

The Weathervane



RAYMOND VILLAGE COMMUNITY CHURCH, United Church of Christ Newsletter

August, 2023

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From the Pastor . . .

For the months without a permanent pastor, this section of the Weathervane will include articles submitted by the Deacons. This article was written by Liz Charles McGough, Director of Pilgrim Lodge.

“Lord prepares me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true. With thanksgiving I’ll be a living sanctuary for you.” - “Sanctuary” hymn by Randy Scruggs and John Thompson Greetings from Pilgrim Lodge!

Summer is in full swing here at the camp of the Maine Conference UCC. So far this season, we have welcomed a Women’s Retreat, a Confirmation Retreat, and a Retreat for Clergy. We hosted the June Intensive for the Maine School of Ministry and welcomed first time campers for a half-week warm-up session called Faith Foundations.

Last week we held our first full week session and today we bid farewell to a family program that filled our camp to capacity with some folks sleeping in tents! We are continuing the upswing as we rebound from the summers of pandemic closure. While our increasing numbers of participants are a good indicator of the growing momentum at camp, I would venture to say that the presence of the Holy Spirit is the best reflection of the energy in this place as children and adults share time together in our faith-centered community.



Continued next page . . .

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 . . .

- August 6, 2023- 10:00 a.m. – Communion Worship with Rev. Don Bizer
- August 12, 2023- 5:00 p.m. – Take out Pot Roast Supper
- August 13, 2023- 10:00 a.m. – Worship with Rev. Chan Roach
- August 20, 2023- 10:00 a.m. – Worship with Rev. Chan Roach
- August 27, 2023- 10:00 a.m. – Worship with Rev. Cheryl P. Anderson
1:00 p.m. – church in use for a Memorial Service

Worship videos for Communion Sundays will be available on the RVCC YouTube Channel:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCc1hBkBTar_nZF-H4O7YN5ew

Please join us for Coffee Hour after Worship!

The Knitting Group will meet on August 8 and 22, 2023 from 2:00 – 3:30 p.m.

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

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

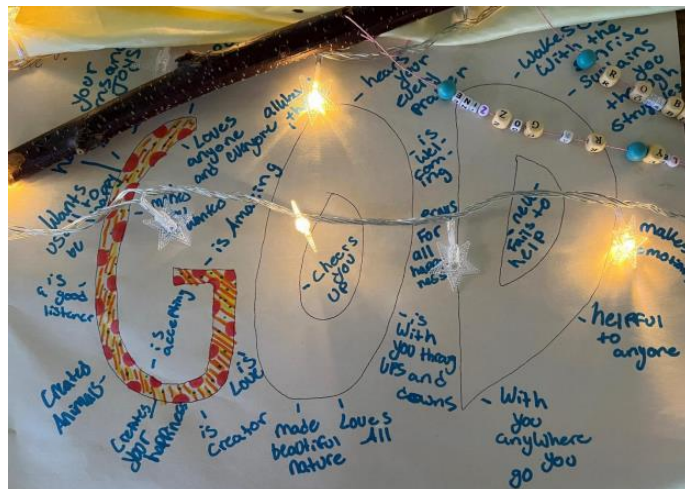
AA meets every Friday at 7:00 p.m.

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 . . .

It is hard to put to words (and so I share pictures) all the ways that the Holy Spirit moves in this place as we immerse ourselves in an embodied experience of nature, community, and worship. While we have a habit of saying that camp is “magic” and that we leave the “real world” behind when we are at camp, I have had the gift of bearing witness to the results when we intentionally



enter time when the overarching goals are to “Love God, Love Each Other, and Love Ourselves.” The Holy Spirit showed up when campers and volunteers sat together in a circle to address conflict. They were able to both speak from their own perspective and see the impact of the conflict on others in the circle as each person took the risk of being vulnerable with the rest. The Holy Spirit showed up when campers sat in tears as they watched a peer struggle with a chronic health condition. In my effort to comfort them, they responded, “but it’s not fair that she has to go through this.” They were right. I watched their hearts open with empathy as they witnessed the challenges of another.

The Holy Spirit showed up when small children provided a worship service for their parents and elders, reminding them that God manifests in the form of Hope. The children dusted the cheeks of their grandparents with colorful bits of “Hope.”

The Holy Spirit showed up last night when the staff sung a lullaby to campers down our long row of cabins, “Lord prepare me to be a sanctuary.” God is in these shared moments of collective stillness and peace. I know that so often we wring our hands and wonder, “What is the future of the church?” Friends, the future is here. You are invited to come be part of it!



Please keep the following people in your prayers:

Amanda, Angela's family & friends, Kathleen Bent, Michael Cadotte, Louise Doyle, Polly Dyer, Christine Eldridge, Linda Eldridge, Rick Emery, Viv, Tim, & Raia Foran, John & Linda Gregoire, Anita Holmquist on the death of her son Bill, Liz Kenaly, Kaleigh Leighton, Ron Maker, Craig Oldershaw, Brenda Olsen & Bonnie Pierpont on the death of their mother Carole, Deb Rand, Ann Robinson (Martha's sister), Charlotte Rowe, Tom Wiley.

August Birthdays

August 5	Deb Feagans
August 5	Judy Munson
August 7	Angela St. Pierre
August 17	Polly Dyer
August 17	Linda Eldridge

Missions Corner

CO Detectors for Raymond Residents

In 2019, Raymond Fire and Rescue Association joined "Sound the Alarm", a program of the American Red Cross. They installed free smoke alarms in any home in Raymond – regardless of the socio-economic background of the occupants. They quickly realized the same residents needed CO detectors. Raymond Village Community Church stepped in to fund the purchase of CO detectors in memory of Lew and Betty Somers who died in August 2011 from carbon monoxide poisoning. We sent \$300 to Raymond Fire and Rescue Association to fund CO detectors this year.

Socks for Grace Street Ministry

July 2, the Sunday Pastor Jeff preached, was the kick-off of sock collection for Grace Street Ministry. By 7/19, we had collected 50 socks to deliver and more to collect through July!

AUGUST LECTIONARY LESSONS

August 6, 2023 – Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 32:22-31
 Psalm 17:1-7, 15
 Isaiah 55:1-5
 Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21
 Romans 9:1-5
 Matthew 14:13-21

August 13, 2023 – Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28
 Psalm 105: 1-6, 16-22, 45b
 1 Kings 19:9-18
 Psalm 85:8-13
 Romans 10:5-15
 Matthew 14:22-33

August 20, 2023 – Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 45:1-15
 Psalm 133
 Isaiah 56:1, 6-8
 Psalm 67
 Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32
 Matthew 15: (10-20), 21-28

August 27, 2023 – Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 1:8-2:10
 Psalm 124
 Isaiah 51:1-6
 Psalm 138
 Romans 12:1-8
 Matthew 16:13-20



Attention all Line Dancers!!

The Thursday class is an Improver to low intermediate, which means, we never do anything really difficult. The class meets from 10:00 to 11:30 am. The Beginners class on Fridays will continue as we have been. Feel free to try Thursdays and if you feel too overwhelmed, you can always go back to the Friday class. The last Friday of every month all dancers are invited to our monthly luncheons at The Beacon Pizza here in Raymond.

Looking to the future, this year...

Since the June 11, 2023 Congregational Meeting:

- The pastoral search continued. The second resume resulted in an interview and potential to call the candidate. However, after talking with the candidate, it became clear that we did not fully understand the level of change in the new pastoral compensation guidelines adopted at the December Maine Conference meeting. This led the search committee and council/deacons to have an in-depth discussion about what we could afford with our current cash on hand (about a year for a pastor with ≤ 10 years' experience). All agreed it was time to update the congregation on 7/30 and ask for adoption of the resolution to sell the parsonage.
- We are seeking additional coverage for the pulpit in September and October.

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

SCHOOL KITS

Thanks to the generosity of our Congregation, we have a lot of supplies for the Church World Services school kits, that we assemble in the Spring. However, we are low on a few items, if anyone would like to take advantage of the upcoming "back to school" sales. The items we need are:

- 12 inch rulers
- Large erasers (not pencil cap erasers)
- Hand held pencil sharpeners

Thanks to all for their continued support of this important Missions project.

August Worship

- July 31 – Rev. Chan Roach will lead worship
- August 6 – Rev. Don Bizer will lead worship and communion
- August 13 – Rev. Chan Roach will lead worship
- August 20 – Rev. Chan Roach will lead worship
- August 27 – Rev. Cheryl P Anderson will lead worship
- September 3 – Rev. Chan Roach will lead worship and communion

Church Picnic with Windham Hill UCC

On Sunday July 22, nearly 40 people attended a joint Church picnic with the Windham Hill UCC Church. The event was hosted by Windham Hill UCC. About half of the attendees came from each church. The weather was perfect and we enjoyed lots of great food, as well as a wonderful guitarist/song leader. Thanks to Rev. Sharon Rankin from Windham Hill, Tom Wiley and Alice Oldford from RVCC for coordinating the event.





**“TAKE OUT” POT ROAST SUPPERS HAVE RETURNED!!
SAVE THE DATE ON THE FOLLOWING SATURDAYS:**

**August 12th
September 9th**

Pot roast and gravy, potatoes, green beans, carrots, a roll, and a brownie for \$12.

(Cash or checks only. No credit cards.)

We are taking orders for pick up Saturday between 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. Meals are primarily take out.

LIMITED outdoor seating will be available as well as bottled water for \$1.00 for those who want to eat immediately. Please carry out your trash!

They will be hot and ready to take home!

You must order in advance!

CUT OFF time to order is Noon on Saturday so that we can ensure everyone receives a great quality meal.

Sorry, we will NOT have extra meals available.

To order your meals please call the RVCC office at 655-7749 and leave a message with your name, number of meals and time you will pick up. Or if you prefer you can send an e-mail to office@rvccme.org with the information.



Raymond Village Community Church

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Fellow RVCC Family Members,

The RVCC Council is inviting you to come to a special “Emergency” meeting after church on Sunday July 30th. Your participation is requested as we need to update you regarding the Maine Conference UCC, New Pastoral Salary Guidelines, and their impact on our hiring process.

To that end, and as you will see in the warrant below, we will also be discussing and voting to sell the parsonage as recommended by your Council. The meeting will be held right after worship that morning. I hope you are able and will attend and have your voice heard at this important meeting.

Thank You, Tom Wiley - Moderator

Raymond Village Community Church, UCC

Warrant for Emergency Congregational Meeting

July 30, 2023

Notice is hereby given to the members of the Raymond Village Community Church, UCC in Raymond, Maine that you are duly called to meet at an Emergency Congregational Meeting on Sunday, July 30, 2023 after the Sunday service, beginning at approximately 11:15am.

The meeting will provide an update on the search for a new pastor and the impact of new Maine UCC compensation guidelines on our search process.

The business of the meeting shall be as follows:

Article 1: To accept the Council recommendation to sell the parsonage upon terms deemed advisable by the Council.

Notice of this meeting is hereby given on this the 16th (and 23rd) day of July, 2023.

Respectfully, Judith T. Munson, Church Clerk