

Mountain Reflections

Rangeley Congregational Church, United Church of Christ

P.O. Box 218 Rangeley, Maine
04970

April 2022

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Rev. Leslie Chatfield

Greetings Dear Church Family, on this Sunday afternoon, March 27th ~

Thank you all for the kind blessings of being together for worship this morning. You were all so lovely to see and I know I have your care and prayer around me as I step into the unknown that is the sole character of this upcoming week. Not gonna lie- it's all scary. For all of us. Thank Dear God we have such lovely, strong faith surrounding all of us!

As I prepare for surgery tomorrow- totally unsure of how this week will unfold - I am so blessed to be surrounded by all of you - so great a cloud of witnesses - as I start counting backwards from a hundred in the operating room. All this happened with a routine visit with my physician this past week. No trouble on the horizon- at all. None. The ongoing out-of-the-blue preparation this week has been nothing short of a tornado with one appointment after another - labs, CT scans, more doctors, phone call appointments for surgery interviews, etc., and blips along the way like "oh we don't have that antibiotic prep medication - you will have to drive to a different pharmacy to get that!" Such is life in rural Maine while trying to meet the most basic requirements: two or three extra hours of driving just to get what is necessary. So it goes. Oh my. I love where I live and I can't wait to get home and start recuperating in this place I so dearly love around the people whom I love and who love me. Love is a grand Healer!

Healing
Prayers
for you

Keep me in your thoughts and prayers.

I will do the same for all of you. I'll have lots of time and the quiet and reasonably solitary setting to pray for all of you; and I assure you, I will. Being confined is a great time to pray for all whom you wish to pray; our friends and neighbors in the Ukraine will be receiving my prayers, too. I will come out of hibernation as I begin to feel lighter, more energetic with some spring in my step.

The oncologist recommended I slow things down to snail mail for now until we have a better perspective on what is ahead; she is ardent about me not working in the next bit ahead and resting to rebuild well and quickly. She is pleased to say I am in great health, and strong, and will likely recover very well. Please God be with us all.

We will return to texts and email, assuredly.



In the meantime, I would love to hear from you all - just not in speedy internet turnaround time. Keep those cards and notes or letters coming! I will cherish them and surround myself with them! They will be a blessed presence to be sure.

I send my Blessings to all and Love all around!
Leslie

Leslie Anne Chatfield & Rick Karg
596 Grover Hill Road
Bethel, Maine 04217



Rick Baker

At our Zoom Service on Sunday, March 27, Rev. Leslie announced that she has to start treatment for ovarian cancer with surgery on Monday, March 28. The details are not available at this writing, but it will be a 4-6 week initial journey for her. The Deacons will be looking for Pulpit supply during that time and we still plan to be back in the Sanctuary, in person, on Palm Sunday.

During the time she is recuperating and undergoing treatment, it is requested that I be the “go-between” to receive information and keep the congregation updated. I’ll do that once a week in the form of an “email blast”, or more often if necessary. To minimize inundating Rev. Leslie and her husband Rick with communication requests, it is suggested that we send cards or letters rather than calls or emails to them. Her address is at the end of this note.

We need to respect their privacy but at the same time keep Rev. Leslie, Rick (Karg) and their family in our thoughts and prayers.

If there are specific questions that I do not address in my updates you can email me:

Bakerrick82@gmail.com or call / text me at 207-670-8134.

Back to the Sanctuary! Over the past two years, when commenting on Covid, it has not been very good news. However we stuck to our principles of watching the science and making decisions based on that. Well... it appears that we can see the “light at the end of the tunnel”! Over the past few weeks the numbers have been very encouraging for Franklin County. The Federal CDC added an additional metric to watch which is based on hospitalizations and percent of beds occupied by Covid patients. That data and daily case counts have continued to trend downward to the best levels we have seen in a very long time. The Maine UCC suggests we can be back in the



Sanctuary but we need to care for our most vulnerable (those folks with risk factors) by continuing to wear masks. I think that is a small price to pay to get us together again. So good ventilation and masking will be practiced, but we will start to come back. Currently the plan is for Palm Sunday for us to gather in the Sanctuary. There may be other variants, we'll keep an eye on that, but for now, I'm really looking forward to Palm Sunday. All be it, without Rev. Leslie.

We'll keep her in our prayers and thoughts.

Rick

Cards or notes to:

Rev. Leslie Chatfield and Rick Karg

596 Grover Hill Road

Bethel, Me 04217



Music Notes

Sue Downes-Borko

With in person worship finally here on April 10, I'd like to thank all of you who have provided music for our Zoom services over these many months. Juggling headphones and singing behind a plastic curtain wasn't always "pretty", but your voices certainly were. Your gifts of music brought life and joy to church family near and far in a time that would have been far bleaker without you. Thank you Kit Caspar, Anne Crump, Les Hoekstra, Kelsey Meehan, Sam Meehan, Dan Simonds, Erin Smith, Dave Walker, Derek Wendelken, and Linda Wendelken.

And, the musicians would be nothing in a virtual world without their sound engineers, tirelessly working to tweak microphone levels and troubleshoot so that folks at home could hear the music from church. Many thanks to the Zoomigo Team of Sam, Dan, Dave, and Derek.

If you stopped by Auburn Middle School on March 26, you would have found our bell ringers amongst the 9 choirs from around the state who participated in Maine Spring Ring. All day they rehearsed under the direction of two clinicians culminating in a glorious performance at the end of the day. What a treat to hear live music again!

Locally, the bell choir played at the Baptist Church for their April 3 service. We will be ringing at our home church for Easter! Hope to see you there.

Sue



Deacon News

Claire Chase

As we keep Rev Leslie and her family in our prayers, we are going about our task of seeing that the Rangeley Congregational Church continues to offer meaningful worship services each week of her absence.

On April 3, hopefully, our last full Zoom service, Lucy Simonds will be leading us in worship! (Once we are in the sanctuary, our service will still be available each week on Zoom.)

Beginning with Palm Sunday, April 10, we will be holding our Sunday services in the sanctuary. Our worship leaders for the rest of April will be Scott Hatfield and Becky Walker. We are blessed to have these three members who have studied through the Maine School of Ministry in our midst.

We invite you to join us in the sanctuary where windows will be open and masks will be required to protect others. As we make this giant step, we will not yet be holding our traditional coffee hour after worship. Hopefully, that step will be coming soon.

Blessings,

Claire Chase

Deacon of the month for April



Mission Board

Sue Downes-Borko

Don Miller

Our first 5-for-5 offering of the year is One Great Hour of Sharing. Mission Committee presented a short skit about OGHS during the March 27 service, and you are still welcome to contribute should you wish to do so. OGHS is sponsored by the UCC and helps refugees and people suffering from disasters, including those currently in distress in Ukraine.

Checks can be sent to RCC-UCC with "OGHS" in the memo line.

Thank you for your generosity.

Sue, Don, Marcia, Marge, Claire, Dave



Nancy Zambraski

Happy Spring to all! I must admit that it doesn't feel much like Spring today. As I write this it's snowing/sleeting outside, but with the longer days, we know it will come. We are happy to announce that Women's Fellowship/Prayer Shawl gatherings will start in-person on Friday, May 13 from 10 am to 12 pm in the Barn. Our first gathering will be an organizational meeting to determine how we proceed with the gatherings moving forward. We will also be discussing the summer festivals and Holly Fair. Bring your ideas for new craft items to make. We have a lot of "sorting" to do from everything we have in the barn attic. So, there will be a lot going on and it will be so nice to see everyone again.

Our knitters have been busy over the long winter months, so we have an abundance of prayer shawls in the cabinet in the barn. If anyone needs one, please contact me & I can arrange sending it off. There is also a lot of prayer shawl yarn ready to be picked up by anyone who needs it.

Our meeting time will continue to be on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month from 10 am to 12 pm in the Barn. All women of the community are welcome. So, bring a friend and come enjoy some lively fellowship either crafting or knitting, or just chatting. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Blessings to all,

Nancy Zambraski, Women's Fellowship Co-chair



Mary Richards

During the Lenten season Pastor Leslie has been leading a book group on Tuesday afternoons featuring the book *The Screwtape Letters* by C. S. Lewis. First published in 1942 the story takes the form of a series of 31 letters from a senior demon Screwtape to his nephew Wormwood, a junior tempter in training. The uncle's mentorship is in the form of continuous advice in how to secure the damnation of a British man known only as 'the Patient.' In these letters Lewis imagines a series of lessons in which his nephew can entice 'the patient' into abandoning God. The book group has had many lively discussions, laughs and raised serious questions about the nature of faith and how it can be strengthened.

Pastor Leslie has also provided a daily reading, meditation and writing prompt for each day of Lent. These daily offerings will continue up until Palms Sunday. As we are all aware Pastor Leslie is having surgery on March the 28th for ovarian cancer. May we all hold her tightly in our prayers as she undergoes treatment and recovery.



April Calendar

DATE	TIME	ACTIVITY
Sun. Apr 3	10:00am - 11:00am	Worship Service – Zoom
Sun. Apr 3	11:00am - 12:00pm	Coffee Hour – Zoom
M-F. Apr 4-8	3:00pm - 5:00pm	Piano Lessons w/ Erin Smith – East Room
Mon Apr 4	8:00am - 9:30am	Rangeley Ringers Rehearsal - Barn
Tue. Apr 5	4:00pm	Lenten Book Study – Zoom
Sun. Apr 10	10:00am - 11:00am	Palm Sunday Worship Service – SANCTUARY
M-F. Apr 11-15	3:00pm - 5:00pm	Piano Lessons w/ Erin Smith – East Room
Mon Apr 11	8:00 - 9:30am	Rangeley Ringers Rehearsal - Barn
Mon. Apr 11	3:45pm	Finance Meeting - Zoom
Mon. Apr 11	6:30pm	Church Council Meeting - Zoom
Thurs. Apr 14	MAUNDY THURSDAY	
Fri. Apr 15	GOOD FRIDAY	
Sat. Apr 16	HOLY SATURDAY	
Sun. Apr 17	10:00am - 11:00am	EASTER Worship Service - SANCTUARY
Sun. Apr 17	11:00am - 12:00am	Coffee Hour – Zoom
M-F. Apr 18- 22	3:00pm - 5:00pm	Piano Lessons w/ Erin Smith – East Room
Sun. Apr 24	10:00am - 11:00am	Worship Service – Sanctuary
M-F. Apr 25-29	3:00pm - 5:00pm	Piano Lessons w/ Erin – East Room
Mon. Apr 25	6:30pm	Deacon Meeting - Zoom
Thurs. Apr 28	7:00pm - 9:00pm	Spiritual Direction Group