

Mountain Reflections

Rangeley Congregational Church, United Church of Christ

P.O. Box 218 Rangeley, Maine 04970



Rick Baker

It's now been 8 weeks without us getting together for worship. It seems like so much longer. Most everyone is finding their own ways of coping and keeping contact with family and friends. I certainly never expected to be using Zoom and Face Time as much as we have. In some respects, that may be the "silver lining" with learning how to deal with Covid-19. It has been so nice to literally "see" our family and friends both near and far. Also the humor that many have found and shared keeps a smile on my face.

The Council met on April 13 via Zoom. I thought it actually worked pretty well, but there is a learning curve with a larger group. The meeting reminded me that even though we aren't in the Sanctuary, church members are continuing in their work on behalf of the church. After the Council meeting, a couple of days later, we met and discussed next fiscal year's budget and passed it, pending approval of the congregation at the Annual Meeting (July 12, God willing). As last year, we will set up a "Q&A" session the week before the Annual Meeting to answer questions that require more timely answers / discussion.

On April 28, Governor Mills announce the plan for moving the state forward. Progress through the stages is totally predicated on following all the guidelines about social distancing; wear face covers and limit gatherings of up to 10 for Stage 1 (May 1) and up to 50 for Stage 2(June1). We are in the process of how RCC will respond to the new guidelines. There has been formed a "Covid Advisory Group" (Nancy, Zenna, Sandy, Cheryl, and myself: all health care professionals) who follow Maine CDC and new information to advise Council on issues of when to open, have Candidate Sunday, safety measures to be in place, etc. I will pass on any decision about unlocking the doors, etc.

Please be safe and be patient. Call a friend, take a walk on a nice day, and take care of yourselves.

Peace

Rick



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

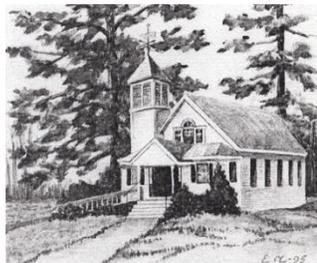
Finance: Millie Hoekstra

Mission: Dave Walker

Women's Fellowship: Nancy Zambraski

Minister of Music: Sue Downs-Borko

PSP Committee: Marcia Baker



Buildings and Grounds Committee

Diane VanAmburg

Hi everyone,

Hope you are all well. The new issues of "Upper Room" for May and June will be left in a plastic bag on the church front door. There are still some issues for "Theses Days" for April, May and June and they will be there also. Keep healthy.

Blessings,

Diane

Buildings and Grounds Committee:

Dick Moore, Kirby Holcombe, Derek Wendelken, Rick Baker, Fred Dubay, and Diane VanAmburg



Deacon News

Scott Hatfield

The Deacons continue to meet and work, albeit virtually. Working collaboratively with Council, we have extended the suspension of our worship services. As I write this, our Governor has just issued guidance for the relaxation of restrictions. We will continue to monitor the situation with the intention of restarting services as soon as it is safe to do so. Please watch these newsletters regarding our plans, including when we can hold our Candidating Sunday for our prospective minister.

For now, we are emphasizing a number of alternatives to our typical services:

- The conference continues to promote a number of online services. Exploring the link, <https://www.maineucc.org/ourlifetogether/covid19/>, gives a number of good options.
- We also continue to encourage people to contribute materials to our weekly newsletters. We welcome everything from the light-hearted to the serious. The Deacons are providing an Order of Worship using UCC resources.
- We have a number of folks who are deeply committed to outreach and keeping us all connected. Phone calls are being made to offer encouragement and to check in. If you'd like to participate, please contact Linda Caspar or Marcia Baker for more information.

We have realized that we have not been regularly updating and communicating our prayer list. We'd like to restart that in coming weeks. Please send any needs that you become aware of to the Deacon of the Month. For May it will be Scott Hatfield, shatfield30005@gmail.com. As a reminder, please check in with those you wish to put forward and get their permission before you put identifiable individuals in your request.

We recognize that many people might be struggling during this difficult time – economically, from isolation, and from stress. Your Deacons are available to assist. Please contact any one of us if you become aware of a person with needs.

Our association's virtual Spring Meeting will be held this Sunday, May 3. If you're interested in attending, please contact Scott or Becky for instructions.

Our Deacon of the Month for May is Scott Hatfield. Please reach out to any Deacon with any needs or suggestions.



Ecumenical Church Project

Marcia Baker

A special thanks to Linda Casper and our 7 volunteers for checking in with our church family through phone calls. The NCN (Neighbors Calling Neighbors) program, who have regularly been calling community members, have expanded to the other three churches. To date, each church are using volunteers to make phone calls to its members.

Marcia



Finance Committee

Paula Hatfield

Spring looks like it's finally arriving here in Rangeley! It's always such a nice reward for making it through another long winter. The Finance Committee held its regular monthly meeting on April 13th at 3pm via Zoom.

The Committee reviewed and approved our proposed FY 2020-2021 budget for presentation to the Council. The proposed budget is based on the requests each committee has submitted guided by historical data and anticipated changes. On April 16th, we presented the proposed budget to the Council via Zoom conference. It was approved for presentation to the congregation at the Annual Meeting scheduled for July 12th. Our auditors, Don Miller and Linda Wendelken, will meet with Treasurer Paula Hatfield in May to conduct our annual audit of the church's finances.

In addition to using Zoom to meet online, another new technology tool we're utilizing is the online version of our financial software, Church Windows. We transitioned from a single desktop platform to the online version in March when it became evident that it would be prudent to have the ability to handle church finances from our home offices. This enables Finance to handle membership, donations, and accounting remotely, fully equipping us to function in the current shelter in place environment. Another bonus is that Finance will no longer need to coordinate schedules with the church secretary for the use of a single church computer. This is a big advantage during June and July when we're producing the Annual report in a relatively short time frame.

Please remember that we appreciate receiving your contributions by mail at:

Rangeley Congregational Church

PO Box 218

Rangeley, ME 04970

Stewardship will begin our 2020-2021 campaign in May. Watch for upcoming emails and mailings from the Stewardship Committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula Hatfield, Treasurer



Music Notes

Sue Downes-Borko

It has been a month of learning, adapting and hoping.

Learning what options are out there for recording music with limited equipment and skill.

Adapting to this reality, trying to attach music files to each mini-newsletter.

Hoping that it is working well enough to provide a small sense of normalcy and perhaps bring comfort or peace or joy in our time of need.

Obviously, there will be no bell choir or adult choir rehearsals in the foreseeable future. The Maine Spring Ring has been reimagined as the Maine Fall Ring on October 24.

Many thanks to Sam and Derek for participating in our music virtually. They are definitely ahead of me on the recording curve and have stepped up to help.

Let me know if there are other ways that I can bring music to the congregation. And, if there are specific pieces of music you need/want to hear.

Be well, and keep singing!

Sue



Nancy Zambraski

Greetings to you all. This time of year, we look forward to Spring occurring, ice out, and gradually seeing our seasonal people returning. Well, in these strange times we are looking forward to seeing even our local people! With this "Stay at Home" order going on it is recommended that *IF* we have to leave our houses (groceries, mail, pharmacy) that we all wear face coverings. What the women's fellowship co-chairs decided is to let our women's fellowship "seamstresses" make the type and quantity of face coverings they choose and give to friends and family who need them. Below are 2 options for mask patterns. One was sent out by the Maine UCC conference and the other one is a neat "no-sew" option. And just to reiterate, these are not medical grade masks, they are meant to protect other people from you (if you have the virus and are not showing symptoms).

As of this past Tuesday it appears the "stay at home" restrictions will continue through May, therefore Women's Fellowship will not be meeting on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month. But that doesn't mean you're off the hook for crafting. I encourage you find some craft that brings you joy that you think will be a meaningful contribution to the Holly Fair. Also think of us when you're cleaning out those closets for our Santa's Seconds table or when you're finding all those extra baskets. We can always use baskets!

Let's all do one act of kindness each day. Call a friend, make cookies for your neighbor, pick up mail for an elderly neighbor. Send me your acts of kindness. I would love to post your "good deeds" so we all have ideas. Plus, we will "reap the benefits" ourselves. And boy, do we all need a bit of a boost these days.

Have faith, stay home, be safe, wash your hands, don't touch your face, get out and go for a walk, clean out your closets and craft, craft, craft! For those returning to Rangeley soon it is required that you all self-quarantine for 14 days. The IGA offers free curbside pickup service as their preferred shopping method to protect both customers and employees. If you need any help during those 14 days, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Blessings to all,

Nancy

Maine UCC video

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q0Esk4_Q78A&t=228s&authuser=0

No-sew mask

<https://www.facebook.com/100006270766083/posts/2677395425812790/>