

The Weathervane



RAYMOND VILLAGE COMMUNITY CHURCH, United Church of Christ Newsletter

April, 2023

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From the Pastor . . .

Dear RVCC members and friends,

With daylight savings and the spring season kicking in, I feel more excited about warmer weather coming our way. There is something special about this time of the year when we anticipate spring flowers and Easter, which is just around the corner. Yes, we are still in the season of Lent, but we have something to look forward to. New Beginnings, New Hope, New Life.

Two thousand years ago, some people thought that following Jesus was a crazy thing to do. They did not believe his teachings or that he was the Son of God. Some consider us foolish for standing in the cold to celebrate Jesus' resurrection. So why do we do it? We, as Christians, live in the Easter assurance that Jesus is alive. Even though we don't always recognize his presence, we take comfort that Mary Magdalene witnessed Jesus' new life on Easter morning, which is also promised to us. So, every day, not just on Easter, go out there and expect a miracle.

Over the next two weeks, it will be a busy season in the life of the Church, and I want to make you aware of the schedule for Holy Week:

Palm Sunday, April 2nd – For those unable to join us in person, palms will be available for pickup on Saturday, April 1st, in a bucket outside the vestry door. Be ready to wave your palms during the traditional introit "The Palms."

Maundy Thursday, April 6th - Tenebrae Service at 7:00 pm at RVCC

Good Friday, April 7th - Annual Casco Village/RVCC Hungry Homeless walk. Please plan to walk or pledge. All proceeds will go to Grace Street Ministries in Portland. Walk beginning at 5:30 am at Casco Village Church for the longer "walk," which is 16 miles; or for the shorter walk (8 miles), meet at RVCC at 8:00 am. (Pastor Petra will be walking 8 miles.)

Easter Sunday, April 9th - Easter Sunrise Service behind the Casco Village Church at 6:30 am

Easter Sunday, April 9th - Easter Service at 10:00 am at RVCC

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The Weathervane is published monthly for distribution at the first of each month. Articles may be submitted as paper copy, electronically via disk or email by the 15th of each month preceding the issue for it to be included in. Computer files should be submitted as MSWord (.doc) or rich text format (.rtf). If you have any questions contact Debbie Feagans or Judy Munson. Articles can be dropped off at the church office, mailed or emailed to: Raymond Village Community Church, PO Box 285, Raymond, ME 04071- office@rvccme.org or to Judy Munson, 23 Lawn Ave., Gorham, ME 04038 – cmmunson24@yahoo.com – Thank you for reading our newsletter!

This Month at RVCC . . .

April 2, 2023-	10:00 a.m. – Palm Sunday Worship
April 6, 2023-	7:00 p.m. – Maundy Thursday Tenebrae service
April 7, 2023-	8:00 a.m. – Good Friday Hunger Walk leaves from RVCC
April 9, 2023-	10:00 a.m. – Easter Worship
April 11, 2023-	5:00 p.m. – Deacon’s meeting (in person)
April 16, 2023-	10:00 a.m. – Worship
April 18, 2023-	5:00 p.m. – Council meeting on Zoom
April 23, 2023-	10:00 a.m. - Worship
April 30, 2023-	10:00 a.m. – Worship

Worship videos are available on the RVCC YouTube
Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCc1hBkBTarnZF-H4O7YN5ew>

Please join us for Coffee Hour after Worship!

The Knitting Group will meet on April 11 & 25, 2023 from
2:00 – 3:30 p.m.

Line Dancing is every Friday at 10:00 a.m.

Scouts, BSA Troop 800 meets every Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.

AA meets every Friday at 7:00 p.m.

Knitting & Crocheting Group

The knitting & crocheting group is back to making hats & mittens for the next few months. These are usually easy and fast and a good way to use some of our donated yarn! We have some new patterns and have some supplies to get you started and a group with lots of knowledge. We would love to share our knitting and crocheting experience with young or old, boy or girl! You are welcome to join us for our group meeting for some instruction or assistance. We are meeting inside in the Sunday School room next to the furnace room. For those of you who are comfortable in doing so, please join us on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month. Please let me know if you have any questions. Thanks! Brenda (bolsen001@maine.rr.com) or 207-838-0123

From the Pastor, continued . . .

After Easter, I will take time off from Monday, April 11th, through Monday, April 17th. Rev. Alison Curry will be covering pastoral emergencies during that week and Rev. Chan Roach will lead worship on Sunday April 16.

Blessings and Peace, Rev. Petra Smyth

Looking to the future, this year...

On March 5th, the congregation met after church. Our topics of discussion were:

1. **Pulpit Supply for the summer:** All Sundays from June 4 through Sept 3 are now covered with pulpit supply. There will be a special treat on Sunday 8/20. Chan Roach has agreed to cover pastoral emergencies and do some visitation.
Please note: Neither will cover some activities performed by Petra now, such as “stay in touch” calls, pastor articles/reports nor weddings/funerals, to name a few.
2. **Explore merger with another church:** We discussed possible churches to approach regarding a merger. The first step is for us to pull together our thoughts about what is important to us and more. This information would be used by Council when talking with another church’s governing board. Craig Messinger and Sarah Allen will be putting together a survey of the congregation, send it for you to complete, then collect and compile results. Meanwhile, Associate Conference Minister, Alexis Fuller-Wright, is contacting 2-3 area UCC churches to determine if there is a willingness to discuss merger.
3. **Find another ½ time pastor for RVCC:** Tom and Petra talked with Associate Conference Minister Alexis. She provided a small church profile for us to complete then submit to her. Nancy Yates and Deb Feagans are working on this now.

Our next meeting of the congregation is on Sunday May 7 after church.

LINE DANCING UPDATE:

The Friday, Beginner/Low Impact class, will continue through the winter at the same time, 10:00 - 11:30.

FMI: Contact Rachel Knights, rachelscountryhearts@yahoo.com or cell phone 207-232-1172.



Please keep the following people in your prayers:

Amanda, Kathleen Bent, Michael Cadotte,
Louise Doyle, Polly Dyer, Christine Eldridge,
Linda Eldridge, Rick Emery, Linda & John
Gregoire, Anita Holmquist, Bill Holmquist,
Christine Horwath, Lisa Lambert, Deb Rand,
Charlotte Rowe.

April Birthdays

April 2	Tom Wiley
April 4	Woody Beach
April 4	Tim Morris
April 12	Bekah Gagne

VERY SPECIAL BIRTHDAY WISHES TO

WOODY BEACH

WHO WILL TURN 94 ON April 4th!
Happy Birthday Woody!!!

APRIL LECTIONARY LESSONS

April 2, 2023 – Palm Sunday

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

Matthew 21:1-11

April 9, 2023 - Easter Day

*Acts 10:34-43 **or** *Jeremiah 31:1-6*

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

Colossians 3:1-4 **or** *Acts 10:34-43*

John 20:1-18 **or** *Matthew 28:1-10*

April 16, 2023 – Second Sunday of Easter

*Acts 2:14a, 22-32

Psalm 16

1 Peter 1:3-9

John 20:19-31

April 23, 2023 – Third Sunday of Easter

*Acts 2:14a, 36-41

Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19

1 Peter 1:17-23

Luke 24:13-35

April 30, 2023 – Fourth Sunday of Easter

*Acts 2:42-47

Psalm 23

1 Peter 2:19-25

John 10:1-10

Vitality Events

This spring, Maine Conference Minister Marisa (Rev. Dr. Marisa Laviola, P.h.D.) will be offering a vitality workshop, *Alive & Thrive at Any Size*, at four locations around the state. The workshops focus on church vitality for the 21st century, including the topics of:

- Becoming a mission church: reaching out into the greater community
- Engaging community partners for mission
- “Right sizing” governance to prevent burn out as numbers in the pews decrease
- Creative ways for pastors and lay leaders to work together
- Reaching the unchurched and inviting them into the life of the church

Marisa has presented these workshops many times as ACM in Penn Central Conference. Typically, they are geared toward smaller churches that are struggling to consider their future in the 21st century.

All churches and church members are invited because all of us are struggling with this question, no matter the size.

Please register for one of the following events by clicking on the appropriate link below:

[Winthrop Congregational Church - April 22](#)

[West Parish in Bethel - May 6](#)

[Hammond St. Congregational Church in Bangor - June 10](#)

All workshops are 9am to 3pm, bring your own lunch. Morning coffee and drinks for lunch are provided

Hybrid options are available at the April 22 and June 10 meetings.

Questions? Contact Marisa mlaviola@maineucc.org

Summary of March 13, 2023 Coordinating Council/Deacons Meeting

The meeting was called to order on March 13, 2023, at 5:00 PM, by Tom Wiley. Present were Tom, Rolf, Brenda, Petra, Caryl, Judy, Deb, and Nancy.

Caryl offered the opening prayer, Tom reviewed the agenda.

Treasurer's Report: Brenda reported that the financials through February look ok. Income was down a little, but rent from parsonage came in late. The excess expense was close to budget. She needs to withdraw \$10,000 from the American Funds for cash flow. This is not unexpected.

Reports of the Coordinators:

Clerk: nothing to report

Trustees: Water usage has been a little high, there is a toilet problem which he will fix. Rolf also reported that our yearly Corporate filing has been done.

Missions: Caryl reported that our collection for the food pantry of toiletries etc. went well.

Christian Education: Petra reported that the Lenten book study is going well. There are 6 people in the group, plus 2 who are reading on their own.

Stewardship: Brenda reported that we made \$89 from the Sweetheart brunch and St. Patricks dinner.

Deacons: Caryl reported that she has taken a list of what Petra does, and will make sure those duties are covered for the summer when we have supply pastors. There is a schedule of Deacons through the farewell service for Petra. We will have a Maundy Thursday Service. On Easter we hope to have a small choir singing. We encourage people to bring their own Easter flowers. There will be a Sunrise Service at the Casco Church as usual.

Moderator: nothing to report at this point.

Pastor: Petra reported that she will do the Good Friday Walk with members of the Casco Church. Donations collected will go to Grace Street Ministries.

Old Business: On June 3, at 10:30 PM, Marcia Charles will conduct a Litany of Closure Service for Petra. There will be a luncheon to follow. Caryl reported that she has only one more supply pastor to get for the summer months. Deb and Nancy are working on completing the profile for a short term pastor, Tom has already heard from Alexis at the Conference Office that she has a possible profile for us to review. Craig and

Sarah are working on questionnaire about what we would like a merger to look like. Question raised about whether we should approach non UCC churches. Alexis is approaching a couple of local UCC churches on our behalf.

Weathervane deadline will be March 24. Next Council meeting will be Tuesday, April 18.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Munson, Clerk

Missions Corner

Thank you for your donations to the Food Pantry!

We delivered many personal items to the Food Pantry. Director, Gary, expressed his thanks and appreciation to all of us.

6 shaving cream	11 toothpaste	10 shampoo
2 pkg razors	12 toothbrushes	8 pkg bandaids
11 deoderant	9 floss	22 bars of soap
4 hand cream	6 pkg Q tips	

One Great Hour of Sharing

We collected \$150 in donations for OGHS through March 26, 2023. **Thank you for your generous contributions!**

April Missions

We will donate to Preble Street / Wayside from the missions fund this month. In addition, on April 16, we will hand out plastic bags with a list of items needed for hygiene kits. We would ask that these be returned on the 23rd or 30th of April. We need to deliver them to a Church World Service Collection Site by May 3.

Then, on **April 30**, the founder of [Daisy's Children](#), Sharon Beckwith, will visit us again to update us all on what has been happening over the past two+ years. As a reminder, Daisy's Children provides nutritional, medical and educational support to impoverished children in the village of Conception del Norte, Honduras.

HANNAFORD GROCERY CARDS

We have Hannaford shopping cards available for purchase in denominations of \$100 and \$50. Every \$100 you purchase means RVCC gets \$5. You buy the card for \$100, you buy \$100 worth of groceries and RVCC gets \$5!!! How great is that? I am available to get cards to you. Just send me an e-mail (bolsen001@maine.rr.com) or give me a call (207-838-0123). Thanks! Brenda

HOLY WEEK AT RVCC

Palm Sunday – April 2nd

Come, wave your palms us as we remember Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. Be ready to wave your palms during the traditional introt "The Palms." If you are unable to join us in person, palms will be available to pick up on Saturday outside the Vestry door.

Maundy Thursday

Please join us Thursday, April 6th at 7:00 P.M. for a contemplative service of Jesus final hours.

Good Friday Hunger Walk

Annual Casco Village/RVCC Hungry Homeless Walk beginning at 5:30 a.m. at Casco Village Church for the "walk" which is 16 miles; for the shorter walk (8 miles), meet at RVCC at 8:00 a.m. Pastor Petra will be walking 8 miles. Please plan to walk or pledge. See Petra with any questions. All proceeds will go to Grace Street Ministries in Portland.

Easter Sunday Sunrise Service– April 9th

Please join us at 6:30 a.m. at Casco village Church!

Easter Sunday – April 9th

Please join us for the celebration!

The joy of the Resurrection, with music from Michael and our choir!

Easter Remembrances

If you would like to purchase flowers in celebration, honor, or memory of a loved one for Easter, please send your message and name of honoree to the office office@rvccme.org by **Sunday, April 2nd** and bring your flowers with you on Easter morning.



Raymond Village Community Church

*27 Main Street, P.O. Box 285,
Raymond, ME 04071
(207) 655-7749*

Seeking a pianist for June 25

Michael will be going to music camp this summer and we wish him well!
We are grateful that Cherie Moore is able to cover most Sundays, but she is not available on June 25. If you know of anyone who plays the piano and is willing to cover on June 25, please contact Caryl Gilman at 207-627-5073 or carylgilman@gmail.com. Thank you!

UCC New England Women's Celebration



John 1:16 From God's fullness we have all received grace upon grace.
That is how I felt during and after the weekend with over 200 women in Manchester NH. Joan Morton and I went together. We learned at workshops, we worshiped together led by Marcia McFee, and we ate together and met many wonderful women!

Saturday June 3 at 10:30 - Worship of Closure with Petra

While June 1 is still two months away, we know that day will come - Petra's last day as our pastor. We are planning a worship of Closure on Saturday June 3 at 10:30 AM, followed by a celebration of our time together. We hope all join us!