

# Mountain Reflections

Rangeley Congregational Church, United Church of Christ

P.O. Box 218 Rangeley, Maine

04970

August 2025

Vol. 32 Issue 3



Cyndy Egan

Summer is here!

I hope you've all enjoyed summer so far! Here in Rangeley, we've had our fair share of hot and humid weather, the town has been busy and bustling and we're looking forward to what the next couple of months will bring.

Speaking of warm weather, as many of you already know Sue Downes has departed from Rangeley and getting settled in Botswana. You can follow the experiences she shares on Facebook and she has a Substack account as well. In Sue's place we welcome Erin Smith leading us with her musical talents on most Sundays. Erin is the music teacher at Rangeley Lakes Regional School and provides piano and voice lessons. It has been a pleasure to have Erin's talents truly enhance our Sunday worship. Erin asked for assistance with hymn selection, so Council formed a Music Committee consisting of Les Hoekstra, Zenna Innes and Jeff Ellinwood. We greatly appreciate this group providing hymn selections on many Sundays when the minister is unable to do so. Little Mountain School has vacated the Annex, the F-Team will schedule discussions this fall with our congregational family to share ideas on the future use of this space.

Our Annual Meeting was on July 13<sup>th</sup> and the amended RCC By-Laws were approved. The By-Laws now clearly allow Church members to participate and vote via remote participation such as Zoom. The Council deeply appreciates those who serve on our Boards and Committees, who volunteer their time and share their talents to make Rangeley Congregational Church a vital part of the Rangeley area. The mission and giving nature of our Church is a remarkable example of what a small group can do for so many.

## Online Donation Button is Live

A Donation button near the bottom of our Rangeley Congregational Church home page, <https://rangeleyucc.org>, can now be used for online donations. For those of you that prefer or do not use checkbooks, each transaction donor has the opportunity to add free-form text explaining the donation. For instance those special Mission collections the donor could just identify the purpose of the donation (i.e Neighbors in Need)



Just a note the Church incurs fees with use of this mechanism, so larger donations from members are still best handled with a check to avoid the fees.

Blessings to you All, God is still speaking!

Cyndy Egan, Council Moderator



## Deacon News

Claire Chase  
Lucy Simonds

Summer is holding us all in a warm embrace of longer days, gentle breezes, colorful sunsets, and fellowship. Gardens overflowing with flowers and vegetables serve as a reminder of God's abundant love and grace.

This summer in addition to the faithful worship leadership of Rev. Stan Wheeler and Pastor Scott Hatfield, we welcomed Rose Stansfield, a Member in Discernment from High Street Congregational Church in Auburn, as she led us in worship and are enjoying the seasonal return of Rev. Jack Zappulla for a couple of Sundays. How blessed we are to hear the interpretation of the sacred texts from a variety of voices. Each one touches our hearts and challenges our faith in new ways.

With the departure of Sue Downes, our beloved Minister of Music, for the Peace Corp the RCC family is flexing its resiliency muscles as we adapted to recorded instrumental accompaniment for the hymns during worship. Our hymns are being selected by the newly formed Music Team ~ Les Hoekstra, Zenna Inness, and Jeff Ellinwood. They each have a strong music background and the skills needed to select hymns that are familiar and/or singable. Thank you, team.

We are truly BLESSED to have Erin Smith to lead us in our hymns and to offer preludes and postludes. Erin shared her voice and talents during Covid and has offered her gifts during special occasions for years. While she is not available every Sunday, we expect that Erin will be with us as much as possible. Thank you, Erin.



Looking ahead we'd like to draw your attention to **Sunday, September 14th** when **Kit Ripley** will be leading us in worship. Kit Ripley, currently on sabbatical, is a missionary in Thailand. RCC has long supported her work and we look forward to her worship leadership.



Finally, please speak with one of the Deacons if you are interested in a conversation about joining the church. We hope to have a meeting to explore membership in the near future and look forward to welcoming folks who would like to become members of RCC.



Nancy Zambraski

Summer is in full swing here in Rangeley. Women's Fellowship participated in the Annual Strawberry Festival held on July 10<sup>th</sup> in Oquossoc. Many thanks to all who helped with set-up, work the booth, break-down **AND** those who contributed by making jams, breads, and crafts. All our efforts paid off as we made over \$3,000 for our mission of giving to charities. What a joy to work with you all!

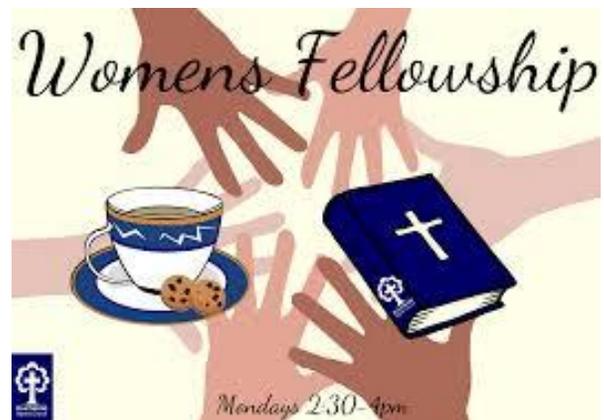
Our next craft fair will be the Blueberry Festival held in Rangeley on August, 21st. ***YIKES! That's right around the corner!*** There will be a sign-up sheet in the barn to work the festival. We will need lots of bakers and jam makers. We will be concentrating on anything BLUEBERRY! If you can help (or bake), just let me know.

We continue to knit, crochet, and weave prayer shawls that can be given in good times or in bad. If you know of anyone who needs a shawl, either for celebration or comfort, please contact me. Thanks to all who continue this great and caring tradition.

As always, the Women's Fellowship and Prayer Shawl group meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Fridays of the month from 10 am to 12 noon in the barn. All are welcome to come and knit, craft or just enjoy fellowship time.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Zambraski, WF/PS co-chair





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Don Miller  
Sue Downes-Borko

Mission recently had a special offering for Strengthen the Church on July 13. We are still maintaining our "Five for Five" status within the UCC and we will be taking our special offerings on a regular basis throughout the year.

It was decided to postpone future Mission endeavors until September due to the fact that members of the Mission Board are very involved with summer activities. We will start planning our year during our September Mission meeting.

Don Miller



Buildings and Grounds Committee  
Rick Baker

- LMS has vacated their space and will be joining the daycare project being built by the school. They left our building clean and orderly.
- At some time in the future the congregation needs to have a discussion on how to use the vacated property that was built in the late 1800's
- Many, many thanks to those who put up screens on the sanctuary and barn. I know that Fred and Kathy B did much of it if not all.
- Our gardens look great and thanks to our "green thumb" members who attend to them.
- Kutting Edge has been taking care of the lawn and it has looked good.

Respectfully submitted,

Rick B



August / September  
2025 Facilities and Events Highlights Calendar

Activity/Event	Time/Day	August & September Dates
<b>WORSHIP</b> Sanctuary	10:00am, Sunday	August 3 – Pastor Scott Hatfield August 10 –Rev. Jack Zappulla August 17 –Rev. Stan Wheeler August 24 – (MID) Rose Stansfield August 31 – Rev. Stan Wheeler Sept 7– Pastor Scott Hatfield Sept 14 – Kit Ripley Sept 21 – Rev Stan Wheeler Sept 28– TBD
<b>COFFEE HOUR</b> Barn	11:00am, Sunday	(see dates above)
<b>FINANCE COMMITTEE</b> East Room & Zoom	3:15pm, Monday	Aug 11      Sept 8
<b>COUNCIL COMMITTEE</b> East Room & Zoom	4:00pm, Monday	Aug 11      Sept 8
<b>DEACONS' MEETING</b> East Room & Zoom	4:00pm, Monday	Aug 18      Sept 15
<b>MAHJONG IN THE BARN</b> Barn	1:00-3:00pm, 1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Mondays	Aug 4 & 18      Sept 1 & 15
<b>MOM/BABY SOCIAL HOUR</b> Barn	9:00am, Each Wednesday	Aug & Sept
<b>WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP</b> Barn	10am-12pm , 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Fri's.	Aug 8 & 22      Sept 12 & 26