

Mountain Reflections

Rangeley Congregational Church, United Church of Christ

P.O. Box 218 Rangeley, Maine

04970

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Cyndy Egan

As December arrives and settles over our little corner of the Earth, Advent has begun. Christmas season is upon us as we witness more colorful lights brightening the early arriving darkness, a reminder that even in the darkest nights light always shines. At the Rangeley Congregational Church evergreen wreaths with red bows greet in-person worshippers at our front doors and in the sanctuary the sound of familiar hymns and stories we enjoy with our Church family via zoom. As a congregation, we journey in faith together, encouraging one another to live with hope and joy. The Advent wreath reminds us of hope, peace, joy, and love the four gifts we carry into the season. Advent reminds us that God's love is already here, and yet still unfolding. It is a season of stories of shepherds, angels, and a newborn King and we are invited to live that story anew. Advent invites us to slow down, reflect, and prepare our hearts for God's gift. Amid holiday busyness, Advent calls us to pause and listen for God's presence. May this season inspire us to carry Christ's light into our homes, our town, and the world.

Merry Christmas!

Cyndy Egan, Council Moderator

A logo for "Merry Christmas" featuring the word "merry" in a small, simple font above the word "Christmas" in a large, elegant cursive script. A black cross is positioned behind the letter "i" in "Christmas".



Deacon News

Claire Chase
Lucy Simonds

December Greetings to All!

Looking out my window it is quite dark and I wonder where the colors of fall have gone. I can imagine, though, the snow that has covered the grass and the way that the light of the waxing moon can reflect off of the snow and bring unexpected lightness into the dark. Just as Advent invites us to find illumination in anticipation of Jesus’s birth as we light the candles of *Faith, Hope, Love, and Peace* each week.

As we move through the Advent Season, we invite you to join us each Sunday, in person or via Zoom, to be in community and embrace the light and promise of the season. We hope you will join us on Christmas Eve at 5:00 for our traditional service of carols and readings. Service available on Zoom.

As cold winds blow outside it is a good time to remind everyone of the Deacons’ Relief Fund. Please be in touch with a Deacon if you become aware of anyone in need of heat assistance or with other unmet needs.

May Advent be a time of light and promise for all.
The Deacons

Worship Schedule

December 7, Communion - Pastor Scott Hatfield	January 4 - Pastor Scott Hatfield
December 14 Decorating our tree - Rev. Stan Wheeler	January 11 - TBD
December 21, Bell Choir - Rev. Stan Wheeler	January 18 – Rev. Stan Wheeler
WEDNESDAY December 24, 5:00 Christmas Eve - Rev. Stan Wheeler	January 25 - TBD
December 28, Gretchen Legler	



Nancy Zambraski

As we move from Thanksgiving to the Christmas season, we reflect on how grateful we are. On Saturday, November 22nd we held our 30th 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. Including the volunteers who worked to make everything run smoothly. (*See picture below.*) Also, to our “Elves,” – the men of our church, who helped with setting up and tearing down. 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 Fir are donated to charity. During the first meeting of the 2026 Women’s Fellowship gatherings, (date TBD), all women of Women’s Fellowship will be invited to join together to decide where the profits will go. Once again, our focus will be to “keep it local” and make larger contributions so we can actually “make a difference.”

Women’s Fellowship is taking a well-deserved break after the Holly Fair and as usual, will start up crafting in the spring. We will meet 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, fellowship and shared soup and muffins. Same schedule - 2nd & 4th Fridays of the month from 10 am – 12 noon in the Barn. In addition, **Mahjong in the Barn** will be meeting from 1-3pm the first and third Mondays of the month. If you are interested, please contact Marcia at marciambaker150@gmail.com to get on her email list. An email will be sent out prior to the starting dates.



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 at nzambraski@gmail.com, or email the church at rangeleyucc@gmail.com, 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 for the season that is coming. Blessings to all,

Nancy Zambraski
Women’s Fellowship Co-chair



2025 Holly Fair Volunteers



Buildings and Grounds Committee Rick Baker

- Winter seems to have arrived. The parking lot needed sanding for the Holly Fair.
- Waiting for PowerPoint to give quote for generator.
- Tim Haley did the shingles but was delayed a week because of weather.
- Linda C has contacted Johanna R to check the church weekly
- The battery on the Hoover kept in AV room has been replaced. I think it “died” prematurely because we were keeping it plugged in all the time.
- Dave walker spent a full day and a half winterizing the heating and plumbing systems in LMS space. He deserves our many thanks. I’ll print out what he did and put it in a file in the office. The area does not need the heat to be turned on. The boiler has been drained.
- Furnaces serviced November 18 by John Thompkins, Covenant Heating.
- The East Room and office have been measured for flooring replacement. The material needs to be selected, and the installer needs to give their quote before cost can be calculated.
- The LP detector in the office has been replaced. So the “chirping” should stop. (I hope!)
- The motion detector lights on end of annex towards the sanctuary are being checked for their unreliable operations.

Respectfully submitted, Rick B. B&G Committee



Mission Board

Don Miller

Mission held a Quaker meeting format service on Sunday, November 23. It was a wonderful service and it has been suggested that we do this type of service as an annual event. Thank you for all who participated in making this such a successful service.



December

2025 Facilities and Events Highlights Calendar

Activity/Event	Time/Day	August & September Dates
WORSHIP Sanctuary	10:00am, Sunday	Dec 7– Pastor Scott Hatfield Dec 14 – Rev. Stan Wheeler Dec 21 – Rev. Stan Wheeler
	5:00 pm, Wednesday	Dec 24 – Rev. Stan Wheeler Dec 28 – Gretchen Legler
COFFEE HOUR Barn	11:00am, Sunday	(see dates above)
FINANCE COMMITTEE East Room & Zoom	3:15pm, Monday	Dec 8
COUNCIL COMMITTEE East Room & Zoom	4:00pm, Monday	Dec 8
DEACONS' MEETING East Room & Zoom	4:00pm, Monday	Dec 15
MAHJONG IN THE BARN Barn	1:00-3:00pm, 1 st & 3 rd Mondays	Dec 1 & 15
MOM/BABY SOCIAL HOUR Barn	9:00am, Each Wednesday	Dec 4, 11, 18