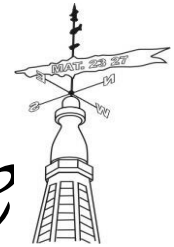


# The Weathervane



RAYMOND VILLAGE COMMUNITY CHURCH, United Church of Christ Newsletter

April, 2024

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## From the Pastor . . .

*“Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”*

• *Philippians 4: 4-7*

### “Why Worry”

The Irish have a philosophy: why worry? ‘*Why indeed,*’ I used to think. But then I discovered that anxiety and fear are not something most people can simply turn off. Sometimes there are physical reactions to fear based influence that are completely involuntary. There are souls who need to run or fight or yes just stand there like a “deer in the headlights.” Those are some of the ways that fear can affect us. Along with a whole slew of stress-based trauma due to that fear. Yet still I ask: why worry? Those words stick in my head today when I think of all the things that could come to be in our politics this year - in our church - or even in my life. I hear it like a mantra of Love: why worry? Then the philosophy permeates my fear-based responses and brings me a new peace and joy we all know in Christ because, really - why worry?

Obviously, the Apostle said it best to the Philippian church. He said, “Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything . . .let your requests be made known to God.” It seems like a simple practice, almost as simple as “why worry.” But what if you cannot. What if you are the deer or the runner or the fighter avoiding the cause of your fear. What if it's a physical reaction to fear that cannot be helped? Why then? Are Paul's instructions helpful then? Truth is, they probably are not helpful at all. You may even want to give these worries to God but simply cannot be due to your natural fear reaction. And I am here to say: that is ok.

We have all been there at some time in our life, I believe. We have all felt the sting of worry and fear grip us, tight - tight enough to get stuck in one of the many fear responses. I know I have; but then I remembered: why

*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 . . .*

- April 7, 2024- 11:00 a.m. – Worship with Rev. Chan Roach
- April 8, 2024- 5:00 p.m. – Deacons meeting in person
- April 14, 2024- **No worship at RVCC.** All are invited to worship at 9 a.m. at First Congregational Church of Gray, 11 Yarmouth Rd., Gray.
- April 16, 2024 5:00 p.m. – Council Meeting via Zoom.
- April 21, 2024- 11:00 a.m. – Worship with Rev. Brian Donovan. Communion will be served in celebration of Earth Day.
- April 28, 2024- 11:00 a.m. – Worship with Rev. Brian Donovan

Worship videos will be available on the RVCC YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCc1hBkBTamZF-H4O7YN5ew>

**The church office will be closed on Tuesday, April 9<sup>th</sup>.**

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

Alzheimer's Support Group will meet on April 7 and April 21, 2024 at 2:00 p.m.

The Knitting Group will meet on April 9 and April 23, 2024 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.

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

worry. And as I recalled the philosophy I chuckled - laughed even and then there was joy. It broke the spiral I was on and let me find my way back to finding solutions. The point, as you may guess, is not the philosophy itself - truly it's not even the idea of prayer, though that is a great way to achieve this separation from fear. Rather, it is what Paul tells us we will find - joy. "Rejoice in the Lord always." Whether your joy is reading a book, watching a Disney movie, going dancing. It does not matter - rejoice and the fear and anxiety will be weakened. Weakened enough that you can once again act without those fear responses holding you against your will. Or at least, that's what Paul seems to be saying to me - today. So, why worry, my friends, let's laugh in Joy with God instead - now and always.

I hope as the season of Lent ends, you can find your joy - joy enough to get past the worries and anxieties of this world. The fears that may be holding you back or keeping you in check. I hope for this healing boon for you, beloved, as we may soon be entering into a new phase in our merger. And this phase will be up to you and to all of us. We need to get to know our neighbors. We need to go to their church and worship with them and make opportunities for them to meet us. We need us all to participate in the coming weeks because we need to build relationships with these communities. So, I hope you will join me as we set out to rejoice in the Lord - set aside our worries - and yes give all to God through our prayers and requests - now and always.

In God's Joy - we eternally pray

Rev. Brian Donovan (Brian - Pastor - child of God)

### **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. Please let me know if you have any questions. Thanks! Brenda ([bolsen001@maine.rr.com](mailto:bolsen001@maine.rr.com)) or 207-838-0123

### **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).



Please keep the following people in your prayers:

Amanda, Angela's family & friends, Woody Beech and family, Kathleen Bent, Michael Cadotte, The Family of Howdy Christiansen, Angel Donovan, Bill Downes, Louise Doyle, Polly Dyer, Christine Eldridge, Linda Eldridge, Rick Emery, Cassi Gordan, Scott Gordan, John & Linda Gregoire, Liz Kenaly, Shannon Lurvey, Ron Maker, The Messinger Family, The Morris family, Deb Rand, The family of Charlotte Rowe, The Shively Family, The Thayer family - Janice (in hospice), Hilda Wiley, and for the people of Israel, Palestine, Ukraine, and Maine.

### APRIL LECTIONARY LESSONS

*April 7, 2024 - Second Sunday of Easter*

[Acts 4:32-35](#)  
[Psalm 133](#)  
[1 John 1:1-2:2](#)  
[John 20:19-31](#)

*April 14, 2024 - Third Sunday of Easter*

[Acts 3:12-19](#)  
[Psalm 4](#)  
[1 John 3:1-7](#)  
[Luke 24:36b-48](#)

*April 21, 2024 - Fourth Sunday of Easter*

[Acts 4:5-12](#)  
[Psalm 23](#)  
[1 John 3:16-24](#)  
[John 10:11-18](#)

*April 28, 2024 - Fifth Sunday of Easter*

[Acts 8:26-40](#)  
[Psalm 22:25-31](#)  
[1 John 4:7-21](#)  
[John 15:1-8](#)

### APRIL BIRTHDAYS

April 2	Tom Wiley
April 4	Tim Morris
April 12	Bekah Gagne

### MISSION NEWS – HYGEINE & SCHOOL KITS

For many years, RVCC has put together school and hygiene kits for Church World Service. In the face of natural disasters, violence, or poverty, hygiene kits can mean the difference between sickness and health for struggling families. One gallon zip lock bags, with a list of needed supplies attached, will be available in the back of the church on Sunday, April 7. Please take one home and fill it with the needed supplies and return it to the bin in the back of the church by Sunday, April 28. Thanks to your generosity last fall, we already have the supplies we need for the school kits and thanks to Sarah Allen for sewing kit bags!

### WORSHIP UPDATES

*Please don't forget about worship opportunities at RVCC and with Casco Village during Holy Week in March. See page 5 for all details.*

**April 7** - Rev. Chan Roach will lead worship.

**April 14** - Worship will be at the First Congregational Church of Gray, F. We were all specifically invited to this 9 AM service to worship with one of the possible merger partners.

**April 21** - Rev. Brian Donovan will lead worship with communion in celebration of Earth Day.

**April 28** - Rev. Brian Donovan will lead worship.

### Line Dancing News!

Line dancing is continuing to be offered on Friday mornings at 10:00 am with Maggie Holnaider as our instructor. This class is a beginner low impact class. If you have any questions, you may continue to contact Rachel at 232-1172.

## Summary of Monday, March 11, 2024 Coordinating Council Meeting

The meeting was called to order by Tom Wiley on Monday, March 11, 2024, at 5PM, via zoom. Present were Tom, Rolf, Brenda, Caryl, Deb, Brian and Judy.

Judy offered opening thoughts/prayer. The agenda was reviewed.

### Reports of the Coordinators:

**Treasurer:** Brenda reported that financials look close to budget, cash looks good.

**Pastor:** Brian reported that things are running smoothly. Plans are going well for Holy Week. Caryl is working with Michael on music for Easter. We will have a 7 person choir for Maundy Thursday. Brian and Tom have a meeting after church, this coming Sunday, at Casco.

**Clerk:** nothing to report

**Deacons:** starting April 7, there will be a choice given in the bulletin for opening words of the Lord's Prayer, i.e. Our Father, Parent, Creator, God who art in Heaven. People may choose what they wish to say. Chan will be preaching that Sunday. Brian will be off on Sunday, April 7 and 14. Information about Easter flowers will be in the ACE.

**Missions:** Judy reported that we will be collecting for OGHS during the next couple of weeks.

**Trustees:** Rolf reported that he had completed the corporate filing for this year. He shared that he hopes to get the scouts going early with clean up in the parking lot. He was reminded that we need to redistribute the pile of reclaim at the top of the driveway by the door into the office.

**Stewardship:** Suggestion was made that we need to raise price to \$15 for pot roast dinners. Big cost is the meat. We also need more help, possibly Lions. Craig will come to our next meeting to discuss dinners.

**Old Business:** Rolf mentioned that the guy who bought parsonage had approached him about trimming some trees on property line along our parking lot. No one had a problem with this.

**New Business:** Brian is continuing to set up meetings with other churches, not a lot of feedback yet from the meetings that have already happened. These are preliminary meetings, it is too soon to come to any conclusions about them. After discussion, it was decided to print the Weathervane on Thursday, March 21.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, April 16 at 5:00 PM. Brian offered the closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Munson, Clerk

## SEBAGO LAKES FULLER CENTER NEWSLETTER



## Valentine Hugs to Our Families!



Our families are special! Our wonderful volunteers reached out and provided a carnation to let each of them they are loved.

Hug a Senior or Veteran today!





## Holy Week Easter Worship

**Palm Sunday:** This first day of Holy Week and the last Sunday of Lent commemorates Jesus Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Therefore, let us gather our Palms as we come into God's sanctuary; so, we may join in the celebration and wave these symbols of triumph as we gather for worship.

Raymond Village Community Church: 11 AM, March 24

**Maundy Thursday:** On the Thursday before Easter, we observe and participate in the sacrament of Holy Communion, recalling Jesus' first Eucharist during the Last Supper. This service will begin in the vestry and as the shadows grow, we will enter the sanctuary to conclude our worship.

Raymond Village Community Church: 6:30 PM, March 28

**Good Friday:** The Friday before Easter is the day where we remember when Jesus was crucified for our sins. From the early days of Christianity, Good Friday is observed as a day of sorrow, penance, and fasting.

We will have a time of open sanctuary. Where people may come to pray and reflect on what this time of darkness means to you and your faith. Throughout the sanctuary will be located the stations of the cross.

**(Day):** Raymond Village Community Church: 12 - 3 PM, March 29

A worship service will be held at Casco Village with an invitation for everyone at RVCC to attend and share in this service of the seven last words of Christ.

**(evening):** Casco Village Church: 6 PM, March 29

**Easter:** Our celebration of Jesus' Resurrection on the third day after his Crucifixion.

**Sunrise:** We are invited to a morning sunrise outside service to share in this early morning celebration as the darkness recedes to reveal the light of Christ.

Casco Village Church: 6:30 AM, March 31

**Easter service:** We will celebrate Jesus' resurrection together during our Sunday morning worship.

Raymond Village Community Church: 11 AM, March 31



*Raymond Village Community Church*

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

## **EASTER FLOWERS**

Please help us decorate our sanctuary for Easter!! We are inviting everyone to bring in flowers of any sort – Easter lilies, tulips, etc. to make our sanctuary beautiful on Easter morning. Flowers can be dropped off when the Church office is open during Holy Week or can be brought in on Easter morning.

If you would like your flowers to be in celebration, honor or memory of someone, please send your message and the name of the honoree to the Church office [office@rvccme.org](mailto:office@rvccme.org), no later than Sunday March 24, 2024.

