, "Go ask your mom what this means," or saying, "Get a clue!"

Jesus was more concerned about sharing God's love with those who were considered "most lost" by that culture than he was about sparing the feelings of the Pharisee. This is surely because Jesus knew that the Pharisee had somehow been misled about God's heart for "sinners," and as a teacher, the Pharisee was probably misleading others by his own hatred of these people.

We shouldn't be surprised when reading

God's word feels a lot like hearing somebody say to us, "Get a clue!" That's because it's so difficult to love and care for other difficult people, and it's so easy for us to forget that we too are loved by God even at our very worst.

So, just like Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson working together to get a clue and reveal the big picture, we have the greatest chance of serving God well and not missing the point by staying in church fellowship and studying God's word together.

In the same way that Jesus comes to us very gently when we're at our lowest, we can see in scripture that he might also bring us the "tough love" we need when we're a little too comfortable in our knowledge, too stuck in our ways, or a little too smug toward others.

If you feel God's word provoking you this way you should feel zero embarrassment. Take joy in the fact that God is so interested in your own spiritual growth, and remember that there are always other people waiting at the end of your humble obedience to God. Also, if it makes you feel better, please know that your pastor gets plenty of this tough love from scripture all the time! It results in bearing the "good fruit" that Jesus says will come from having our hearts right before God. Mystery solved!

- Pastor Matt Andrews

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Dixfield Congregational Church Website

The church has a new website! In order to check it out, go to the following url, www.DixfieldCongregationalChurch.org or use a smartphone camera to scan the QR code shown below. There is a lot of information on the website and beautiful pictures of our church. You can see a calendar of events, read about upcoming events, watch the recorded sermons from June 7, 2026 on, make a donation, and even read the May and July newsletters if you missed getting a copy at church. The church history that Reggie Wing wrote can be found on the "Our History" tab. Please take some time to check out the website. It is very interesting! It is still a work in progress, so more changes will be coming soon.



Next Youth Group Meeting

There will be a youth group scavenger hunt on Wednesday, August 26 from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Kids in grades 6 through 12 are welcome to join the fun.

Guest Speakers on July 5 and July 12

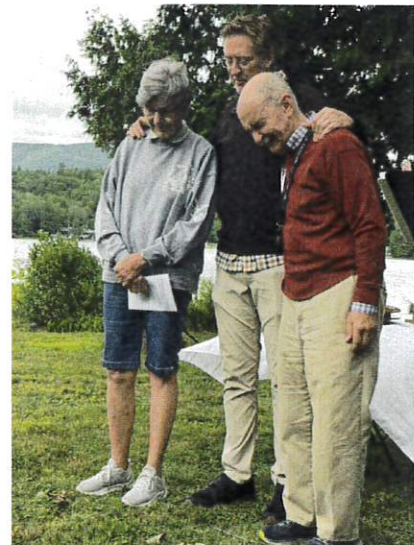
Pastor Matt took a well deserved vacation in July so the diaconate filled the pulpit on July 5 with Johnnie Morris whose sermon title was, "You Are a Tool". On July 12, Reggie Wing preached a sermon titled, "Advice to a Growing Church—Prepare, Then Run the Race" with the help of his friends shown in the picture. Both of these recorded sermons can be accessed from the church website.



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Annual Church Picnic at Worthley Pond

On Sunday, July 19, the morning worship service was held at Reggie Wing's home on Worthley Pond instead of in the sanctuary. It was quite windy and somewhat cool for a July day, but the sun was shining and the service beside the pond was very nice. There were two couples celebrating anniversaries and Pastor Matt prayed for both Albert and Marjorie Murphy and John Glaus and Pru Schofield during announcements. After the sermon on, "The Living Water", everyone enjoyed hamburgers and hotdogs and the salads and desserts that the congregation had brought to share. Thank you, Reggie, for hosting the picnic again this year! The pictures below were taken by Val Scott.



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Mr. Drew and His Animals Too

Thirteen people from our church family attended the post-VBS field trip to Mr. Drew and His Animals Too at his new digs in Poland, Maine on July 30th. Mr. Drew himself was on the road with some of his scaled and furred and feathered friends, but there were plenty of amazing creatures at home in Poland waiting to be admired. Members of our group held large snakes and pet large spiders! Ms. Anne Bartels was especially excited to see members of a species of lizard called tegus. She remembers seeing this climbing up her sliding glass door in Savanna, Georgia. Although not native to North America, tegus have generated a sizable population in the south. Although Mr. Drew himself was not on site that day, he left his animals under the care of many kind and knowledgeable helpers (volunteers?) and he also left a lot of clues as to the kind of person he is. I guess you could say his fingerprints were all over the place, in his eclectic and interactive displays of all things related to science and natural history, from taxidermy to geology, ornithology to astronomy. I may have knocked over a set of antlers trying to read the tail end of a biographical article about Mr. Drew, which outlined his lifelong love of the natural world and its connection to a particular scoutmaster from Yugoslavia, whom he met at Camp Bomazeen in Belgrade when he was a boy. Mr. Drew's goal is evident in all he does: to inspire kids (of all ages!) to be curious and to cherish and respect the natural world around us. Now here is a clue for you to follow: Psalm 104:24.

- Dinah Morris

(Thank you to Randy Canwell for being the photographer during the trip.)



BOOKS OF THE BIBLE CROSSWORD

Across

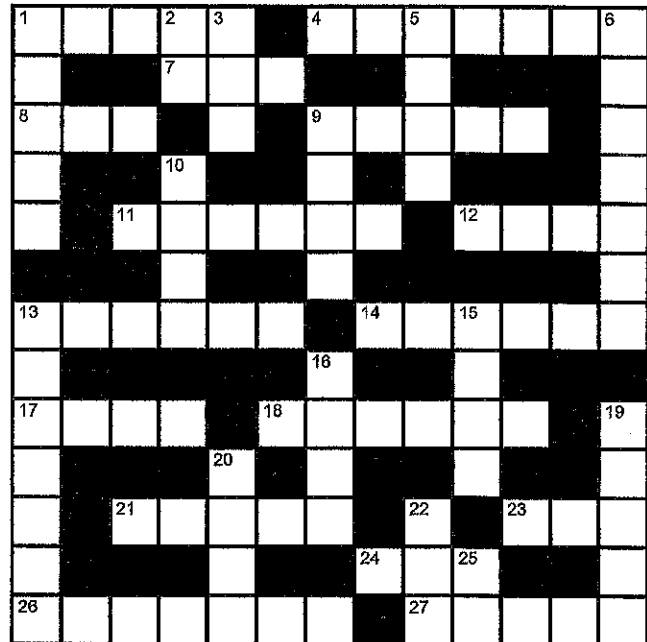
- 1 A book of books (5)
- 4 Shortest book in the Old Testament (7)
- 7 The number of chapters in Philemon (3)
- 8 This testament contains 39 books (3)
- 9 Jesus' brother, who wrote a letter (5)

- 11 In authority before the kings (6)
- 12 His epistle contains one chapter (4)
- 13 Successor to Queen Vashti (6)
- 14 David wrote many of these, set to music (6)
- 17 Wrote about the restoration of the temple (4)
- 18 Originator, writer of a book (6)

- 21 Number of letters written by John (5)
- 23 Number of chapters in 13A (3)
- 24 Galilee, Dead, for example (3)
- 26 Paul wrote many of these (7)
- 27 He prophesied the birthplace of Jesus (5)

Down

- 1 There are 66 of these (5)
- 2 Behold (2)
- 3 Revelation comes in this part of the New Testament (3)
- 5 Donation of money to the poor (4)
- 6 This letter lists the faithful (7)
- 9 He prophesied of the 'day of the Lord' (4)



by Colin

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- 10 A faithful Moabitess (4)
- 13 He foretold the regathering of Israel in prophecy of dry bones (7)
- 15 A prophet who was a herdsman (4)
- 16 One of the gospel writers (4)

- 19 A prophet, reluctant to go to Nineveh (5)
- 20 Adam and Eve ate from this in the garden (4)
- 22 The border of a garment (3)
- 25 Joshua writes about this city near Bethel (2)

Upcoming Coffee House Dates—Mark Your Calendars!

Fall will soon be here. That means beautiful fall foliage, apple cider, pumpkin spice everything and the fall line-up of musicians who will be performing at the Dixfield Congregational Church in the fellowship hall for coffee houses. The dates are as follows: Mary Murphy on Friday, September 18; Two for Jackson on Saturday, October 3; and Jim Hamalainen (Dirigo Middle and High School music teacher) and friends on Saturday, November 14. All coffee houses are from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. The cost is \$6.00 per person for an evening of musical entertainment. Homemade desserts, coffee, tea and soda are available to purchase during the evening.

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Mini-Golf Fun at Tabers

On July 31, thirteen people from our church enjoyed a pleasant afternoon in Auburn playing mini-golf and eating a delicious meal and ice cream in Tabers picnic area. We split our group into three separate teams (with the men being on their own team). Pastor Matt, Priscilla, and John Glaus each got a hole-in-one and their cheers could be heard by all of us. After the eighteen holes, everyone was ready to enjoy the food that was part of the group package deal. Many people have asked if we could have another mini-golf outing this fall. Stay tuned for details.



"Clue" at Lakewood

A group of church friends of all ages went to a play at the Lakewood Theater in Madison, Maine on the shores of Lake Wesserunsett on July 5. In operation since 1901, Lakewood is one of the oldest summer theaters in the United States.



Books of the Bible Crossword Answers:

Across: 1 Bible, 4 Obadiah, 7 One, 8 Old, 9 James, 11 Judges, 12 Jude, 13 Esther, 14 Psalms, 17 Ezra, 18 Author, 21 Three, 23 Ten, 24 Sea, 26 Letters, 27 Micah.

Down: 1 Books, 2 Lo, 3 End, 5 Alms, 6 Hebrews, 9 Joel, 10 Ruth, 13 Ezekiel, 15 Amos, 16 Luke, 19 Jonah, 20 Tree, 22 Hem, 25 Ai.