

Mountain Reflections

Rangeley Congregational Church, United Church of Christ

P.O. Box 218 Rangeley, Maine

04970

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Cyndy Egan

Happy Belated New Year Church Family!

It may be cold outside here in Maine but it warms the soul to see our daylight extended each day! The light isn't just seen outdoors but, in our Church, as well. We have an incredible, loving and caring group here at the Rangeley Congregational Church as evidenced by the camaraderie we share both near and far. A word of thanks and appreciation for all the hard work folks put in to keep all working smoothly. Sandy works her magic behind the scenes making sure all is on track, Rick Baker has had a very busy couple of months dealing with lighting, heating and weather. We appreciate all you do Rick! Our financial team provides the Council with a clear picture of Church finances, and so thankful we have Linda Dexter continuing to handle the books. The Deacons remain as busy as ever meeting our needs to fill the pulpit each Sunday and incorporating the occasional novel Sunday of alternative ways to feed our spirits and souls. Speaking of alternatives to worship, the F-Team will hold a Family Congregational Meeting on Sunday February 8th beginning at 10am in the Barn. Our Zoom family can participate as well. We will have two topics to discuss: 1- Brainstorm your suggestions on worship ideas for those Sundays without a pastor, and 2- Seeking suggestions on a new Rangeley Congregational Church community mission to address an unmet or under-met need in the Rangeley area. Those that cannot attend please email your ideas, we would greatly appreciate it.

Council voted to approve leasing the empty pastor's office space to Chris Farmer, who lives just down from us on High Street, as he starts his full-time law practice. Chris's last day with Skowhegan Savings Bank was December 31st and we are pleased to support a local getting started with a service that is greatly needed in the Rangeley area. This lease agreement is on a trial basis for the next 4 months and then Council will review how this new arrangement is working out.

In closing I share Council's deep gratitude for all Ray Franson did for our Church since his arrival in Rangeley back in 1992. Ray continued to attend Sunday worship with Evelyn via Zoom up to his passing on January 21st and we will miss him dearly. Evelyn shared a snapshot of Ray's contribution to our Church over the years helping to care for building and grounds, he was a



gifted woodworker and made the shelf under the stained glass window, the riser for the cross, the black risers for the bell choir, constructed the hymnal racks, constructed and painted the window valances, drew plans and lead the carpentry work to remodel the old barn into its present functional community space, East Room redesign including the wood case by the office door, drew plans for the office addition, designed and built the main entrance of the sanctuary, and was key to the parsonage renovation when purchased in 2002. I'm sure there's more but you get the idea, wherever you look Ray's touch is there and we are forever grateful.

Blessings to you all,

Cyndy Egan, Council Moderator



Buildings and Grounds Committee Rick Baker

- Snow, ice, more snow and sub-zero temps. No question what season we are in.
- The Sanctuary struggles with comfortably heating in these sub-zero temps. I've tried different timing modes, but it hasn't made any difference. When this Arctic weather goes back where it belongs the church will be more comfortable. The Barn and Fellowship Hall are just fine and toasty. Good fleece or sweaters are the order of the day.
- We have needed more sanding, salting and plowing because of weather.
- Motion Outdoor lights were installed before December 24 by John Pape. He gave us a 50% discount on his labor.
- Barn furnace thermostat was replaced with a digital one. The Zone heating has been an issue because the zone control paddles (2) needed new servomotors (2) They are on order. Until they are installed keep common door open to East Room and leave that thermostat at 50. That room gets it's heat from the big room.
- Office Rinnai is backed up with a battery/surge protector.
- Flooring project East Room: flooring has been selected and just waiting for installer quote.

Respectfully submitted, Rick B B&G



Deacon News

Claire Chase
Lucy Simonds

As we were reminded by Gretchen Legler’s in her message on Sunday, we are gaining light each day. Since Christmas Eve we have gained nearly an hour of daylight. A visual reminder of the light that Christ brings to us all. Praise be.

February, though, will see us entering Lent on the 18th which is Ash Wednesday. Lent is a time for spiritual reflection as we journey to Easter.

One opportunity for our faith family to reflect and envision will be February 8th when the F-Team will lead us in a brainstorming session and discussion about what types of services we might offer each other when there is not a worship leader available. So mark your calendars and be thinking about this question.

We are looking forward to welcoming Pastor Rick Dorian from the Wilton Church later this month as we will be doing a *pulpit swap* with Pastor Scott leading worship there. Gretchen will return in March along with her partner who will be offering special music. We are richly blessed.

Below is the worship leadership schedule for the next couple of months.

The Deacons

February	March
1st - Communion with Pastor Scott	1st - Communion with Pastor Scott
8th - F-Team	8th - Rev. Stan
15th - Rev. Stan	15th - Rev. Scott
22nd - MESoM Sunday with Pastor Rick Dorian from Wilton CC	22nd - Gretchen Legler
	29th - PALM Sunday - Rev. Stan



Nancy Zambraski

Women's Fellowship is taking a well-deserved break and will resume in May, but the Women's Winter Social is going strong. If you are interested in attending, please contact Marcia Baker (marciambaker150@gmail.com) to get on the email list. You can participate in games, puzzles, knitting, fellowship and a soup lunch – something for everyone to warm the soul during these cold winter months. Gatherings occur on the second and fourth Fridays of the month from 10-12 pm, and are held in the Barn. In addition, "Mahjong in the Barn" is meeting from 1-3 pm on the first and third Mondays of the month. A big thanks to Marcia for organizing these meetings. Women's Fellowship will be meeting to distribute funds from the 2025 summer festivals and Holly Fair on May 8th – our first meeting of the 2026 season. More info will follow in the future. Anyone in need of a prayer shawl, please let me know. If you have prayer shawls to donate, you can drop it off at the barn during Women's Winter Social. Please contact me with any questions. (nzambraski@gmail.com).

On a more somber note, Women's Fellowship would like to offer our deepest sympathies to Evelyn Franson on the passing of Ray. For many years Evelyn provided tremendous leadership to Women's Fellowship. Ray made several wonderful craft items for our fairs and captured our Holly Fairs and many other church events through his marvelous photos. He was a fine man, greatly respected and will be deeply missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with Evelyn and the whole Franson family.

Be kind and stay warm,

Nancy Zambraski (Co-chair)



Mission

Don Miller

We will be meeting in the near future to decide where we need to go and come up with ideas as to what we might do.

Our next special offering will be One Great Hour of Sharing.



Women’s Winter Social Marcia Baker

Women’s Winter Social has been meeting twice monthly and pulls in approximately 50 percent community members. Mahjong in the Barn continues to meet 1st and 3rd Mondays from 1-3pm.

February / March

2026 Facilities and Events Highlights Calendar

Activity/Event	Time/Day	February & March Dates	
WORSHIP Sanctuary	10:00am, Sunday	Feb 1 – Pastor Scott Hatfield Feb 8 –F-Team Feb 15 –Rev. Stan Wheeler Feb 22 – Richard Dorian Mar 1 – Pastor Scott Hatfield Mar 8 – Rev. Stan Wheeler Mar 15 – Rev. Stan Wheeler Mar 22 – Gretchen Legler Mar 29 – Rev. Stan Wheeler	
	Palm Sunday		
COFFEE HOUR Barn	11:00am, Sunday	(see dates above)	
FINANCE COMMITTEE East Room & Zoom	3:15pm, Monday	Feb 9	March 9
COUNCIL COMMITTEE East Room & Zoom	4:00pm, Monday	Feb 9	March 9
DEACONS’ MEETING East Room & Zoom	3:00pm, Monday	Feb 16	March 16
MAHJONG IN THE BARN Barn	1:00-3:00pm, 1 st & 3 rd Mondays	Feb 2 & 16	March 2 & 16
WINTER WOMENS SOCIAL Barn	10am-12pm , 2 nd & 4 th Fri’s.	Feb 13 & 27	March 13 & 27

