

# Mountain Reflections

Rangeley Congregational Church, United Church of Christ

P.O. Box 218 Rangeley, Maine

04970

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Cyndy Egan

Happy New Year!

Advent not only begins the Christmas season but also the Church's New Year! The Rangeley Congregational Church is steeped in tradition during Advent as the wreath finds its way to the altar with tapered candles awaiting their turn to be lit on the Sundays of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. Our golden Christmas ornaments will adorn the fresh cut Christmas Tree and the Christmas Eve Service will be candle-lit, contemplative and carols sung while we welcome Christ's birth. As I sit in the pews this Christmas season my mind will drift to my fondest memories of prior Advents and Christmas Eves that involved my daughters Maddi and Brooke. How my prayers were answered that nothing caught fire during one Christmas Eve service when Rev. David Wright had the girls (they were middle school age) light dozens and dozens of candles throughout the sanctuary and the girls' relief also evident when they returned to the pew. My fond memories continue through the years to their times home on college break standing at the altar reading bible passages of the Christmas story.

We all carry our special remembrances during this time and though our lives change with loved ones arriving and departing, and we move forward creating new memories thankful for God's constant presence and carrying the Hope, Peace, Love and Joy as we celebrate Jesus's birth this season.

Merry Christmas!

Cyndy Egan, Council Moderator



Music Notes

Sue Downes-Borko

There are several free events that include holiday music coming up. Hope to see you there!

December 8 Walk to Bethlehem

December 13 Community Chorus Holiday Concert

December 15 Bell Choir at RCC Worship Service



Mission

Sue Downes-Borko  
Don Miller

Mission would like to thank our church family for the support in the Neighbors in Need offering and Harvest Breakfast!



Deacon News

Claire Chase  
Lucy Simonds

December Greetings to All!

December is a curious month.

Each day *seems* colder and *is* darker as we move relentlessly towards the Winter Solstice on December 21st. While, at the same time, the season of Advent, has us waiting in anxious anticipation of Christ's birth as we light the candles of *Faith, Hope, Love, and Peace* each week. Darkness and light sharing the days and space in our thoughts.



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. This service will be 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

<b>December 1</b> - Communion – Pastor Scott Hatfield	<b>January 5</b> - Pastor Scott Hatfield
<b>December 8</b> - Decorating our tree – Rev. Tony MacNaughton	<b>January 12</b> - Rev. Tony MacNaughton
<b>December 15</b> - Rev. Stan Wheeler	<b>January 19</b> - Rev. Stan Wheeler
<b>December 22</b> - Rev. Stan Wheeler	<b>January 26</b> - Sips and Songs Hymn Sing
<b>December 24, Tuesday 5:00pm</b> - Pastor Scott Hatfield - Christmas Eve	
<b>December 29</b> - Rev. Stan Wheeler	



## Nancy Zambraski

As we move from Thanksgiving to the Christmas season, we reflect on how very grateful we are. On Saturday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> we held our 29<sup>th</sup> 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. (*Our backs thank you also.*) 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 Fair are donated to charity, and soon (date to be determined) following Sunday church service, all women of Women’s Fellowship will be invited to join together (in person and on zoom) to distribute the profits generated to charities. Once again, our focus will be to “keep it local” and make larger contributions so we can actually “make a difference.”

Women’s Fellowship will take 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 - 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Fridays of the month from 10 am – 12 noon in the Barn. In addition, **Ecumenical Mahjong** will be meeting from 1-3pm every Monday. If you are interested, please contact Marcia at [marciambaker150@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:nzambraski@gmail.com), or email the church at [rangeleyucc@gmail.com](mailto: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



## Buildings and Grounds Committee Rick Baker

Kutting Edge had its first plow of the season.

Shovels and ice melt/ sand are at entrances.

Mice are actively being trapped above LMS and traps set in kitchen but without any trapped there.

The Christmas tree will be put up mid-week to allow limbs to settle before decorating Sunday.

Respectfully submitted,

Rick B



DECEMBER

2024 Facilities and Events Highlights Calendar

Activity	Time/Day	December Dates
<b>WORSHIP</b> Sanctuary	10:00am, Sunday	Dec 1 – Pastor Scott Hatfield Dec 8 – Rev. Tony MacNaughton Dec 15 – Rev. Stan Wheeler Dec 22 – Rev. Stan Wheeler
Christmas Eve Service	5:00pm, Tuesday	Dec 24 – Pastor Scott Hatfield Dec 29 – Rev. Stan Wheeler
<b>COFFEE HOUR</b> Barn	11:00am, Sunday	(see dates above)
<b>FINANCE COMMITTEE</b> East Room & Zoom	3:15pm, Monday	Dec 9
<b>COUNCIL COMMITTEE</b> East Room & Zoom	4:00pm, Monday	Dec 9
<b>DEACONS' MEETING</b> East Room & Zoom	4:00pm, Monday	Dec 16
<b>ECUMENICAL MAHJONG</b> Barn	1:00-3:00pm, Mondays	Dec 2 & 16
<b>MOM/BABY SOCIAL HOUR</b> Barn	11:00am, Wednesdays	Dec 4, 11, 18
<b>PIANO/VOICE LESSONS</b> Sanctuary	3-5pm, Tues, Wed & Fri's.	Dec 3, 4, 6, 10, 11, 13, 17, 18, 20