



## Dear Sisters of Women *at the Well*~ March 2018

Hello to you all in this crazy, blizzardy, snowy March about to become Spring! God-willing. My name is Joyce Long, Pastor of Casco Village Church UCC, and your Dean~3<sup>rd</sup> Year! (I've been attending Women at the Well Camp for 16 of the last 17 years!) First let me say "Thank You" for a most wonderful year of being your Dean last year. I'm trying very hard to carry on the wonderful traditions and sacred rituals of our beloved weekend, and at the same time offer us all something new to inspire our spirits. Our Theme: "Getting to Know Jesus in a Whole New Way"

### **This year's book is: "Blue Shoe" by Anne Lamott**

I tried to get Anne Lamott to come and share our weekend. I messaged her several times and offered her a week at my family's personal camp on Woodbury Pond "in payment." But I haven't heard back from her. Oh well, I love her writing and many of you who have read other books of hers but have not read one of her novels. So here goes: "Blue Shoes"

*"Mattie Ryder is marvelously neurotic, well-intentioned, funny, religious, sarcastic, tender, angry, and broke. Her life at the moment is a wreck: her marriage has failed, her mother is failing, her house is rotting, her waist is expanding, her children are misbehaving, and she has a crush on a married man. Then she finds a small rubber blue shoe--nothing more than a gumball trinket--left behind by her father. For Mattie, it becomes a talisman--a chance to recognize the past for what it was, to see the future as she always hoped it could be, and to finally understand her family, herself, and the ever-unfolding mystery of her sweet, sad, and sometimes surprising life."*

**Our mission this year is being coordinated by the Anti-Racism Resource Team:**  
co-chairs Linnette George and Chrissy Cataldo

Some details to know: Let's all try to bring a **BLUE COLORED SHIRT** in your favorite hue, the color of water and "the shoe". I can't wait to see all the beautiful expressions of BLUE!

For those of you who may be attending for the first time, BRING: bedding or a sleeping bag (don't forget the fitted sheet to cover the mattress!), a towel, clothing that can be layered, swimwear, a flashlight, rain gear, bug repellent and sunscreen. If you have special dietary needs or special food, they may be left in the kitchen refrigerator. Things NOT to include: drugs, alcohol, or pets. (Service animals are welcome but we need to know in advance.) Pilgrim Lodge is a tobacco free zone as are all Outdoor Ministry sponsored events. Regarding cell phones: disconnecting from the world is part of the joy/challenge of a retreat event. If you need to keep cell contact, please keep phones on silence and use them privately so as to respect everyone's

experience.

\*Also I'd like to open up the age on our weekend a bit-- to 18 year olds to include daughters going off to college to come with their Moms? I brought my AFS Student, Lisa from Sweden, one year – and she was only 18.

Our time together will begin with supper on Friday June 8<sup>th</sup> and ends with brunch on Sunday June 10<sup>th</sup>. You may arrive at camp anytime after 4pm on Friday June 8<sup>th</sup> to get settled in your cabin and start enjoying Pilgrim Lodge! Please do your very best to stay for the whole weekend ~ for your sake as well as the community as we gather together.

Please let me know if you are wanting or willing to participate in worship or in any other way. On Saturday we will be offering crafts. I know many of you love having things to do with your hands and artistic spirits! If anyone has any great arts/crafts ideas/offerings please call or email me! And I read in your evaluations last year that you'd like to have Yoga? I do Yoga, but not a teacher-- but would certainly love to schedule that in in the morning. Bring your own mats and I know PL used to have some as well. Also if digging in the dirt is what you enjoy, we can help with that. For the past few years many of you have blessed PL with gifts of potted annuals and perennials. Others have shared their skills in planting. This effort to beautify PL is always appreciated.

If you have special housing requests please let me know at the email below. Please remember to send in your payment to the PL office at least two weeks prior to camp. You do not need a doctor's signature but we do need to have you complete and submit the health form.

So now that's all there is to it! Just come, enjoy and relax on Cobbosseecontee Lake. Bring a friend as well! Dinner will be served at 6pm Friday Night. Please let me know if you will need to arrive at a later time. I am very excited, as always, and look forward to seeing all of you

~ Sisters at the Well, Rev. Joyce Long

**Call Joyce @ Church 207-627-4282 or Cell 207-240-3378 (also text)**