

# Mountain Reflections

Rangeley Congregational Church, United Church of Christ

P.O. Box 218 Rangeley, Maine

04970

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Cyndy Egan

Advent season blessings to you all!

All the signs are here in our neck of the woods, we have snow on the ground, cold air temperatures are taking some getting used to and the leaves have long left the trees in the Rangeley area.

We are preparing our hearts and minds for Advent. The Deacons will have the wreath and candles at the altar and we will absorb the Christmas messages of Hope, Love, Joy and Peace in the coming weeks. As a Congregation we have so much to be thankful for, our warm Church, our fellowship, our sharing of time, talent and treasures, and of course our friends and members who give hundreds of hours of their time for the love doing for God and for Church. Let us be sure to take a pause during this busy time of year and ready your hearts and minds to receive the gift of His Son (and just enjoy some quiet time for yourself).

Please remember if you need support this Christmas season or at other time, we are grateful to have Rev. Tony MacNaughton available for pastoral care, feel free to call him at home at 207-864-3355.

Warm Blessings,

Cyndy Egan, Council Moderator





## Music Notes

Sue Downes-Borko

Please enjoy singing carols and decorating the tree with us December 10. And, participating in the joyful music of the Christmas Eve service December 24.

The handbell choir will be having a busy month of ringing in the season, playing at all four churches AND at The Walk to Bethlehem.

Stay tuned for a possible Hymn Sing service in January.

Blessings on your holidays, and may they be filled with lots of music!



## Mission Board

Sue Downes-Borko

Don Miller

The Mission Committee would like to remind the church family that we take one of our UCC 5-for-5 Offerings at the Christmas Eve Service.

The Christmas Fund has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ for over 100 years, providing emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, and Christmas "Thank You" gift checks each December to our lower-income retirees.



Nancy Zambraski

As we move from Thanksgiving to the Christmas season, we reflect on how very grateful we are. On Saturday, November 18 we held our 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Holly Fair. The barn was full to the brim with baked goods, crafts, and gift baskets galore. We could not have accomplished all this without our unwavering support from the women of this special organization. Many thanks to all our bakers, candy and jam makers, and crafters. And to the volunteers who worked to make



everything run smoothly. (*See picture below.*) Our raffle items consisted of a beautiful hand-painted vase, a handmade rope basket, and a Keurig coffee maker. Special thanks to Marcia Baker for the vase, Mary Dubay for the basket, and Susie Welsh for donating the coffee maker. Also, to our “Elfs,” – the men of our church, who helped with set up and tear down. (*Our backs thank you also.*) I would be remiss in not thanking our amazing community who continue to support our efforts. Not only with their purchases, but many leave an additional donation. Our hearts are full!

As in the past years, the profits generated from the summer festivals and Holly Fair are donated to charity, and on November 26<sup>th</sup> following Sunday church service, all women of Women’s Fellowship were invited to join together (in person and on zoom) to distribute \$13,000 to charities. Our focus this year was to “keep it local” and make larger contributions so we can actually “make a difference.” It was an amazing meeting. Thoughtful decisions were made for 19 deserving charities.

Women’s Fellowship 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.

Marcia Baker will again be organizing the Women’s Winter Social which includes knitting, games (puzzles, Mahjong, etc.), fellowship and shared soup and muffins. Same schedule - 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Fridays of the month from 10-12 in the Barn. If you are interested, please contact Marcia to get on her email list. Her **NEW email is [marciabaker150@gmail.com](mailto:marciabaker150@gmail.com)**. An email will be sent out prior to the starting day.

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.

Let us remember that the holiday season is 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



*2023 Holly Fair Volunteers*



Deacon News

Claire Chase  
Lucy Simonds

As winter arrives it is a joy to reflect on the variety of worship experiences that were offered at RCC this fall. In addition to the leadership of Scott Hatfield, Stan Wheeler, and Rev. Tony MacNaughton we were blessed by the gifts of Anne and Lyla Crump as they taught us about the Citizen Potawatomi Nation and Indigenous culture, the culinary skills and spiritual gifts of Linda Jones as she nourished our bodies and souls, Claire Chase teaching us more about All Saints Day, and Les Hoekstra’s wisdom and gentle reminder that “When we don’t know what to do we have God” and that “Coincidences are pure grace”.



During the Advent season we prepare for the birth of Jesus. We hope that you will join us as we bring light into the darkness. Please note that there will only be ONE service of Christmas Eve ~ the Candlelight service at 5:00pm.

December 3 - Pastor Scott Hatfield will lead worship and offer Communion.

December 10 - Rev. Tony McNaughton and decorating the sanctuary tree.

December 17 - Stan Wheeler

December 24 - Pastor Scott Hatfield Candlelight service at 5pm (NO 10:00am service)

December 31 - NO in person worship. We will be sending out links to other services.

January 7 - Pastor Scott Hatfield

January 14 - TBD (to be determined)

January 21 - Stan Wheeler

January 28 - TBD

Please reach out to a Deacon if you have an idea for worship or would like to work with someone to lead worship. We enjoy learning from our members!



## Buildings and Grounds Committee Rick Baker

- Furnaces LMS & Barn were serviced by John Tompkins end of October.
- Furnace control board was replaced by JT about same time.
- LMS toilet noise issue fixed by Dave Walker.
- Shovel and salting buckets being stationed for winter season.
- Still, no one to do heat tapes on LMS roof.
- Kutting Edge has already had to plow and clear snow a couple of times this season, so far.
- The Sanctuary Christmas tree to be cut from the "wild" and placed by December 10.

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Baker





December/January  
Facilities and Events Highlights Calendar

Activity	Day	Dec. Dates	Jan. Dates	Time	Place
Worship	Sunday	Dec. 3 Dec.10 Dec. 17	Jan. 7 Jan. 14 Jan. 21 Jan. 28	10:00am	Sanctuary/Zoom
Coffee Hour	Sundays	(see above)	(see above)	11:00am	Barn
Finance Committee	Monday	Dec. 11	Jan. 8	2:45pm	East Room/Zoom
Church Council	Monday	Dec. 11	Jan. 8	4:00pm	East Room/Zoom
Deacons	Monday	Dec. 18	Jan. 15	3:00pm	East Room/Zoom
Piano Lessons w/ Erin S.	M, T, Th & F	Dec.	Jan.	3:00pm-5:00pm	Sanctuary
Walk to Bethlehem/ Christmas Presentation	Sunday	Dec. 10		5:30pm 6:00pm	Rangeley Inn/ Church of the Good Shepherd
Christmas Eve Service	Sunday	Dec 24		5:00pm	Sanctuary/Zoom

