

The Weathervane



RAYMOND VILLAGE COMMUNITY CHURCH, United Church of Christ Newsletter

February, 2019

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From the Pastor...

New Worship Series Beginning!

The season of Epiphany, which begins on January 6th and ends on Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent, is the season of light. It is the season where who Jesus is and what he is all about is revealed to us. It is the season for us to reflect on our own Christian commitment and on what it means for us to be a disciple or follower of Jesus.

Our worship service during this time of discernment is called "Known and Called", and it will encourage us to explore some of these questions and concerns through Bible stories about the life and ministry of Jesus. How are we as Christians known and to what are we called? Those are the important questions!

Here's a summary of the weeks ahead:

February 3rd – Known on Sight and Called Just To Be

Nathanael asked in disbelief, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip then urged him to "**Come and see!**" and he recognized Jesus as "the one" he had been searching for.

Can you believe that we too are "the ones" whom, as the Psalmist sang, God awesomely and wonderfully made for ministry? We begin this worship series today by acknowledging that we are called to simply be our God-made- selves, trusting that something good can come out of us too!

February 10th (Hawk Henries is in worship)

February 17th – Known as Fishers and Called to Cast a Wide Net

Peter and Andrew encounter Jesus on the shore and know that something is up with this guy! They left their vocations behind, turned, and followed him (not knowing what was in store). What might happen if we turned away from the limitations we put on our

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 . . .

February 3, 2019-	10:00 a.m. – Worship – Scout Sunday
	11:15 a.m. – Deacon's Meeting
February 5, 2019-	11:00 a.m. – Age Friendly Meeting
February 6, 2019-	5:00 – 6:30 p.m. – Free Community Fellowship Meal
February 9, 2019-	6:30 p.m. – Hawk Henries performance
February 10, 2019-	10:00 a.m. – Worship with Hawk Henries
	11:15 a.m. – Sweetheart Brunch
February 13, 2019-	10:00 a.m. – Writer's Group
	6:45 p.m. – Council Meeting
February 17, 2019-	10:00 a.m. – Worship
February 20, 2019-	6:00 p.m. – AARP Fraud Prevention Program
February 24, 2019-	10:0 a.m. – Worship

Please join us for the Fellowship Café Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. The Café is hosted in this month by the CE Task Force/Pastoral Relations.

- Choir Rehearsals are on Thursday February 7 & 21th at 5:30 p.m.
- Boy Scout Troop 800 meets on Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m.
- Cub Scouts meet on Mondays at 6:30 p.m.
- A.A. meeting is every Friday at 7:00 p.m.
- Qigong is Saturday February 2, 9 & 16th at 8:00 a.m.

AARP Fraud Prevention Presentation

Join us in the Vestry on Wednesday, February 20th at 6:00 P.M. for a presentation on fraud prevention. Did you know that every two seconds, another American becomes a victim of identity theft? Identity theft is a serious crime where someone uses information about you without your permission. They could use your name, address, credit card or bank account numbers.

Sheriff Joyce will be with at this very informative program along with Jane Margesson, Communications Director, AARP Maine.

We are co-sponsoring the evening with the Raymond Library.

From the Pastor, continued . . .

own lives and cast our nets to a greater purpose? We never know what is in store for us either when we count on the power and love of God.

February 24th – Known to Stand our ground and Called to Justice

When Jesus exorcises an unclean spirit from a man, word starts to get out in the surrounding regions of Galilee. He becomes known as someone “with authority” **who does not back down when faced with evil**. Will we, as followers of Jesus, raise up against injustice? In the name of God's justice, will we break open our lives and pour out our love for the sake of a better world?

March 3rd – Known by Touch and Called to Heal

Jesus touches a woman by taking her hand and helping her up – and she is healed. By then, he has quite the reputation as a healer. His response to all this? “This is what I've come to do, so let's get to it!” Reaching out, binding wounds, lifting up: How are we as a church called to minister to a hurting world? Hope you will join us for this provocative worship series!

We wish the following people a happy February birthday!

February 1	Bill Feagans
February 5	Cheri Moore

**Northern Light Home Care & Hospice
is offering an open grief support meeting on:**

**February 11, Monday, 6:00 – 7:30 PM
(second Monday)**

North Windham Union Church
[723 Roosevelt Trail,](#)
[Rt. 302, Windham, ME](#)

FMI Linda Hopkins
Bereavement Support Coordinator
Northern Light Home Care & Hospice at 400-8714

Sponsored by North Windham Union Church UCC
Mission Committee.
This is a free community outreach service.

Prayer Concerns



Our prayers of concern go out to:

In our Church Family:

Catherine Berry, Pauline Cadotte, Polly Dyer, Carol Hall, The Family of Frances Mains, Gwen Roach, Frank Sullivan, The Wiley Family

In our Extended Family:

Michael Cadotte, Jeffrey Lambert, Joshua Lambert, Deb & Nate Rand

In our Community:

Wendy Bretton, Janet & Gary Cairns, Arthur "Artie" Davis, Irene Doughty, The Family of Tommy Keith, Mike Severance, Dan Tibbetts

DEACON'S CORNER

For the past few months, the ranks of active Deacons have been sparse with only Deb Feagans, Tom Wiley and Adma Willis serving as active Deacons. Fortunately, Caryl Gilman has been willing to step in and help out on a regular basis. We have also been without an official Deacon Coordinator during the past year, although Tom Wiley has kept us organized and moving forward. Tom wears many hats and does such much for RVCC!

As we look forward to 2019, we are very pleased that both Linda Eldridge and Lynn Gagne will be returning as active Deacons. We continue to need additional Deacon's Assistants to help this year. Our current DA's are Bob Yates and Bill Feagans, with Emily Feagans helping at times. If you are interested in becoming a DA, please see any deacon for additional information!

The Deacons recently spent an icy Saturday morning packing up all of the Christmas decorations that had been in place since the Hanging of the Greens in early December. Now that the busy Advent season is over, we have a quieter time to start to plan for Lent and Holy Week Celebrations.

-Deb Feagans



Moderator Musings

Well winter is here. As we all know by now, the "Big One" hit us a few weeks back with lots and lots of snow. But what else has impacted our life as the "Big One". I will be dating myself but many may also recall Fred Sanford was always having the "Big One" and feigned a heart attack when he wanted to get out of the situation he was in at that time.

What about the state of California? Certainly, many earthquakes can be referred to as the "Big One". And some old time NBA fans will remember Oscar Robertson was referred to as the Big "O".

What is our fascination with all things bigger? Does it necessarily mean it is better? Or does it mean it is worse than those before?

What if the bible referred to certain times as the "Big One"? Could the magi venture out on their star led trip as not only long and fulfilling but called it the "Big One"? Or what about when the women went to the tomb and no one was there? Or what about the joyous birth of our king and Savior? "The Big One indeed.

Turning water into wine and feeding thousands from loaves of bread and scant fishes. Wow you guessed right again. These could have been the "Big Ones" too.

Some will say it's the little things that count and make a difference in the world. Oh, those things do truly exist. Such as changing one letter in a word. We can make "Bard" into "Bread" and rearrange and you can grow a "Beard". Or make "Metal" into "Melt" by taking away a letter and rearranging. A small change meaning something so different.

Maybe the quiet sounds of a baby sleeping or the gentle breeze on a summer day. A lonely flower in a field of grass. The chirp of the crickets on a nice cool evening, maybe it can be the little things that are more powerful indeed.

What are the "Big ones and the "Little things in your life? Hopefully the church pays both "big and little" dividends in your life.

Tom Wiley

Summary of December 5, 2018 Coordinating Council Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 6:45 PM on Wednesday December 5, 2018 by Tom Wiley.

Present were Tom, Rolf, Brenda, Rev. Nancy, Caryl, and Judy.

Rolf offered the opening prayer.

Rolf moved and Brenda seconded a motion to accept the minutes of the November meeting as printed. The motion was passed.

Treasurer's Report: Brenda presented the Treasurer's Report for November 2018. Total income of \$8,941 was under budget for the month by \$130, but over budget for the year to date by \$5,091. Current contributions were \$6,405 for the month, over budget by \$47. Year to date over budget by \$5,305. There was \$1,150 in memorial contributions in November. Christmas Fair fundraiser is expected to net about \$1,200. Total expenses of \$6,200 were under budget by \$1,403 for the month, under budget by \$7,754 for the year to date. Year to date net income of \$3,990 is better than budgeted loss of \$9,050. Caryl urged us to look carefully at whether the Christmas Fair is worth doing. Profit is what it is because almost everything is donated. If that changed, it would make a big difference. Rolf made a motion, seconded by Tom, and approved, to accept the Treasurer's Report subject to audit.

Vision Committee Report: Rev. Nancy reported that Lori had met with a contractor recently about the bathroom renovation project. His answer to her was that he would not be interested in doing the job, and would not submit an estimate. He felt it was a complicated project.

Caryl Gilman reported on the activity of the Vision Committee since the Thanksgiving Sunday service. Starting this Sunday, December 9, they will give a brief recap of what they felt was the feedback from the congregation on Thanksgiving Sunday. They will ask the congregation to confirm that this was what they were thinking about the "way we were/are now", and "our vision for the future". In coming weeks, they will present more information which they hope will be helpful and thought provoking. Worship on December 30 will again be a chance for conversation. All of this is leading up to the Annual Meeting on January 20, where the congregation will be asked to make a decision concerning the direction in which the church should go.

Missions: Caryl reported that there has been some confusion the past few weeks over how our missions committee should handle requests for help, either from those within our church, or from outside our church family. She is willing to take on returning these calls, but feels she definitely needs guidance from the council on how to respond. Caryl will let Bob Yates and Lori know that she is taking this on. It was pointed out that going to the town is definitely a resource to pursue, but that it can take time. With that in mind, it was agreed that if

the person in question is "one of our own", we will work with them and their oil company to provide \$100 worth of oil to tide them over while they pursue help from town resources. If it is not someone we know, further due diligence will be pursued before we would provide them with funds for oil. Caryl will look into possibilities of obtaining food in an emergency. Then Caryl will write up procedures regarding fuel, food, and general assistance, ensuring that we are consistent over time.

Status of 2019 Pledges: Brenda presented an analysis of the pledges this year. Up front, we had realized that we would be facing a significant loss in pledge income from some who have or are leaving the area. The good news is that 90% of the pledges received to date are showing an increase over last year. Brenda's current budget estimate for pledges is \$51,008, to date we have received \$39,438. And there are a couple of significant pledges still out which we expect to receive. Brenda will send out a follow up letter to those who pledged for 2018, but have not yet pledged for 2019.

Budget: The 2019 budget was reviewed.

Reports of the Coordinators:

Clerk: nothing additional to report.

Trustees: nothing at this time

Christian Education: Nancy is looking forward to the Christmas Eve service with a good number of participants. Letters have gone out to kids about the Hanging of the Greens and the Blessing of the Stockings services.

Deacons: Tom reported that they have been planning the Hanging of the Greens service. They are still looking for new deacons for next year.

Moderator: nothing additional to report

Pastor: Nancy reported that Fran Mains had passed away. There will be visiting hours this week-end, and a service in the spring.

Old Business: Rolf reported that weather has not cooperated this fall, the siding project will not start until spring. He will start fundraising after the first of the year.

New Business: Brenda Olsen reported several upcoming events sponsored by the Raymond Arts Alliance. The Slukes will be doing a concert of seasonal music on December 9; Patrick will be doing a hymn sing of seasonal music on December 17, and there will be a concert by "Side by Each" on January 5.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM. Next meeting will be Monday, January 7, at 6:45 PM. We will be planning for the annual meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Munson, Clerk

Summary of January 7, 2019 Coordinating Council Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 6:45 PM on Monday, January 7, 2019 by Tom Wiley. Present were Tom, Rolf, Brenda, Rev. Nancy, and Judy. Deborah Lafond joined to discuss how report of Visioning Committee should fit into agenda of annual meeting.

Brenda offered the opening prayer.

Rolf made a motion to accept the minutes of the December meeting as amended. Seconded by Brenda and passed.

Annual Meeting Agenda: Since Deborah had joined us, it was agreed to take this agenda item out of order. She reported that she will give an overview of the work of the Visioning Committee at the Annual Meeting. She suggested that making phone calls and inviting people to attend this important meeting had worked well for the Thanksgiving Sunday service, and should be considered. There was considerable discussion of where on the agenda to place the report of the Visioning Committee. It should not be on the list of committee reports at the end of the meeting. Brenda mentioned that she does not want to present the budget before the report of the Visioning Committee. There was discussion on whether to do it before we adjourn to lunch, even discussion of other quicker ways to serve lunch. The question was raised as to what do we see as the outcome of their report. Rolf suggested that we would be looking for a motion to accept and act on the recommendation of the Visioning Committee. Tom will work further on the agenda and email us with suggestions.

Treasurer's Report: Brenda presented the December and end of year Treasurer's Report. The General Fund report for December showed total income of \$10,098.61, over budget by \$2,027 for the month, and by \$7,290 for the year. Total expenses of \$8,952.78 were under budget by \$344.73 for the month, and under budget by \$8,043 year to date. Year to date net income for general fund of \$5,251.95 is better than budgeted loss of \$10,276.94. This will be recorded as a loss of \$3,963.05, however, due to adjustments of previous contributions from the general fund to other funds. Rolf made a motion, seconded by Rev. Nancy and passed, to accept the Treasurer's Report subject to year end review. Brenda reported that pledge cards for 2019 are continuing to come in, she had sent out a reminder letter shortly after our December meeting.

Trustees: Rolf reported that the light by the door at the office level is out. He needs to replace and or repair it. He also reported that there are new light bulbs in the vestry. He continues to replace with LED bulbs when possible.

Missions: Judy reported that \$163 had been collected for the Christmas Fund, a UCC offering used to help retired clergy. Rev. Nancy was asked whether there would be a Seacoast mission trip this year. She and Joe plan to talk with Scott at Seacoast. They feel that to make the trip worthwhile for all concerned, there need to be at least 6 people, and that there needs to be one other strong skilled person to share leadership

with Joe.

Christian Education: Rev. Nancy is planning to talk with Chan about doing an adult Lenten study.

Stewardship: Sue Dexter will not be doing this job in 2019.

Deacons: They met on Sunday, 1/6. They will get together on Saturday to clean up from Christmas. Tom is still in the process of talking to some people about whether they will continue as Deacons in 2019.

Moderator: Tom reported that he and Nancy had had a good meeting with Lori. They are going to try to start publishing office hours. Lori will continue to work at home on Tuesdays in January and February, but will be back in the office on Tuesdays in March, weather permitting. They also discussed with Lori the possibility of her putting in some time keeping our Facebook page up to date.

Pastor: Rev. Nancy reported a good Advent and Christmas season. Good attendance at the Vespers Service on December 20, and great attendance and participation for the Christmas Eve Service. Music on the Silent Night theme was wonderful.

New Business: Tom reported that we have received a request from the Boy Scouts to charter a new female unit, Troop 851 in Raymond. It will be for girls, age 10 ½ and up. They will have their own leader, but will also share leadership with the boy scout troop, and will meet on Tuesday nights at the same time. Tom made a motion, seconded by Rolf, and passed, that we become the charter organization for female BSA unit, Troop 851.

There was brief discussion on what needs to be in the February Weathervane. February is usually a quiet month. Rolf asked if the annual meeting minutes could be ready for that. That is not likely, but possibly there could be a written report from the Visioning Committee. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM. The next meeting will be on February 13.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Munson, Clerk

Our Altar Needs YOU!

Our Christmas poinsettias are gone, but winter is still very definitely upon us. Not a hint of green or a garden flower to be found outside! So - we need YOU to bring some springtime into our sanctuary and make our altar area beautiful! Please consider bringing flowers or even another sort of artistic arrangement. No need to sign up – there is always room for however many arrangements arrive!

Mission Corner

In 2018, RVCC has given time/talent/money to multiple people or organizations in Raymond or Maine or US or globally. In this first part of a 2 part series we will tell you how RVCC supported local organizations. Part 2 in March will talk about US/global needs.

The impact of our efforts locally and in Maine fall into four categories

- **Money** The church provided money to support the Monday Meal, Raymond Food Pantry, Preble Street, Maine Council of Churches, Seeds of Peace and provided aid to local families (directly or through the Raymond schools).
- **Goods:** We put together and delivered 30 Thanksgiving baskets thanks to our congregation donations and partnerships with Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Christ Chapel, Raymond Food Pantry and Raymond Boy Scouts. In December, we collected and sent over 300 Christmas gifts items to Seacoast Mission
- **Services:** Five people (Sheila Bourque, Joe Foran, Nancy Foran, Caryl Gilman, and Marie Guerin) worked face-to-face with a homeowner and son to build and install skirting to their trailer in Cherryfield Maine through Seacoast Mission housing rehabilitation program. Later in the year, two people (Nancy Foran and Sheila Bourque,) worked face-to-face with a local family to install a new exterior door and improved heating system.
- **Space:** RVCC provided the space for making 250 window inserts for 20+ Raymond families. This community project was a partnership with Raymond Library, St Joe's College, Americorps and Window Dressers.

As we move into the 2019 year, are there missions or needs you know of that we should consider – people, organizations, other. Please let us know!

All-New Community Outreach Event: Free Community Friendship Meal

Let's help build community here in Raymond! Let's beat those February winter blahs!

Here's how: Our church is sponsoring its very first FREE Community Friendship Meal on Wednesday, February 6th from 5 – 6:30 p.m. in our Vestry. We will have a delicious menu of roasted turkey, mashed potatoes, veggies, and salad – and something yummy for dessert.

Why are we doing it? We just want to get as many area folks together as possible for a dinnertime of friendship, fellowship, and good conversation. No strings attached!

What can you do to help? Invite your friends and neighbors, spread the word, and be sure to come yourself!

It doesn't matter if you are old or young, retired or working, an individual or a family, it's multi-generational (any and all ages are welcome).

After all, it won't be the same without YOU!

Annual Sweetheart Brunch

Sunday February 10th



It's that time again!
Join us for a delicious brunch
sponsored by the Christian
Education Committee.
There will be pancakes, eggs,
bacon, sausages, baked goods,
fruit and more!
Join us after church for
fellowship and food with your
favorite valentine.

Your donations for this brunch will benefit our Christian youth camp scholarship fund. Scholarship funds are not held over from one year to the next, so come and help support our Christian campers for the summer of 2019.

We are also accepting donations of baked goods for the brunch such as muffins, scones, coffee cakes, pastries, etc. Please let know if you think you can help us out. Thanks! Brenda Olsen

Worship Music in February

We have some terrific music coming up during worship in February! Hope you can be there to enjoy it!

February 3rd – Patrick Martin on piano and directing a small choir ensemble

February 10th – Hawk Henries on flute with Patrick playing our hymns and responses

February 17th – Aban Zirikley on piano and violin

February 24th – Patrick on piano and directing our full choir

February 3rd is Scout Sunday

In our church, we offer space to a Boy Scout troop and a Cub Scout Pack. Soon we will also be the sponsor for a Girls' Troop as well.

The Scouts help us throughout the year – most visibly at our fall and spring clean up days.

Come support them and thank them on Scout Sunday!

What exactly is this RAA group that uses the building for their events? And what does the church get out of this arrangement anyway?

The RAA group is short for Raymond Arts Alliance. This group was formally created in December of 2017. It is a program of the Raymond Village Library and in partnership with the church. The Mission statement of the group is... "The Raymond Arts Alliance seeks to enrich and enliven community connection, collaboration, and enjoyment, through the arts and humanities. Creating events for all ages, RAA encourages and supports participation of community members at every level and provides a space where cultural diversity is welcome and celebrated!"

As part of the partnership, it was agreed that the group would not pay rent for the use of the building. Instead, a formula based on net proceeds from events that take place at the church would be used. The formula is 50% of net proceeds. This does not include events that do not use the church facility. In 2018 the church received \$891 from the group. In addition to payments to the church, this group helps to open the doors to our church to the public, many of whom have never been in our building before. This is a great opportunity to tell our story and encourage people to make use of our services too.



**Hawk Henries,
Nipmuck Flute Player**

Native American Flutist Coming!

We are thrilled to be partnering with the Raymond Schools, Raymond Library, and the Raymond Arts Alliance to host Hawk Henries, a Native American flutist and storyteller the weekend of February 9 and 10.

See his performance at the Church, beginning at 6:30 PM, Saturday night February 9th. Hawk will actively seek audience thoughts, ideas and questions after listening to the music and stories, building upon them and making his performances highly interactive and engaging. Instruments will be available for exploration and for sale, as well as his CDs. Suggested Donation \$5.00. Sponsored by the Raymond Arts Alliance.

We are particularly blessed that Hawk will be sharing worship with us on Sunday, February 10th – playing his flutes and telling stories from his own Native American tradition.

Here's what Hawk's website says about him:

"Hawk Henries is a member of the Chaubunagungamaug band of Nipmuck, a people indigenous to what is now southern New England. He has been composing original flute music and making flutes using only hand tools and fire for over twenty 25 years.

Hawk is committed to music as a traditional art form and as a vehicle for building bridges of communication and mutual respect. He teaches and performs in a wide variety of settings: indigenous and international art festivals, museums, concert venues, powwows, educational settings from kindergarten through university level, flute making workshops and private family gatherings."

Hawk will also be displaying his flutes in the Vestry after worship.

Bridgton News Article

Did you see the wonderful article in the Bridgton News about Epiphany? Reporter Dawn DeBusk interviewed Rev. Nancy as part of her research. Check out our church's Facebook page to read it!