

Mountain Reflections

Rangeley Congregational Church, United Church of Christ

P.O. Box 218 Rangeley, Maine 04970



Annette Mott

You may not have been able to hear it, but the RCC church bell rang for four solid minutes on the afternoon of Sunday, August 25th, at 3:00 p.m. The Deacons had learned only the day before that the Fort Monroe National Monument setting of our National Park System was inviting all other national parks and community partners (including churches) to ring bells for four minutes at that time to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the first landing of enslaved Africans in English-occupied North America at Point Comfort, Virginia. The ringing was intended to be part of a day devoted to healing and reconciliation. The Park Service reminds us that bells are a symbol of freedom, and that they are also rung for joy, sorrow, alarm, and celebration—all of these occasions evoking the complex mixture of emotions present as we honor the significance of four centuries of African American history and culture.

A number of people gathered at the church for the bell ringing, but our actual bell ringer (and for the full four minutes—quite a feat!) was Eamon Mather, eight years old and the son of Anna Mather. I know seeing Eamon ring that bell filled my own heart with hope for a better future for the wonderful mix of races that make up this beautiful America—a hope for a future better than our past, and better than our present.

That hope will only be realized for Eamon and for all our children and grandchildren if we do the necessary work. The negative experiences that my son John and daughter-in-law Tempy, who is Afro-Caribbean, have had in Maine since Tempy moved here to be with John, have spurred me to do



my own work in this regard. I am currently reading “Waking Up White” by Debby Irving, recommended to me by our own Sarah Johnson, and then I will read “White Fragility” by Robin DiAngelo, recommended to me by my son John. Both books are written by white women. You may be thinking, shouldn’t she be reading something written by people of color? Of course, you are right—I need to be reading a range of racial perspectives and backgrounds, too. But these two books are concentrating on the changes we white folks need to make in our thinking and relating in order to really hear what people of color are saying to us.

I am a little over half way through Irving’s book, and I find it enlightening and provocative reading. I don’t resonate with everything she says, partly because I didn’t come from an upper class/country club background like she did. On the other hand, I had a much more overtly racist upbringing than she did, at least until my junior high years when my family moved from the South to Maine.

Is there “work” that you are engaged in to create a better racial future for all of us? I would love to hear about it!

Shalom,

Pastor Annette



Rick Baker

The Council, at their first meeting of the new year, in their wisdom, (or lack thereof,) re-elected me to act as your President/ Moderator and Paula to be Vice President/Moderator. I appreciate the trust and support all have shown us. Over this next year I will strive to continue to keep the congregation informed and updated as to the workings of Council. I’ll do it with coffee hour updates, posting the approved Council Minutes in the binder in the East Room, and as necessary, at organized meetings.



Our first tasks are to review the Mutual Ministry Goals last drafted in 2018 and do our annual review of “paid employees,” those are our Minister, Minister of Music, and our church secretary. This is an annual process that gets input from each council member and in turn from members of their committees. So feel free to pass on any comments to me or any other Council Members.

Our 2019-20 Council Members:

Treasurer: Paula Hatfield

Clerk: Linda Caspar

Members at Large: Rick Baker, Kit Caspar, Lourrie Chandler, and Cheryl Curris

Building and Grounds and Sexton: Diane Van Amburg

Christian Ed: Corinne Sorenson

Deacons: Scott Hatfield

Finance: Millie Hoekstra

Mission: Dave Walker

Women’s Fellowship: Nancy Zambraski

Minister of Music: Sue Downes-Borko

And of course Pastor Annette

Please keep our Search Committee and our Church in your thoughts and prayers.

Rick Baker

Moderator/Council President



Evelyn Franson

Ah, the cooler breezes of September surround our prayer shawl gals these days as they gather on the first and third Mondays in the Barn to knit, crochet or weave shawls designed to be given to folks on the various occasions of celebration or sorrow. Here is but one note received recently:

“Well, I am finally getting around to the “thank you” notes. The “Prayer of Blessing” shawl is BEAUTIFUL and such a quiet color! Please thank all for me.”

I especially noted this friend's referring to her new shawl as a “Prayer of Blessing.” Folks have referred to these stitches of love gathered into a shawl in various ways, but hers is new to us and captures our work so beautifully. God is good, in so many ways all the time!

Our monthly reminder: All are invited to stop by during our work sessions on Sept. 2 and 16 to see what is going on or, better yet, bring your hand work and join us. We have a closet of yarns, needles, etc. for any lapsed knitters or crocheters. We look for you anytime from 2-3:30. The more the merrier.



Donna Wilcox

The Christian Education Committee has reviewed the attendance pattern for the Sunday School program and felt that since the majority of Sundays there are no children there will be no Sunday



School this year. As we do not want to completely forget the young people of our community or church we have come up with a new program that would include:

1. Child care during service for children four and under hoping to engage young families in our service. This would be staffed by volunteers and a list will be posted in The Barn for sign-up. Activity bags would still be in the foyer for any older children that attend.
2. An individually customized Christian Education program will be prepared for those children that attend occasionally. This could include an "At Home Leaflet" from the Whole People of God program that includes bible readings, faith sharing activities and prayer. These follow the lectionary and are done in units. They would keep a journal and a time would be set up to meet with a teacher to review.
3. Occasional special events will be provided 4-5 times a year and publicized to the wider community. These might include pumpkin decorating, Christmas tree decorating, sledding party, game night, etc.
4. Veterans weekend we will have a pizza night for the teens from Andover, MA.

The Christian Ed committee meets the first Tuesday of the month at 8:30 in the morning. Please join us.



Finance Committee

Paula Hatfield

As the weather cools and the first leaves begin to turn red and orange, the finance committee's attention turned to heating fuels for the upcoming winter. At our August meeting, the committee voted to prebuy fuel for the church for the 2019-20 heating season. Hopefully this winter won't be quite as long as last year's! The finance committee along with the buildings and grounds committee will continue to explore ways to minimize the impact of utility costs on the church. As always, your input and participation are welcomed at our monthly meetings on the second Monday of each month at 3pm in the East Room of the Barn.



Buildings and Grounds Committee

Diane VanAmburg

Well, I found my first red leaf so we all know what comes next. I'm trying to think positive about it. This past month we had the buildings power washed by Rick and Derek. The shutters on the church have been painted and put back up by Fred and Derek. Fred took down a little tree that was growing beside the driveway and street. Wasp nests were sprayed and now need to be taken down. Dick Moore is still faithfully emptying the wastebaskets in the offices and bathrooms. Thanks to all these helpers who help behind the scenes to keep the church going.



Have you all noticed the flocks flowers in the garden by the driveway? We have red ones along with pink and purple. The lilies have been blooming all summer also. Nancy has planted some baby hostas. Let's hope they make it through the winter.

Enjoy the rest of summer and here's hoping for a long and wonderful autumn.

Buildings and Grounds: Rick Baker, Dick Moore, Derek Wendelken, Kirby Holcombe, and Diane VanAmburg



Deacon News

Scott Hatfield

The Living Water Association will hold its Fall outdoor worship service in Jackman on September 15. There will be a luncheon provided by the locals at 12:30 at the church and then an outdoor worship service on the Moose River at 1:30. After the worship service the Association will hold its fall meeting (optional). All churches in our association are encouraging their folks to travel to Jackman and participate if possible. The Deacons encourage all to participate who are able. For those who cannot, or choose to worship in Rangeley that day, we will conduct a simpler, abbreviated service of prayer, hymns, and contemplation. Note that Rev. Annette will not be present and there will be no coffee hour that week.

Both of our congregation's Members in Discernment (Becky Walker and Scott Hatfield) begin a new phase of their journey this month. From September 23 until February 7 of next year, they will be engaged in Clinical Pastoral Education at MaineMed in Portland, essentially training and serving as Chaplains. This certification, required by our Association for ordination, involves at least 400 contact hours – a very significant commitment. They will be ministering to people of many different faiths who are dealing with all the challenges that arise in times of illness, need, and grief. We ask that you



keep both Becky and Scott in your prayers during this time as they travel back and forth and offer themselves in ministry at MaineMed.

Our Deacons of the Month for September are Fred and Evelyn. Please reach out to any Deacon with any needs or suggestions.



Nancy Zambraski

It was a picture-perfect Rangeley summer day for the Annual Blueberry Festival and that brought out lots of festival-goers. The Women's Fellowship tent was a lively one with good, steady sales of the Rada Cutlery, crafts and jams as we continue to supply quality products for our fund raisers. Many thanks to those that helped set-up and tear-down the tents and to our wonderful, cheerful ladies who volunteered to "wo"man the booth.

Now it's time to buckle down with our crafting projects as we are looking forward to the Holly Fair. This year the Fair will be held on Saturday, November 23th from 10 am to 2 pm. It will be here before we know it. We are always in need of baskets for the Holly Fair, so if you have any you'd like to contribute, please let me know. And very soon we will be asking our bakers and jam makers to help contribute to the Holly Fair food table.

One of the missions of the Women's Fellowship group this year is to have an opportunity for *all* the women to participate even if they can't make the Friday meeting time. So, our first event is scheduled for Tuesday, September 24. It will be a Women's Fellowship Mystery Ride! We will meet at the church at 5 pm for the mystery ride. It's sure to be a fun time and dinner is included! If you can make it, please email me so we can get everyone organized (nzambraski@gmail.com). More details to come in our email blast.



The Women's Fellowship group meets the 2nd and 4th Friday of the month in the Barn from 10-12. Starting in October, we will meet every Friday until the Holly Fair. We have had great, joyful groups with crafts for all abilities. Anyone is welcome, so bring your friends and neighbors.

Respectfully,

Nancy Zambraski, Co-chair

You are Invited!

Walk on
El Camino de Santiago
Presentation

Ice Cream Sundae
Gathering



Continuing our Sunday Sundae Gatherings, we invite the community to join us at the Rangeley Congregational Church on Sunday, September 29 at 4:00. Sarah Johnson will share her experiences and pictures from her time walking the Camino de Santiago. This network of trails terminates in northwest Spain at the traditional burial place of St. James. From medieval times pilgrims have walked these trails both individually and in community. Come and hear stories and see the pictures. As with our Holy Lands presentation, ice cream treats will be enjoyed by all!

September Facilities and Events Highlights Calendar on next page



September Facilities and Events Highlights Calendar

Activity	Day	Date	Time	Place
Worship	Sunday	September 1 September 8 September 15 September 22 September 29	10-11 am	Sanctuary
Mission Board	Sunday	September 8 September 15 September 22 September 29	8:30 -9:30 am	East Room
Prayer Shawl Ministry	Monday	September 2 September 16	2-3:30 pm	Barn
Men's Breakfast	Monday	September 9	8-9 am	TBA
Finance Committee	Monday	September 9	3-4 pm	East Room
Church Council	Monday	September 9	4-6 pm	East Room
Deacons	Monday	September 23	4-6 pm	East Room
Christian Ed.	Tuesday	September 2	8:30-9:30 am	East Room
Pastor "Walk-In" Hours	Tuesday	September 3 September 10 September 17 September 24	1-3 pm	Pastor's Office
Rangeley Ringers	Wednesday	September 4	8-9:30 am	Sanctuary
Women's Fellow- ship	Friday	September 13 September 27	10 am—Noon	Barn

A full list of Calendar Events can be found on our website: www.rangeleyucc.org