

# Mountain Reflections

Rangeley Congregational Church, United Church of Christ

P.O. Box 218 Rangeley, Maine

04970

February 2024

Vol. 31 Issue 1



Cyndy Egan

Happy New Year Everyone! The quietness during the dead of winter here in Rangeley gives me time to reflect and feel intense gratitude for the way our Rangeley Congregational Church family pulls together and gets it done. Gratitude for our Zoom family who continues to be a strong presence with us in worship and meeting participation. Our wonderful staff Sandy, Sue and Linda Dexter have kept the business of Rangeley Congregational Church running seamlessly. We don't have one leader "in charge" of the Church. Rather, we have a strong leadership presence among us and as opportunities arise folks have taken on big and small responsibilities that make the RCC experience uplifting and special. Council will move forward in the spirit of love and cooperation through this time of transition, matters will work out as they should as we continue to do the work God is calling us to do.

Feedback from our Church family will have us continue Sunday worship as it has over the past 8 months. Deacons have a rotation of pastors to deliver the Sunday message and we'll have Sundays led by boards/committees or the brave lay-person to fill in the gaps. Folks who have suggestions to try something new or different for Sunday service are welcome to reach out to a Deacon or me and we'll raise it at a Council meeting. For any of you wanting to read through Council minutes, there is a folder in the East Room near the mail slots that holds the minutes.

Blessings to you All,

Cyndy Egan, Council Moderator



## Music Notes

Sue Downes-Borko

Many thanks to those of you who requested hymns or songs for the January service of music. I'd love to hear any feedback on the structure of the service you might have. Would you rather just sing for an hour, or did you like having scripture and readings between clumps of music?

If you enjoy singing from the Pilgrim Hymnal, don't miss February 11. Rev. Tony has selected our three hymns from the "red hymnal".

Nine ringers will be attending the Area 3 Spring Ring in Ocean City, Maryland in March! The festival will be two full days, and we also will have days to enjoy sightseeing in the area.



## Mission Board

Sue Downes-Borko  
Don Miller

The Mission Board will be putting on a Ham and Bean Supper on Saturday, February 24 beginning at 5:00. The meal will include ham, beans, brown bread, coleslaw, and dessert. Many hands make light work, so we hope you will consider lending us your time and energy. Last year, our efforts allowed us to give generously to Heifer International, World Central Kitchen, My Grandmother's Purse, and United Way of the Tri Valley Area.



## Rangeley Food Pantry

Sue Downes-Borko  
Sarah Johnson

The Rangeley Ecumenical Food Pantry is in need of the following items. Items may be left in the basket of our Narthex. Thank you!

Bread, Ramen, Tuna Fish, Chunky Soup, Jam/Jelly, Cereal, Spaghetti & Chef Boyardee Ravioli.



## Nancy Zambraski

Winter is upon us! (Well...most of us.) While Women's Fellowship takes a well-deserved break from meeting, the Women's Winter Social is in full swing. The group gathers on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of the winter months (weather permitting) and includes knitting, games, puzzles, and a great soup and muffin lunch made by volunteers. It is open to all the women of the community, so grab a friend and join in.

Contact Marcia Baker ([marciambaker150@gmail.com](mailto:marciambaker150@gmail.com)) to get on the email list. You can also find updated information on the Rangeley Chamber of Commerce Web site ([www.rangeleymaine.com](http://www.rangeleymaine.com)), and "What's Going on in Rangeley" Facebook page.



### CALLING ALL KNITTERS!

Our prayer shawl cabinet is dwindling! Let's get those needles moving!

The cabinet has been restocked with some lovely yarn, so if you need yarn, needles, crochet hooks, or anything at all, please let me know. The comfort of these shawls is immeasurable. Remember, shawls are given in good times or trying times. Let's keep this great tradition going. If you are looking to gift a shawl, contact me and we will make sure it gets delivered or mailed out.

Women's Fellowship meetings will resume in the Spring. See something fun or interesting at your local craft fair? Send me a picture or just shoot me an email to let me know. If everyone can bring just two new crafting ideas for items that we can create together as a group to sell at our summer festivals or Holly Fair, just think of the fun we will have making them together. Email me your ideas in advance to make sure we have all the supplies needed.

Here's to hoping everyone stays warm, safe and healthy.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Zambraski



## Deacon News

Claire Chase  
Lucy Simonds

Winter has settled in and along with it a variety of weather. Through it all we are blessed to come together to worship both in person and via Zoom.

Most recently, Sue Downes-Borko led us in a Hymn Sings and the Sustainability (F-Team) Group hosted a Breakfast Conversation to help us reflect on the past and explore the future. It was a joy to hear that the congregation, both those in person and those on Zoom, are feeling nourished by the time we spend together in worship. Below is the worship schedule as we look ahead.

Following is the worship schedule as we look ahead:

February 4 - Pastor Scott Hatfield

February 11 - Rev. Tony MacNaughton

February 18 - Stan Wheeler

February 25 - A time for quiet prayer following the Mission Dinner on Saturday night

March 3 - Pastor Scott Hatfield

March 10 - Rev. Tony MacNaughton \*\*Time change (Spring Ahead)

March 17 - Stan Wheeler

March 24 - Palm Sunday - Pastor Scott is working with Fr. Thom Rock from Good Shepherd to explore a shared service - details TBD

March 31 - Easter - Pastor Scott Hatfield

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

- ⊙ Winter is in full swing mode. I no sooner commented about lack of plowing this season when it started to be needed twice a week.
- ⊙ Kutting Edge has been plowing, roof raking and sanding as needed.
- ⊙ With smaller snow falls we have to clear our walk ways and steps ourselves.
- ⊙ Battery back-up/surge protector was hooked up to Sanctuary heater to stop the constant changing of settings. It seems to be working well.
- ⊙ Users of the annex (Barn) appear to be quite responsible in ensuring the thermostats are turned back to 55F when they leave. Thank you!

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Baker, Sexton Draftee



## F-Team (Formerly Sustainability Team)

Formerly known as the Sustainability Team we were challenged to come up with a new name for our group that more accurately identifies with its purpose. Now the 'F-Team', we found the purpose of our team seemed to be described with words that began with the letter 'F'. We are Forward-looking, and Facilitate seeking Feedback from our church Family, about the Future through Fellowship!

We held an RCC Congregation meeting Sunday January 28th to get feedback from folks on how they feel church is going. We had over 25 participants and are so grateful! **Joy** seemed to be the word most often used to describe the RCC atmosphere. Praise God!

It's not too late to share your thoughts, concerns and suggestions! Please review the meeting handouts emailed on January 24th, the agenda listed the 3 questions the Team was looking for feedback on. You can email your thoughts by February 5th to the church email or to me and we'll



include your feedback in our summary that will be emailed mid-February. We'll meet again in a couple months or so to continue the discussion.

With Gratitude,  
Cyndy Egan, Chair

**February/March  
Facilities and Events Highlights Calendar**

| Activity                                     | Time/Day        | February Dates  | March Dates   |
|--|-----------------|---|---|
| <b>WORSHIP</b><br>Sanctuary                  | 10:00am, Sunday | February 4<br>February 11<br>February 18<br>February 25 | March 3<br>March 10<br>March 17<br>March 24<br>March 31 |
| <b>COFFEE HOUR</b><br>Barn                   | 11:00am, Sunday | (see dates above)                                       |   |
| <b>FINANCE COMMITTEE</b><br>East Room & Zoom | 2:45pm, Monday  | February 12   | March 11  |
| <b>CHURCH COUNCIL</b><br>East Room & Zoom    | 4:00pm, Monday  | February 12   | March 11  |
| <b>DEACONS MEETING</b><br>East Room & Zoom   | 3:00pm, Monday  | February 19   | March 18  |
| <b>WOMEN'S WINTER SOCIAL</b><br>Barn         | 10:00-12:00pm   | February 2, 9 & 23                                      | March 9 & 23  |
| <b>PIANO LESSONS</b><br>Sanctuary            | 3:00-5:00pm     | Feb. 5-9, 12-16, 26-28.                                 | March 4-8, 11-15, 18-22, 25-29                          |
| East Room                                    |                 | Feb. 8, 15, 22, 29                                      | March 7, 14, 21, 28                                     |