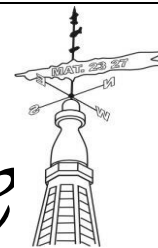


# The Weathervane



RAYMOND VILLAGE COMMUNITY CHURCH, United Church of Christ Newsletter

October, 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 Deacon and Moderator Tom Wiley with a special greeting from Pastor Brian Donovan*

It is my pleasure to prepare this month's feature article. It is with excited anticipation that I have announced the hiring of our new pastor. Our new pathway to spiritual leadership will be directed under the guidance of Pastor Brian M. Donovan.

Pastor Brian will officially begin on October 30th and will lead from the pulpit on the first Sunday in November. But his work has already begun as he leads us into the next chapter of the life of Raymond Village Community Church.

In preparation for the first worship service, Pastor Brian will be reviewing our merger survey, reaching out to local pastors and also learning about our membership in the month preceding the official start date. This will help steer us forward to the next phase of "today's church" and allow him to hit the ground running.

As we begin this transition let me remind you of the words from Philippians 4, 6-8 which tells us "do not be anxious about anything, but in everything and by prayer lest your requests be made known to god and the god who guides our hearts and minds. And if there is anything worthy of praise dwell on these things". So let's move into this new chapter with openness and be together in thought and prayer as we ascend through this process. Additionally I would provide encouragement with the words from Hebrews 13:8 "which tells us Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever." So despite new beginnings, the foundation of which we believe is still intact.

During the next month, you will have opportunities to learn about and meet Pastor Brian. See an accompanying article listing dates and events. And I would end this month's article with some personal introductory thoughts from Pastor Brian himself.

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## **From the Desk of Pastor Brian...**

Good morning all,

And many thanks, Tom, for your wonderful introduction. I especially like your reminder to all of us of the apostle's words from Paul's Letter to the

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*From the Pastor, continued . . .*

Philippines: “do not be anxious about anything, but in everything lest your requests be made known to god.” I like this reminder as so often when transitions happen in our world we do become anxious, worried, afraid of what the future will hold. It is a normal human reaction to changes.

I even asked the search team of Raymond Village what change meant to them and believe it or not their answers were scary, worrisome, and the like. I assume their answers are probably similar to the answer you may have if I were to ask you the same question: what does change mean to you?

But, it does not have to be. Paul reminds us of this truth: that we do not need to be anxious or concerned for the future because “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.” It is just us humans that need to continually change, no - improve, to become more like Christ in each generation. And that does not seem scary anymore does it? If we think of all of these transitions that come into our life as not worrisome changes but simply as ways that God is guiding us to become more Christ-like; then the transition seems well exciting, joyous, Grace filled even. And that dear friends (I cannot wait to meet), is how I see what God is creating for us now. It is like a Christmas present sitting under a tree which we do not know what it is or what it will look like. I am not even sure we can say we have seen the wrapping paper. But, we know that the gift is from God and therefore it will be wonderful when we finally get to open it up and see where we end up - together.

That said, I suppose you would like to know a bit about me as well. I am 51 years old and married to a wonderful woman named Angel. Yes, that truly is her real name. We have five sons and two daughters together (some are steps, some are inlaws) and currently three grandchildren (two more are about to arrive, God willing).

I was called out of the Boothbay Harbor Congregational Church to become a second career minister after working in construction for over twenty years. I am also a published poet and short story writer in the University of Maine in Augusta scholarly journal.

Finally, I love spending time with family (blood - church - friends) as well as spending time at the ocean where I can always feel God’s spirit move and re-energize me. I also enjoy a good hockey game, sci-fi movie, zombie flick, knitting circle, or just a good book on a quiet afternoon. I know this only shares the briefest of insights into who I am now but my door is always open and my phone is always on if you want to talk and get to know me more. I hope that is true for each of you as well because I cannot wait to know each of you as we walk this path together.

Blessings and Love, Pastor Brian



**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, Viv, Tim, & Raia Foran, John & Linda Gregoire, Anita Holmquist on the death of her son Bill, Liz Kenaly, Shannon Lurvey, Ron Maker, Alice Richards & the family of Joan Pappalardo, Deb Rand, Charlotte Rowe, Cora Sullivan’s sister-in-law Karen, The Thayer family & Janice (in hospice), Hilda Wiley.

**October Birthdays!**

**Very happy birthday wishes to everyone with a birthday in the month of October!**

October 1	Rolf Olsen
October 3	Brenda Olsen
October 4	Lori Lambert
October 12	Martha Morrison
October 17	Bonnie Wiley
October 27	Cora Sullivan

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

- October 1, 2023- 10:00 a.m. – Communion  
Worship with Rev. Jane  
McIntyre  
11:00 a.m. – Viewing of video Q  
& A with Pastor Brian Donovan
- October 5, 2023 6:00 p.m. – Council meeting via  
zoom
- October 8, 2023- 10:00 a.m. – Worship with Rev.  
Chan Roach
- October 12, 2023- Church Office Closed
- October 15, 2023- 10:00 a.m. – Worship with Rev.  
Chan Roach  
11:00 a.m. – Congregational Chat  
with Council & Deacons
- October 16, 2023- 5:00 p.m. – Deacons’ meeting (in  
person)
- October 22, 2023- **11:00 a.m.** – Worship with Rev.  
Chan Roach  
12:00 p.m. – Welcome of Pastor  
Brian Donovan
- October 29, 2023- **11:00 a.m.** – Transition service  
with Pastor Deborah Loomis  
LaFond and Pastor Brian  
Donovan

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 October 10 and  
October 24, 2023 from 2:00 – 3:30 p.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

### **OCTOBER LECTIONARY LESSONS**

#### **October 1, 2023 – Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

Exodus 17:1-7  
Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16  
Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32  
Psalm 25:1-9  
Philippians 2:1-13  
Matthew 21:23-32

#### **October 8, 2023 – Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20  
Psalm 19  
Isaiah 5:1-7  
Psalm 80:7-15  
Philippians 3:4b-14  
Matthew 21:33-46

#### **October 15, 2023 – Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost**

Exodus 32:1-14  
Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23  
Isaiah 25:1-9  
Psalm 23  
Philippians 4:1-9  
Matthew 22:1-14

#### **October 22, 2023 – Twenty First Sunday after Pentecost**

Exodus 33:12-23  
Psalm 99  
Isaiah 45:1-7  
Psalm 96:1-9, (10-13)  
1 Thessalonians 1:1-10  
Matthew 22:15-22

#### **October 29, 2023 – Twenty Second Sunday after Pentecost**

Deuteronomy 34:1-12  
Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17  
Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18  
Psalm 1  
1 Thessalonians 2:1-8  
Matthew 22:34-46

### **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

## Summary of September 19, 2023 Coordinating Council and Deacons Meeting

Present: Tom, Caryl, Brenda, Rolf, Judy, Deb, and Brian  
Tom called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM, Tom offered the opening prayer. He introduced our new minister, Brian Donovan to Rolf and Brenda, who had not met him yet.

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

**Treasurer's Report:** Brenda presented financial reports for July and August. She reported that income and expense look to be about where they should. Cash is good, better than budgeted. She let Brian know that she does more in depth financial reports quarterly. Brenda also reported that between herself, Andy Morrison, and Catherine Berry, they are covering the financial job which Nancy Yates has been doing.

### New Business: Introduction Plan

We will begin the Introduction process on October 1, Rev. Jane McIntyre will be preaching, still at 10 a.m. After church in the knitting room, Rolf will be playing the video of Brian Q/A with the Salem Church. On October 15, Chan will be preaching, still at 10 a.m. After church, there will be Congregational Meeting with Council and Search Committee members to answer questions, discuss impact of changes etc.

Deb had offered to work on designing some signs. She feels we really need to emphasize the new start time of 11:00 a.m. We will begin new start time on 10/22. Chan will be preaching, and congregation will be introduced to new Pastor, Brian Donovan. There will be coffee hour after church, possibly with special desserts, to get to know Brian. Deb Lafond will be preaching on 10/29, that will be a transition service. There was discussion on whether to have coffee hour before or after church, since new start time will be at 11 a.m. It was suggested trying coffee hour before church, and feel out whether people want to stay and visit after church as well. Cherie needs to be informed of new time for coffee hour. Coffee hour before church will start on 10/29.

There needs to be further coordination with the Gray church, as we move forward sharing a minister. There are things we can do to ease the burden on Brian, for example, order of service and at least portions of Sunday bulletins should be the same.

For the Sundays which Brian has off, Windham Hill Church has services at 9:30. Some Raymond people may want to attend services in Casco. Brian's first service will

be November 5, that will also be All Saints Sunday. Stewardship Sunday will be 11/19, we need to be thinking about Stewardship message. Tom may do something.

### Reports of the Coordinators:

**Clerk:** nothing to report

**Trustees:** Rolf has taken the tarp down from the Patio. He has discovered electrical problem in the vestry, there are some plugs covered by tape, they can not be used. Rolf has spoken with our tenant next door. They are still working on finding new place to live, no luck yet. In the meantime, Rolf has offered to provide them with a dumpster to help clean out the basement. May need some help hauling stuff out. We can not get an appraiser in there until the basement is cleared. Rolf is going to start working on finding someone to plow for the winter. He would like to clean up the parking lot, identify some handicap parking spots, and do some striping.

**Missions:** Caryl reported on upcoming projects, working with local schools to help them provide needy families with what they need for Thanksgiving and Christmas; as well as working toward providing Maine Seacoast Missions with Christmas gifts.

**Stewardship:** Rolf reported that he and Craig would like to host a thank you dinner for those who helped with Pot Roast Supper this year.

**Deacons:** With Nancy and Bob moving away, we are short on Deacons. Sarah Allen has offered to help some. Bill Feagans and Dermott Bostock have offered to help with taping. Caryl announced that Windham Hills Church will have an Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service on November 20, the Monday before Thanksgiving. All are welcome to attend and/or join the choir.

**Moderator:** Tom attended a meeting on Monday evening at the Gray church with Brian, the moderator from the Gray church, and Marcia Charles, the head of the Cumberland Association Committee on Ministry. Marcia urged both churches to make things as easy as possible for Brian as we embark on sharing a pastor. Brief discussion on updating our website, and when to reactivate our facebook page.

**Pastor:** Brian is going to the Conference Annual Meeting, he will represent both churches. Caryl is also going.

Brian offered a closing prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m. Next meeting will be Thursday, October 5, at 6:00 p.m., via zoom.

Respectfully submitted,  
Judith Munson, Clerk

## Schedule for Meetings and Introductions of Pastor Brian Donovan.

We look forward to this new phase of our RVCC life. Please join us at these upcoming events.



**Sunday October 1<sup>st</sup> After worship.** Join us in the "crochet room" as we play a video of a Q and A session held with the Salem church. The video link will also be shared afterwards.

**Sunday October 15<sup>th</sup> After worship.** Join us in the sanctuary for a Congregational Chat. This will be an opportunity to ask questions or discuss items with the Council, Deacons, and Search Committee Members.

**Sunday October 22<sup>nd</sup>- NOTE New Worship Time of 11 a.m.** This will be your chance to Meet and Welcome Pastor Brian to RVCC. He will participate in a shared worship and then we will celebrate afterwards with Dessert and Coffee Fellowship. (*Rumor has it he is a fan of pies, so dig out some of your favorite recipes and let us have a great kick off day.*)

**Sunday October 29<sup>th</sup> NOTE New Worship Time of 11 a.m.** We will be hosting a transition service as we complete the hiring process and pass the pulpit over to Pastor Brian.

And as always, please be in touch with the council members with any items you may need.

### **Coffee Hour**

We will continue to have coffee hour after Church through October 22, 2023. Starting October 29, 2023, we plan to begin having coffee hour available before Church, but recognize people may also want to visit after the service. We will be looking for input from the Congregation as to the best time for Coffee Hour.

### **Missions Corner**

**Maine Seacoast Mission** – get ready for the Christmas wish list coming near the end of November! As we have in past years, we will have a chance to provide gifts to children in Cherryfield ME and surrounds. As soon as the list is available, it will be published in the All Church Email and Sunday bulletin. You will be able to contribute \$ for Mission team to buy gifts OR buy direct through Amazon. We always receive a note with grateful appreciation as many families just don't have the money to buy gifts!

**Neighbors in Need** - One of the special offerings of the United Church of Christ, The **Neighbors in Need** offering has always supported ministries of justice and compassion in the United States. In 2023, NIN will focus on environmental justice. Plastics, electronics and other non-compostable wastes are being constantly disposed of in unsafe ways. As people of faith, we believe we must be better stewards of our planet.

Traditionally, the NIN offering is collected on World Communion Sunday, which this year is on October 1<sup>st</sup>. We will continue to collect this offering through the middle of October.



*Raymond Village Community Church*

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## **HAPPY HALLOWEEN!**



**We plan on hosting trick or treaters for Halloween again this year and need your help!! Last year we passed out candy to 1068 ghosts and goblins. (Thanks to Cora for counting them all!!!) We need A LOT OF CANDY and would welcome any and all donations.**

**Any questions please see Judy Munson or Deb Feagans.**

**THANK YOU!!!**