

September 2025

Dan & Heather Litchfield

The Harvester



ThriveMaine.org

How Big is Your Heart?

Last week we hosted the 8th grade class trip from the Dedham public school, using the Good Samaritan Laws to lead kids to Biblical truths. After paddleboarding out to the middle of the lake, kids had to tow their peers back. “I towed you this far; it is time for you to tow me the rest of the way,” one teen told his classmate, while another gave up completely. “Sometimes we give up on people. What would need to be true for you to generate more compassion?” Dan queried. We discussed the



courage, compassion, and commitment expected and protected by the Samaritan Laws. Listening to each other’s answers, the kids could see that they fell short of what Jesus depicted in the parable of the Good Samaritan. Next, rock climbing put their courage to the test. The kids admitted our culture fails to care for others, especially noting the animosity between political parties. Joe stated, “It doesn’t matter who they are. God challenges us to love.” Like Jesus, he urged them to “go and do likewise.” Pray that these kids will see Jesus as an authority, will seek Him, and will choose to love others well.

Please pray with us

Thrive at Home mom & kids event Oct 6

Father-daughter trip Oct 8

Our mission team meeting Oct 11, that we would be unified in love and purpose

Dan will be preaching Oct 12

Men’s solo weekend Oct 24-25

For Ethan & Austen to raise their full support to join Thrive

In Memory of Mary



This month we honor our beloved family member at heart, Mary Wicks. When we moved to Vermont, God introduced us to Mary who watched our kids weekly so that I could serve college students. She quickly became part of our family as we had more babies and bought our first home, and remained a faithful friend and prayer warrior as God led us from Lifelines to Thrive. Mary modeled faith, service, and generosity, and she loved God and others wholeheartedly. She taught our kids to see the hand of God everywhere and inspired us all to seek the Father she now sees face to face. We’re forever grateful.



Who is my neighbor?

Men's retreat over courage, compassion, commitment- the Good Samaritan

Dan and Craig enjoyed leading the Fayette men's retreat. The focus was on the Good Samaritan and Jesus's call for us to "go and do likewise". To be courageous and take risk to make a difference for the Kingdom, to be moved by compassion for those around us, and to be radically committed to others. In a world so focused on self, God reminds us to be different.

Onward and Upward

Family Expeditions are something new for Thrive. In an effort to spread a deeper pursuit of Christ and to encourage godliness in families, we have gathered groups of families together to meet quarterly for fun and growth. Last month our group ferried out to hike Mount Kineo in Moosehead Lake and do some mini golfing. We also considered what norms our families were living by, both good and bad, and took time to think of one new norm that could truly change our family functioning for the good. "This is so helpful. We never talk about this with others," confessed one dad. Later over ice cream we talked about ways that we waste time and how we could better spend our time at home together. How can we better glorify God as a family? This is important for us, too, as we have less and less time with kids at home and our phones can consume us. Having other families to share ideas with and to help us keep our eyes on Christ has been rewarding both spiritually and relationally for all of us. It really feels like this is the way life should be!



Praise God for Sending Laborers

We praise God that Austen Kewin, who volunteered with us this summer, has decided to intern with Thrive!! A youth pastor in Pennsylvania, he has been spending summers in Maine to live and lobster alongside Elly's family. Austen will raise support and join Thrive seasonally. Both Austen and Elly bring new energy, ideas, and musical talent to our team. We are excited to have them!