



Rangeley Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ  
Rangeley, Maine

**Rangeley Congregational Church**  
**United Church of Christ**  
*An Open and Affirming Church*  
**Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

September 6, 2026

10:00 AM

**Meditation:**

When two people don't communicate well, a triangle forms when a third person enters who absorbs the anxiety and stress from the strained relationship. Realizing that you're the third person can be really enlightening.

*-- Adapted from The Mind's Journal*

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

**OUR GATHERING AND PRAISE**

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE

*"One Tin Soldier"*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Liturgist**

CALL TO WORSHIP

**Leader & People**

Leader: When two or three gather, Christ lives in every moment,

**People: where two or three gather, Christ is present with them.**

Leader: Where two or three gather to worship God,

**People: glad songs of praise are lifted, hearts are filled with hope.**

Leader: When two or three gather to serve God's creation,

**People: Christ is feeding the hungry, Christ is building shelters of peace**

## INVOCATION

\*GATHERING HYMN #18 (NCH)

*"Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer"*

## CALL TO CONFESSION

Leader: All we are called to do is to love... everyone. Yet, as simple as it sounds, by our actions and our words, we show how difficult a task it is. Let us confess our failings as we pray together...

**People: You do not ask much of us, Guardian of hope, just to love, to serve, to welcome. Yet too**

often, it is words of bitterness we speak to friends and family. It is our judgment that we offer to those looking for help. It is our hardened hearts people find, when they reach out, hoping to touch grace.

Loving compassionate God, forgive us. We are broken, so make us whole through the life of Christ. We are empty of peace, so fill us with the reconciling Spirit of Christ. We are alone, so take us by the hand and lead us into your kingdom of joy and grace, brought to us through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

*Silent reflection on these words*

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

## THE WORD OF GOD

SCRIPTURE

Romans 13:8-14

Liturgist

Matthew 18:15-20

SERMON      Conflict and Grace

\*HYMN OF RESPONSE #337 (NCH)

*"Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether"*

## SERVICE OF PRAYER

## PRAYER FOR ALL GOD'S PEOPLE

*(As you name a joy or concern later in the prayer, please finish by saying "This is my prayer." The church family responds by saying "This is our prayer.")*

*We pray for: Peter and Nini Christensen, Don & Susie Welch, Corinne Morton, Cyndy Egan's parents David & Dianne Scammon, Sheila Raymond, Marlene Knowles' daughter-in-law, Shannon Linder, Crystal Haley, Susan & Jack Tourtillotte, Maxie & AJ Elmes and their son, Granger, Bill & Mary Richards, Kathy & Jim Wilcox, Heidi Ross, Tim & Sarah Johnson, and finally, we pray for all those whose lives are impacted by natural disasters, violence, war, and those suffering from personal life challenges around the world and here at home.*

## PASTORAL PRAYER

### OUR LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in  
heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us  
our (debts, sins, trespasses) as we forgive those who (sin,  
trespass) against us. And lead us not into temptation, but  
deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the  
power and the glory forever and ever. AMEN.**

CHORAL AMEN #812 (NCH)

*"Threefold Amen"*

### OFFERTORY MUSIC

*"Grant Us Wisdom to Perceive You"*

## DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God all creatures here below;  
Praise God above ye heavenly host;  
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.

## THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

*In the United Church of Christ, we practice an open communion, which means all are welcomed to this table...God's table. You don't have to be a member of this church or any church to partake in the sharing of the bread and drink of the vine.*

### Invitation

Let us lift up our hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

### Eucharistic Prayer

It is indeed right to give you our thanks and praise, O God, for your delight is in your people, and the day of our salvation is near.

In your child, Jesus, you have again come to save us. In his love we have seen the fulfilment of your law and the revelation of your desire to reconcile all people – to yourself and to one another.

When he was killed you raised him to life, and marked us for salvation with his blood.

Now wherever two or three gather, clothed in his love, you are present in the midst of us and we rejoice in you forever.

### **Prayer of Consecration**

And so, we remember how God's compassion was expressed through Jesus Christ.

On the night he was betrayed, he took the bread, blessed it, broke it, and shared it among them with these words, "This is my body, broken for you. Eat and remember me."

After the meal, he took the cup of wine, blessed it, and shared it among them with these words, "This is my blood, poured out for you. Drink and remember me." And so, we eat and drink and remember, and we will keep doing this until Jesus returns in glory.

Now, O God, may we who share this bread and wine, be nourished by the body and blood of Christ, be filled with your spirit, be transformed into one body, and be joined with you forever.

### **Sharing the Bread and the Cup**

The body of Christ, the living bread.

The blood of Christ, the saving cup.

## COMMUNION MUSIC

*"Let Us Break Bread Together"*

### **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Go out in love, reconciled to one another in Christ.

Lay aside the works of darkness

and put on the armor of light.

Live honorably, fulfilling the law through love for all.

And may God mark you out for salvation;

May Christ Jesus be present among you always,

And may the Holy Spirit reconcile you to one another  
and fulfil the law of love among you.

**We go in peace to love and serve the Lord,**

In the name of Christ. Amen.

### \*CLOSING HYMN #396 (NCH)

*"Where Charity and Love Prevail"*

### \*THE BENEDICTION

### POSTLUDE AND EXTINGUISHING OF THE CANDLES

*"Let There Be Peace on Earth"*

*Portions adapted from: Rev. Thom Shuman, Laughing Bird  
Ministries.*

**~Special thanks to all who contributed their time, talents and gifts for today's service:**

- Pastor Scott Hatfield, **Leading Communion Service**
- Les Hoekstra, **Liturgist**
- Nancy Zambraski, **Deacon of the Week**
- Lucy Simonds, **Zoomigo**
- Erin Smith, **Music**
- Sarah Johnson, **bread for Communion**
- Linda Caspar, **Coffee Hour**

**~This Week:**

- Mahjong in the Barn, September 7, 1-3pm, Barn
- Women's Fellowship meets, September 11, 10-12pm, Barn

**~Next Week:**

- Rev. Stan Wheeler leading worship service, Sept. 13
- Finance Meeting, September 14, 3:15pm, East Room & Zoom
- Council Meeting, September 14, 4:00pm, East Room & Zoom

|                             |                              |                              |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <u>Church Secretary</u>     | rangeleyucc@gmail.com        | 207-864-5966                 |
| <u>Song Leader</u>          | Erin Perkins Smith           | 207-864-5346                 |
| <u>Council President:</u>   | Cyndy Egan                   | 207-864-2255                 |
| <u>Co-Chair of Deacons:</u> | Claire Chase<br>Lucy Simonds | 207-712-0490<br>207-462-2101 |
| <u>Deacon of the week</u>   | Fred Dubay                   | 207-864-5234                 |

*If you have a need for pastoral care, please get in touch with a Deacon or Scott Hatfield. All numbers are listed below.*

*If you are in need of pastoral care at Franklin Hospital, Rev. Stan Wheeler may be called and, if he is available, will attend to your pastoral needs.*

|                              |                     |
|------------------------------|---------------------|
| <i>Pastor Scott Hatfield</i> | <b>207-670-8141</b> |
| <i>Rev. Stan Wheeler</i>     | <b>207-491-5824</b> |

**Deacons:**

|                        |                     |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| <i>Lucy Simonds</i>    | <b>207-462-2101</b> |
| <i>Claire Chase</i>    | <b>207-712-0490</b> |
| <i>Linda Caspar</i>    | <b>207-670-5073</b> |
| <i>Fred Dubay</i>      | <b>207-864-5234</b> |
| <i>Nancy Zambraski</i> | <b>207-864-2250</b> |
| <i>Joann Bean</i>      | <b>207-670-5000</b> |