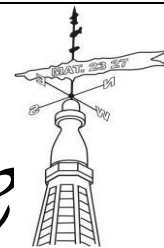


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# The Weathervane



RAYMOND VILLAGE COMMUNITY CHURCH, United Church of Christ Newsletter

February, 2023

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## *From the Pastor . . .*

As I write this newsletter, the snow has been gently falling for the last several hours. All is quiet. It is beautiful to watch the snowflakes coming down at a steady pace.

Weather conditions can be a metaphor for how life can go for us.

For the last two and half years, I have been joyfully serving you as a three-year designated term pastor, which ends this coming June 1st.

YOU, the congregation, have been walking the journey with me since my dad died in November 2020, followed by my mom in August 2022. I can't thank you enough for accompanying me on these significant life transitions.

It is tough to share with you that I will not be able continue as your pastor beyond June 1st. Many of you know that the red tape in Germany has complicated almost every aspect of my parent's estate. Unfortunately, this will require more time over the next year or two to address all the issues that have come up.

One example that some of you might remember is when the funeral home did not initially want to issue a death certificate for my mom. We needed to provide more proof that my mom was indeed the person they had in their possession.

I am reminded of Ecclesiastes 3:1,4

*To everything, there is a season,  
A time to weep and a time to laugh;  
A time to mourn,  
and a time to dance;*

Although I am sad to leave, I look forward to being in ministry together for another four months. During those four months, you will begin discerning your next step for the future of RVCC. In addition, it is an excellent time to reflect on how God's presence has been revealed to you and how it might help this church.

It is a privilege to be part of this congregation, which, with the help of God, is riding this rollercoaster journey we call LIFE together.

Blessings and Peace, Rev. Petra Smyth

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 15<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:office@rvccme.org) or to Judy Munson, 23 Lawn Ave., Gorham, ME 04038 - [cmmunson24@yahoo.com](mailto:cmmunson24@yahoo.com) - Thank you for reading our newsletter!

### *This Month at RVCC . . .*

February 5, 2023-	10:00 a.m. – In Person Worship – Communion Sunday
February 9, 2023-	6:00 p.m. – In Person Council Meeting
February 11, 2023-	11:00 a.m. – Sweetheart Brunch
February 12, 2023-	10:00 a.m. – Worship on Zoom
February 13, 2023-	5:00 p.m. – In Person Deacon meeting
February 19, 2023-	10:00 a.m. – Worship on Zoom
February 26, 2023-	10:00 a.m. - Worship on Zoom

#### **Please join us for Coffee Hour after Worship!**

The Knitting Group will meet on February 14 & 28, 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](mailto:bolsen001@maine.rr.com)) or 207-838-0123

### **Worship February and March**

- February 5 – in person worship with Chan Roach – communion
- February 12 – Zoom worship with pastor portions pre-recorded
- February 19 – Zoom worship
- February 22 – Ash Wednesday – local worship services at other churches will be published
- February 26 – Zoom worship
- March 5 – in person worship with communion
- March 12 – Zoom worship
- March 19 – Zoom worship
- March 26 – Zoom worship

The Zoom will open at 9:45 a.m. Please join before 10:00 a.m. when the worship and recording will begin. Just click the following link then “Open Zoom Meeting”, then “join with video” and “join with computer audio”.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82211774347?pwd=bkZvL0lIT21ROXR2d1phaEhiZ2MzQT09>

There is a waiting room so the host will admit you. The host receives a message that you are there as soon as you “join with video”. We are using the same link every Sunday.

**Note: Our storm policy this year will be to “change to “remote” = Zoom”** rather than cancel worship. The two TV stations that allow the option of reporting something like “change to remote” are WCSH and WGME.

### **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](mailto:bolsen001@maine.rr.com)) or give me a call (207-838-0123). Thanks! Brenda

### **Petra’s vacation**

Pastor Petra Smyth will be on vacation February 4<sup>th</sup> through February 12<sup>th</sup>. Rev. Leslie Anne Chatfield will cover pastoral emergencies during that time. Her contact information is [lesliannechatfield@gmail.com](mailto:lesliannechatfield@gmail.com). Cell: 207 841 5276 This number is also good for texting.



Please keep the following people in your prayers:  
Amanda, Kathleen Bent, Michael Cadotte, Louise Doyle, Polly Dyer, Christine Eldridge, Linda Eldridge, Rick Emery, Vicki Gordan, Linda & John Gregoire, Bill Holmquist, Christine Horwath, Alice Oldford, Deb Rand, Charlotte Rowe, Scott Smyth.

### February Birthdays

February 1 <sup>st</sup>	Bill Feagans
February 5 <sup>th</sup>	Cheri Moore

### **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](mailto:rachelscountryhearts@yahoo.com) or cell phone 207-232-1172.

### ***FEBRUARY LECTIONARY LESSONS***

#### **February 5, 2023 – Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany**

Isaiah 58:1-9a (9b-12)  
Psalm 112:1-9 (10)  
1 Corinthians 2:1-12 (13-16)  
Matthew 5:13-20

#### **February 12, 2023 – Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany**

Deuteronomy 30:15-20 or *Sirach 15:15-20*  
Psalm 119:1-8  
1 Corinthians 3:1-9  
Matthew 5:21-37

#### **February 19, 2023 – Transfiguration Sunday**

Exodus 24:12-18  
Psalm 2 or *Psalms 99*  
2 Peter 1:16-21  
Matthew 17:1-9

#### **February 26, 2023 – First Sunday in Lent**

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7  
Psalm 32  
Romans 5:12-19  
Matthew 4:1-11

### **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 21<sup>st</sup> 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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:

[Second Christian Church in Kittery - March 18](#)

[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](mailto:mlaviola@maineucc.org)

**Summary of Thursday, January 5, 2023  
Coordinating Council /Deacons Meeting**

The meeting of the Coordinating Council/Deacons was called to order at 5 PM, on Thursday, January 5, 2023. Present were Tom, Rolf, Brenda, Deb, Petra, Caryl, Nancy, Judy, and Bonnie.

Tom offered the opening prayer.

The agenda was reviewed, closing time of 6:30 PM was suggested.

**Treasurer's Report:** Brenda reviewed the budget for 2023. She is pleased that people seem to be keeping up with their pledges. Proposed budget deficit for 2023 is \$14,222, less than this years proposed deficit of \$23,231. With cash in the general fund of \$13,296, and the current American Funds balance of \$18,679, we have the resources to continue for two years if numbers in this budget hold true. This budget is assuming pastor expenses of 6 units. It is also predicting substantial increases under Trustees for cleaning, heating, and electricity.

**Reports of Coordinators:**

**Clerk:** nothing to report

**Trustees:** Rolf reported some furnace problems but they have been resolved.

**Missions:** Caryl reported that we had collected \$285 for the Christmas Fund, a UCC offering to help retired clergy. Our mission project for January is to help the town of Raymond with a donation to their heat fund.

**Stewardship:** nothing to report

**Deacons:** Caryl reported that after the annual meeting on January 22, we will worship in the sanctuary on only the first Sunday of each month, other Sundays will be via zoom. Easter is on April 9, decision on whether to be in person by then will be made at later date.

**Moderator:** There was discussion on logistics of annual meeting, there will be a pot luck lunch.

**Pastor:** Petra announced that she will be away on the first two Sundays in February. Chan Roach will preach and do communion on February 5. February 12 will be a prerecorded zoom worship with Michael and Caryl. Leslie Ann Chatfield will cover pastoral needs while Petra is away.

**Old Business:**

**New Business:** It was agreed that an announcement of Petra's leaving at the end of her contract will be made at the end of worship service for the next two Sundays.

Reasoning behind this is to allow time for this announcement to sink in before we discuss next steps at the annual meeting. The agenda for the annual meeting was discussed. A number of suggestions on how to move forward after Petra leaves were discussed by the Council. Several options were developed to present at the annual meeting.

The Weathervane will be printed on January 26, deadline for getting information to Judy and Deb for it is January 20<sup>th</sup>. Our next meeting will be 2/9/2023, at 6 PM in person.

Respectfully submitted,  
Judith T. Munson, Clerk

*A Note of Thanks*

*RVCC Family,*

*Thanks so much to everyone who stopped by the office with a Christmas greeting, dropped off cards and gifts, and to the council for the lovely gifts to Dan & I. We love each and every one of you, and wish you all many blessings in the coming year!*

*~Lori & Dan 😊*

**Missions: February**

While the Pantry provides food on a regular basis, they generally provide personal care products when they are donated. The supply of personal products is low now, so this is our opportunity to help! In the month of February, please bring in any of the following:

Tooth brush	Disposable razor	Q tips
Tooth paste	Shaving cream – men's & women's	Deodorant
Dental floss	Bar bath soap	Mouth Wash
Rota points	Shampoo	Room air freshener

Small & medium size Band-Aids

**Please no** nail polish or cosmetics or hairbrush/comb - the Pantry cannot accept these.

# Sweetheart Brunch

## Saturday 11:00 AM, February 11<sup>th</sup>



Join us for a delicious brunch of pancakes, eggs, bacon, sausages, baked goods, fruit and more! Our first social gathering of 2023. Join us for fellowship and food with your favorite valentine.

*We'll do the cooking, but we could use some donations, for example; sausage, bacon, pancake mix, syrup, butter, milk, juice, fruit and baked goods such as muffins, scones, coffee cakes, pastries, etc. Please let me know if you think you can help us out. Thanks!*  
*Brenda Olsen (207-838-0123 or bolsen001@maine.rr.com)*

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### Lenten Study on Zoom

Mark your calendar for the next Lenten study on Zoom.

Pastor Petra will lead the Lenten study every Wednesday for six weeks beginning February 22<sup>nd</sup> from 6:30pm to 7:30pm

Please e-mail Petra at [petra@maine.rr.com](mailto:petra@maine.rr.com) if you are interested in participating.

It is a surprise even to Petra what book we will be reading but she will make a decision in the next few weeks. Stay tuned for more details!





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*Raymond, ME 04071*  
*(207) 655-7749*

*Happy Birthday Alice Richards!*

*We celebrated Alice's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday during a special Spirit Spotlight on January 22. Alice's daughter joined us for worship. The celebration included some of Alice's favorite treats served on one of the little nursery tables!*

