

Mountain Reflections

Rangeley Congregational Church, United Church of Christ

P.O. Box 218 Rangeley, Maine
04970

December 2022

Vol. 29, Issue 6



Rev. Leslie Chatfield

Holiday Greetings!

What a joyous time of year this is as we gather in-person for our services ~ for the first time in two years after our Covid hibernation! So many of us feel that we have been released from the quarantine and FINALLY are able to go out and wish one another good Christmas tidings- handshake to handshake, smile to warm smile! How lovely!

May the weeks' leading up to Christmas find you renewing, in person, friendships and acquaintances as we meet one another on the street and in shops nearby! The Season's traditional messages of Hope and Peace and Joy and Love are as alive, as warm and as relevant as they have ever been as we venture out among friends and neighbors!

Please join us for our Advent and Christmas celebrations at Rangeley Congregational Church! We welcome one and all, whether you have been folks among our congregation at another time or would like to join us for the first time You are very welcome among us!

Along with our regular Sunday morning services leading up to the festivities of Christmas, we will be hosting our Blue Christmas service on December 5 at 5 PM and would love to have you among us. It is especially focused for folks struggling with difficult life circumstances at a time when others are filled with merriment. It is a quiet, respectful service honoring more introspective dimensions of the season. It is a pretty service with warm candlelight.

Our Christmas Eve service will be at 7 PM on December 24 celebrating Christmas with Lessons and Carols. We open our arms widely and joyously, with warmest welcome, offering the season's blessings and that good cheer be upon you and all your family! Come sing and hear the story!

We offer all a blessed holiday season!

Come join us!

With Christmas cheer ~ Rev Leslie



Cyndy Egan

Merry Christmas All,

As we look forward to the season of Advent and the miracle of the Christmas season we also look at the close of 2022 and the new year ahead. These past few weeks continue to show the strong interest from folks who wish to zoom in for our Sunday worship service, this hybrid approach will continue indefinitely. We are working on an occupancy agreement with Little Mountain School, the current contract expires December 31st. Last month Council voted to email an e-Christmas card this year to all on our Congregational Church email list. This email process saves on time and postage expenses. This card also includes our Advent worship schedule, hoping it's a helpful resource for those who haven't been able to attend church for a while. However we also have Christmas cards to mail out to folks who may not be on our email list. Please reach out to me if you have suggested folks you want us mail a card to.

Blessings to you all,
Cyndy Egan, Council Moderator



Buildings and Grounds Committee
Rick Baker

- Normal November weather seems to have finally arrived. Before the Holly Fair we had to call for sanding from Kutting Edge, who takes care of our plowing and snow removal.
- The windows in the Barn /Annex have been additional sealed against drafts.
- Random thermostat checks have consistently shown usurer's have been responsible and put them to appropriate reset temperatures.
- The furnaces were serviced in the fall and a stuck distribution flap was fixed to allow normal heating of the Barn and East Room.



On a totally different subject we are really saddened to have the Ray and Evelyn Franson move to Connecticut. They both have been pillars of our community and church. Ray was head of B&G, it seems like forever, before he decided to step down. He oversaw the construction on the Barn, repairs and upkeep on the Sanctuary and Annex. His knowledge of every wire, bolt, pump and circuit was invaluable. Whenever we wondered when something was done he knew when and who did it. He was always humble and one of the nicest guys you would ever want to know. We've not heard the last from him as I said we have his number so to expect an occasional call for help. Thank you Ray for all that you have done for us, you will be sorely missed !

Rick Baker, Chair B&G



Deacon News

Claire Chase

It is with great joy that we move through the season of Advent to Christmas. The town's lights and covering of snow add to our anticipation.

There is much planned to enhance the season for all:

Each Sunday from November 27 through December 18, the Advent candles will be lit by members of the congregation.

Advent Mondays – 12:30pm, in person with masks, in the East Room (12/5/22, 12/12/22 and 12/19/22). Insight and ponderings: Advent Reading and Discussion on the History of Celebrating Christmas alongside our own remembering.

Advent Tuesdays- 12:30pm, in person with masks, in the East Room (12/6/22, 12/13/22 and 12/21/22). Trials and Blessings across the Liturgical Year. Writer's workshop. A glimpse of memories or Hope, Peace, Joy, Love and Ordinary Time across our own lifetime.

Blue Christmas Service – 5:00pm, 12/5/22 in our Sanctuary. A service of love and comfort to remember our loved ones who gather around us in spirit at this time of year.

Tree decorating- after the morning service on 12/11



Walk to Bethlehem -5:30pm, 12/11 Singers and sojourners on the Walk to Bethlehem will once again be greeted and welcomed into our Sanctuary on their journey. Rev. Leslie will greet them at the door.

Christmas Eve Service – 7:00pm, in person in our sanctuary.

There will be no live services on Christmas Day or New Year's Day.

Deacons' Relief Fund- This fund exists to help members of our community who might need assistance with fuel costs or other necessities during these winter months. If you know of anyone who might be in need of our help, please contact a deacon or Rev. Leslie.

We wish you great joy during this wondrous season.

Claire Chase and Lucy Simonds, Deacon Co-chairs



Mission Board

Sue Downes-Borko

Don Miller

Mission decided to try a new approach to the traditional turkey dinner this year. We planned and held a ham & bean take-out supper instead. Everything about it was a success except for the date: November 5. (Not enough people around.) The ease, the quality of food, the price, and drive-through plan all worked great. We are already discussing doing it again, possibly in the spring, and a return to Indigenous People's Day weekend next October. The direct proceeds from the supper totaled \$471, with an additional donation of \$150 given.

Our Neighbors in Need Offering took place in November, with our team presenting a skit highlighting the hardships faced by many people in 21 states still making \$7.25 as minimum wage. The collected monies will go to the UCC. They will determine how best to alleviate hardship related to economic injustice.

Mission would like to thank the church family for your willingness to help, and your generosity!
Co-Chairs Don Miller and Sue Downes-Borko



Nancy Zambraski

As we move from Thanksgiving to the Christmas season, we reflect on how very grateful we are. On Saturday, November 19 we held our 27th Annual Holly Fair. After a 2-year hiatus due to the COVID pandemic we were happy to have the ability to hold this wonderful event. The barn was full to the brim with baked goods, crafts, and gift baskets galore. Many thanks to all our bakers, candy and jam makers, and crafters. Also, to our special “Elf,” Reverend Leslie, for greeting everyone who entered. And to the volunteers who worked to make everything run smoothly. (*See picture below.*) Our raffle items consisted of a beautiful original watercolor painting, a handmade quilt, and a lovely wood sleigh full of baked goods and crafts. Special thanks to Marcia Baker for the painting, Marge Miller and Mary Dubay for the quilt, and all the women for contributing to the sleigh items. Congratulations to the winners Gina Reynolds, Lissa Hurley, and Amber Haley.

Keep in mind that all profits generated from the summer festivals and Holly Fair are donated to charity, so if you have a charity in mind, please contact me. We are always looking for organizations that need help. Look for information coming soon (via an email blast) on the meeting date and time for the women of the church to distribute funds. If you have not received our women’s fellowship email blasts, please contact me and I’ll be sure your information is added to the list.

The Women’s Fellowship group will take a well-deserved break after the Holly Fair and, as usual, will start up crafting in the spring, meeting on our typical second and fourth Fridays of the month from 10 am to noon in the Barn.

Our prayer shawl knitters have continued to produce lovely prayer shawls. If you know of anyone in need of a prayer shawl which can be given in “good times or in trying times” please contact me or email the church and we will make sure it gets delivered.

I would be remiss in not mentioning one of the founders of our Women’s Fellowship group since the beginning. Recently Evelyn and Ray Franson moved to be closer to their family in Connecticut and though we are extremely happy for them, it is a great sadness for me (and many more), that they will no longer be in our community. Her practical philosophy and quiet



gentleness will be traits that I can only hope to emulate. I am publicly thanking her in this newsletter, as I have done so in person. She was my rock. One who offered good advice to me when taking on the co-chair of this wonderful organization. So, one more time... Evelyn (and Ray)... On behalf of Women's Fellowship, our whole church family, and myself, I thank you for what you have done for Women's Fellowship, our church, and our community. You will be missed beyond measure.

Let us remember that the Holiday Seasons are upon us. The Women's Fellowship Co-chairs express our deepest gratitude and appreciation for all the fabulous women of our church and would like to pause and be thankful for all of you. Remember the real reason of the season that is coming.

Blessings to all,

Nancy Zambraski

Women's Fellowship Co-chair



2022 Holly Fair Volunteers



Music Notes

Sue Downes-Borko

And, just like that, Advent is upon us! With the season will come more music. I hope you'll sing when given the opportunity, and enjoy some concerts during the Advent and Christmas seasons. Our Advent hymn this year is "The Canticle of the Turning". We will add one verse each week during this season of Waiting.

The handbell choir is busy preparing for church services and concerts. They will also participate in the annual Walk to Bethlehem on December 11.

There will be special music for our Christmas Eve service as well.

May you find comfort, inspiration, joy, peace, and whatever else you might need in the music of Advent and Christmas!





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DATE	TIME	ACTIVITY
Sun. Dec 4	10:00am - 11:00am	Worship Service in Sanctuary & Zoom
Sun. Dec 4	11:00am	Coffee Hour, Barn
Mon. Dec 5 & 6	By Appt	Rev Leslie Office Hours
Mon. Dec 5	8:00-9:30am	Rangeley Ringers Rehearsal, Sanctuary
Mon. Dec 5	12:30pm	Advent Reading, East Room
M-F. Dec 5, 7, 8, & 9	3:00pm - 5:30pm	Piano Lessons with Erin Smith, East Room
Mon. Dec 5	5:00pm	Blue Christmas Service, Sanctuary
Tue. Dec 6	12:30pm	Advent Writing Workshop, East Room
Sun. Dec 11	10:00am - 11:00am	Worship Service in Sanctuary & Zoom
Sun. Dec 11	11:00am	Coffee Hour, Barn
Sun. Dec 11	5:30pm	Walk to Bethlehem
Mon. Dec 12 & 13	By Appt	Rev Leslie Office Hours
Mon. Dec 12	8:00-9:30am	Rangeley Ringers Rehearsal, Sanctuary
Mon. Dec 12	12:30pm	Advent Reading, East Room
Mon. Dec 12	2:45pm	Finance Meeting, East Room
Mon. Dec 12	4:00pm	Council Meeting, East Room & Zoom
M-F. Dec 12-16	3:00pm - 5:30pm	Piano Lessons with Erin Smith, East Room
Tue. Dec 13	3:30-5:00pm	Sustainability Team Meeting, East Rm & Zoom
Tue. Dec 13	12:30pm	Advent Writing Workshop, East Room
Sun. Dec 18	10:00am - 11:00am	Worship Service in Sanctuary & Zoom
Sun. Dec 18	11:00am	Coffee Hour, Barn
Mon. Dec 19	8:00-9:30am	Rangeley Ringers Rehearsal, Sanctuary
Mon. Dec 19 & 20	By Appt	Rev Leslie Office Hours
Mon. Dec 19	10:00am	Deacons' Meeting, East Room
Mon. Dec 19	12:30pm	Advent Reading, East Room
M-F. Dec 19-23	3:00pm - 5:30pm	Piano Lessons with Erin Smith, East Room
Tue. Dec 20	12:30pm	Advent Writing Workshop, East Room
Sat. Dec 24	7:00pm	Christmas Eve Service, Sanctuary
Sun, Dec 25		May you have a Merry Christmas!



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Mon. Dec 26 & 27	By Appt	Rev Leslie Office Hours
M-F. Dec 26 - 30	3:00pm - 5:30pm	Piano Lessons with Erin Smith, East Room
Thur. Dec 29	7:00pm - 8:30pm	Spiritual Direction Group - Zoom