

# The Weathervane



RAYMOND VILLAGE COMMUNITY CHURCH, United Church of Christ Newsletter

November, 2023

## From the Pastor . . .

### “Who’s the New Guy?”

Reverend Brian Donovan is a second career, open and affirming pastor of the United Church of Christ. His first career was in the construction trades as a ceramic tile installer / owner / operator where he also worked as a framer, marine electrician, and any other trade needed to get the work done as most contractors do in Maine. However, this career focus changed in 2011 when Brian returned to university to follow his calling as a pastor and his love of literature.

During Brian’s time at the University of Maine in Augusta, he focused on literature and creative writing. Over those following years, he served as an academic tutor, on the Terry Plunkett poetry Festival Committee, and became a published poet / short story / graphic artist writer. All of these skills of both teaching and writing help Pastor Brian in God’s ministry today as they help him share and understand the Word in light of our current culture. The time at university was definitely a blessing as it also helped Brian witness the multitude of perceptions which people hold. Still, God called Brian forward.

Following University, Brian completed a nearly thirty-year pilgrimage of the Spirit when he finally found the UCC. Brought up Roman Catholic and walking amongst a variety of faiths, Brian could see God in and throughout all of them. Preferring Jesus’ teachings (especially the parables and the story of Legion), Brian looked for who God was calling Brian to lead. It was in those months after university, that Brian was shown the Open and Affirming beliefs of a UCC church. ‘That moment was like the veil dropping,’ Brian recalls as he finally found a community where ALL humanity is accepted and affirmed as a child of God. From there Brian went to a few Maine School of Ministry classes before heading to Andover Newton and finally Boston University school of Theology where he graduated with a Master of Divinity.

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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 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 . . .*

- November 2, 2023- 5:00 p.m. – Deacons’ meeting (in person)
- November 5, 2023- 11:00 a.m. – All Saints & Communion Worship with Rev. Brian Donovan  
2:00 p.m. – Alzheimer Support meeting in Vestry
- November 7, 2023- 5:00 p.m. – Council meeting on Zoom
- November 12, 2023- 9:30 a.m. – Worship with Rev. Sharon Rankin at Windham Hill Church (**No service at RVCC**)
- November 19, 2023- 11:00 a.m. – Stewardship Sunday Worship with Rev. Brian Donovan
- November 23, 2023- Happy Thanksgiving! Church office closed.
- November 26, 2023- 11:00 a.m. – Worship with Rev. Brian Donovan
- November 30, 2023- Church Office closed.

Worship videos will be available on the RVCC YouTube Channel:

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCc1hBkBTar\\_nZF-H4O7YN5ew](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCc1hBkBTar_nZF-H4O7YN5ew)

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

The Knitting Group will meet on November 14 and November 28, 2023 from 2:00 – 3:30 p.m.

Line Dancing – will be every 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 meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month at 2:00 p.m. in the classroom at the top of the stairs. Everyone is welcome whether you knit or crochet, or want to learn. We are usually working on projects for donations and we have plenty of yarn. Please join us and share your favorite project or a donation that you would like to be involved in. Whether you join us or not you are always welcome to make donations. Look for information about our next donation project in next month’s weathervane. Please let me know if you have any questions. Thanks! Brenda ([bolsen001@maine.rr.com](mailto:bolsen001@maine.rr.com)) or 207-838-0123

### *From the Pastor, continued . . .*

Since then, Pastor Brian has served a multitude of ministries which have all added to God’s calling through Brian. These ministries have been as chaplain and pulpit supply to shared ministry between two Methodist communities in Maine. He has also served with other pastors in Massachusetts and as a settled pastor and teacher in New Hampshire. Between these ministries, his time in seminary, and his lifelong pilgrimage, Brian has found that God’s love truly is for ALL people regardless of who they are or where they are on life’s journey. “This Creator is who I serve as I serve the faithful people who are willing to walk with me on this journey of life. I pray that you are the person who will walk with me with an open and affirming heart which is willing to love all people, regardless of how they identify, who they love, or what they have done in life. Moreover, I hope we will ALL stand up for people - for ALL the children of God - and oppose those in our world who deny or refuse anyone from the kingdom of God for these people are what we define as sexist, violent, oppressive, hateful, or homophobic. Yes, these souls are still children of God, but it is important to remember you cannot hate or mistreat another person and call it love - only LOVE is LOVE and that is the gift from God.”

Pastor Brian is married to Angel, and they live in Freeport, Maine currently. The two of them have many brothers, sisters, and children who are biological, step, and in-law. As such, Pastor Brian simply considers them all family and forgets about the “silly” adjectives to describe his family. “That is my brother or our children,” he has been heard saying to describe Angel’s biological brother or children. The two of them also have three grandchildren and two more on the way, God willing. In the end, love is our bond and covenant with one another. “A love,” Brian has said, “that took me forty-eight years to find.” May God continue to guide us by their Love - in ALL things.





Please keep the following people in your prayers:

Amanda, Angela's family & friends, Dana Belyea, Kathleen Bent, Michael Cadotte, Bill Downes, Louise Doyle, Polly Dyer, Christine Eldridge, Linda Eldridge, Rick Emery, John & Linda Gregoire, Anita Holmquist on the death of her son Bill, Liz Kenaly, Shannon Lurvey, Ron Maker, Deb Rand, The family of Charlotte Rowe, Cora Sullivan's sister-in-law Karen, Angel's Father Howard, The Thayer family & Janice (in hospice), Hilda Wiley, and for the people of Israel, Palestine, and Ukraine.

#### NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

|             |                    |
|-------------|--------------------|
| November 2  | Kay Roach          |
| November 3  | Lynn Gagne         |
| November 15 | Molly Keane-Dreyer |
| November 17 | Bill Dreyer        |
| November 24 | Dick Day           |

#### November Worship

**November 5<sup>th</sup>** - Rev. Brian Donovan will lead worship and communion. We will return to a pre-COVID Communion with individual cups and bread (no more pre-packaged cups.) The service will include All Saints' Remembrances of those in our Church Family who passed away the last year.

**November 12<sup>th</sup>** - **No worship at RVCC.** All are invited to 9:30am worship at Windham Hill UCC (140 Windham Center Rd., Windham) with Rev. Sharon Rankin.

**November 19<sup>th</sup>** - Rev. Brian Donovan will lead worship with an invitation for anyone to share: "what do we like at Windham Hill" following worship. This will also be Stewardship Sunday.

**November 26<sup>th</sup>** - Rev. Brian Donovan will lead worship.

#### NOVEMBER LECTIONARY LESSONS

##### **November 5, 2023 - Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost**

Joshua 3:7-17  
Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37  
Micah 3:5-12  
Psalm 43  
1 Thessalonians 2:9-13  
Matthew 23:1-12

##### **November 12, 2023 - Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost**

Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25  
Psalm 78:1-7  
Wisdom of Solomon 6:12-16 or *Amos 5:18-24*  
Wisdom of Solomon 6:17-20 or *Psalms 70*  
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18  
Matthew 25:1-13

##### **November 19, 2023 - Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost**

Judges 4:1-7  
Psalm 123  
Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18  
Psalm 90:1-8, (9-11), 12  
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11  
Matthew 25:14-30

##### **November 26, 2023 - Twenty-Sixth Sunday after Pentecost**

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24  
Psalm 100  
Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24  
Psalm 95:1-7a  
Ephesians 1:15-23  
Matthew 25:31-46

#### Celebration of Life for Charlotte Rowe

Charlotte's family invites everyone to join them to celebrate Charlotte's life on Friday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> from 3:00 – 6:00 p.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the Microtel Inn & Suites at 965 Roosevelt Trail in Windham.

Obituary:

<https://www.hallfuneralhome.net/obituaries/Charlotte-Louise-Rowe?obId=29548725>

## Summary of October 6, 2023 Coordinating Council Meeting.

The meeting was called to order, via zoom, at 6:00 PM, by Tom Wiley, Moderator. Present were Tom, Brian, Rolf, Brenda, Caryl, Judy, and Deb.

Tom offered the opening prayer. The agenda was reviewed, close time set at hopefully 6:45.

**Treasurer Report:** Brenda reported that cash is still good, we remain close to budget.

**Trustee Report:** Rolf reported that after a couple of noisy Sundays, a battery has been replaced in the fire alarm system. Rolf also announced that, except for the optical card, the organ has been repaired. Michael is excited to play it, and Rolf will contact a local gentleman who had expressed interest in playing it. Brenda is not concerned about the close to \$2,000 bill, Caryl will contact some people who may be interested in donating toward the repairs. Rolf also announced that Nate and Deb have a place to move to on November 1. Rolf is getting a dumpster in as soon as possible, and will try to line up some scouts to help clear out the basement of the parsonage. Rolf will also contact the state that the money toward rent which we have received from the state, will go elsewhere.

**Stewardship:** Stewardship Sunday will be on November 19. Brenda will get a Stewardship letter out before then, possibly with quarterly statements. We will be putting pledge monies only to the general fund this year. We do not need it for missions, and having separate pledge toward cleaning has been confusing.

**Pastor:** Brian has met with Tom and Caryl this week, he will meet with Lori next week. They have gone over membership lists. Prayers are requested for Charlotte Rowe.

**Missions:** We will be in touch shortly with the Raymond Schools about families who may need help this year with putting a Thanksgiving meal on the table. As in the past, we will donate \$40 gift cards to families which are identified by the school's social worker. Caryl announced that we will also be working with Maine Seacoast Mission to provide items for their Christmas Wish List. RVCC people will be able to go onto Amazon and select items which they have indicated they need, then Amazon takes care of delivery, not us. An easy way to support a cause which we have worked with for a number of years.

**Deacons:** Caryl announced that All Saints Sunday will be celebrated on November 5. We will remember Anita's son, Brenda's mother, and Rolf's brother. Caryl clarified

that coffee hour on October 22 will be after the 11:00 AM service. Coffee hour on the 29<sup>th</sup> will be before the service, with something available after as well.

**Clerk:** nothing to report

**Christian Education:** nothing to report

**Old Business:** The tape of Brian's interview with the Salem Church, which many of us have seen, is now available on our You tube channel. It can be viewed after church on October 8, and a link can be made available to those who wish to view it at home. There will be a congregational meeting after church on the 15<sup>th</sup>, to discuss upcoming changes and concerns. Chan will be preaching on October 8, 15, and 22<sup>nd</sup>. Caryl and Tom have met with Deb Lafond about the transition service on October 29<sup>th</sup>. Brenda will do a press release on Brian.

**New Business:** We have received an invitation from the Gray church to rent a table at their holiday fair. We will put it out to the whole congregation to see who might want to participate. Brian attended a training/orientation session at the Conference office. He has met the conference minister, and other new pastors. Caryl talked some about the upcoming conference annual meeting, which she and Brian will attend. She also talked some about the changes at the conference level that were made at last year's conference annual meeting. She made it clear that those changes to pastor's salaries and housing, were made by the Maine Conference, and not at the national level. The Weathervane will be printed on October 26<sup>th</sup>. Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, November 7, in person. Brian offered a closing prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Judith Munson, Clerk

## Looking Ahead to December . . .

**December 3<sup>rd</sup>** - Rev. Brian Donovan will lead worship. This will be Communion Sunday and the First Sunday in Advent.

**December 10<sup>th</sup>** - Rev. Brian Donovan will lead worship. This will be the Second Sunday in Advent and the Hanging of the Greens service

**December 17<sup>th</sup>** - Rev. Brian Donovan will lead worship. This will be the Third Sunday in Advent

**December 24<sup>th</sup>** - Join us for a wonderful Christmas Eve Service at 5:00 p.m. led by Rev. Brian Donovan. **There will be no Sunday morning service or Coffee hour.**

**December 31<sup>st</sup>** - **No Sunday morning worship on New Year's Eve Day.**

Here is the pledge card for 2024. You will be receiving a letter and a current statement of your 2023 account from the church in the next week or so. This is in preparation for Stewardship Sunday which kicks off on Sunday November 19<sup>th</sup>. If you could bring your pledge card that day it would be helpful for planning our 2024 budget.

Thank You!!

## 2024 FINANCIAL COMMITMENT – RAYMOND VILLAGE COMMUNITY CHURCH

# THE JOURNEY CONTINUES

Pledge Amount For our church ministries (general fund)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ weekly      monthly      one-time (Please circle weekly, monthly or one-time)\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Please return your Pledge card on November 19, Stewardship Sunday or mail directly to the church at P.O. 285, Raymond, Me. 04071

*We encourage you to use automatic debits to make your gift. Information available from the office.*

I will use automatic debits to my credit card or checking account.

### Missions Corner

#### **Maine Seacoast Mission – It is the giving time of year!**

As we have in past years, we will have a chance to provide gifts to children in Cherryfield ME and surrounds. For more details about the Christmas program over the years, please click on this link.

As in previous years, Maine Seacoast Mission publishes their Christmas wish list on Amazon - [https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1PQH9PMVUXOCA/ref=hz\\_ls\\_biz\\_ex](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1PQH9PMVUXOCA/ref=hz_ls_biz_ex)

Feel free to buy through Amazon and the gifts will go directly to Seacoast Mission. If you prefer, you can contribute money to Raymond Village Church (please let Caryl know), and we will buy gifts for you. **Gifts must be received in Cherryfield by December 1.** We always receive a note with grateful appreciation as many families just don't have the money to buy gifts!

#### **Line Dancing News!**

Rachel is pleased to announce that Line Dancing will resume in the Vestry, on Fridays only, starting on October 20<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00 a.m. We will welcome Maggie Holnider as our new instructor. This will continue as a beginner low impact class. If you have any questions, you may continue to contact Rachel at 232-1172. Rachel may not be able to dance, but she will continue to be involved in these classes.

#### **New signs in our parking lot!**

- Handicap parking sign to remind us all that we do have a spot on the same level as vestry entry (new blacktop covered the sign on the pavement)
- Two "Reserved Parking" spots in the regular parking lot. These are for some of our seniors and others who need a cane to walk and/or cannot walk very far.

### **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



**Windham Hill UCC  
140 Windham Center Rd.  
November 20, 2023, at 6:30 PM**

**Rev. Brian Donovan - Raymond Village UCC  
Rev. Dr. Leslie Foley/Westbrook Warren Cong. Church  
Rev. Tim Higgins - St. Ann's Episcopal/Faith Lutheran  
Rev. Sharon Rankin - Windham Hill UCC**

## **Choirs and Music Directors**

**Faith Lutheran Church (Music Director) Betty McIntyre  
St. Ann's Episcopal Church  
North Windham Union Church UCC  
Raymond Village Community Church UCC  
Westbrook Warren UCC (Music Director) Alicia Phelps  
Windham Hill UCC (Music Director) Paul Stickney**

*\*Thanksgiving Offering to support the Windham Food Pantry  
\*Please join us in Fellowship Hall for pie and coffee following worship*

A great opportunity has been offered to us by the Gray Congregational Church - participation in their *Holly Fair* in November. Feel free to clip the slip at the bottom and register if you would like to participate.

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF GRAY  
2023 HOLLY FAIR**

Please join us at the 2023 Holly Fair at the First Congregational Church of Gray. This is a great opportunity to exhibit and offer your merchandise at a holiday venue just before Thanksgiving, Christmas and the winter season.

Date: Saturday, November 18, 2023  
Time: 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.  
Place: First Congregational Parish House, 5 Brown Street, Gray (behind McDonald's)

Spaces: One six-foot table space = \$25 per space – you provide your own table. All fees waived for Church committees. (Additional \$5 if we provide a six-foot table – first come, first served). Chairs will be provided.  
**Space is reserved upon receipt of payment on a first-come, first-served basis.**  
No refunds after November 8<sup>th</sup>.

Set-Up: Friday evening (November 17) – 4-7 p.m. and Saturday morning 7-8:30 a.m.  
Must be completed before 9:00 a.m.  
We ask vendors not to remove their items from display before 2:00 p.m.  
No changes may be made to table location or configuration once it has been assigned.

Contact: Carol West 650-9093

Please complete the registration form below and, with your check or money order payable to the First Congregational Church of Gray, mail it no later than November 1st to: **First Congregational Church of Gray, Attn: Holly Fair, P.O. Box 155, Gray, ME 04039**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State; Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Describe your products: \_\_\_\_\_

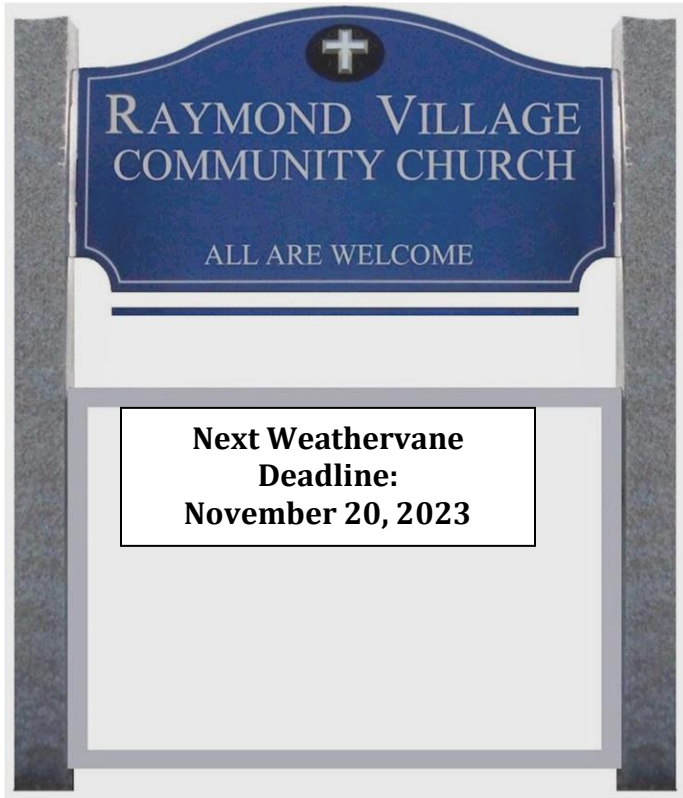
No. of spaces needed: \_\_\_\_\_ x \$25      No. of tables needed \_\_\_\_\_ x \$5      **TOTAL:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Note: Table Covers are not supplied, you must bring your own.

Electricity needed? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes (Must provide own power cords)      \_\_\_\_\_ No

Other Requests: We will do our best to accommodate you, but cannot guarantee. \_\_\_\_\_

Holly Fair organizers must approve table placement and may choose to limit or deny vendor space based on availability, appropriateness or duplication of goods. Goods may not contain alcohol, be offensive or obstruct the view of other vendors' wares. Church committees receive first preference in ALL placement. Vendors are responsible for set up/cleanup of their area. First Congregational Church assumes no liability for injury nor damages or loss of merchandise due to theft, fire or breakage. Receipt of payment indicates agreement to the terms on this registration form.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_



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

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*Hello everybody, Here is an update on baby Raia from Nancy. Thank you all so much for your prayers! -Lori*  
*Raia is doing fine - smiling, cooing, and doing all the usual things a three month old would do. She's eating lots, gaining weight, and teaching her mom and dad the ins and outs of parenting.*

