

# Reeds Mill Church

*"The Church in the Wildwood"*

C/O Ginni Robie 956 Reeds Mill Road, Madrid, ME 04966  
www.reedsmillchurch.org Email: vrobie@live.com 207-639-2713

June 2022

Greetings from Reeds Mill Church!

I hope this finds you in good spirits and enjoying the lush greens and bright colors of this beautiful time of year. We live in this amazing place, this wondrous part of creation. Let us be grateful!

## 2021

On June 26, 2021 Christy Rackliffe and Rob Holt committed themselves to each other in a very sweet wedding ceremony. Despite things getting off to a bit of a late start, all ended quite well! We wish them the best as they approach their first anniversary.

Our first service last year was on July 4. If you were in Madrid, you may recall it was a very chilly day. In fact, we got to try out the new heating system that day. It did a great job of warming up the worshipers. And it is SO quiet! Granted...it's not the wood stove, but a really good second best. There ended up being three Sundays we used the heat last summer. Seemed like those chilly summer days were often on Sunday. We are so grateful to those who donated about 90% of the cost of this project.

Although we were able to have Sunday services, the Omicron variant of Covid had hit the area strong, especially by the end of the summer, which probably accounts for just a handful of people who felt comfortable coming to the Old Home Sunday potluck and service. Nevertheless, Laura Church from North Vienna United Methodist Church led a wonderful service, which included honoring those who have served as Trustees over the last 20 years. Unfortunately, we ended up canceling the September Hymn Sing and the Sandy River Ramblers Concert again. A few people attended the Thanksgiving and the Christmas Candlelight Services.

In 2021 it was determined by attorney, Paul Mills, based on litigated cases and after 129 years of serving as a church, the claim in the deed suggesting the church/land would revert to the owner to the east should the church cease to operate as a church, was no longer valid (for example see *Mildram v. Wells*, 611 2d 84 (1992) – 82 years). This means should the church ever cease to be a church, the congregation has the right to determine if the church/land should be sold or repurposed. We don't foresee the church ceasing to be a church anytime soon, but it is comforting to know the congregation will have say over the church's destiny.

## 2022

We are hopeful more folks will feel comfortable coming to services this year. We are also hopeful all services and events will occur this year. The Sunday services start on July 3, 2:00 PM and go through Old Home Sunday on August 28. The Hymn Sing is scheduled for September 11 at 7:00 PM (remember to bring your flashlight!) and the Sandy River Ramblers are looking forward to returning to Reeds Mill Church on September 25 at 2:00 PM. Masks are optional. Masks and hand sanitizer will be available. Here is the current schedule of worship leaders for this summer:

July 3	Susan Tierney	August 7	Thomas Rock
July 10	Doug Dunlap	August 14	Russ Karvonen
July 17	Nancy Ludwig	August 21	Phyllis Blackstone
July 24	Ben Witherill	*August 28	Laura Church
July 31	Steve Mitchell	*(Old Home Sunday-Potluck Noon, Worship 1:00)	

We are SO grateful for those who are willing to assist in keeping this church going by leading worship. We have some folks returning we haven't seen in a while and we welcome Nancy Ludwig who is a seminarian doing her field education at Church of the Good Shepherd in Rangeley.

We are also grateful for those who play our organs. Is this something you or someone you know could help us out with? Currently we have four Sundays with an organist scheduled which leaves five to complete the summer. There is a small stipend for this.

At our annual meeting on June 12 we discussed the possibility of having services into the fall and maybe an Easter service on April 9, 2023. How do you feel about having more services? Would you come? Would you like to lead a service? Please email or call (see below) with your opinion. Thank you!

And be sure to mark your calendar for this year's Thanksgiving service on November 24, 10:00 AM, and the Christmas Candlelight Service on Sunday, December 23 at 3:00 PM.

### **LADIES SEWING CIRCLE**

The circle meets the first and third Thursdays of each month, currently at Marie Bubier's home in Phillips. The Circle continues to support the church with the sale of quilts and other sewn items. If you would like to join or want to order a quilt, call Terri Plog, 207-639-3276.

### **ETC....**

Our webpage, [www.reedsmillchurch.org](http://www.reedsmillchurch.org), is a great place to check on events, speakers, learn more about the Ladies Sewing Circle, and hear recordings of past services. Many thanks to our webmaster, Adam Reinwald (and my son), for updating the website, always in a timely fashion and at no charge.

Our Memorial Garden at the front of the church has room for perennials. If you have some that are taking over your garden and you think would divide and transplant easily, please bring them to the church or someone can come and collect them from your garden.

Did you know Reeds Mill Church has a Facebook page? Trustee, Pam Searles, regularly posts devotionals. We will begin to post information about services and who will be leading them soon. Please check it out and "like" us!

### **TO CONCLUDE....**

**Why is Reeds Mill Church important? Why is it important to YOU?** Did you grow up in Madrid and attend services here? Were you or other family members married here? Were your children baptized here? Did you happen across the church and found you felt at home? We would really love to hear your stories. And if you have pictures we could scan for our album, we'd love that, too. Your stories could help others appreciate this "Church in the Wildwood" and help keep the church a church.

May you be blessed with good health, safety, and uplifted spirits.

Ginni Robie, Clerk for Reeds Mill Church

[vrobie@live.com](mailto:vrobie@live.com) 207-639-2713



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