

OCTOBER 2024

the

Harvester

Dan & Heather Litchfield serving with Thrive Maine



Women's Retreat

"Hi Heather! I am so appreciative of what an amazing job you and your team did on Saturday! It was just so well done and I have received nothing but positive feedback. Lots of buzz at church yesterday!"

In last week's retreat on "Being the Light," women studied Psalm 96, participated in a prayer walk, and practiced sharing the Gospel using one verse. In one activity we threw balls across an abyss to rescue people from "the pit" to mimic evangelism. While some people eagerly caught balls, others were apathetic or antagonistic. This led to great questions about how to reach our neighbors, how to respond to people who don't think they sin, and when to speak vs. just live the Gospel. Pray for their bold witness in their community!

Please Join us in Prayer

New Staff

Austin and Ellie have applied to join Thrive. Pray for God to provide for them & for others to join our team.

New Direction

We are focusing on investing in families. Pray that we will be faithful, evangelistic, and will strategically meet today's needs.

New Life

Please pray for our neighbors that Dan has been sharing the Gospel with and for the couples in our marriage counseling.

The Path of the Saints

I feel so blessed to serve women around the state, many of whom have more years of wisdom and experience than I do and who always galvanize me by their walk with God. Eleanor is one such woman who has served in summer camp ministry and in teaching Sunday school most of her more than 80 years of life. In joyous tears she shared the story of one Sunday school child who recently accepted Christ. Her heart of continued compassion and her dedication to preaching the Word rather than just entertaining kids inspires me. She is establishing generations who know and love Scripture by her teaching and example. But so many kids are not challenged to follow God in this way. As Thrive we want to equip kids to face a decaying world with the only hope there is—the assurance of the Gospel—and with the truths of the Bible that affect every life decision.

We want to help parents build a strong spiritual foundation in their home. We want to develop kids who will one day be Eleanors, multiplying their faith in others. To that end, we are offering our first ever legacy retreats and parent retreats in the coming year. Please pray for discernment as we plan these and for God to bear lasting fruit through them.



Thriving Families

As president of Thrive, for a long time Dan has been trying to convince our team to narrow our focus so that we can really excel in what we do and better articulate what we offer as a ministry. What is most strategic? What meets the biggest need in this era and culture? Where do our own passions and skills lie?

After years of prayer and debate, we have decided to invest largely in family ministry. Marriage and family are under attack in our society and yet they are one of the greatest means of reflecting Christ, of building a moral society, and of passing on the faith. And, while it has been difficult to offer activities to non-believers through the church, we are hopeful that we will be able to be more evangelistic by offering hope for marriage,

relationships, and parenting directly to those who don't yet know Christ.

The marriage retreats, father/son, mother/daughter events, and mission trips that we've been hosting will continue, as will the rest and renewal retreats and leadership training—albeit with a greater focus on the home. We intend to also add parenting and legacy retreats for imparting the faith generationally. And of course, we will lead experientially using the outdoors as our training field.

Please pray for our team as we plan for this new direction and as we pursue further training ourselves in these areas. Pray that we will abide in Christ and give Biblical truth concerning marriage, family, parenting, gender, and heritage.



Micah & Jaunty on the dock in her last days

“In Every High and Every Low”

This past month has been an emotional rollercoaster. My wonderful Uncle Bruce passed away in California, and then we had to put our sweet ten year old pup, Jaunty, down two weeks ago. Last week we moved from camp back to our house in Mount Desert and also wrapped up the soccer season. As a coach, I was ready, but it was sad for Micah to play his last high school game. Dan has been preaching across Maine and New Hampshire, which has brought delightful reunions with beloved friends and has also meant missing our home church and our new pastor. As I write amidst unpacked boxes, I can see that God is teaching us to “rest in the arms of Jesus, come what may!”