

Mountain Reflections

Rangeley Congregational Church, United Church of Christ

P.O. Box 218 Rangeley, Maine
04970

February 2023

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Rev. Leslie Chatfield

Wintry Greetings!

What curious winter weather, many folks say, we're experiencing here in western Maine! It's a great time for book reading, sharing, and reflection. So let's gather to do so!

Initially, Mary R and I talked about a specific pairing of books for a book study starting about now; alas, the supply chain and digital ordering has interfered severely with that process. So ~ regrouping has been necessary. Thank you for your ongoing patience.

After listening to our congregation members, let's plan on focusing on some of the concerns of our time with a combination read of the first three chapters of Genesis, followed by the book, *Meet Generation Z: Understanding and Reaching the New Post-Christian World*, James Emery White.

Please be on the lookout for an email survey/poll regarding the best days for us to meet for our ongoing study group.

In the meantime, our selected book is en route and will be available at the library as soon as all the copies arrive.

We can get started with the Bible study as soon as the results of the survey/poll are in determining the best day for gathering as a study group.

The plan for the future:

The study group will meet once a week up to and including the week before Holy Week. The day and time will be determined shortly. Stay tuned.



I look forward to our gathering through the remaining weeks of Epiphany and throughout Lent. May the winter days ahead offer a time for introspection and warmth, cloaked by the many subtle and glittering gifts of God's blessings.

Peace to all-
+Leslie



Buildings and Grounds Committee Rick Baker

Our winter seems to finally be here. Our snow has been combined with some liquid precipitation so ice and snow are becoming a constant issue. It is usually done in a timely manner but if meetings are held at irregular times, you may find the frozen precipitation not totally cleared.

Thermostats appear to be responsibly turned back after events or meetings. Thank you.

The only other item of note is that on December 23, here in Rangeley, we had a significant storm with winds and a lot of rain. It knocked out the power to church at the height of it and the sump pumps were not running, so the lower level of the church flooded. Once power was restored, it cleared overnight and then just mopping and running fans dried the place out. Not fun.

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Baker, B&G



Nancy Zambraski

February is upon us, and the Women's Fellowship group is taking a well-needed break until Spring. But that doesn't mean we haven't been busy. The women of the church and the women's fellowship community met via zoom and in-person on December 18th to distribute \$10,000 to 26 charities. This is money generated from our 2022 participation in 1 summer festival, 1 pop-up craft fair and our 27th Annual Holly Fair. All the distribution letters and checks have been generated and mailed and a newspaper article regarding "Rangeley Congregational Church Women's Fellowship Donates \$10,000 to Charity" was submitted to the Sun Journal, Rangeley Highlander, Mountain Messenger, Daily Bulldog, & the Irregular. For those who haven't seen it, a copy of the article is below.

Thanks to all our women who made jam, baked breads, made crafts, and worked to make this past year a success. It takes a huge amount of effort and time to put these events together and with your continued involvement we can continue the mission of Women's Fellowship to support our community and other charities in the coming year.

Restarting "in person" Women's Fellowship gatherings will resume in the Spring. The meetings will be held on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month from 10 am to noon in the barn. All women of the community are welcome, so grab a friend and join the fun for crafting, knitting or just fellowship time. We will continue to update the group with Email Blasts. Please contact me (nzambraski@gmail.com) if you would like to be added to the Women's Fellowship email list.

As a reminder to all, the prayer shawl cabinet has lots of prayer shawls for anyone who might have a need. Please contact me, Paula or Linda C. and we can arrange a shawl to be sent or picked up.



Rangeley Congregational Church Women's Fellowship Donates \$10,000 to Charity

This past year Rangeley Congregational Church Women's Fellowship group was able to participate in one summer festival, one pop-up craft fair and our annual Holly Fair in Rangeley, where handmade crafts, jams, and baked goods were sold. All the proceeds of these fairs are donated to charity. We were fortunate to be able to distribute donations to 26 wonderful organizations, with a large percentage of these donations benefitting people in the Rangeley community and region. On Sunday, Dec. 18th the women of the Rangeley Congregational church and our Women's Fellowship community met to distribute \$10,000 to charity.

Following is a partial list of organizations which will receive funds from our proceeds: Rangeley Health Ride, Rangeley Meal Site, WRGY, The Giving Tree, Rangeley Library, Grandmother's Purse, Rangeley Health & Wellness HELP/HARC & Rangeley Ski Scholarship Fund, Rangeley Fire Department Children's Christmas Party, Arbor House, Safe Voices of Farmington, The Center for Grieving Children, Western Maine Cancer Resource Center, Androscoggin Home + Healthcare, Farmington Animal Rescue, and other national & international charities.

The Rangeley Congregational Church Women's Fellowship's participation in summer festivals and Holly Fair have generated proceeds which have benefitted many organizations for the past 28 years. 2023 marks our 28th Annual Holly Fair which will be held on November 18th at the Rangeley Congregational Church Barn from 10 am to 2 pm. Your purchases at the 2023 Rangeley Summer Festivals, and Holly Fair will help us continue to help others.

With heartfelt gratitude, the Women's Fellowship organization would like to thank the Rangeley community and the summer visitors who supported our efforts this past year. We are looking forward to 2023 and being able to continue this very important mission.



Mission Board

Sue Downes-Borko

Don Miller

After giving 2/3 of our proceeds to Heifer International and World Central Kitchen last month, we chose at our most recent meeting to give the remaining 1/3 to more local organizations. \$300 will help folks in Franklin County who need help with car repair and are dependent on their cars for employment (through United Way). The remaining \$100 will supplement the My Grandmother's Purse fund, available to RLRs teachers wishing to do something special with their students.



Cyndy Egan

Happy 2023 to All!

Greetings from all of us on your Church Council. The Christmas season brings busy times and we were thankful for the opportunity to attend Advent worship in-person this year. The "Grinch Storm" brought an unexpected twist to plans for Christmas Eve service with flooding, downed trees and power outages throughout our area and the State. We held a simple Christmas Eve service with readings, singing and Sue's music- Council is thankful to all to helped make this possible. At our January meeting we voted to approve the Red Cross request to hold a blood drive in our Barn. Sue Downes-Borko volunteered to be the Red Cross liaison- thank you so much Sue, the blood drive will be scheduled in July.

Council also accepted Paula Hatfield's resignation as Treasurer- with much regret. We want to thank Paula for all the hard work over the past 5 years providing accurate reports and financial information. Council scheduled a special Staff Appreciation Collection beginning January 15th through February 19th. Any who wish to contribute please mail to Rangeley Congregational Church, PO Box 218, Rangeley, Maine 04970- please write staff appreciation in your check's memo line.

Blessings to you All-
Cyndy Egan



Greetings Faith Family!

Your Church Sustainability Team wants to thank all of you who completed our first questionnaire and participated in our initial group discussion on January 29th regarding the questionnaire results. We had 21 folks present and 7 zoomed in for this meeting. Like many other churches we are facing decreased membership and income. Please reference the budget summary page and pie chart from our 2022 Annual Report where it shows our budgeted income of \$88,510.00 seen at the top left of the page and the budgeted expenses for 2022/23 of \$114,839.00 resulting in a projected shortfall of -\$26,329.00 for our current fiscal year. The prior budget year's expenses were \$111,371.00 and our budget shortfall was projected at -\$24,865.00, this shortfall ended up reduced with savings from not holding in-person services and continuing to zoom saving on heating, maintenance, etc.. The Sustainability Team is looking forward to working with you all on solutions for immediate budget concerns as well as looking and mid and long-range goals. If anyone has feedback, questions, suggestions please reach out to any one of the Team members- we're all in this together as we pull together to find the future as God is calling us. Our next meeting will be on February 12th after worship in the Barn, we keep meetings to an hour/hour and half at the most.

With Appreciation and Gratitude,

Robin Carter, Rev. Leslie, Fred Dubay, Cyndy Egan, Millie Hoekstra and Linda Jones

let all that you
do be
done in
Love
1 Cor 16:14

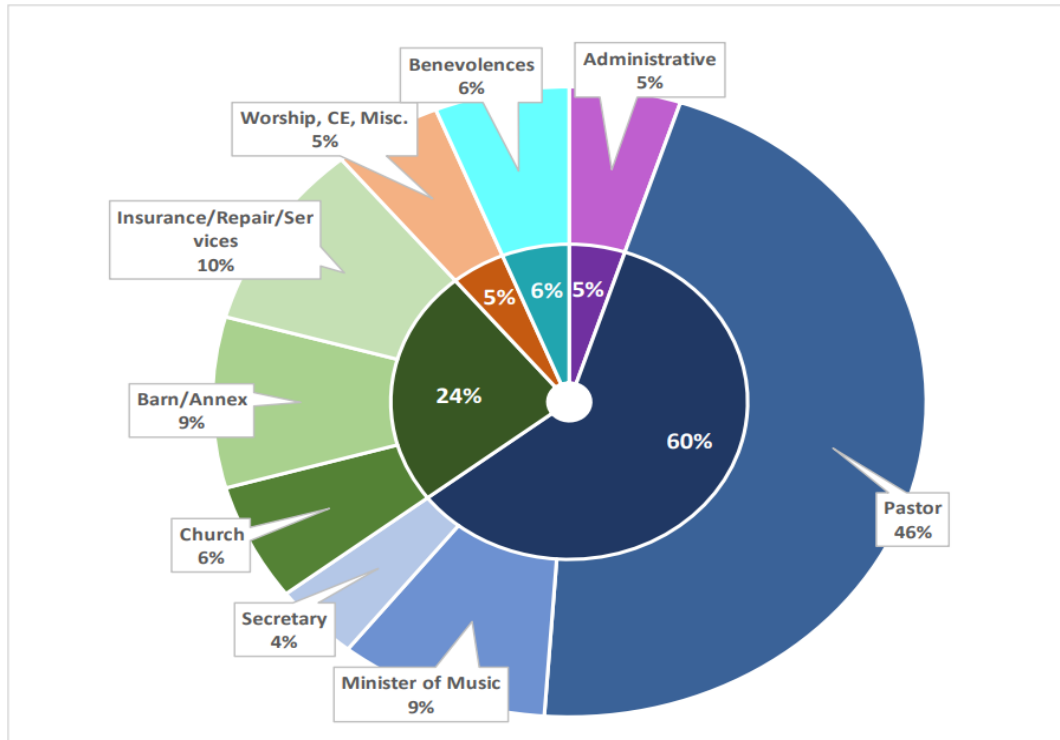


2022-2023 Fiscal Year Proposed Budget - Expenses by Category

Please note: Labor reflects each position's compensation including taxes, employer FICA and benefits.

Budgeted Total Income	\$88,510	Shown in Chart	
Expense Category	Sub-categories	2022 - 2023	2021 - 2022
Administrative	Administrative	\$5,790	\$6,137
Labor	Pastor	\$52,916	\$52,820
	Minister of Music	\$10,947	\$10,901
	Secretary	\$4,516	\$4,502
	Church	\$6,909	\$3,920
Facilities	Barn/Annex	\$10,053	\$9,749
Worship, CE, Misc.	Insurance/Repair/Services	\$11,050	\$10,609
	Worship, CE, Misc.	\$5,652	\$5,727
Benevolences	Benevolences	\$7,006	\$7,006
Total Budgeted Exp.	\$114,839	\$114,839	\$111,371
Projected Deficit	-\$26,329		

Chart of 2022-2023 Expenses





Deacon News

Claire Chase

Lucy Simonds

As the new year progresses, we move toward the holy period of Lent beginning with Ash Wednesday on February 22. Leslie will be available that afternoon to mark the sign of the cross with ashes on those who wish to participate. Since Leslie is 3/5 time, there are Sundays that she will not be in the pulpit. Sometimes we will have someone through pulpit supply, but sometimes committees may be asked to run the service. Leslie is always available to help plan these services, so there should be no panic. We are asking that those with announcements to please give those announcements to the liturgist prior to the service. The reason for this is twofold: first, when individuals make announcements, sometimes they may be longer than necessary, and secondly and perhaps more important, frequently folks have said that they cannot hear or understand the announcements. Hopefully having the liturgist giving the announcements with a mic will make them come through clearly. Should you forget to share your announcement with the liturgist we'd encourage you to boldly proclaim it at coffee hour. Deacons' Relief Fund- This fund exists to help members of our communities 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 peace through the coming season.

Claire Chase and Lucy Simonds, Deacon Co-chairs





February - March
Facilities and Events Highlights Calendar

Activity	Day	Feb. Dates	Mar. Dates	Time	Place
Worship	Sunday	Feb. 5 Feb. 12 Feb. 19 Feb. 26	Mar. 5 Mar. 12 Mar. 19 Mar. 26	10:00 am	Sanctuary
Coffee Hour	Sunday	Feb. 5 Feb. 12 Feb. 19 Feb. 26	Mar. 5 Mar. 12 Mar. 19 Mar. 26	11:00 am	Barn
Finance Committee	Monday	Feb. 13	Mar. 13	2:45 pm	East Room/Zoom
Church Council	Monday	Feb. 13	Mar. 13	4:00 pm	East Room/Zoom
Winter Women's Social	Friday	Feb. 10 Feb. 24	Mar. 10 Mar. 24	10:00 - 12:00 pm	Barn
Deacons	Monday	Feb. 27	Mar. 27	2:00 pm	East Room/Zoom
Pastor "Walk-In" Hours	Monday & Tuesday	Feb. 6 & 7 Feb. 13 & 14 Feb. 20 & 21 Feb. 27 & 28	Mar. 6 & 7 Mar. 13 & 14 Mar. 20 & 21 Mar. 27 & 28		By Appointment
Spiritual Direction Group	Thursday	Feb. 23	Mar. 30	7:00 pm	East Room/Zoom
Piano Lessons w/ Erin S.	M,W,T,F	Feb. 1, 2, 3 6, 8, 9, 10 13, 15, 16, 17 27	Mar. 1, 2, 3 6, 8, 9, 10 13, 15, 16, 17 20, 22, 23, 24 27, 29, 30, 31		