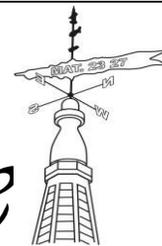


The Weathervane



RAYMOND VILLAGE COMMUNITY CHURCH, United Church of Christ Newsletter

April, 2018

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From the Pastor...

“Dance as though No One is Watching You....”

"Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes with the morning."
-- Psalm 30:5b

Easter is THE biggest festival of the church year – and really should not be confined to a one-day celebration! Though the Easter flowers may be long gone from our sanctuary, we are going to continue to acknowledge the joy of the resurrection throughout the Easter season that extends all the way to May 20th, the Day of Pentecost. And is there a better way to let loose and really rejoice than dancing?

Don't worry! No one will make you get up and dance in the aisles (unless you want to). However, our worship series for the Easter season will be a fun one because we will be reflecting on the season through the lens of dancing.

The title of the series is “Dare to Dance Again.” As Easter people, we are called to dance our dances of resurrection for all the world to see: Dances of hope, dances of justice, dances of love. During this season, we will see that the many Biblical stories point to the joy of living in community and extending that fellowship beyond our congregation as we dare to dance again.

Here's what you can look forward to:

April 15th – “With Great Power: Dancing Together”

Other Scripture readings point to the power of being together, of finding fellowship in the presence of Jesus and the presence of the community. What does it take to dance together?

April 22nd – “While in Their Joy: Dancing Sure”

We will acknowledge that sometimes we are unsure about our steps in this world. For the disciples, even “while in their joy” at seeing Jesus

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 . . .

April 1, 2018-	10:00 a.m. – Easter Worship
April 2, 2018-	6:30 p.m. – Music Search Committee meeting
April 4, 2018-	6:30 p.m. – Deacons’ meeting
April 8, 2018-	10:00 a.m. - Worship
April 11, 2018-	10:00 a.m. – Writer’s group 6:30 p.m. – Council meeting
April 14, 2018-	1:00 – 4:00 p.m. - RAA using Vestry.
April 15, 2018-	10:00 a.m. – Worship
April 16, 2018-	1:00 – 4:00 p.m. – RAA using Vestry.
April 17, 2018-	1:00 – 4:00 p.m. – RAA using Vestry and Sanctuary.
April 21, 2018-	4:30 p.m. RAA Sing-A- Long.
April 22, 2018-	10:00 a.m. - Worship – Installation of Church Officers
April 26, 2018-	4:30 p.m. – RAA Open Mic Night in Vestry
April 29, 2018-	10:00 a.m. - Worship

Please join us for the Fellowship Café Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. April is an open month for the Café. Please bring some goodies to share.

-Boy Scout Troop 800 meets every Tuesday
at 6:30 p.m.

-A.A. meeting is every Friday at 7:00 p.m.

-Qigong is Saturday morning from 8:00 – 9:00 a.m.

From the Pastor, continued . . .

post-resurrection, they were still “disbelieving and wondering.” But 1 John reminds us that even though we may not know our next steps, we can be sure in them because we are “beloved,” God’s children and “we will be like” the one in whose steps we can surely follow—the resurrected Jesus.

April 29th – “By This We Will Know: The Dance of Love”

How do we know the rhythm and dance of our lives is faithful? Drummer of the Grateful Dead, Mickey Hart wrote “To fall in love is to fall in rhythm.” It is love for each other by which we know we are followers of Jesus. In the face of a culture that strives to foster a “me first” attitude, they will know we are Christians by our love. How can we listen to the music that draws us together, “falling in rhythm” with neighbor in order to build up the whole?

May 6th – “Who Can Withhold? Break Forth!”

The scriptures for this Sunday describe everything in creation offering joyful noises to God. Our joy is complete because the joy of Christ resides within us. We cannot help but break forth. This joy is available to all, realizes the newborn church community in Acts. The Holy Spirit finds its way even and especially in what feels like unlikely people and places. Where do we see the Spirit at work? And who can withhold our living praise? No one!

May 13th – “Gone Up with a Shout: Clap your Hands!”

As Jesus prepares to leave the disciples, he opens their minds and blesses them. The result after he ascends is their return to Jerusalem with great joy and a desire for “continually” worshipping and blessing God in the temple. What happens when the “eyes of our hearts are enlightened?” We know the hope that we have been called to – and so we celebrate. We dance our dances of justice and peace!

Prayer Shawls

A couple of folks in our church family are happy to knit prayer shawls, and Rev. Nancy has a good supply. If you know of someone who might enjoy having a prayer shawl, please see Rev. Nancy or one of the deacons. A prayer shawl can be a deeply meaningful gift from our church to someone in need or transition.

Prayer Concerns



Our prayers of concern go out to:

In our Church Family:

Pauline Cadotte, Polly Dyer, Frank Sullivan,
Lois & Chuck Waldron

In our Extended Family:

Michael Cadotte, Dorothy Hews, Jeffrey Lambert

In our Community:

Janet & Gary Cairns, Gary & Deb Cassidy,
Tommy Keith, Dan Tibbetts

Raymond Arts Alliance

Our church is so pleased to be in partnership with the newly formed Raymond Arts Alliance (RAA) along with the Raymond Library. The mission of RAA is: “to inspire connection, collaboration, education, and enjoyment. Its focus is to enrich our community through the arts and present events for all ages. RAA encourages community participation and provides a space where cultural diversity is celebrated.”

We have opened our building to the RAA as they host a variety of community-building events. For example, an ongoing qigong class is in our Vestry on Saturday mornings from 8:00 – 9:00 A.M. It is open to everyone and is a gentle exercise class that reduces stress as well as improves flexibility and balance. No experience is necessary. Come anytime, and wear your comfortable clothes. Each class is \$5.00.

In addition, the RAA had a hugely successful concert of “short sets” in January. Over 74 people came to listen to a folk guitarist, a jazz combo, and a high energy Latin duo. In the works are a children’s puppet show, writing workshops, a story telling evening, a senior citizen dance, and a concert of world music.

RAA events bring many new people into our church, often for the first time. Our church also receives a portion of monies received for each event. Come and support the RAA! You are sure to enjoy yourself – and see church and neighborhood friends.

Lectionary Lessons for April

The lectionary lessons after Easter often highlight first the appearances that Jesus made to his disciples followed by the nurturing and development of the Early Church - first in Jerusalem and then throughout the Middle East. Focus lessons for the month are in **bold**.

April 1st – Easter

Isaiah 25:6-9

Psalms 118:1-2, 14-24

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Mark 16:1-8

April 8th – Second Sunday of Easter

Acts 4:12-35

Psalms 133

1 John 1:1 – 2:2

John 20:19-31

April 15th – Third Sunday of Easter

Acts 3:12-19

Psalms 4

1 John 3:1-7

Luke 24:36-48

April 22nd – Fourth Sunday of Easter

Acts 4:5-12

Psalms 23

1 John 3:16-24

John 10:11-18

April 29th – Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 8:26-40

Psalms 22:25-31

1 John 4:7-21

John 15:1-8

Wonderful Music Continues in Worship

Even as our Music Committee is hard at work defining the strengths of our music program and our hopes and dreams for it, we continue to have a variety of musical styles characterize our Sunday worship.

This Spring, you can expect some guitar, piano, trumpet, and bagpipes – in addition to our Adult Choir and our Very Occasional Men’s Choir. You won’t want to miss a single Sunday!

**News from the Cumberland Association
Maine Conference United Church of Christ**

Instead of the usual Spring Business Meeting, the Cumberland Association is holding two workshops for clergy and laypeople. These workshops are open to anyone, so if one or both strike your fancy, let Rev. Nancy know that you would like to attend with her.

Here's some info on both of them:

Saturday, April 28th

Westbrook-Warren Congregational Church, UCC

[810 Main St., Westbrook](#), ME 04092

9:30: Coffee and Conversation

10:00: Morning Worship

10:30 -12:00: Workshop: "Funding the Faith: Creating and Nurturing a Culture of Giving"

What are trends in giving? Are there generational differences in giving? Do we need to rethink how we ask for and collect money? Are there practical tools that treasurers and congregations use that are helpful? This workshop will present trends in giving and new strategies for engaging givers. It will be especially appropriate for church treasurers and campaign chairs.

Saturday, May 12th

First Congregational-Christian Church

[19 Gloucester Hill Road, New Gloucester](#), ME 04260

9:30: Coffee and Conversation

10:00: Morning Worship

10:30 -12:00: Workshop: "Bearing Each Other's Burdens": Sharing the Work of Caring for God's People"

Among the most important functions of a church is creating a community that cares for one other throughout the crests and furrows of life. Small and large churches face challenges of sharing pastoral care between the pastor, Deacons, or a care team. What are the best practices for sharing pastoral care? How do churches organize and prioritize this shared work of calling, writing, and visiting?

Missions

For the month of April, we will concentrate on putting together our school and health kits. We need to deliver them to Woodfords Congregational Church in early May.

By putting together school kits each year, we are ensuring that children who may be in an area recovering from a disaster or who are living in tough circumstances have the supplies they need to start a school year. Thanks to everyone's generosity, we collected enough supplies in the fall when these items were on sale, to put together 40 kits. Adma Willis and Sarah Allen have agreed once again to sew the bags, and with the help of our Sunday School children, we will put these kits together in late April.

Hygiene Kits help make sure that people have the most basic of supplies, from washcloths to nail clippers to keep clean in the wake of an emergency. Tracie Morris has agreed once again to prepare the bags for the hygiene kits. Starting on April 8, you will find one gallon Ziploc bags, with a list of the items needed, on the mission table in the vestry. Please take a bag or two, fill them with the necessary items, and return them by April 29.

Thanks for your help in allowing us to participate in these mission projects each year!

VNA Home Health Hospice is offering an open grief support meeting on:

April 9, Monday, 6:00 – 7:30 PM

North Windham Union Church

723 Roosevelt Trail,

Rt. 302, Windham, ME

FMI Linda Hopkins

Bereavement Support Coordinator

VNA Home Health Hospice at 400-8714

Sponsored by North Windham Union Church UCC

Mission Committee.

This is a free community outreach service.

Summary of March 14, 2018 Coordinating Council Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM on Wednesday, March 14, 2018 by Tom Wiley. Present were Tom, Rolf, Rev. Nancy, Judy, and Andy Morrison. Treasurer, Caryl Gilman joined us by phone.

Tom offered the opening prayer.

Rolf moved, and Rev. Nancy seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the January 10 meeting as printed.

Tom reminded us that Annual Meeting gave the council permission to fill open positions during the year. Rolf moved, and Rev. Nancy seconded the motion to appoint Caryl Gilman as treasurer for the first half of the year. Rolf made a motion, seconded by Tom to appoint Brenda Olsen as treasurer for the second half of the year. Both motions were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Caryl joined us by phone to present her report. She reported that two more pledges, totaling \$3765, were received for 2018. New pledge total is now \$68,659. We also received the full amount of \$3600 in pledges for cleaning. For the general fund in January, Caryl reported income of \$6,699.55, and expenses of \$5,813.21. February showed year to date income of \$13,653, about \$1500 less than budgeted. Caryl reported concern of no rental income showing from the tenant in the parsonage, nor from the state. Andy and Caryl will look into this. Total expenses for February were \$13,691, savings came from Music Director salary, insurance, and snow removal. Insurance, she believes was paid in March. Snow removal cost will undoubtedly be coming. For missions in January and February, we have income of \$987, and expense of \$105, deposit for Maine Seacoast Mission for 6 people. Motions were made and seconded to accept both the January and February financial reports, subject to audit.

Reports of Coordinators:

Clerk: nothing to report

Trustees: Rolf reported that he has received new lights for the nursery and front exterior of the building, and is ready to install them. The exterior lights have not been working for a while, he needs to figure out problem out there before installing new bulbs. These expenses are to be covered by insurance. Rolf is hoping to avoid the cost of getting a front loader in to remove snow in the parking lot. He will keep an eye on it and make a decision before Easter to ensure we have enough parking for that Sunday.

Missions: Judy reported that she and Caryl Gilman are working together on the 5 for 5 offerings this year. One

Great Hour of Sharing offering had been collected on March 11, Judy heard from Nancy Yates that at least \$200 had been received. There may be more coming in. Judy is going to work with Sunday School kids to put together school and health kits. Adma Willis and Sarah Allen will make the bags for the school kits. Tracie Morris will help with health kits. Caryl reported that the trip to Maine Seacoast Mission will start June 3. At this point there are 5 people definitely going, with 2 possibles. Planning meetings will start in mid April. Rev. Nancy suggested that Caryl put something in the Weathervane, and make an announcement in church looking for additional participants. Rolf mentioned that in the absence of a Missions Coordinator, we need someone to take on the job of returning phone calls to people needing assistance. Currently, if a message is left on the church's phone for the Mission Coordinator, it automatically sends an email message to the coordinator. We need someone to return these calls. A couple of names were suggested, Tom will ask them. We will need to provide this person with guidelines for answering these calls. Rev. Nancy offered to consult with the person on making decisions.

Christian Education: Rev. Nancy reported that Chan is continuing with his Lenten book study.

Judy Munson will take Sunday School kids during church this week to work on the school kits. One Sunday in April she will also take kids during church to put final touches on both health and school kits. Nancy remarked that it would be good to find other people willing to do a special project with kids at least once each month.

Stewardship: No coordinator and nothing to report. Rev. Nancy will be in touch with Sue Dexter to map out plans for the coming year.

Deacons: Andy Morrison attended our meeting representing the Deacons. They met and discussed plans for Palm Sunday, Holy week, and Easter. There will be no Seder meal before the Maundy Thursday service this year. Communion will be served on Easter. On Good Friday, there will be the walk with the Casco Church, and prayer vigil in our church from noon until 3:00 PM. The Deacons will rotate coming to council meetings. Deb Feagans will become a new deacon. Craig Messenger and Emily Feagans have expressed interest in taking on Deacon Assistant responsibilities. Caryl suggested that inactive deacons might be asked to help.

Continued next page . . .

Four Twenty Two and You?

What does the number 422 have to do with yourself you might ask. Well it means there is still time to be involved as a leader of this church. How you might ask? Well I have an answer for you.

You see we will install our 2018 officers during the morning of April 22nd. As you recall at the annual meeting we had some open positions on our church council.

Since that meeting we have had two people step forward to share the treasurer position for this year. Caryl Gilman is currently serving as our treasurer until June 1st. At that time we are grateful to appoint Brenda Olsen as the treasurer for the remainder of the year.

We still have openings to assist with Missions, Stewardship, and Christian Education. Do you think you can share the position with one of your fellow church members? Talk to them and then talk to me.

I look forward to working with you as we do the work involved in running the church. Think about being a leader in this church we love. Four Twenty Two and You. It sounds good doesn't it?

Tom Wiley

Happy Birthday To You!

Happy Birthday to Everyone in our Church Family with a birthday in April:

April 2	Tom Wiley
April 4	Tim Morris
April 12	Bekah Gagne
April 26	Frank Morrison

Council Minutes, continued . . .

Moderator: Tom asked Caryl to sign the Corporation letter. She will do it on Sunday.

Pastor: Rev. Nancy continues working on the music schedule for spring. She is finishing up her Lenten worship series. There will be communion served at the Tenebrae service since there is no Seder meal. She and Deborah Lafond have met to talk about the visioning process. They see this process going in two different directions. The first would involve talks or meetings among our congregation. The second would hopefully involve the conference and meeting with other churches. We are not the only church to be facing attendance problems.

Old Business: Tom reported that the search committee for a new music director has had two meetings. They have been defining the strengths of our music program, and where we want to see it go. They will create a profile of our music program and a job description. The next meeting will be on March 19. Question was raised on where we are with our project of painting the church. Rolf will try once again to get a crew from corrections department. If that is not possible, he will get estimates for painting reverified. Before starting the project, we need to get a capital campaign underway.

New Business: There was discussion on what needs to be written, and by whom, for the Weathervane. To Do items were discussed. Andy and Caryl need to look at rent issue. Judy and Caryl will follow through with OGHS offering. Rolf will start getting painting project back on track. Tom will pursue possible people to follow up on messages left for missions assistance, and will write an article for Weathervane about installation of council members, and our need for new council members.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m. The next meeting will be Wednesday, April 11.

Respectfully submitted,
Judith Munson, Clerk

Have you ever thought about going on a Mission trip?

You have an opportunity to join a small group of people from Raymond Village Church and community who are going to Cherryfield Maine from Sunday June 3 through Friday June 8, 2018. We will be working with the Seacoast Mission housing rehabilitation program.

Everyone deserves to live in a warm, safe home, but houses and mobile homes in Washington County are often old and hard to heat, especially on a limited budget. The Maine Seacoast Mission's housing rehabilitation program based at the [Downeast Campus in Cherryfield, Maine](#) addresses these issues by fixing up or rebuilding twenty houses a year. Repairs and renovations range from painting to insulated mobile home skirting to new roofs.

The Raymond Village Community Church group is lucky to have at least one experienced carpenter. The rest of the group's skills range from painting to running a chop saw. We survey our group's skills and Maine Seacoast Mission will provide us with jobs that fit our skills.

If you have any questions or are thinking about joining us, please call Caryl Gilman 207-627-5073. We hope you will join us!



Ukulele Sing-A-Long

Did you enjoy the Ukulele day at church? Want to do it again? Well, here is your opportunity. Raymond Arts Alliance presents an evening of Ukulele and singing on April 21st at 7 PM with the Sebago Lake Ukulele Society (aka "SLUKES"). The theme is "Earth Day". Song words will be provided. Hope to see you there!

Come and Enjoy the show and the singing!



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Calling all Men

We hope to see you (and hear you) for the Men's Occasional Choir on Sunday, April 22nd. We will have two practices after church on Sunday, April 8th and April 15th. Watch for your weekly e-mail for reminders.



Become a hospice volunteer and make a difference

Hold a hand, lend an ear, run an errand, or provide a comforting presence. If you are a compassionate, reliable individual with a sincere desire to help, we encourage you to join our team of valued VNA Home Health Hospice volunteers.

Volunteers are needed most to help hospice patients in York and Cumberland counties. Healthcare experience is not required and you will receive the necessary training and support needed to help you enjoy a positive and rewarding volunteer experience.

Call today to learn more about this opportunity and sign up for our next training!

Beth Simmons, LSW, VNA Home Health Hospice Volunteer Coordinator
207-400-8852

Spring Education Schedule:
Wednesdays, April 25 through May 23 from 1:00pm to 5pm
50 Foden Road South Portland



DOING SOME SPRING CLEANING?

**LET
US
HELP**



WE ARE LOOKING FOR DONATIONS FOR OUR YARD SALE. WE'LL TAKE YOUR UNWANTED STUFF. WHAT WE CAN'T SELL WE'LL RE-DONATE TO THE SALVATION ARMY. NO HASSLE FOR YOU!

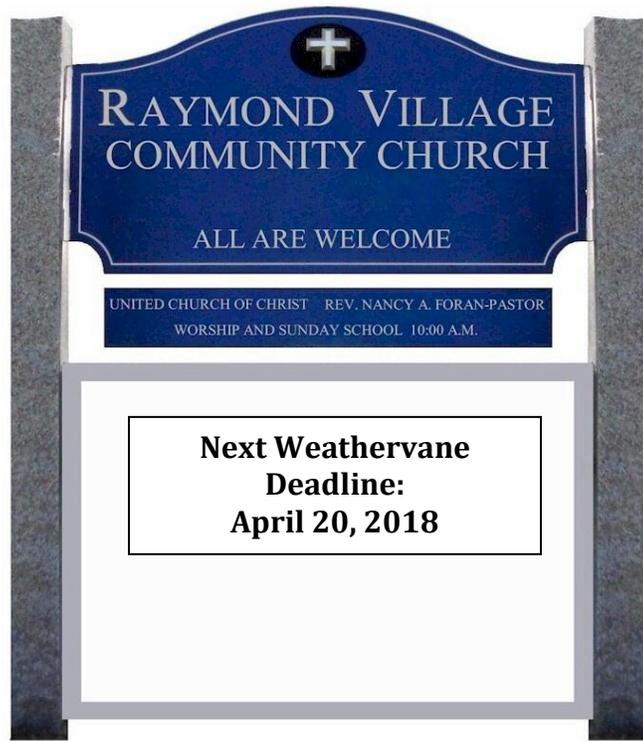
GIVE US A CALL FOR A PICK UP! ROLF OR BRENDA 655-4670.



**SAVE THE
DATE
JUNE 23RD
8AM - 2PM**



**PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT THE RAYMOND VILLAGE COMMUNITY CHURCH
SMALL CHURCH, BIG HEART.**



Raymond Village Community Church

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

**Next Weathervane
Deadline:
April 20, 2018**



Spring Clean Up

At some point this snow will end and we will see spring come in and greet us! When that does happen, we will have a lot of clean up to do to spruce ourselves up for the spring and summer seasons. Keep a lookout in the all church e-mails about a date and time, but based on the current snow levels, it will be late April or early May for the outside items, but we can work on inside cleanup starting in early April.

If you have some time, let me know and I can let you know what needs to be done!

Thanks,
Rolf

In Need of a Home

We have a couple of palm trees from our Palm Sunday worship in need of a home. Please feel free to claim one, nurture it through the spring, and donate it to our Flea Market to be sold in June. If you wish to keep it yourself, we ask that you make an appropriate donation to the Flea Market.