

# Mountain Reflections

Rangeley Congregational Church, United Church of Christ

P.O. Box 218 Rangeley, Maine  
04970

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Rev. Leslie Chatfield

Greetings dear Church Family,

The kaleidoscope of colors that awaken my spirit on the way to Rangeley in the morning is a joy and a blessing to be sure! I pass by Height of Land to look over the crisp color variety of orange and yellow leaves around the lake and the dark shaded mountains touched tenderly by a gentle white cloud cover, teasing the look of snow on them - as they will be in not too long! It's hard to believe that it has only been eight weeks since we started on our journey together! It was so warm then! My tomatoes in my garden are now living under bed sheets and feeling protected by my vigilant care but their days are numbered, to be sure. Questions about managing safety as we gather inside are being considered at each temperature drop. This is definitely 'a one step at a time' process. Despite the change in season, our Sunday Zoom services have been received well as we gather from near and far, with little concern about Summer or Fall, and are blessed to have the opportunity to continue to see folks we would ordinarily be bidding adieu to at this time of year. It's good to keep a keen eye on the gifts we're offered, isn't it?

There have been a number of folks who have asked me about the possibility of uploading our Sunday services, or even just the Sunday morning's message, on to You Tube so that they can be viewed at different times for a variety of reasons. We need to be considering specific particulars of using You Tube that have the potential to affect the services to which we are accustomed. The service is composed as a whole with a watchful eye to music and prayers that augment the Scripture readings; much would be lost without viewing the service as a whole. Uploading the whole service could take upwards of three hours; that's prohibitive, indeed. A profound blessing of our Zoom gathering is the greeting time we all have come to love where we get to check in with one another just prior to the service. In addition, there are very serious licensing considerations, with regard to the use of music outside the domain of standard church music, that we must factor in to such a decision and there are royalties that have to be considered; confidentiality issues, too, must be considered. While some churches have just jumped right in to the process of uploading services to You Tube, we, here at RCC, are wisely and mindfully reviewing the multi-faceted dimensions, e.g. legal, practical, necessity and economy of effort etc., of getting started on You Tube *before* we act on such a complex decision. The process is currently under review and after considerable discussion, we'll see how it all unfolds. We'll keep you posted.

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The weekly Sunday morning after-the-service Coffee Hours, outdoors, are delightful gatherings of laughter and friendship, joyful interchange and uplifting banter. Jackets, socks, light gloves, baseball caps, and individual thermos drinks are becoming more the rule than the exception. Nonetheless, the more the merrier! Everyone is truly being very careful and thoughtful. Many thanks to all!

Recently, by request, we've been talking more about the possibility of a weekly gathering on Zoom (of course) for a Bible Study "type" of discussion, perhaps on a Tuesday evening to discuss, 'perhaps,' the Sunday Bible readings, or thoughts inspired by the message from the pulpit as well as continued thoughts after considering them, for a day or two. Stay tuned! May God's love and light guide us on our way!

Peace to us all, +Leslie



Rick Baker

Welcome to fall! The colors this year seem so brilliant and that's coming from someone who is color blind!

In my absence from Council last month, the members saw fit to re-elect me as your Moderator. There's a lesson there somewhere. But in truth, it is my privilege and honor to fill this role. Also, it so enjoyable to work with Rev. Leslie. I can't wait for the time when we can return to services in person and have her "unleash" herself from the Pulpit so we can enjoy her full style of doing services. We have been having discussions, as well as many others, on how to increase our interaction and engage each other during these "Covid Times". So "stay tuned" for that, so to speak.

As Council, we are looking at strategies of "How" to reopen when time is right. All plans I have read that appear well thought out have a very measured, small steps forward depending on circumstances. Almost all recommend doing virtual services, like we are and suggesting that as we move forward we keep the virtual part of our service even when we go back to the Sanctuary. Did you ever imagine 6 months ago that you would be getting good at using Zoom? We have already enjoyed having folks from away attend the service who otherwise would not be able too. Also, during this early phase keeping the sanctuary only for those involved in the production of the service. We have been respectful of social distancing and mask wearing as evidenced by our "Coffee Time" gathering out of doors after the service. It is good to see folks and have conversation and catch up a bit, even if we can only see each other's eyes. As time progresses and the threat of infection passes, we will be able to move slowly forward. We just have to have patience.

We have a new Secretary / Administrative Assistant: Sandy Reynolds. She is a terrific person and brings a great skill set to that role.

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She is in the office one day a week, but if you want to see her it needs to be by appointment, with social distancing and wearing a mask. E-mails to the church are checked regularly so it is a good way to contact her or Rev. Leslie.

Stay safe. Wear your masks (doctors and nurses have been doing it for decades for good reason) showing your respect for others, and be kind.

Peace

Rick



## Buildings & Grounds Committee

Diane VanAmburg



Hi all, another month has gone by. The leaves are beautiful. Went up Quill Hill on Saturday and had a lovely moose cross in front of us. He had a vine wrapped in his antlers. It was fun to watch him. The view was spectacular all around us. Hope others have had a chance to do this also.

Now on to B & G news. This past month Fred Dubay fixed the hinges of the door that goes down to the barn basement. Thanks Fred.

ABT cleaned the furnaces in the barn and LMS. The repairs have been made to LMS burner. The chimney cap was also replaced by them.

Arbor Tree Service will be taking down the pine tree and doing away with both stumps sometime this next month. Waiting for a date for this.

Dead River will be coming in Oct to give an estimate on replacing the kerosene heater in the church for a gas burner.

ABT has been contacted for them to give an estimate too. Waiting to hear when from them.

Contacted Phillips Construction for estimate on doing siding on LMS next year, waiting for this also.

The snow shovels and salt buckets are in place for you all know what!

Thanks to the B & G team: Fred Dubay, Derek Wendelken, Kirby Holcombe, Rick Baker and Diane VanAmburg.

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## Deacon News

Scott Hatfield

This month has been fairly slow. We continue to utilize Zoom for our worship services. We appreciate the work is being done by so many throughout our congregation. Derek, Scott, Sam, and Dave are now in rotation. Please continue to get any suggestions to Rev. Leslie or any Deacon.

In coming weeks we will begin to plan our Advent season. We welcome your input as we think about how to adapt our practices to cold weather and Covid.

As a reminder, our Living Water Association meeting for the fall will occur on October 18 at 1:30. Following the business meeting, Becky Walker will have her Ecclesiastical Council. We wish her all the best. All are welcome to participate via Zoom.

Our Deacon of the Month for October is Linda Caspar. Please reach out to any Deacon with any needs or suggestions.



## Mission Board

Dave Walker

The Missions Committee has officially cancelled the 2020 Turkey Dinner due to the inability to social distance. As you know, this is the major fundraising program for the missions committee that enables assistance to neighborly and worldly mission needs. Donations marked turkey dinner fund are always welcomed to provide resources for the RCC missions.

The UCC "Neighbors in Need" is a special mission offering that supports ministries of justice and compassion. This mission offering is one of the UCC 5 for 5 mission programs that the RCC supports as a church. The RCC Neighbors in Need mission offering will be held on Sunday November 8<sup>th</sup>. Please tune in to the Sunday, November 8<sup>th</sup> service. We may have a surprise guest visitor.

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## Finance Committee

Paula Hatfield

The Finance Committee met on September 14<sup>th</sup> via Zoom to review August financial reports and activity. Exceptional expenses for August included the cleaning and repair of the furnaces in the Barn and LMS buildings and the payment of seven scholarships to recipients designated by the Scholarship Committee. The Scholarships are funded by donations in addition to the \$500 that the church budgets each year for scholarships. Fuel prebuys are locked in for the upcoming winter and have been paid in September. Prices are down from last year and we had a small credit balance left with Dead River that was applied toward the amount owed for the prebuy propane. The mid-year financial review and analysis will be done at the end of December, with results shared at the January council meeting and subsequent newsletter.

A few months ago, the Finance Committee discussed online giving options and decided that the overhead processing fees that would be incurred made it inadvisable to pursue further. This was presented to the Council who concurred. Although we are worshipping and meeting via Zoom, we still incur our normal operating expenses so any contributions you would like to give are greatly appreciated!

Please mail your contributions to:

Rangeley Congregational Church  
Attn: Financial Secretary  
PO Box 218  
Rangeley, ME 04970

As always, your input and participation are welcomed at our monthly meetings on the second Monday of each month at 3pm. Please contact Paula at [rangeleyuccfinance@gmail.com](mailto:rangeleyuccfinance@gmail.com) for a zoom invite.

Respectfully Submitted,

Paula Hatfield  
Treasurer and Chair of Finance

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## Nancy Zambraski

Fall has arrived in Rangeley and the cool temperatures and changing leaves are always breath-taking. We will soon be saying goodbye to our summer ladies. I, for one, have missed our Friday fellowship gatherings this year. It just wasn't the same. I know we are all hoping and praying for more normalcy next year.

Last year at this time we were "All Hands on Deck" preparing for the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Holly Fair. Since we won't be holding our typical Holly Fair this year, we are looking into how we can potentially hold a "virtual" Holly Fair. For anyone who has been crafting, knitting, making jam or other things, please contact me and let me know if you have any items that might be appropriate to include, so we can come up with a game plan.

If you or anyone you know could use a bit of "cheering up" or would be grateful for a phone call, please contact me. Our Women's Fellowship ladies are just what is ordered. "Fellowship" comes in many ways, even if we can't meet in person.

Safe travels to all who are leaving our beautiful Rangeley area this Fall. Know that you are all in our thoughts and prayers.

Nancy Zambraski



## Music Notes

Sue Downes-Borko

I can't thank those individuals who have stepped up to lead our singing at Zoom worship enough. If getting involved in this way interests you, please let me know. Also, if you have a hymn request or other request for special music, just let me know. Keep singing—safely!

