

Mountain Reflections

Rangeley Congregational Church, United Church of Christ

P.O. Box 218 Rangeley, Maine
04970

August 2022

Vol. 29, Issue 4



Rev. Leslie Chatfield

Dear Church Family, Summer Greetings!

I hope you have been keeping comfortable and cool as the recent heat has kept us all focusing on our thermometers. We all have our preferred ways of staying comfortable in such warm weather! What's yours?

The photo attached is a quick peek at some folks choosing to gather comfortably for a Sunday morning outdoor July worship service at a State Park near the Outer Banks in North Carolina ~ where Rick and I awoke on a recent Sunday morning on our brief hot summer travels away from Maine.

"Softly and Tenderly, Jesus is calling...." they sang as they gathered. We remembered, at the completion of our check in the night before, our host ranger said, "now y'all be sure to join us out there for church in the morning next to the water, ya hear? We'd love to welcome you among us!"

By the time Sunday morning's service started, 40 more people had gathered singing hymns and bowing heads, in standing room only, of sorts, amidst the folks pictured here on bikes and in golf carts 'out next to the water!' I reminisced mindfully, and sadly, that only days before we left Maine, I was alerted to yet two more churches in Maine who closed their doors ~ their buildings auctioned off, their minister left to find a new Call.

And holy Lord... here, in North Carolina, a healthy group of strangers/travelers, mainline Protestants, were gathering outside of a building - in early morning 100 degree heat to worship God. No committees, no attendance count, no building upkeep; just faith inspired prayerful worship. Interesting, indeed.



For nearly the last 30 years, across a half dozen or so research collection periods, Maine has consistently tied with Vermont for being among the four least religious states in the USA; Massachusetts and New Hampshire run close behind and Connecticut is only one statistical notch better than the other four. Clearly, New England is the least religious locality of all the regions in the continental US.

What's up with that?

One can wonder.

The Pew Research Center has looked at four measures to determine what states and regions are the most religious. The four measures include: belief in God, a reported self-assessment of the importance of religion, regular religious service involvement, and personal reports regarding frequency of prayer.

According to World Population Review 's reporting of the "Most Religious States 2022" -and it lists us all in numerical order in relation to the four measures - North Carolina is the 10th most religious state in the nation: 65% of the North Carolina population is religiously affiliated. Maine, ranking as the 47/48th religious state in the nation, on other hand, reports that only 34% of Maine's (and Vermont's, likewise) population is religiously affiliated.

Whoever we are, in large or small percentage, in Maine or in North Carolina ~ no matter what the religious tradition~ what we can be sure of is that we the faithful are The Remnant of God' s people as described in Isaiah.



Whoever or wherever we are, across the millennia, those of us who continue to hold 'The Remnant' are typically people of devotion, identified and nurtured through spiritual direction and commonality in our faith community, and are the beating, praying heart of each and every faith community.

For all our shortcomings and blessings, for all our criticisms and confusions ~ we strive to view God's people from a perspective of faith and belief and from a spiritual core of universal faith. May it be so.
May WE BE SO in our little corner of the world.
Enjoy the weather! Happy summer!

+ Leslie



Deacon News

Claire Chase

We are in Rangeley's midsummer with all the activities and bustle that we anticipate each year. As Rev. Leslie recuperates, she has led our services via Zoom to both in sanctuary congregants and a number who continue to participate from their homes.

In July, our own Scott Hatfield and Dick Waddell have each led us in worship as Rev. Leslie finally enjoys her family vacation. Our church is open with plenty of ventilation from wide-open windows and doors. Masks have become optional, so please come join us.

Our coffee hour has returned with the option of joining us in the barn or outside behind the church.

As we look forward to Rev. Leslie's return to the pulpit in the sanctuary by the end of summer, we also anticipate some Zoom changes coming your way. Stay tuned!

To our church family members who join us for the summer, we wish you safe travels as you return to your other homes, and know that you are loved and will be missed.

Blessings to all for a wonderful end of summer!



Mission Board

Sue Downes-Borko

Don Miller

In June, we held the Strengthen the Church Offering. The funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations. By your generosity to this offering, you build up the Body of Christ. Thank you!

We'd like to draw your attention to two programs that we've been made aware of recently.

1. Community Rides, a new transportation service in the Rangeley Lakes region, is a volunteer driver program intended to meet the needs of local residents, whether that's getting to a social appointment or getting to the grocery store. Merrie Woodworth is the coordinator, and to volunteer or get further information you may call 207-778-5048 (select option six) or email community@uwtva.org
2. A Family for ME is asking for our prayers. There are currently over 2,200 children in Maine foster care. Teenagers and siblings are especially difficult to place. More information can be found at AFamilyforMEMaine.org.



Music Notes

Sue Downes-Borko

Summer is a great time for hymn or special music requests. I'm trying to include some old chestnuts along with our newer favorites when possible, while still trying to coordinate with the Lectionary as much as possible. Your input is always welcome.

I hope you are able to be at worship July 31, as Derek and Linda Wendelken (and Kit) join forces to bring special music to us before heading back to Kentucky.



Scholarship

Mary Richards

This year's scholarship committee included Marge Miller, Joann Bean, and Mary Richards as chair. As chair I would like to extend my personal appreciation to the committee for their contributions to scholarship this year. We are excited to announce our continuing support for four deserving students.

Noah Richard Durand will be entering his senior year, this fall, at the University of Rhode Island. He is enrolled in the School of Business with a major in Supply Chain Economics. From the time he was a little boy Noah summered in Rangeley with his grandparents Les and Millie Hoekstra and attended Sunday school, Bible school and church. His time in Rangeley became limited when there was a need to work for college tuition. Noah now holds down several jobs during the summer. This academic year he will be working on a Capstone Project required of all seniors. This project includes a multifaceted body of work and will serve as a culminating academic experience to demonstrate what he has learned throughout his tenure at the university. We wish him much success this coming year and miss his time spent with us.

Our second recipient is Brooke Egan. Brooke is the daughter of Patrick and Cyndy Egan and will be a junior at the University of Maine, Orono. She has changed programs of study and will now be working on a degree in psychology. Brooke has made an enormous contribution to the Church over the years attending Youth Retreats, serving as an usher, participating in Christmas Eve services and volunteering at the annual Turkey Supper. We wish her much success in the upcoming year.

Our third recipient is Haley Morrill. Haley completed a bachelor's degree with honors, as well as receiving the Latin Honors Summa Cum Laude from the University of Maine this spring, 2021. She is attending graduate school at the University of New England College of Pharmacy and is pursuing a doctoral degree in Pharmaceutical Sciences. Haley has successfully completed the first year of a four-year program. She has started working as a pharmacy intern at Hannaford's where she reviews prescriptions to ensure quality control and helps prevent errors such as harmful drug-drug interactions. She will also begin her term as the president of the American Pharmacists Association Academy of Student Pharmacists this fall. We know she is going to continue to be highly successful at UNE and we are especially proud of her!



Our fourth and last recipient is Amber Morrill who will be finishing her senior year at the University of Southern Maine this fall. She will be completing a degree in nursing. She is holding down two jobs this summer to help with tuition costs. She loves Rangeley and wants to return after graduation to contribute to the community through nursing. We look forward to having her back full time after she graduates!

We had the opportunity, thanks to generous contributions from church members and Women's Fellowship, to award a total of \$10,000.00 to these deserving students. We are also fortunate the Rangeley Congregational Church has this many gifted students affiliated with our congregation. We look forward to Scholarship Sunday when we can showcase these fine young people. Thank you to all in our church who have supported this important committee. We are enormously grateful.

Respectfully Submitted by Mary Richards

Zucchini Pina Colada Bread

- 4 C all-purpose flour
- 3 C sugar
- 2 teasp. baking powder
- 1 ½ teasp salt
- 1 teasp baking soda
- 4 eggs
- 1 ½ C canola oil
- 1 teasp each coconut, rum, vanilla extracts
- 3 C shredded zucchini
- 1 C canned crushed pineapple, drained
- ½ C chopped walnuts or pecans

Line the bottoms of three greased and floured 8"x4" loaf pans with waxed paper and grease the paper; set aside. In a large bowl, combine flour, sugar, baking powder, salt and baking soda. (I mix with a whisk) In another bowl, combine eggs, oil and extracts. (Just whip to mix) Stir into dry ingredients just until moistened. Fold in zucchini, pineapple, walnuts. Transfer to prepared pans. Bake at 350 for 45-55 minutes or until a toothpick comes out clean. Cool for 30 min. before removing from pans to wire racks. Gently remove waxed paper. Yield: 3 loaves (12 slices each).

Enjoy!!

Ev Franson



Nancy Zambraski

Summer is in full swing here in Rangeley. Women's Fellowship participated in the Annual Strawberry Festival held on July 14th in Oquossoc. Even though the weather was dreary, our spirits were not. Many thanks to all who helped with set-up, work the booth, break-down **AND** those who contributed by making jams, breads, and crafts. All our efforts paid off as we made over \$2,600 for our mission of giving to charities. What a joy to work with you all!

Our next endeavor will be the Blueberry Festival held in Rangeley on August, 18th. ***YIKES! That's right around the corner!*** There will be a sign-up sheet in the barn, however if you want to help, just let me know.

Our prayer shawl group has continued this summer also. There have been several requests which are being filled and sent out. A Prayer Shawl flyer was distributed to the local churches describing the purpose of our mission. If you know of anyone who is in a need of a shawl, either for celebration or comfort, please contact me. Thanks to all who help continue this great and caring tradition.

As always, the Women's Fellowship and Prayer Shawl group meet the 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month from 10 am to 12 noon in the barn. All are welcome to come and knit, craft or just enjoy fellowship time.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Zambraski, WF/PS co-chair



August Calendar

DATE	TIME	ACTIVITY
Tue. Aug 2	3:00pm - 5:00pm	Piano Lessons with Erin Smith, East Room
Sun. Aug 7	10:00am - 11:00am	Worship Service in Sanctuary & Zoom
Sun. Aug 7	11:00am	Coffee Hour, Barn and Outdoors
Mon. Aug 8	8:00am	Men's Breakfast, Rangeley Inn
Mon. Aug 8	3:45pm	Finance Meeting - Zoom
Mon. Aug 8	6:30pm	Church Council Meeting - Zoom
Tue. Aug	3:00pm - 5:00pm	Piano Lessons with Erin Smith, East Room
Fri Aug 12	10:00am - 12:00pm	Women's Fellowship/Prayer Shawl, Barn
Sun. Aug 14	10:00am - 11:00am	Worship Service in Sanctuary & Zoom
Sun. Aug 14	11:00am	Coffee Hour, Barn and Outdoors
Tue. Aug 16	3:00pm - 5:00pm	Piano Lessons with Erin Smith, East Room
Sun. Aug 21	10:00am - 11:00am	Worship Service in Sanctuary & Zoom
Sun. Aug 21	11:00am	Coffee Hour, Barn and Outdoors
Mon. Aug 22	6:30pm	Deacons' Meeting - Zoom
Tue. Aug 23	3:00pm - 5:00pm	Piano Lessons with Erin Smith, East Room
Mon. Aug 25	7:00pm	Spiritual Direction Group meeting - Zoom
Fri Aug 26	10:00am - 12:00pm	Women's Fellowship/Prayer Shawl, Barn
Sun. Aug 28	10:00am - 11:00am	Worship Service in Sanctuary & Zoom
Sun. Aug 28	11:00am	Coffee Hour, Barn and Outdoors
Tue. Aug 30	3:00pm - 5:00pm	Piano Lessons with Erin Smith, East Room