

Mountain Reflections

Rangely Congregational Church, United Church of Christ

P.O. Box 218 Rangely, Maine
04970

June 2022

Vol. 29, Issue 3



Rev. Leslie Chatfield

Dear wonderful, supportive and kind church family!

I'm delighted to be returning to our pulpit via Zoom on the 12th of June! So looking forward to seeing you all then!

Save the date!!

Blessing and Love to all,

Leslie



Millie Hoekstra

Nancy Zambraski

In Rick's absence, Millie Hoekstra and Nancy Zambraski are co-chairing Council.

We have been back in the Sanctuary as of Palm Sunday and continue to offer the option for those to join in worship via Zoom for those who are unable to be physically present in the church. It's been great seeing everyone on Zoom and in-person. Special thanks to the Deacons for all their help in getting pulpit supply in Reverend Leslie's absence.

The monthly Council meeting was held on May 9th via Zoom. The Finance committee held their monthly meeting the following week and requested Council meet again to discuss the budget. This meeting was held Sunday, May 22nd following the Church service. Our budget process has not gotten any easier. Inflation, price increases and needs of our church have not diminished. Reverend Leslie has been kept informed of discussions that occur at all council meetings.

Consecration Sunday is scheduled for June 12th with possible picnic to follow church service (weather dependent). The Stewardship team has presented the theme "Rooted in Love" for 2022 through bulletin inserts, announcements, and a letter to all.



Congregational Church Annual Meeting is scheduled for July 10. Please put this very important date on your calendar and plan on attending.

Summer in Rangeley is always a special and very busy time. Let's all take time to enjoy the return of our summer church family and all that our community has to offer.

In kindness,

Nancy Zambraski

Millie Hoeksrta

Acting Council co-chairs



Music Notes

Sue Downes-Borko

Although I have been missing Leslie and our opportunities to collaborate, the worship leaders we've enjoyed in May have been professional, flexible, and supportive. We are so blessed to have talented spiritual leaders amongst our church family and friends!

Our handbell choir pulled together to host a moving concert to show support for Ukraine May 13. Their three selections were the anchor for a program that brought together the community. The group is taking a well-deserved rest and will regroup in June.

Now that we have returned to in person worship, I plan to play the organ more regularly. Because Covid transmission is still high, I will refrain from putting any choir pieces together or asking people to sing solos. Let's hope the numbers improve and we can get back to more special music.

Don't forget.....Hymn requests are always welcome!



Deacon News

Claire Chase

With the arrival of Spring we were met with some positives and negatives. With our Rev. Leslie dealing with health issues, we found ourselves needing to find those willing to fill the pulpit for us. How blessed we are to have Scott Hatfield and Becky Walker, our MID's who stepped in to help as well as Rev. Carter and Rev. Tony McNaughton.

We opened the sanctuary for worship on Palm Sunday for the first time which was a great joy to all. With mandatory masks, windows open and joyful hearts, we were joined by a number of folks via Zoom for this first reunion that was so long in coming. Easter brought the bell ringers, beautiful flowers donated by Sunrise View Farm, and the greening of the cross to add to Scott's message.

As we gather together each Sunday, we look forward to Rev. Leslie's return on June 12. Although we still must mask and ventilate to protect any vulnerable members of our congregation, we are delighted to have our doors open and Zoom available to all each Sunday at 10. Please join us



Mission Board

Sue Downes-Borko

Don Miller

June 5th is the official date of our Strengthen the Church Offering, but donations are welcome at any time.

The Strengthen the Church (STC) Offering reflects the shared commitment of people across the United Church of Christ to cooperatively build up the UCC. The funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations. By putting "STC", on the memo line of your check to RCC-UCC, your generosity helps build up the Body of Christ. Thank you.



Nancy Zambraski

We are so happy to be meeting again in the Barn. Our first meeting was held on Friday, May 13th from 10-12 in the Barn. It was agreed that we would be participating in the Strawberry and Blueberry Festivals this summer. The Strawberry Festival is being held in Oquossoc on July 14th. The Blueberry Festival will be held in Rangeley (place TBD) on August 18th. The emphasis of the summer festivals will be similar to last year in that we will concentrate on selling jams and breads. So, all you jam makers and bread bakers mark those dates on your calendar. We are busy making crafts to sell also. And it was decided to have a limited number of RADA cutlery to sell. We are looking forward to a great summer season. Due to the continuing COVID concerns, we will delay deciding on the Holly Fair until later in the summer.

Our Prayer Shawl ladies have also been busy. We blessed approximately 50 shawls that had been delivered to the Barn during the winter months. Special thanks to Evelyn (and Ray) who took 8 shawls to the funeral service of George Adams in Lancaster, NH. She gave them to his minister to distribute as needed in memory of George. A fitting tribute to this wonderful man. Evelyn (and Ray) also took prayer shawls to Reverend Leslie and her family (and thanks to Claire for packing them all up!). Since the last newsletter 20 prayer shawls have been given out. If anyone is in need of a prayer shawl, please let me know. They can be given in celebration of good times as well as difficult ones.

There will be a Celebration of Life for Janet Waugaman on June 25 at 1 pm at the Church of the Good Shepherd. Women's Fellowship will be supplying sweets/desserts after the service. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Narthex and at Women's Fellowship gatherings. Feel free to contact me if you can contribute.

Both Women's Fellowship along with the Prayer Shawl group meet on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month in the Barn from 10 am to noon. Grab a friend and join us for crafting, knitting/crocheting/weaving or just fellowship time.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Zambraski



Buildings & Grounds Committee

Nancy Zambraski

Summer has arrived in Rangeley. You can watch the grass grow if you look closely. Nancy has tried (unsuccessfully) to keep up with weeding the flower beds, so if you drive by and happen to have your garden gloves with you, go at it! Kutting Edge continues as our lawn service for the summer. Due to increased cost of gas, their prices have increased. *Did you hear my sigh!*

Special thanks to Fred and Derek for completing some much-needed repairs in Little Mountain School.

Fred and Nancy are in the process of changing all the lightbulbs to LED bulbs to save on electricity.

Also, thanks to Fred for meeting with a local electrician and handling some minor wiring concerns in the church.

All smoke detectors are up-to-date with expiration dates written on each detector.

On a more serious note, the Building & Grounds Committee is looking for another member or two. If you are interested, please contact me. It's not a lot of commitment, but most of the small projects are much quicker, easier, and safer with two people to get the job done. Please consider it.

Thoughtfully submitted,

Nancy Zambraski

(Not a B&G member, just covering for Rick – *another sigh!*)

Women's Fellowship Co-chair





Finance Committee

Paula Hatfield

For the Finance Committee, **June 30th is the end of our Fiscal Year, so please submit any expense reimbursement requests no later than June 15th** to the Treasurer's mailbox in the church office.

Alternately, you may email your request with a photo of receipts to rangeleyuccfinance@gmail.com. Please include your full name and address in addition to relevant details and expense account numbers.

The Finance Committee meets via Zoom monthly to review and discuss the financial activity and reports of the church. Our most recent meeting was on May 16th at 3:45pm. In addition to our normal monthly reviews, we discussed concerns about the proposed budget and the projected deficit. This arose not only out of our own committee's concerns but from several members of the congregation reaching out to Finance and Council members.

Our current year's performance has again been affected by COVID closures for much of the year. This closure caused our fuel and utilities expenses to be less than budgeted for much of the year. We have experienced generous giving by those who have overpaid their pledged amounts by \$4,120. The number of families who pledge contributions has decreased over the past five years from 43 to 28. Our income from contributions has been decreasing overall in recent years as members have moved away or left the congregation. We still have \$8,460 in unpaid pledges that may be contributed before 6/30/22. Because of this, it is difficult to predict exactly where we will end the year financially. Projections range from a \$2,000 deficit to a \$9,500 deficit depending on expenses and contributions for the next two months.

The 2022-2023 proposed budget is based on the requested changes from church boards and is guided by historical data and anticipated changes to expenses and income. The proposed budget, at the time of the meeting on May 16th, included extraordinary increases in oil, propane, electricity, groundskeeping, and COLA salary adjustments in addition to more typical increases in most of the other expense categories. The recent economic situation which has seen unprecedented inflation has also reduced the value of the church's investments.

As a result of the discussion during the May 16th meeting, the Finance Committee requested that the Council review the budget again. This was done on May 22nd. As a result of the Council



meeting, the budget was reduced by just over \$7,000 to a projected deficit of just over \$26,000. These savings were made by eliminating church cleaning by an outside service and removing COLA adjustments to salaries. There will be more discussion about the budget, the deficit and our church's financial long-term outlook at the Annual Meeting on July 10th, immediately following our service. The budget that is presented in the Annual Report is always a "Proposed Budget" and is subject to review, discussion, amendments and a final vote at our Annual Meeting. Annual reports will be emailed to all members by late June. Please review the financial information before the Annual Meeting.

Members of the Finance Committee will be available to answer any questions regarding the proposed budget following the service on Sunday, June 26th. Please take advantage of this opportunity if you have questions or concerns.

Our next Finance Committee meeting will be on June 13^h at 3:45pm via Zoom unless otherwise decided by the committee. As always, your input and participation are welcomed at our monthly meetings. Please contact Paula Hatfield if you would like to be included in the meeting. You may also email her if you have any questions at: rangeleyuccfinance@gmail.com.

The Stewardship Committee is proceeding with this year's campaign notices appearing in our weekly worship announcement emails. *Please be sure to read them.*

Our Financial Secretary, Kathy Brittain, would like to remind all of you that our current church year at Rangeley Congregational Church ends on June 30, 2022. Contributions/donations and pledges that are received by June 30 will be included in this year's financial activities. ***As of July 1, 2022, any contributions received will be recorded on next year's financial activities, that is for 2022-2023.*** You may also email Kathy if you have any questions regarding your pledge status at: rangeleyuccfinance@gmail.com.

Submitted by

Paula Hatfield, Treasurer



We welcome Rev. Leslie back to the pulpit with grateful hearts!

June Calendar

DATE	TIME	ACTIVITY
Sun. June 5	10:00am - 11:00am	Worship Service in Sanctuary & Zoom
Sun. June 5	4:00pm-6:00pm	RFA Rehearsal with Erin Smith, Barn/ East Rm
M-F. June 6-10	3:00pm - 5:00pm	Piano Lessons w/ Erin Smith – East Room
Fri June 10	10:00am – 12:00pm	Women’s Fellowship/Prayer Shawl, Barn
Sun. June 12	10:00am - 11:00am	Worship Service in Sanctuary & Zoom
Sun. June 12	4:00pm-6:00pm	RFA Rehearsal with Erin Smith, Barn/ East Rm
Mon. June 13	3:45pm	Finance Meeting - Zoom
Mon. June 13	6:30pm	Church Council Meeting - Zoom
Thur. June 16	4:00pm	Missions Meeting
Sun. June 19	HAPPY FATHER’S DAY	
Sun. June 19	10:00am - 11:00am	Worship Service in Sanctuary & Zoom
M-F. June 20-24	3:00pm - 5:00pm	Piano Lessons w/ Erin Smith – East Room
Fri June 24	10:00am – 12:00pm	Women’s Fellowship/Prayer Shawl, Barn
Sun. June 26	10:00am	Worship Service in Sanctuary & Zoom
Sun. June 26	4:00pm-6:00pm	RFA Rehearsal with Erin Smith, Barn/ East Rm
M-F. June 27-July 1	3:00pm - 5:00pm	Piano Lessons w/ Erin Smith – East Room
Thurs. June 30	7:00pm - 9:00pm	Spiritual Direction Group