

The Weathervane

RAYMOND VILLAGE COMMUNITY CHURCH, United Church of Christ Newsletter

May, 2024

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From the Pastor . . .

Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.

— [1 Corinthians 12:27](#)

The apostle Paul tells the church at Rome, “In Christ, we, though many, form one body” ([Romans 12:5](#)). And to the Corinthians he says, “You are the body of Christ.” When we are saved in Jesus Christ, we become part of the church, and each of us is a valuable member of the body of Christ.

The idea of being a member of the body is different from that of being a member of a club or some other organization. You are a part of a living body, like an eye, an ear, or a hand.

“To each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.” We are a part of the church so that, in a way that is unique to our God-given abilities, we may contribute to the body’s health, vigor, and growth.

In the early church, it seems, there were two extremes. Some people said, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body.” And others said, “I am an eye, but you are a hand; I don’t need you!”

Some people think of the church as a stuffy, boring club. But we are all saved to be a part of something larger than just our lonesome selves. Together, in the body of Christ, we can do greater things to encourage each other in the faith and bring Christ’s love and peace to a broken world. Discover your gifts, and use them in service to Christ, the head of the church.

O Lord, where in your body would you like me to serve? Help me not to be scornful or envious of other parts of your body. Help us all work together for good. In your name, Amen.

About the author — [George Young](#)

George Young, a native New Yorker, worked as a taxi driver in New York City before studying to become a pastor. Then he, his wife Ruth, and their children were missionaries for many years in northeastern Japan. They worked with ministers and believers from the Reformed Church in Japan to spread the good news of salvation in Christ and establish new churches. Now George and Ruth are retired and live in the northeastern United States, nearer to their children and grandchildren.

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 . . .

- May 5, 2024- 11:00 a.m. – Worship and Communion with Rev. Brian Donovan
Noon – Informal Congregational discussion with merger updates. Please join us!
- May 6, 2024- 5:00 p.m. – Deacon’s meeting in person
- May 12, 2024- **No worship at RVCC.** Please attend worship at either First Congregational Church of Gray (9:00 a.m.) OR Casco Village Church (10:00 a.m.)
- May 14, 2024 5:00 p.m. – Council Meeting in person.
- May 19, 2024- 11:00 a.m. – Worship with Rev. Brian Donovan.
- May 26, 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/UCc1hBkBTarnZF-H4O7YN5ew>

Please join us for Coffee Hour after Worship!

Alzheimer’s Support Group will meet on May 5 and May 19, 2024 at 2:00 p.m.

The Knitting Group will meet on May 14 and May 28, 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.

Women’s Food and Fellowship Pot Luck Supper

The First Congregational Church of Gray women's group is inviting all RVCC women and friends to a potluck supper on Wednesday June 12 at 6:00, main dish, side dish, dessert. Suggest 2 people go together on a dish (main, side or dessert). The supper will be held in the Parish Hall.

If you plan to attend, please contact Carol West by June 1 at carolwest68@aol.com or call her at 650-9093

Strengthen the Church Special Offering

The Strengthen the Church (STC) Offering reflects the shared commitment of people across the United Church of Christ to cooperatively build up the UCC.

Conferences and the national setting equally share the gifts given by members and friends through their local congregations. The funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations. **By your generosity to this offering, you build up the Body of Christ.**

As God calls our congregations to be the church in new ways, your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults.

We will collect for Strengthen the Church throughout the month of May.

Knitting & Crocheting Group

The knitting & crocheting group meets the 2nd & 4th 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) 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) or give me a call (207-838-0123). Thanks! Brenda



Please keep the following people in your prayers:

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

MAY BIRTHDAYS

May 1	A.J. Olsen
May 4	Kathleen Bent
May 26	Christine Eldridge
May 30	Alice Morrison

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. Although Rachel may not be able to dance, she will continue to be involved in these classes!!

MAY LECTIONARY LESSONS

May 5, 2024 – Sixth Sunday of Easter

*Acts 10:44-48
Psalm 98
1 John 5:1-6
John 15:9-17

May 12, 2024 – Seventh Sunday of Easter

*Acts 1:15-17, 21-26
Psalm 1
1 John 5:9-13
John 17:6-19

May 19, 2024 – Day of Pentecost

*Acts 2:1-21 or *Ezekiel 37:1-14*
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
Romans 8:22-27 or *Acts 2:1-21*
John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

May 26, 2024 – First Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 6:1-8
Psalm 29
Romans 8:12-17
John 3:1-17

WORSHIP UPDATES

May 5 –

Rev. Brian Donovan will lead worship and communion.

Following worship, we will have an unofficial time of conversation and merger updates. Please join us for this important discussion!

May 12 -

No worship at RVCC. Worship is either at First Congregational Church of Gray or Casco Village. Please go to one of these services and share with Brian your thoughts and feelings.

May 19 -

Rev. Brian Donovan will lead worship.

May 26 -

Rev. Brian Donovan will lead worship.

Summary of Tuesday, April 16, 2024

Coordinating Council Meeting

The meeting was called to order shortly after 5 PM, via zoom, by Rolf Olsen, in the absence of Tom.

Present were Rolf, Brenda, Deb, Judy, Caryl, and Brian.

Deb offered the opening prayer, for those on a journey of trust to an unknown place.

Treasurer: Brenda presented the quarterly financial report. Income is over budget, due to a contribution from a former member who has recently passed away. Expenses are also down in several categories, among them heating and plowing. Cash flow is in good shape.

Reports of the Coordinators:

Pastor: Brian reported a busy month. Two churches are interested in pursuing merger with us, Gray and Casco. He has also heard from Windham Hill and Westbrook Warren, that they are not interested in pursuing a merger. Brian reported that he had enjoyed working with the Casco Church on Maundy Thursday and Easter events.

Clerk: nothing to report

Deacons: Caryl reported that Patrick has contacted her, has free time this summer if we were looking for a pianist. Caryl is in the process of talking with Michael's family about their plans. She also reported that we are no longer using gloves to serve communion. Although we had originally planned to serve communion this Sunday, April 21, we will not since Chan did communion on April 7.

Missions: Judy reported that Hygiene and School kits need to be delivered to Woodfords Church on May 2. We are in the process of collecting for Hygiene kits and assembling School kits.

Stewardship: Brenda will get to work on preparing first quarter Stewardship letter shortly.

Trustees: Rolf has a number of projects coming up. He is trying to schedule the repairs on the steeple, dirt needs to be moved back on to the driveway by the office, and he needs to work on repairing window at the back of the church.

Old Business: Craig joined us for a discussion of the upcoming pot roast supper season. It was agreed to hold them as we have on the second Saturday of each month from June through September. It was agreed to raise price to \$15.00. The Casco church does a monthly pot luck supper, our dates will not conflict with them. Craig and Deb agreed on what to put in the Weathervane. We will have flyers to hand out at each supper so people know

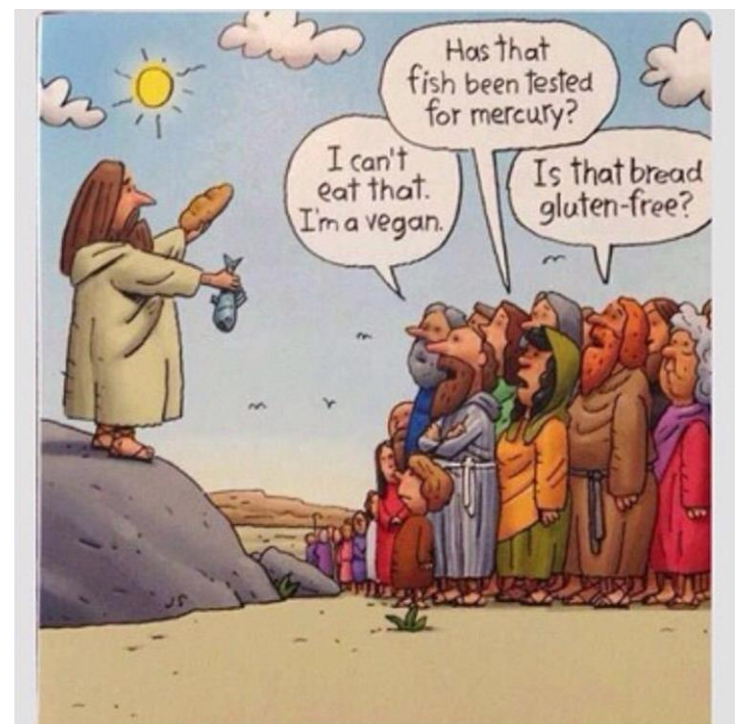
when the next one is. We talked about doing a season pass for suppers, \$55 for all four suppers.

New Business: Discussion of proceeding with churches that have expressed interest in merging with us continued. Gray has expressed interest in starting conversations, Casco is not at that point yet. Brian needs volunteers to serve on a committee as we start these conversations. There are council members and deacons who are interested. Judy asked where other members of our congregation stand in this process. Only 5 of us attended the service in Gray this past Sunday, which we had been invited to. Judy and Deb had hoped to bring Polly but had concerns about how easy it would be to get her into the building. Brian is ready to speak with others in the congregation about their commitment. We need to pursue whatever avenues for merger are available at this point. There are no guarantees that these will be successful and actually lead to a merger.

Weathervane will be printed on April 25. Deb and Judy need info for it by the 22nd. Our next meeting will be Tuesday, May 14, in person.

Respectfully submitted

Judith Munson, Clerk



(Yes, our Communion bread is gluten free!)



"TAKE OUT" POT ROAST SUPPERS ARE RETURNING!!

SAVE THE DATES:

June 8th

July 13th

August 10th

September 14th

Pot roast and gravy, potatoes, green beans, carrots, a roll, and a brownie for \$15.

New this year – order in advance for all 4 suppers for discounted cost of \$55.

(Cash or checks only. No credit cards.)

Meals are primarily takeout. We will have LIMITED outdoor seating available.

We are taking orders for pick up Saturday. Pick up time is between 5:00 and 6:00 p.m.

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.



Raymond Village Community Church

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Thank You!

Many thanks to all who brought flowers to decorate the Sanctuary on Easter morning. Thanks as well to Bonnie Pierpoint for sharing her talents in arranging the flowers! The Sanctuary looked beautiful! It was a wonderful service with special music from Michael and guests.



(Photo taken by Lori Lambert.)