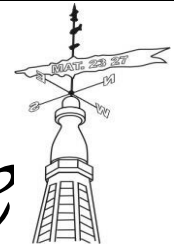


# The Weathervane



RAYMOND VILLAGE COMMUNITY CHURCH, United Church of Christ Newsletter

May, 2023

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## From the Pastor . . .

Dear RVCC members and friends,

I spy with my little eyes the daffodils popping up, the magnolia tree in our neighbor's yard bursting open with white blossoms, and the mulch being applied around bushes and flowers in Raymond. But best of all, the street sweeper comes through the towns collecting all the sand from this past winter. I love Virgil A. Kraft's quote about Spring: *"Spring shows what God can do with a drab and dirty world."*

New life is happening at RVCC too! You, the congregation, are looking with fresh lenses and new ideas to ensure RVCC's future in our community. It does not come without fear and wonder what God's will is for us. But this is where faith comes in.

One of my favorite bible passages comes from Hebrews 11:1 *"Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."*

We have no idea where God will lead us, but if we do the footwork, the Holy Spirit will fill in the cracks. You have done the footwork for the Raymond Village Community Church:

1. Pulpit supply is all planned out until Labor Day,
2. Your church profile is 'live' for prospective pastors to get in touch with you and be your preacher and teacher, as well as continue your mission of being God's hands and feet locally and in the world.
3. The landscape of how to be the church in today's climate is changing rapidly. And again, you are meeting the challenge head-on by writing up a separate profile and considering merging with another church. It might take six months, but it also might take two years or longer.

I also encourage you to leave room for new ideas that will be surprisingly perfect for RVCC. Keep your eyes and ears open and talk to each other, exchanging thoughts and dreams. God has a plan for you as a congregation, which could be totally different from what you all thought.

*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 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 . . .*

- May 7, 2023- 10:00 a.m. – Worship with Rev. Chan Roach  
11:15 a.m. – Congregational Meeting (zoom option available.)
- May 8, 2023- 5:00 p.m. – Council meeting via Zoom
- May 9, 2023- 5:00 p.m. – Deacon’s meeting (in person)
- May 14, 2023- 10:00 a.m. – Worship
- May 21, 2023- 10:00 a.m. - Worship
- May 28, 2023- 10:00 a.m. – Worship – Pentecost Sunday

Worship videos are 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 April 9 & 23, 2023 from 2:00 – 3:30 p.m.

Line Dancing is every Friday at 10:00 a.m.

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

AA meets every Friday at 7:00 p.m.

### **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

### **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](mailto:bolsen001@maine.rr.com)) or 207-838-0123

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

Let me leave you with an image as you continue to look for new opportunities to be the church.



Blessings and Joy,  
Pastor Petra

### **Looking to the future, this year...**

**On May 7th, there will be a congregational meeting after church.** Here is an overview of the topics to be discussed:

- 1. Pulpit Supply and Musicians for the summer:** At this time, all Sundays from June 4 through Sept 3 are now covered with pulpit supply. Many thanks to Chan Roach and some guest preachers for leading worship this summer.  
Michael will be away from June 23 through July 31. At this time, all of these Sundays are covered except June 25, thanks to Cheri Moore.
- 2. Explore merger with another church:** We have discussed possible churches to approach regarding a merger. The first step is for us to pull together our thoughts about what is important to us and more. Tom, Craig Messinger and Sarah Allen have prepared a survey to collect this information and it should arrive in your mailbox by the time you receive the Weathervane. Please return your comments by May 4 in the stamped self-addressed envelope. Thank you!
- 3. Find another ½ time pastor for RVCC:** Associate Conference Minister Alexis Fuller-Wright let us know there are viable possibilities for our church. Nancy Yates and Deb Feagans prepared our small church profile, which was been sent to the Conference. Tom formed a pastoral search committee, which he will lead. The members are Nancy Yates, Sarah Allen, Chan Roach and Craig Messinger. They plan to meet the week of 4/23 week to prepare for interviewing candidates. Currently there are 2 candidates who have expressed interest.

There will be a Zoom option for the May 7<sup>th</sup> meeting. Rolf Olsen is the contact.



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, Christine Horwath, Liz Kenaly,  
 Lisa Lambert, Craig Oldershaw,  
 Rolf & Brenda Olsen & families, Deb Rand,  
 Ann Robinson (Martha's sister), Charlotte Rowe,

### May Birthdays

May 1	A.J. Olsen
May 4	Kathleen Bent
May 12	Charlotte Rowe
May 18	Judy Day
May 26	Christine Eldridge
May 30	Alice Morrison
May 30	Chuck Waldron

### *MAY LECTIONARY LESSONS*

#### **May 7, 2023 - Fifth Sunday of Easter**

\*Acts 7:55-60  
 Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16  
 1 Peter 2:2-10  
 John 14:1-14

#### **May 14, 2023 - Sixth Sunday of Easter**

\*Acts 17:22-31  
 Psalm 66:8-20  
 1 Peter 3:13-22  
 John 14:15-21

#### **May 21, 2023 - Seventh Sunday of Easter**

\*Acts 1:6-14  
 Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35  
 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11  
 John 17:1-11

#### **May 28, 2023 - Day of Pentecost**

\*Acts 2:1-21 or *Numbers 11:24-30*  
 Psalm 104:24-34, 35b  
 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13 or *Acts 2:1-21*  
 John 20:19-23 or *John 7:37-39*



### **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 21<sup>st</sup> 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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:

[West Parish in Bethel - May 6 RVCC has people attending in person](#)

[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](mailto:mlaviola@maineucc.org)

## Summary of April 18, 2023 Coordinating Council/Deacons Meeting

The meeting of Coordinating Council/Deacons was called to order at 5:00 PM on Tuesday April 18 by Tom Wiley. Present were Brenda, Rolf, Tom, Caryl, Deb, Judy, Nancy, Petra, and Craig

Rolf played a musical prayer/hymn. Tom reviewed the agenda.

**Treasurer Report:** Brenda sent the 1Q report. No big spikes in utilities and fuel. American Funds all in fixed income and bonds so no surprises.

**Clerk:** Nothing to report

**Trustees:** Rolf reported that snow is mostly gone. Hoping to get scouts in to help clean-up and also aiming to redistribute reclaim that moved during winter. Then will put up tarp for spring. Added 100 gallons K1 for parsonage.

**Missions:** Caryl reported that \$150 had been given to OGHs. Judy - Hygiene kit bags were handed out last Sunday and hope to have them returned by 4/30. Judy is completing school kits. The CWS drop off is open May 3. May is about Daisy's Children – Sharon will speak at worship on April 30. The May Mission will be to raise money to help Daisy's Children.

**Christian Education:** There were 6 people for the Lenten Study, all by Zoom. Well received

**Stewardship:** Statements printed and letter will go out at end of April.

**Deacons:** Lent through Holy week and Easter went well we thought. Deacons and worship leaders are scheduled.

**Pastor:** Delighted we had double the numbers at Easter. Think the magic was no spring break. Pleased that everyone enjoyed the choir. Petra's friend Tammy came to Maundy Thursday and then Tammy walked with Petra on Friday. They raised over \$400 which will go to Grace Street Ministry. Chan and Kay came to Sunrise Service on Easter at Casco Church.

When Sharon comes on 4/30 it is Shepherd Sunday and Petra/Sharon will share the sermon.

May 7, Petra will be gone for her parents service. Petra's last Sunday is Pentecost which is the day Petra was ordained 10 years ago. Since it is her last Sunday, Petra wants to buy the geraniums for the congregation that Sunday.

**Old Business:**

- Full slate of pulpit supply now. One Sunday missing for musician = 6/25. Brenda will talk with her sister Bonnie about potential
- Tom, Craig and Sarah worked up a questionnaire for the congregation to complete to determine what is or is not important to the congregation. 11 questions with rating 1-5 and comments. Hopefully these will go out this week with a letter. 48 surveys will be sent out with self-addressed stamped envelope to be sent back by 5/5
- Pastoral search – profile sent to Conference. Search committee is Tom, Nancy, Craig, Sarah and Chan. Hope to meet next week to review questions used last time. Currently have 2 candidates. The committee will talk with the candidates about the possible option of merging with another church and we need their help with this. Discussed type of contract (interim, designated term, permanent) and implications. Will work out as we go
- **May 7 congregational meeting** will be a quick update in the vestry. Rolf will set up Zoom for Woody and Alice O.

### New Business:

- Pot roast suppers – Craig  
Start in June on 2<sup>nd</sup> Sat. Price \$12. Meat Market doing pot roast at same price as last year. We have received requests for in-person dinners. Instead set up café tables outside so that people can get their take-out dinners and sit down, like a park (carry in, carry out). Have bottled water in a cooler to sell for \$1. Put in the add “limited outdoor seating”  
Slukes will schedule their dates to play around the suppers so they can order and we deliver.  
Craig and Deb get something written up for May WV. As we collected email last year, can send out an email blast.
  - June 3 is our closing worship for Petra at 10:30am with a party following. We are almost finished with the Litany / worship service wording. Caryl will send that and the invitation to Marcia Charles of Cumberland Assn. Caryl will send an ACE with invitation in May  
May Weathervane deadline is this Friday. Weathervane will be printed on Thursday 4/27, when Nancy is in the office, Judy will be available to help Nancy in the office that day with whatever she might need. Also Nancy will email on 4/27. Fyi, Caryl will cover office 5/4. Our next regular council meeting will be Monday, May 8 at 5pm on zoom.
- Respectfully submitted,  
Caryl Gilman for Judith Munson, Clerk





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

**June 10<sup>th</sup>**

**July 8<sup>th</sup>**

**August 12<sup>th</sup>**

**September 9<sup>th</sup>**

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](mailto:office@rvccme.org) with the information.

**CHURCH WORLD SERVICES KITS – THANK YOU!**

On Wednesday, May 3, we will deliver 16 School Kits for Church World Service to a collection location in Portland. We are also hoping to deliver a number of Hygiene Kits at the same time. The Hygiene Kits need to be brought back to church this Sunday, April 30 in order to be included in this years shipment. Thanks to all for their generosity.



*Raymond Village Community Church*

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

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### Petra's vacation May 1 through 8

While Petra is on vacation, Rev. Allison Curry will cover pastoral emergencies from April 10th to April 17th. Her contact information is: (207) 730-3287 and [allisoncurry43@gmail.com](mailto:allisoncurry43@gmail.com). Chan will preach on Sunday, May 7<sup>th</sup>.

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### May Worship

May 7 – Chan will lead us in worship and celebration of communion

May 14 & 21 – Petra will lead us in worship

May 28 – **Pentecost Sunday** – Petra will lead us in worship – **please wear red!**



*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!*

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### May Missions – Daisy's Children

On **April 30**, the founder of [Daisy's Children](#), Sharon Beckwith, will visit us again to update us all on what has been happening over the past two+ years. Sharon will explain some of the ways the organization needs help to provide nutritional, medical and educational support to impoverished children in the village of Conception del Norte, Honduras. Following worship, we will provide more information in the ACE and bulletin about how RVCC can help.