

The Weathervane



RAYMOND VILLAGE COMMUNITY CHURCH, United Church of Christ Newsletter

September, 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 reflection was written by Cinde Lucas, who calls herself an "ordinary person" www.CindeLucas.com.

There's a popular chorus that is sung throughout the Christian Community that goes like this: *God is good ALL THE TIME; All the time GOD IS GOOD.* It sounds so wonderful when you hear an entire audience declare God's goodness. But what about when there's not a crowd around? What are we declaring then?

When the chips are down and the enemy is hot on our heels, that's when what we really believe comes out. In the middle of the night when your child is sick with a fever or when you have more bills than money at the end of the month, it may be more difficult to recall God's goodness. In those times we have to reach down into what we know, not what we feel, and on purpose declare that no matter what, GOD IS GOOD.

"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." Romans 8:28

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11

"And surely I am with you always, to the end of the age." Matthew 28:60

"God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them." 1 John 4:16

"Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in Him." Psalm 34:8

"Give thanks to the Lord for he is good; his love endures forever." Psalm 107:1

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 . . .

- September 3, 2023- 10:00 a.m. – Communion Worship with Rev. Chan Roach
- September 9, 2023- 5:00 p.m. – Take out Pot Roast Supper
- September 10, 2023- 10:00 a.m. – Worship with Rev. Jane McIntyre
- September 12, 2023- 5:00 p.m. – Deacons' meeting
- September 17, 2023- 10:00 a.m. – Worship with Rev. Chan Roach
11:15 a.m. – Farewell Potluck for Bob & Nancy Yates
- September 24, 2023- 10:00 a.m. – Worship with Rev. Deborah Loomis Lafond

Worship videos for Communion Sundays will be available on the RVCC YouTube Channel:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCc1hBkBTar_nZF-H4O7YN5ew

Please join us for Coffee Hour after Worship!

The Knitting Group will meet on September 12 and September 26, 2023 from 2:00 – 3:30 p.m.

Line Dancing – all classes are cancelled until further notice.

Scouts, BSA Troop 800 meets every Monday at 6:30 p.m.

AA meets every Friday at 7:00 p.m. *AA will use the Vestry starting at 4:00 p.m. on September 8, 2023 for a potluck dinner.

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 . . .

God is on our side and His power in us is greater than the powers of darkness that try to come against us. Whatever you're facing today, I pray that you will remember that *God is good ALL THE TIME.*

Missions Corner

Socks for Grace Street Ministry – WOW!

Caryl delivered **136 pairs of white socks** to Pastor Jeff of Grace Street Ministry. He said “WOW Thank you! These are the coin of the realm. I was on the street this morning and handed out socks.” **THANK YOU!**

UCC Disaster Ministries donation to help Maui residents.

With more than 2,200 buildings significantly damaged and destroyed, 86% of them residential homes, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) estimates it will cost \$5.5 billion to rebuild Lahaina. Including all fires, Hawaii Gov. Josh Green said the overall damage was estimated at close to \$6 billion. This week RVCC sent a \$250 donation to help Maui residents. If you want to donate, please use this link: <https://support.ucc.org/hawaii-wildfires> Every dollar helps!

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 is focusing on environmental justice. Plastics, electronics and other non compostable wastes are being constantly being 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. We will continue to collect this offering through the middle of October

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



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, Viv, Tim, & Raia Foran, John & Linda Gregoire, Anita Holmquist on the death of her son Bill, Liz Kenaly, Ron Maker, Craig Oldershaw, Deb Rand, Charlotte Rowe.

September Birthdays

September 1 Bryce Sullivan
September 2 Roy Lindell
September 7 Emily & Will Feagans
September 10 Tracie Morris
September 13 Robin Morrison

September Worship

September 3rd - Rev. Chan Roach will lead worship and communion
September 10th - Rev. Jane McIntyre will lead worship
September 17th - Rev. Chan Roach will lead worship *with farewell pot luck luncheon for Bob and Nancy Yates after worship*
September 24th - Rev. Deborah Loomis Lafond will lead worship

SEPTEMBER LECTIONARY LESSONS

September 3, 2023 - Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 3:1-15
Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b
Jeremiah 15:15-21
Psalm 26:1-8
Romans 12:9-21
Matthew 16:21-28

September 10, 2023 - Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 12:1-14
Psalm 149
Ezekiel 33:7-11
Psalm 119:33-40
Romans 13:8-14
Matthew 18:15-20

September 17, 2023 - Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 14:19-31
Psalm 114 *or Exodus 15:1b-11, 20-21*
Genesis 50:15-21
Psalm 103:(1-7), 8-13
Romans 14:1-12
Matthew 18:21-35

September 24, 2023 - Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 16:2-15
Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45
Jonah 3:10-4:11
Psalm 145:1-8
Philippians 1:21-30
Matthew 20:1-16



Minutes of Special Congregational Meeting

July 30, 2023

Moderator Tom Wiley called the meeting to order at 10:55 AM. Approximately 20 people were in attendance. His opening prayer from Ephesians 4:2, reminded us that we own and are responsible for our own thoughts.

Tom summarized the reason for this special meeting. During the search process for a new pastor, the search committee, for the first time, became aware of revised housing requirements in the UCC salary guidelines. These guidelines make it almost impossible, with our current assets, to hire a new pastor for the time period which we had initially thought we could afford. The parsonage is one of two assets, with the church being the other.

There were a number of questions from those attending the meeting. Do we need to follow conference guidelines? No, but doing otherwise, could be problematic. The parsonage is currently being rented, but for below market value. We would invest proceeds from sale in American Funds, where we have other monies. We would ask the current tenant to move by the end of October, so we can list the property for sale after that date.

In order to continue our search, we will extend the supply pastor schedule to the end of October.

Tom asked for a motion to accept the recommendation of the council to sell the parsonage. Rolf Olsen made the motion, seconded by Bonnie Wiley, the motion was passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Munson, Clerk

September 17th Farewell Pot Luck Luncheon for Bob and Nancy Yates

Bob and Nancy Yates announced that they will be moving to Bangor in September. The move puts them very close to Bob's daughter Jennifer and 2 hours closer to Nancy's siblings. Bob and Nancy have been a vital part of all that we do at RVCC for many years. Nancy has been our Financial Secretary and a Deacon. Bob has organized the Clynk program, been a Deacon Assistant and has been available to give rides and to help others in so many ways! They will be missed!

Let's take some time *after Sunday worship on 9/17* to come together, thank Bob and Nancy for all of their contributions, "break bread" and wish them farewell. **Please bring** a salad (any kind), main dish or dessert. See you there!

Looking to the future, this year...

The minutes above, of the Special Congregational Meeting on June 30th, talk about some hurdles that the Search Committee has faced in searching for a new pastor. They continue to move ahead, however, and are close to hiring a half time pastor.



**DON'T MISS THE FINAL
"TAKE OUT" POT ROAST SUPPER:**

Saturday, 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.



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A little "Holy Humor" . . .

