

# Mountain Reflections

Rangeley Congregational Church, United Church of Christ

P.O. Box 218 Rangeley, Maine  
04970

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Rev. Leslie Chatfield

## Landscape of pilgrimage: what does your pilgrimage tell you about your life and soul?

*"All who wander are not lost."*

Upon my entry back into the sanctuary, at the end of September, I spoke about both Sue and I being on different kinds of pilgrimages; perhaps Ann Crump is on one, as well, with her son.

I honestly believe we are ALL on a pilgrimage in our own life. While an adventure to a far away mapped pilgrimage has its own powerful foundations, fun, and treasure, there is no absolute need to travel to far away places to identify the pilgrimage that God has set for YOU. Going on any pilgrimage, whether it's a charted out hike for a month like the Camino, or a health crisis, or any other challenge presented in one's life - I guarantee God has a hand in it.

(Though not **responsible** for it!)

If you so desire ~ You could address these questions to start the process:

Can you identify where God's hand might be in your own life?

What does YOUR journey look like?

What are common characteristics?

What challenges do you seem to have to deal with ~ over and over again?

In what ways have your challenges repeated themselves, by appearance, or changed across your life span?

Challenges in our own life are the breadcrumbs that can help and guide us to look back to review what God's design of pilgrimage might look like for each of us, individually!

I encourage ALL of us to consider where God has shown up in our own specific life challenges, as a topic to pray about while doing more mundane, automatic tasks, like doing the dishes, folding laundry, or washing the car, bringing in kayaks or canoes. Maybe even stacking wood.

Let your heart and mind wander with God while engaging in a mindless task.

You could also ask these questions, if you wish:



What 'map and trails' has God placed in front of you that constitute the thread or theme of your pilgrimage through life?

Are you willing to go that route?

If not, why not?

How has your pilgrimage made you a better person, soul, or spirit?

Can you share or swap stories of God's pilgrimage with a trusted soul? If not ~ why not?

Enjoy your reverie spending time with God.

God will surely be pleased, I'm certain.

Look to the beautiful fall colors around you as a springboard, perhaps.

God's been painting again.

What a landscape!

Happy pilgrimaging!

Much Love to all; may blessings abound, +Leslie



Cyndy Egan

Happy Fall to All! We have a lot to rejoice about with the return of Reverend Leslie in person to the pulpit- prayers have been answered and we as a congregation are so very thankful.

Church Council welcomed Little Mountain School teacher Jess Bottcher to our last meeting. Jess attended to introduce herself and work to expand communication with the church. LMS contract expires this December and we are working on another 2-year contract which will line up with our fiscal year as opposed to the current calendar year cycle.

We have a full Church Sustainability Team. Folks who are joining me are Millie Hoekstra, Rev. Leslie, Linda Jones, Fred Dubay and Robin Carter. The team will be working together to find a tool to evaluate our current status and future as a church pertaining to membership and financial wellbeing and involve our members in this evaluation process. We are all in this together and we want to pull together to find the future as God is calling us.



Council will have an ongoing review of the Church By-Laws, for instance there are concerns about some groups ability to meet a quorum as currently required. If any of you have feedback on anything By-Law related we would love to hear it.

We will be saying goodbye to Sam, Kelsey and Lucille Meehan before the next newsletter comes out. Church Council is incredibly grateful for the time we have had together and for the blessing of having the Meehan family worship with us.

Blessings to you all- Cyndy Egan



## Buildings and Grounds Committee Rick Baker

Committee Members: Kirby H., Fred D, Rick B, Don Chase

We welcome Don to this “merry band” of folks with tape measures and volt meters who know how to “scratch their heads” and mumble “hmmmm”.

We are in the process of thinking ahead to “freeze up”.

- Modern Pest Control has done an assessment of Little Mountain School to help stem the annual migration of mice into the building and we are waiting for their report.
- We have been researching thermostats and deciding what will be best (efficiency and practicality) for RCC.
- We will have had a walk through our buildings to decide what the urgent issues need to be done by the time this Newsletter is sent out.

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Baker

“Drafted” Committee Chair



## Deacon News

Claire Chase

The month of September has flown by and has brought with it cooler temperatures and the advent of the glorious colors we wait for all year long.

We are thrilled to have Rev. Leslie back in the pulpit. Zoom is great, but in person is the best!

Please note that we will be requiring masking in the sanctuary for the protection of all.

Mark your calendar for a very special event on October 16...Lucille Jean Meehan will be baptized. Another special event will be coming tentatively in November when we will have the installation of Rev. Leslie

We will resume the collection of quarters for the Deacons' Relief Fund starting on the first Sunday in November.

Enjoy these fall days.

Claire Chase



Nancy Zambraski

The leaves are turning, the mornings are brisk, and we know that Fall is in the air. Such a spectacular time of year in Rangeley. The Women's Fellowship group has had a very productive summer. It's always bittersweet when fall arrives and our summer Rangeley women head out of town. We will certainly miss you all!

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Since the Blueberry Festival was cancelled this year, we took up an offer from Sandy McDavitt (Alpine Shop owner) to set up the Congregational Church Craft Fair on Saturday, Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup> in front of the Alpine Shop. We had spectacular weather and ended up with over \$2,700 in sales.



Many thanks to those who volunteered (even at the last minute) to help. Sandy and her employees were very pleased with having us there and have invited us back for future events.

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At the Craft Fair we started our Women's Fellowship "Pay It Forward" Initiative (see picture). This initiative is a donation that was collected during the Craft Fair and will be equally distributed to the 4 Rangeley Churches. Our portion will help offset general operating expenses of our church. We are hoping to continue this through the Holly Fair with distribution to all churches going out in December. If you are interested in contributing to this initiative, please mail your donation to the Church, **attn: Women's Fellowship PIF.**

Once again, we have received a large donation of craft items from our friend, Moe Pierson. His wife, Laura, passed away in 2007 and in 2018 he donated a large amount of her crafting supplies and crafts to Women's Fellowship. These additional donations could not have come at a better time. So, if you see Moe around town, please thank him for all of us!

It has been 2 years since we have been able to hold our Holly Fair, but this year it is **ON!** The date will be Saturday, November 19<sup>th</sup> in the Barn from 10-2. There may be some modifications due to Covid with an option for canceling if Covid numbers get worse.

Due to not being able to meet on a regular basis and a vendor from whom we purchased items no longer being an option, we are meeting **EVERY Friday in the Barn from 10-12** to get organized for the Holly Fair. We will be counting on our fabulous bakers and candy makers, so expect an email to be coming your way. If you can contribute to the baking, or if you have any baskets that are





just sitting around your house gathering dust, please consider donating them to us. We can **ALWAYS** use baskets for our special “gift baskets” that we fill and sell at the Holly Fair.

Our Prayer Shawl ministry continues to flourish. Prayer Shawl flyers have been placed in all the Rangeley churches describing how to request a shawl. We have filled several prayer shawl requests and the prayer shawl closet continues to be full. Anyone knowing of someone in need, please contact Sandy at the church office and she will forward to me (or contact me directly).

There's lots going on for Women's Fellowship, so grab a friend and come join us for crafting, knitting or just great fellowship time. And again, to our friends who are heading out of town, safe travels to you all!

*Nancy Zambraski,  
Women's Fellowship Co-chair*



## Mission Board

Sue Downes-Borko  
Don Miller

Mission has started to plan for a take out ham and bean dinner that will take place on Saturday, November 5. We are and will be asking for volunteers to work at the event as well as apple crisp makers. We have a menu planned and we will keep you informed as we get closer to November 5.

We are also making plans for the annual Neighbors in Need offering that will take place on Sunday, November 13. Our church has always given generously to this NIN and we hope that continues this year.





## ALMOND SHORTBREAD—Kathy Brittain's Recipe

Submitted by Susie Welch. Adapted from a Trisha Yearwood cookbook.

Yield: 10 This pastry is quite rich, so you probably won't want to serve it in big squares.

### Ingredients:

1 ½ cups sugar, plus about 1 T more for sprinkling on top of almonds

1 ½ sticks (¾ cup) of butter, melted

2 large or XL eggs (about ½ cup)

1 ½ cups all-purpose flour

½ tsp. salt

1 ½ tsp. almond extract

½ cup sliced almonds with skins



### Directions:

Butter bottom and sides of an 8" x 8" Pyrex cake pan, and especially well in the corners.

Preheat the oven to 350 F.

In a large mixing bowl, stir the 1 ½ cups of sugar into the melted butter. Beat in the eggs, one at a time (I use a mixer). Sift the flour and salt onto the batter and mix. Add the almond flavoring and mix again. Pour the batter into the buttered pan and smooth the top. Top evenly with the sliced almonds, pushing on them well so they are embedded into the top of the batter. I even move the pan around to make sure no almonds are still moving around. Sprinkle the top with the extra 1 T of sugar. Bake until slightly brown on the top, about 30-35 minutes. Cool. When cool, cut into 1 inch or so squares.

Wrap and freeze part if you wish—it freezes well.



### October Calendar

DATE	TIME	ACTIVITY
Sun. Oct 2	10:00am - 11:00am	Worship Service in Sanctuary & Zoom
Sun. Oct 2	11:00am	Coffee Hour, Barn and Outdoors
M-F. Oct 3, 5, 6, 7	3:00pm - 5:30pm	Piano Lessons with Erin Smith, East Room
Fri. Oct 7	10:00am - 12:00pm	Women’s Fellowship/Prayer Shawl, Barn
Sun. Oct 9	10:00am - 11:00am	Worship Service in Sanctuary & Zoom
Sun. Oct 9	11:00am	Coffee Hour, Barn and Outdoors
M-F. Oct 12, 13, 14	3:00pm - 5:30pm	Piano Lessons with Erin Smith, East Room
Mon. Oct 10	3:45pm	Finance Meeting, East Room & Zoom
Mon. Oct 10	6:30pm	Church Council Meeting - Zoom
Fri. Oct 14	10:00am - 12:00pm	Women’s Fellowship/Prayer Shawl, Barn
Sun. Oct 16	10:00am - 11:00am	Worship Service in Sanctuary & Zoom
Sun. Oct 16	11:00am	Coffee Hour, Barn and Outdoors
M-F. Oct 17,19,20,21	3:00pm - 5:30pm	Piano Lessons with Erin Smith, East Room
Fri. Oct 21	10:00am - 12:00pm	Women’s Fellowship/Prayer Shawl, Barn
Sun. Oct 23	10:00am - 11:00am	Worship Service in Sanctuary & Zoom
Sun. Oct 23	11:00am	Coffee Hour, Barn and Outdoors
Mon. Oct 24	6:30pm	Deacons’ Meeting - Zoom
Thur. Oct 27	6:30pm - 8:30pm	Spiritual Direction Group - Zoom
Fri. Oct 28	10:00am - 12:00pm	Women’s Fellowship/Prayer Shawl, Barn
Sun. Oct 30	10:00am - 11:00am	Worship Service in Sanctuary & Zoom
Sun. Oct 30	11:00am	Coffee Hour, Barn and Outdoors
<b>Mon. Oct 31</b>	<b>HAPPY HALLOWEEN</b>	