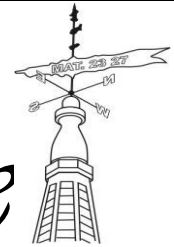


The Weathervane



RAYMOND VILLAGE COMMUNITY CHURCH, United Church of Christ Newsletter

June, 2023

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From the Pastor . . .

Beloved Friends, as it says in the Ecclesiastical passage: “To everything, there is a season,”... and the season has come for me to leave. I loved my time with you, dear Raymond Village family and friends. This community is deep and rich, reaching beyond walls to offer God’s compassion and love. It has been such an honor and privilege to be serving as your designated term pastor for three years.

As you are in the midst of discerning, with God, how to embrace the church of the future, I encourage you to remember your answers to the RVCC survey question and build upon RVCC’s strong bond. And dream big!

The following are your answers to the RVCC survey question: *Why do you come to church?*

- *A strong sense of community*
- *I like the people*
- *To be with church family*
- *Camaraderie with like-minded folks*
- *Fellowship*
- *To be together as a church family*
- *Part of the community with wonderful people*
- *Consider the people here as part of my family*
- *Companionship*
- *Enjoy seeing others who believe*
- *They are my other family*
- *I love the people*
- *Supportive network*
- *Being individuals in a community, a community of faith*
- *Celebratory, aren't we lucky to have the feet and hands*

As you move forward, hold onto the love your share.

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 . . .

June 3, 2023-	10:30 a.m. – Farewell Service for Petra
June 4, 2023-	10:00 a.m. – Worship with Rev. Don Bizer – Communion Sunday
June 5, 2023-	5:00 p.m. – Council meeting (on Zoom)
June 6, 2023-	5:00 p.m. – Deacon’s meeting (in person)
June 10, 2023-	5:00 p.m. – Take out Pot Roast Supper
June 11, 2023-	10:00 a.m. – Worship with Rev. Chan Roach 11:15 a.m. – Congregational meeting (Zoom option available.)
June 18, 2023-	10:00 a.m. – Worship with Rev. Chan Roach
June 25, 2023-	10:00 a.m. – Worship with Rev. Jane MacIntyre

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 June 13 & 27, 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 . . .

Clergy ethics:

Clergy ethics require that I cannot return to participate in worship or on special occasions. I cannot return to baptize new babies or to officiate weddings or memorial services. However, I will continue to love you, always hold you in my heart, and keep you in my prayers. You have encouraged and supported me well. I will always be incredibly grateful to God for calling me to this church and to each of you for the myriad ways you have enriched my life and deepened my faith.

Let me leave you with a blessing that is one of my favorites:

May the road rise up to meet you.

May the wind always be at your back.

May the sun shine warm upon your face,

And rains fall soft upon your fields.

And until we meet again,

May you be held in the palm of God’s hand.

Fondly, Rev. Petra Smyth

Looking to the future, this year...

On May 7th, the congregation met for an update after church. A brief recap:

1. Pulpit supply and Musicians all set for June through August
2. Pastoral Search – 3 resumes received. One candidate a possible fit. After conducting the interview, the candidate withdrew their interest. The search continues.
3. Potential merger: 50 surveys sent out and 27 returned as of 5/17
4. People who attended vitality workshops will get together before the next meeting to summarize what they learned.

-The next update will be 6/11 after worship. There will be a Zoom option for this meeting. Rolf Olsen is the contact.

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.

Traditionally received on Pentecost Sunday, we will continue to accept donations to this special offering through the month of June.



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, Lisa Lambert, Ron Maker, Craig Oldershaw, Brenda Olsen & Bonnie Pierpont on the death of their mother Carole, Deb Rand, Ann Robinson (Martha's sister), Charlotte Rowe.

JUNE LECTONARY LESSONS

June 4, 2023 - First Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 1:1-2:4a
Psalm 8
2 Corinthians 13:11-13
Matthew 28:16-20

June 11, 2023 - Second Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 12:1-9
Psalm 33:1-12
Hosea 5:15-6:6
Psalm 50:7-15
Romans 4:13-25
Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

June 18, 2023 - Third Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 18:1-15, (21:1-7)
Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19
Exodus 19:2-8a
Psalm 100
Romans 5:1-8
Matthew 9:35-10:8, (9-23)

June 25, 2023 - Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 21:8-21
Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17
Jeremiah 20:7-13
Psalm 69:7-10, (11-15), 16-18
Romans 6:1b-11
Matthew 10:24-39

June Birthdays

June 18	Kyle Sullivan
June 22	Andy Morrison
June 22	Anita Holmquist
June 24	Chan Roach
June 28	Sarah Allen
June 29	Tucker Olsen

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:

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

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 Monday, May 8, 2023 Coordinating Council and Deacons Meeting

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

Judy offered the opening prayer. Tom reviewed the agenda.

New Business:

Treasurer's Report: Brenda presented the financials for the month of April. There are a few items that are off from budget, but nothing of concern at this point.

Clerk: nothing to report

Trustees: Rolf reported that now that the snow has finally melted, he can get the scouts going on outside work, and can get the canopy up over the patio. He will start getting air conditioners in the windows. If anyone is looking for them, the large fans which we use in the sanctuary are in the library. Anyone who wants to help clean windows or whatever, help is welcome.

Missions: Judy reported that we had prepared 16 hygiene kits, and 16 school kits for delivery to Church World Service. Caryl reported that the mission for the month of June will be Strengthen the Church. We are also still accepting donations from the congregation for Daisy's Children. The church will match whatever is donated. On June 23, we will prepare box lunches for the Sebago Lake Fuller Center. And during the month of July, we will collect socks for Grace Street Ministry. Jeff from Grace Street will preach on July 2.

Moderator: Tom had nothing to report at this time.

Pastor: Petra reported that she had done an exit interview with the Cumberland Association, UCC. This will be her last meeting with us. She shared some memories of each of us. We have been a good team. She appreciated that we had rallied around her in tough times.

Old Business: Caryl updated us on supply pastors and pianists for the summer. Michael will be away at camp for a number of weeks. We are grateful to Cherie for covering for him for most of that time. Tom reported on a conversation he had with Sharon Rankin from Windham Hills Church. They would like to have a joint picnic and sing along with RVCC sometime in July. Tom also reported that 22 surveys have been completed and returned. Tom reported on the search for a new pastor. He emphasized that even if they found someone soon, we are committed to supply pastors through the summer. They have received three resumes, have had

one interview, have one resume they still need to review, and one which seems to no longer be interested. The Litany of Closure service has been completed. Invitations for the service and celebration have gone out. We will be asking for donations of food and flowers.

New Business: There was no new business. Our next meeting will be June 5. The Weathervane deadline will be May 20.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Munson, Clerk

June Worship

June begins a summer of pulpit supply pastors and, in July, guest musicians.

June 4 – Rev Don Bizer of Brunswick will lead worship and serve communion

June 11 – Chan Roach

June 18 – Chan Roach

June 25 – Rev Jane MacIntyre, who summers nearby, will lead worship and our guest pianist is Steve Bither, son of Ruth Bither long time member and choir member Caryl remembers.

As a reminder, during the summer, only communion worship services will be recorded.

Attention all Line Dancers!!

The Thursday class will begin June 1st at the Raymond Village Church, after a winter break. This is Improver to low intermediate, which means, we never do anything really difficult. The class will be the same as always, 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.

For more information, contact instructor Rachel Knights at rachelcountryhearts@yahoo.com, or call 207-232-1172 (cell) or 207-655-4284 (land).

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



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

June 10th

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.

Church World Service – Thank You

Thanks to all of you we mailed 16 school kits and 16 hygiene kits to Church World Service. This is amazing considering the size of our congregation!



Raymond Village Community Church

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



June 3 at 10:30 a.m.

You are invited to a worship of closure followed by a celebration of our time together before our (RVCC and Petra) paths diverge.

We hope all will join us!

Members, if you want to donate food, please contact Brenda Olsen at 838-0123. Anyone attending is invited to bring flowers to decorate the sanctuary & vestry, then take your flowers home to enjoy!

Sebago Lakes Region Fuller Center (SLRFC) News and RVCC Support

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. The bike riders periodically stop to have a work day supporting local Fuller Center groups. They plan to stay at North Windham Union Church on Friday and Saturday night, 6/23-24 so they can work on local projects for Segabo Lakes Region Fuller Center. **How can we support them?** We can feed them!

Dinner Friday 6/23 will be pot luck with area churches providing food for 40-50. Caryl will let you know what is needed so we can “sign up” for specific dishes.

RVCC will prepare 50 bag lunches to deliver to North Windham Church at 7:30am on Saturday 6/24. *Caryl is looking for 1-2 people to help assemble the lunches early that morning.*

If you are able to help with either, please contact Caryl at 627-5073. Thanks.