



The Weathervane

RAYMOND VILLAGE COMMUNITY CHURCH, United Church of Christ Newsletter

July, 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 is from Maine Conference Minister, Marissa Laviola

Encourage One Another

- Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing. (I Thessalonians 5:11)
- “Oikodomē” is the Greek New Testament word for encourage. It means the act of building, building up, edifying, edification; the act of one who promotes another’s growth in Christian wisdom, piety, happiness, holiness; or a building of any kind. (Strong’s Lexicon)

Beloved, I have been thinking about the word “encourage” a lot lately. It encompasses so much about how we live together as followers of the Risen Christ. It says so much, in just one word, about how we are to be in covenantal relationship with one another as well as in relationship with whom we serve as the hands and feet of the Risen Christ.

We build up one another: We affirm one another’s gifts. We help one another to discover our gifts and use them for the common good (I Corinthians 12:7). We work together to edify one another: to help illuminate the will of God in our hearts, the hope of God for our future, the love of God that holds us so close.

We promote one another’s growth: We are dedicated to one another for learning all there is to learn, for seeking God’s wisdom and not relying only on our own. We commit ourselves to helping one another to know the richness of a relationship with God that brings faith, confidence, joy, and hope. There are so many ways we can do this with one another. Such relationships require us to give up competition, feeling less than or better than, sitting in our own corner with closed ears and crossed arms that our way is the right way. (Romans 12:3).

And of course, we do not point our finger at another and question if the

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 . . .

July 2, 2023-	10:00 a.m. – Worship with Pastor Jeff Logan
July 8, 2023-	5:00 p.m. – Take out Pot Roast Supper
July 9, 2023-	10:00 a.m. – Communion Worship with Rev. Cheryl Anderson
July 16, 2023-	10:00 a.m. – Worship with Don Bizer 4:00 p.m. – Church Picnic with Windham Hill Church, UCC at Windham Hill Church
July 23, 2023-	10:00 a.m. – Worship in the Vestry
July 30, 2023-	10:00 a.m. – Worship with Rev. Chan Roach

Worship videos for Communion Sundays will be 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 July 11 and 25, 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 . . .

other is being encouraging. We point the finger at ourselves. Encouragement begins with me. How am I building others up? Promoting another's growth? How am I meeting another with open ears and a receptive spirit?

So, I've been thinking about how I offer encouragement as Conference Minister. I would imagine if I invited a focus group to respond to the question, the answer would vary, according to the needs of the persons or the faith communities they represent.

Some general ideas I have include:

- Being present and showing up for all congregations who need my support or consultation being present and showing up for any and all pastors who call on me being present and showing up as folks ask me to provide nurture and care
- being present and showing up as folks ask me for continued education for their churches beyond the workshops, I facilitated this spring.

I may sound like a broken record as I again invite you all to reach out to me for conversation around how I can encourage you in whatever ways you need encouragement from me. Maine is a big state and we have around 145 churches. I want to be present and show up for each and every one, encourage each and every one, bring words and actions of hope for our future in each church and collectively as a Conference. Many times, I meet by zoom. I prefer in person, and try to be in person as much as I can.

Beloved people of God, I am your servant. I am your partner.

Deep blessings and prayers, Marisa

Daisy's Children

Thanks to all of you and the Mission Fund, RVCC sent a check for \$1575 to Daisy's Children last month. Sharon Beckwith said "Alleluia! Amazing Grace!" This will help to finish the building for the children

Strengthen the Church

Strengthen the Church offering helps to reimagine and build the future of the United Church of Christ. It largely supports youth ministries and full time leaders for new churches in parts of the country where the UCC does not have a strong presence. It also provides support for existing church's new initiatives. Maine Conference thanks RVCC for our donation of \$60 to Strengthen the Church! Missions will match this amount for a total donation of \$120.00



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, John & Linda Gregoire, Anita Holmquist on the death of her son Bill, Christine Horwath, 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.

July Birthdays

July 5	Catherine Berry
July 12	Brenda Stevenson
July 14	Joan Morton
July 24	Nancy Yates
July 28	Kaleigh Leighton

Parting Gift from Petra

It was not planned and we almost did not know who provided the chalice and plate for communion. Luckily Petra saw Caryl bring out the chalice and plate on Saturday afternoon 6/3 and whispered that she did not see another set so she left one of hers. Thank you!



JULY LECTIONARY LESSONS

July 2, 2023 – Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
Genesis 22:1-14
Psalm 13
Jeremiah 28:5-9
Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18
Romans 6:12-23
Matthew 10:40-42

July 9, 2023 – Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67
Psalm 45:10-17 *or Song of Solomon 2:8-13*
Zechariah 9:9-12
Psalm 145:8-14
Romans 7:15-25a
Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

July 16, 2023 – Seventh Sunday after Pentecost
Genesis 25:19-34
Psalm 119:105-112
Isaiah 55:10-13
Psalm 65:(1-8), 9-13
Romans 8:1-11
Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

July 23, 2023 – Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
Genesis 28:10-19a
Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24
Wisdom of Solomon 12:13, 16-19 *or Isaiah 44:6-8*
Psalm 86:11-17
Romans 8:12-25
Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

July 30, 2023 – Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
Genesis 29:15-28
Psalm 105:1-11, 45b *or Psalm 128*
1 Kings 3:5-12
Psalm 119:129-136
Romans 8:26-39
Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

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.

Summary of Monday, June 5, 2023 Coordinating Council and Deacons Meeting

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

Deb was late joining us, there was no opening prayer. Tom reviewed the agenda, set closing time of 6:30.

Financial Report: Brenda reported for the month of April. Finances look good, contributions for the month were up, the rest of Petra's final salary will not be paid until June. There were no surprises with expenses. Brenda will need to take \$5,000 from American Funds for Missions. Brenda is predicting that we have enough money to make it through the year 2024. To go beyond, we would need another source of income.

Reports of Coordinators: Rolf reported that he has put in air conditioning units. He will turn off the furnace next week. We have a separate hot water heater, so will not lose hot water.

Missions: Caryl reported that we have sent \$1475 to Daisy's Children, we will be collecting for Strengthen the Church through June. We will send \$250 to Preble Street. Fuller Center bike riders will be in Windham on June 23 and 24. We will be responsible for making sandwich lunches for Saturday, and possibly helping with another meal. Pastor Jeff Logan from Grace-Street Ministry will be preaching on July 2, we will start collecting socks then and continue through July.

Stewardship: Our first pot roast supper is this Saturday, help is needed.

Deacons: They are meeting on June 6.

Moderator: Tom talked with Petra about how things were going in the office before she left.

Old Business: All agreed that the closure service and party for Petra held on Saturday, June 3, went well. Tom has been talking with Sharon at the Windham Hill Church about a joint picnic in July. He will follow up with her, suggesting date of July 16, with rain date of July 23.

New Business: First Pot Roast supper is this Saturday. For the after church congregational meeting this Sunday, June 11, it was agreed we didn't need to do lunch, just coffee hour food. Tom will check in with Woody to see if he will be able to attend in person, or if we need to set up zoom for him. Agenda for the meeting will include recap of what is happening in search for new pastor, review of responses from surveys, and a report summarizing the Vitality Workshops which several of us attended. Tom presented a detailed summary of the

survey responses, this will be simplified by Caryl and Tom for the June 11 meeting.

Other Business: A local gentleman has expressed interest in playing our organ. Michael has also expressed interest in learning how to play the organ. The organ is not working at this time. Rolf will contact the person who has previously worked on our organ, to see what needs to be done. No date has been set for our next meeting.

Respectfully submitted, Judith Munson, Clerk

July Worship

July 2 – Pastor Jeff Logan of Grace Street Ministry will lead worship. This will kick off our July mission to collect socks for Grace Street Ministry to hand out to people on the street. Cheri Moore is guest pianist.

July 9 – Rev. Cheryl Anderson will lead worship and serve communion. Cheri Moore is guest pianist

July 16 – Rev. Don Bizer will return to lead worship. Cheri Moore is guest pianist. Note picnic at Windham Hill at 4pm!

July 23 – Experience Pilgrim Lodge at Raymond Village Church. Plan to attend in your summer shorts and flip flops. Bring your lawn chairs! We will meet in the vestry.

July 30 – Rev. Chan Roach will lead worship. Cheri Moore is guest pianist

Looking to the future, this year...

June 11 2023 Congregational Meeting Summary

* Pastoral Search- One additional profile received and candidate will be interviewed.

* Survey Results- Most do not want to give up building, identity, and history. Most are in favor of joining an Open and Affirming church and having an LBGTQ pastor. Keeping music, community outreach were key items to maintain. Full survey results are available if interested.

* Vitality Workshops- Work with other churches, Successful does not mean big. Redefine your church guidelines to include less "board, committees, and directors."

*Follow Up-

- Continue Pastoral Search Process
- Find out what an Associate Pastor is. Some local churches use this structure.
- Talk with Gray Congregational about working together on a supper.
- *Celebrate Music and Singing with a joint picnic at Windham Hill Congregational (July 16th 4 pm)*



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

**July 8th
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.

HANNAFORD GROCERY CARDS

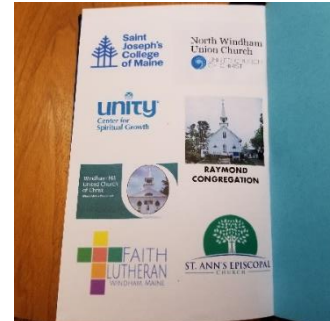
We have Hannaford shopping cards available for purchase in denominations of \$100 and \$50. Every \$100 you purchase means RVCC gets \$5. You buy the card for \$100, you buy \$100 worth of groceries and RVCC gets \$5!!! How great is that? I am available to get cards to you. Just send me an e-mail (bolsen001@maine.rr.com)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

Missions Corner

Sebago Lakes Fuller Center – Bike Adventure Results including Journals

One June 23, 35 Fuller Center bike riders will arrive in Windham having ridden 4 weeks from Tybee Island through 13 states following the East Coast Greenway and other established routes. As a reminder, Fuller Center raises most of their money for the mission by having sponsored bike rides. Thirty-four bike riders will stop in North Windham and stay at North Windham Union Church on Friday and Saturday night, 6/23-24. They will be working on 7 different projects led by Sebago Lakes Region Fuller Center volunteers. **How are we supporting the bike riders?**

1. Contributing to creation and delivery of journals for the bike riders. They journal every day and LOVED these journals!



2. Providing food for the bike riders for lunch on Saturday and breakfast on Sunday thanks to Bonnie P, Brenda, Nancy, Deb and Judy, Alice and Caryl
3. Providing **30** flowering and herb plants to John and Linda Gregoire for a garden on either side of their front porch – thanks to Chan, Lori, Nancy, and Caryl!



Preble Street

The Board of Directors, staff and the hundreds of Mainers served each day at Preble Street thank you for our generous gift of \$250 from the Mission fund. What do they do? They help the homeless and human trafficking survivors. They offer [The Healing Center](#), [Elena's Way Wellness Shelter](#), the Emergency Services Fund and are currently working on a new stand-alone women's shelter.

July Mission – Grace Street Ministry - collecting socks

Grace Street ministry is an outreach ministry offering a consistent, compassionate, pastoral presence to the homeless and marginalized in downtown Portland, Maine.

Their website says “When we stop to talk to someone on the street or in the shelters, we introduce ourselves as street pastors. Usually, they ask, “So, where’s your church?” We explain that we are a walking ministry and that, “the church is right here with all of you.” We make sure they know that we’re not there to tell them what to believe or how to worship. We’re there to sit with them wherever they are in their journey, whether in sorrow.

Each year for the past few years, we collect white socks. This is something the homeless appreciate – have a dry, clean pair of socks to wear. Pastor Jeff will be preaching on Sunday July 2. This will kick-off a month of collecting white socks to deliver to Pastor Jeff. What kind of white socks? Any kind! Although diabetic white socks are sought after. You can find these at Walmart.

Please consider donating in July! If you prefer to give cash, we will buy Dunkin Donuts gift cards with the money.



On Sunday, **July 16th** Windham Hill UCC will welcome our friends from Raymond Village UCC for a combined All Church Picnic.

Where: Windham Hill UCC (Front Lawn)
140 Windham Center Road

Time: 4:00 P.M.

What To Bring: Salads & Desserts & Lawn Chairs

(Rain Date July 23rd)

Hot dogs, hamburgers, and cold drinks will be provided. There will be games and live music with sing-along.

Please sign up and let us know if you can join us 😊



Raymond Village Community Church

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

Dear RVCC members and family,

What a wonderful sendoff you held for me on Saturday, June 3rd.

You have been so good to me, and I appreciate your hospitality, friendship, and support.

I will always remember the party hats and kazoos. That was a great surprise and a lot of fun.

Thank you so much for the framed photograph of the congregation only a year earlier when we celebrated our high school seniors. That picture brings back great memories of that particular day.

I am happy to report that my garden box is thriving and healthy.

The stole takes my breath away. It has such vibrant, beautiful colors. Thank you indeed for having my back which is what you have done for me over the last three years. I will think of you joyfully when wearing this stole.

All had a good time as we devoured those delicious "smash" burgers, pulled pork and chicken sandwiches, fabulous side dishes, and scrumptious desserts. A heartfelt "thank you" to all the chefs and sous chefs.

I will always fondly remember my time at Raymond Village Community Church with gratitude.

May our paths cross again and allow me to leave you with a well-known Benediction from Numbers 6:24-26

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

With Love,

Pastor Petra