

The Weathervane



RAYMOND VILLAGE COMMUNITY CHURCH, United Church of Christ Newsletter

March, 2019

Table of Contents	Page
From the Pastor	1
This Month at RVCC	2
AARP Fraud Prevention.....	2
Happy Birthday!	2
Grief Support	2
Prayer Concerns	3
Mission Project for Lent	3
Moderator Musings.....	3
Oops	3
Annual Meeting Minutes	4
March Music Madness.....	5
Mission Corner.....	6
RAA Events.....	6
Community Friendship Meal .	7
Lenten Book Study	7
Community Corner.....	8
Ash Wednesday	8
OGHS Offering	8
Happy Birthday	8
Grief Support	8
February Council Minutes	9
Opportunities for Prayer.....	10
Our Altar Needs You.....	10

From the Pastor...

Slow Down, You Move Too Fast.....

Remember “The 59th Street Bridge Song (Feelin’Groovy) by Simon and Garfunkel. The lyrics began like this....Slow down, you move too fast, you got to make the morning last....

Do you ever feel like you go, go, go – and never have a chance to slow down, let alone stop? IF so, then our Lenten worship series is for you! It’s entitled “Busy: Reconnecting with an Unhurried God.”

The season of Lent has often been a time when we think about "giving something up". However, what if we thought less about "giving up" and more about "making room?" In this Lent series, we will find out what it really costs us to be so busy – and will work to instead reconnect to an unhurried God. We will acknowledge the need for self-care necessary if we are to effectively continue our work of caring for others. Even as we address the growing intensity and frenetic pace of life, We will be invited into practices of making room, clearing out, slowing down, and prioritizing for the sake of holistic lives.

Here is how our Lenten Sundays will unfold:

March 10th - “The Right Tempo”

Come to me all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.” — Matthew 11:28-30

Jesus never promised that the yoke would literally be "easy." This is a mistranslation. In this context of yoking oxen, the translation means "well fitting." As we begin our "Busy" series, we discover that each of us has an individual tempo that fits well, that energizes us. What tempo gives you life and energy?

March 17th - “Preparing a Table”

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul” - Psalm 23

The 23rd Psalm is a great comfort to us as we imagine the green pastures and

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 . . .

March 2, 2019	7:00 p.m. – RAA Classical Music Event
March 3, 2019-	10:00 a.m. – Worship
March 6, 2019-	7:00 p.m. – Ash Wednesday service
March 9, 2019-	10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. – Vestry in use for Cub Scout Pinewood Derby
March 10, 2019-	10:00 a.m. – Worship 11:15 a.m. – Deacon’s Meeting
March 13, 2019-	10:00 a.m. – Writer’s Group 6:45 p.m. – Council Meeting
March 16, 2019-	4:30 p.m. – RAA Irish Storyteller
March 17, 2019-	10:00 a.m. – Worship – Installation of Officers and Deacons
March 20, 2019-	5:00 p.m. – Free Community Dinner
March 24, 2019-	10:0 a.m. – Worship 4:00 p.m. – DA Appreciation Dinner
March 30, 2019-	Vestry in use for private event after 9:30 a.m.
March 31, 2019-	10:00 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 Council/Office staff.

-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 March 16 & 23 & 30th from 7:15 – 9:15 a.m.

From the Pastor, continued . . .

still waters. It also recalls the dark valleys and calls us into the not-so-easy practice of sitting down at the table with our enemies. Our unhurried God is present with us in the good times and in the difficult time and invites us to be radically present to each other in the same way. When have we been too busy to be really present to one another?

March 24th - “Tuning In”

Now as they went on their way, he entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what he was saying. But Martha was distracted by her many tasks. . . .” - Luke 10:38-42

Martha was busy. Mary chose to be still, to tune in to Jesus. The lesson here is not that it is bad to work, but that we also need times of connection to God. Tuning in to the holy may mean just taking time to notice things that are beckoning to dwell with us a while. What contemplative practices can feed and nourish our active lives?

March 31st - “Living Light”

“Don't chase after what you will eat and what you will drink. Stop worrying. . . . Make for yourselves wallets that don't wear out — a treasure in heaven that never runs out. . . . Where your treasure is, there your heart will be too.” — Luke 12:29-34

No one, at the end of their life, would say, “I should have spent more time at the office.” And yet many of us live with the tyranny of measuring-up that keeps us weighed down. Lightening the load of expectations and “shoulds” is one way to lighten up as well as to literally lighten the clutter that crowds out our serenity. How do we create space to flourish in the ways God intends?

April 7th - “A Time for Every Matter”

“For everything, there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven. . . .” — Ecclesiastes 3:1-13

For many of us in this modern, tech-savvy world, we have lost touch with the seasonality of life. We want what we want, when we want it. We come to believe that no time is off limits and the lines between busy and rest, work and play, have become increasingly blurred. How far are we from the rhythms of life? What cost to ourselves, to our relationships, and to our planet is this frantic pace?

My hope as your pastor is that, after we have explored this theme of busyness and reconnecting to our unhurried God, we can experience the many emotionally rich stories of Holy Week with an openness and listening heart that we may have crowded out of our lives before. Hope you will join us each Sunday!

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 Cairns, Arthur "Artie" Davis,
Irene Doughty, The Family of Tommy Keith,
Mike Severance, Dan Tibbetts

Mission Project for Lent

"If you can speak Spanish and English, you can communicate with 80% of the planet"

During the Lenten season, our church will be supporting Ingles Villa Carmela (Hands on English), an English as a Second Language School for children and adults in northern Argentina.

The school is looking for reading materials for children aged 4-18, most of whom are beginning learners.

Here's what you can donate:

1. New or gently used picture books, illustrated poetry, rebus stories, graded readers, and beginner books – Paperback preferred (to save on shipping costs)
2. Theme park and travel brochures
3. Health brochures.

Collect some gently used picture books once used by your children or grandchildren, check out used (or new) books on Amazon, look for free health brochures online and then download and print a few copies, stop by a travel agent and ask if he/she will give you some colorful brochures.

Leave your contributions to this project in the box in the Vestry. Live out-of-town? Mail your contribution to Rev. Nancy at the church (P.O. Box 287, Raymond, ME 04071) What's your favorite children's book??

Moderator Musings



Is it time to come out of hibernation yet? As the sap begins to flow and seedlings are set to sprout in an indoor greenhouse, can spring be just around the corner? Days are getting longer with more daylight hours.

Has the bear been the only one in hibernation? Have you been hiding away from the toils of winter? Do you hate the cold, snow, ice, sleet and freezing rain? Have you been staying in to hibernate yourself?

Our church is always there through all seasons and waiting for you. Sure, there are different liturgical seasons and specific events for each, but the one thing you can depend on is the church is never dormant.

Through all the hibernation time we have collected food for the community and donated Christmas items to the Maine Seacoast Mission. We have held the "Annual Meeting and Christmas Eve Service. We have held concerts in conjunction with the Raymond Arts Alliance and even welcomed Scouts BSA in honor of the anniversary of scouting,

We have hosted a community meal for any residents of the Lakes Region family who was able to attend. We hosted the Sweetheart Brunch to help sponsor youth to attend summer camp. And Reverend Nancy and Lori Lambert have opened up a monthly Coffee and Conversation event to stop by the church office for some sweet treats and discussion,

As you can see the church is never in hibernation. There is always something to do. Evangelism takes on many forms in this church. Have you been in hibernation and missed all the events? If so, don't fret too much.

There are always more events coming in the upcoming months. If you have been away, we'll see you soon. Just like the crocuses. . . . *Tom Wiley, Moderator*

OOPS!!

I wish to call to your attention an error in our most recent annual report. The heading of the minutes on page 3 read Minutes of 2017 Annual Congregational Meeting. They should have read Minutes of 2018 Annual Congregational Meeting-January 21, 2018. The change somehow occurred in the printing of the annual report, and do not in any way affect the legality of the minutes. The official version of the minutes is the one saved in our computers, and it is correct.

Minutes of 2019 Annual Congregational Meeting – January 27, 2019

Note: These minutes are not official until adopted at the 2020 Annual Meeting. Moderator Tom Wiley opened the meeting at approximately 11:15 AM, by presenting the agenda.

Opening Remarks: Tom opened the meeting with remarks about the past year, and thanks to all for all we have done together. He noted that there have been high and low times, but certainly one of the highest was hiring Patrick Martin as our new music director. He offered the prayer from Ephesians, Chapter 4, Verse 2, which is also in our by laws. He reminded us that we own and are responsible for our own thoughts. Caryl Gilman moved that the minutes of the 2018 annual meeting be accepted as printed. The motion was seconded by Nancy Yates, and approved.

Agenda Article 4: Caryl Gilman made a motion that we change Article V Section 1 of the Bylaws lowering the quorum for a church meeting from 20 to 12 members. The motion was seconded by Rolf Olsen. There was discussion. Rev. Nancy expressed concern that if we set our standards low, we may see fewer people showing up for the meeting, thus giving power to fewer people. Dick Day asked if we had a quorum, the answer was yes. Rolf pointed out that if we keep the number high, and do not get a quorum, we are giving power to pass a budget etc. to the council, which currently is only 4 members. After further discussion, the motion was passed.

Agenda Article 1: Caryl Gilman made a motion to waive the reading of the reports of the coordinators. The motion was seconded by Rolf Olsen and approved. Members of the Visioning Committee gave an overview of their work over the past year. Members of the committee are: Nancy Foran, Bob Yates, Deborah Lafond, Lori Lambert, Brenda Olsen, Bill Feagans, and Caryl Gilman. They presented the statement of purpose and the 5 pillars which they had developed. During the year, they had a number of meetings, and reached out to the congregation for their input several times. Important issues for the Congregation seemed to be use of our space, and youth and young families. After a year of energizing discussions, and working together to envision what the future will be for RVCC, the committee seems to feel that this is a story with no ending. We, as a church will continue to evolve. We are all invited to be part of this process. Caryl asked those present for one word reactions to the work of this group: hopeful, needed, open, encouraging, and inspirational. Rev. Nancy and Tom thanked the committee for their time and efforts.

Rolf Olsen reported to the congregation on the upcoming Capital Improvement Project of residing the exterior of the church. He has realized for several years that the building needed painting, he had hoped that, as in the past, labor could be provided by prison inmates, leaving us to pay for only supplies. That has not happened, so he started getting quotes from professional painters. Prices varied from \$32,000 to \$35,000. He started looking into vinyl siding, quote for that was \$39,000, only \$4,000 more than for painting, and it will

never have to be done again. Old siding will be removed, the building will be rewrapped, and vinyl will go up. They will also clad all the wood trim, so that will also not ever need repainting. Although we could pay for this from reserves, we prefer not to, fundraising is underway. It is on our website and facebook page, but for successful fundraising, we need everyone to get the word out. Woody Beach asked if we are looking for grants, we are. He also suggested talking to Holly Endicott, Caryl Gilman will follow up on this.

Agenda Article 2: Brenda Olsen presented the Treasurer's Report. 2018 ended on a positive note, rather than the budgeted shortfall of \$10,319. We continue to report a strong balance sheet with growth in our fund balances of \$32,055. Contributions were higher than expected, and there were savings in office supplies, insurance, Music Director, and maintenance on the Parsonage. Negative items to income which need to be watched in the future: fundraiser income was down, and dividends and income earned on investments was lower than budgeted.

Brenda presented the 2019 budget. She is projecting a loss of \$21,472. Most of this is due to less in pledges for next year. Although 90% of those who pledged for next year increased their pledge over this year, we are predicting close to \$10,000 less in pledges. Less is budgeted in fundraising events, there will still be suppers, and the yard sale. No one has stepped up to do the Christmas Fair, however. We receive income from the Raymond Arts Alliance for the use of our space, this is a big help. She urged people to continue to support our other fundraisers: Clynk bags, grocery cards, and the Staples rewards program. Brenda reported that to date we have received \$900 toward our cleaning expenses of \$3600 per year. The additional \$2700 needed was pledged from people at the annual meeting. Obviously, we will need to make some changes going forward, we can not continue to fund a deficit. This ties in with the ongoing visioning process. A motion was made by Caryl Gilman and seconded by Chan Roach to accept the budget as presented. The budget was approved. Tom thanked Lori Lambert for her work in preparing the annual report booklet. He thanked Brenda and Rolf Olsen, Deborah and Arthur Lafond, and members of the Visioning Committee for preparing box lunches. A motion was made and approved to adjourn for lunch.

Agenda Article 3: A slate of Deacons for 2019 was presented: Linda Eldridge, Deb Feagans, Lynn Gagne, and Tom Wiley. A motion was made by Brenda Olsen, seconded by Rolf Olsen, and approved to accept the slate of Deacons. The Deacons will select their own representative to serve on the Coordinating Council. Adma Willis and Caryl Gilman will help in the role of Deacon when available.

Tom Wiley presented the slate of coordinators: Moderator-Tom Wiley, Treasurer-Brenda Olsen, Clerk-Judy Munson, Financial Secretary-Nancy Yates, and Trustees-Rolf Olsen. Tom asked for volunteers to fill the open positions of Missions, Christian Education, and Stewardship. Deborah Lafond asked if traditional responsibilities for various

Annual Meeting Minutes, continued . . .

positions can be changed. That can be done because these descriptions are in the policies and procedures, not by laws. Deborah would be willing to sit down and look again at Christian Education, what should it look like as we evolve. Cherie Moore asked what is involved in Missions. It was emphasized that a Coordinator does just that, coordinates. Others can pick up smaller pieces of the job. Dick Day made a motion, seconded by Joan Morton, and approved to accept the slate of coordinators. Rolf Olsen made a motion, seconded by Nancy Yates, and approved to allow the council to appoint people to fill empty seats until the next annual meeting.

Agenda Article 5:

Pastoral Report: Rev. Nancy reported that she is looking forward to continuing to work with Patrick on music, and also to more community wide work. She feels we need to do more to promote our space as an asset. She feels that we need to work on rebranding our church. She also appreciates having a strong group of council members and deacons.

Music Director: Patrick reported that he is grateful to be serving as our Music Director, and grateful that we embrace the variety of music that he brings to us. He is grateful for a hard working choir, and welcomes new members to the choir. He reminded us that the outside soloists that we have on Sunday mornings have a following of their own, and leveraging this is a way to get more people in the church on Sunday morning.

Pastoral Relations: Pastoral Relations Committee is made up of Caryl Gilman, Martha Morrison, and Nancy Yates. The committee is recommending a Pilot Program over the next year, with a change in the use of Pastoral hours. We will divert 3 Sundays worth of prep/worship hours (48 hours) to Rev. Nancy being more visible in the community. We will continue to brainstorm ways in which this can happen, people were asked for suggestions. We all need to support this outreach.

Deacons: Tom Wiley welcomed Deb Feagans as a Deacon, she came on mid year. He is also grateful to have Linda Eldridge and Lynn Gagne back as Deacons. They need more Deacons Assistants.

Trustees: Rolf reported that new outside lights will be installed during the siding process. He also reported that water had come into the Vestry under the door during the latest storm. We need to look into drainage issues in the spring. Rolf urges everyone to notify him if you notice problems.

Old Business: Rev. Nancy has flyers for the free community supper which need to get out.

New Business: Brenda Olsen emphasized that we need to do more publicity, and more to sell our space, it is available for rent, which is a source of income. We also should have displays in the vestry for people to see when they are in the building for other activities.

Rev. Nancy offered a closing prayer. Caryl Gilman made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Rolf Olsen. The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Judith Munson, Clerk

March Music Madness

Spring is on the way, and our Sunday morning music continues to be upbeat, warm, and personal! Here's the schedule for the month of March:

March 3 – Patrick and Friends

Our church musician, Patrick Martin, brought three of his friends to sing a couple of months ago. All four in the quartet sing in Maine's Choral Arts. The congregation loved them and has been asking when they will come again!

March 6th (Ash Wednesday) – Cherie Moore on piano with our Adult Choir

Cherie returns as our Ash Wednesday musician and will be playing our hymns and congregational "travel music" as the congregation moves about the sanctuary during the service. The choir will be singing a congregational favorite, "Go Light Your World" by Chris Rice.

March 10 – Adult Choir

Our Adult Choir will be singing once again under Patrick's direction. They have been working hard on some wonderful pieces, so be sure to come and support them!

March 17 – Patrick Martin

Patrick will be playing our hymns and responses. He will also be cooking up some special music - maybe singing himself, maybe playing the piano, maybe directing a small choir ensemble. Come and see!

March 24 – Aban Zirikly

Aban is one with the music when he plays the piano or the violin. In addition to leading our hymns and responses, Aban will capture our hearts with special music on his primary instruments.

March 31 – Jake Cooper

Jake Cooper, a classical guitar student at USM, will offer our special music. Jake has played for us before, and we welcome him back! Supporting music students and giving them an opportunity to play before an audience is a wonderful ministry!

Hope you will join us – and spread the word about our wonderful Sunday morning music program!



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 second part of a 2 part series (Part 1 in February), we will tell you how RVCC supported national and global needs. The impact of our efforts nationally and globally fall into two categories

- Money: We are a “five for five” church donating to

Our Christian Wider Mission	½ mission pledges	\$1,944
One Great Hour of Sharing	Special Offering	\$ 243
Strengthen the Church	Special Offering	\$ 117
Neighbors in Need	Special Offering	\$ 182
The Christmas Fund	Special Offering	\$ 163
TOTAL		\$2,649

- Goods: School Kits/Health Kits- thanks to the congregation for donating the contents of the kits, to Adma Willis and Sarah Allen for making the school bags and to Judy Munson for packaging and delivering them to distribution center in Portland

Yet, the true measure is the number of people we served.



Raymond Arts Alliance events in March at the church

Short Set Concert Series - Classical Music Night



Saturday, March 2nd at 7:00 PM. Doors open 6:30 PM. Suggested donation \$10. Light refreshments served. Three groups each playing one short set of music, approximately 30 minutes each. Instrumentation will include classical guitar, flute, cello and more.

IRISH STORYTELLER



Saturday, March 16th at 4:30 PM. Suggested donation \$5. Light refreshments served. Join Lynne Cullen, story teller extraordinaire, for a night of traditional and funny Irish stories, plus singing and musical performances, guaranteed to make you want to tap your feet or sing along. Music provided by her husband Kurt on the electric guitar and Lynne on the Concertina. What better way to prepare for the St. Patrick's holiday celebration!

Spring is here

Join us for our 2nd free community friendship meal on
Wednesday, March 20th from 5:00 – 6:30 P.M.!

It is also a chance for us to just gather as a community here in Raymond – to greet (or maybe meet for the first time) our neighbors, to see old friends, and to welcome

SPRING!



I hope that all of you will plan to come in out of the cold and join us for a delicious corned beef and cabbage dinner and good old-fashioned friendship. Please spread the word, tell your neighbors and friends – and perhaps even invite them to come along with you. It's a wonderful – and easy – introduction to our church.

Lenten Book Study: "Lies We Believe About God"

Chan Roach will be leading a study and discussion on this book by Wm. Paul Young, author of "The Shack".

In this very readable volume, the author "invites us to revisit our assumptions about God— using the Bible, theological discussion, and personal anecdotes - and encourages us to think through beliefs we've presumed to be true and consider whether some might actually be false..."

Young encourages us to think anew about important issues including sin, religion, hell, politics, identity, creation, human rights - and helps us discover God's deep and abiding love." (Amazon review)

The study will be Thursdays from 12 noon – 1:30 during Lent

(March 7, 14, 21, 28, April 4 & 11)

Sign up in the Vestry (or email the Church Office - office@rvccme.org - if you plan to participate and want to order a copy of the book (\$11.00).

Community Corner

Many of you know that some of Rev. Nancy's pastoral hours in 2019 are focusing on being visible in the community and, in doing so, serving as a role model for all of you to become more engaged in Raymond and beyond.

Here's how she has spent some of her time:

1. She serves on the Be The Influence Coalition, a group operating under the auspices of a grant to educate about and reduce substance use and abuse in the Windham/Raymond Schools. Of growing concern now is the increase in vaping and e-cigarettes and also the impact that the legalization of marijuana will have on underage youth.
2. She helped plan and attended our first free community friendship meal – and will continue working on the March meal as well.
3. She serves on the Steering Committee of Age Friendly Raymond – and is eagerly awaiting the interpretive results of last summer's town-wide needs assessment survey.
4. She was interviewed by the Windham Eagle and the Bridgton News about the season of Epiphany and the recent outreach of our church into the community.

Ash Wednesday is March 6th

Lent is the season of preparation for Easter, the most important festival holiday of the Christian year. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and is comprised of the 40 days before Easter, not including Sundays. Because the date of Easter changes year to year, so the date of Ash Wednesday does as well.

Join us this Ash Wednesday, which is March 6th for a special service beginning at 7:00 P.M. Through songs, readings, prayer, and time for silence and meditation, we will introduce our worship theme for the season, which is "Busy: Reconnecting to an Unhurried God", as we gather the tools we need to experience a rich and meaningful Lenten season.

Those who are able will be invited to move as a group throughout the sanctuary in a min-pilgrimage reminiscent of ones that Jesus may have taken to Jerusalem and based on similar worship experiences at the 900 year old Abbey Church on the Scottish island of Iona.

Our choir will be singing in candlelight. Ashes will be given to those who wish them, and all participants will receive a special Lenten gift to carry with them throughout the season.

One Great Hour of Sharing

The purpose of One Great Hour of Sharing is to help individuals and communities around the world who suffer the effects of disaster, conflict, or severe economic hardship. The gifts collected from this offering assist those in need in more than 100 countries including the United States and Canada. The title "One Great Hour of Sharing" was used for the first time in 1950. This is not just a United Church of Christ venture. From the beginning, this has been an ecumenical effort, over the years there have been between eight and twenty nine denominations participating. Our One Great Hour of Sharing offering this year will be collected on March 31.

Happy Birthday!

Happy Birthday to following people with March Birthdays!

March 2	Jeri Keane
March 12	Frank Sullivan
March 14	Vicki Gordan
March 14	Bobby Grindel
March 16	Ali Gordan
March 29	Jeff Morris
March 30	Bob Yates
March 31	Dick Putscher

P.S. Be a good church friend and remember these people with a card or note!

Northern Light Home Care & Hospice

**is offering an open grief support meeting on:
March 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.

Summary of February 13, 2019 Coordinating Council Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 6:45 PM on Wednesday, February 13, 2019 by Tom Wiley. Present were Tom, Rolf, Brenda, Rev. Nancy, and Judy. Bob Yates joined us to discuss bathroom remodel project.

Judy offered the opening prayer.

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

Old Business: Tom moved Old Business, the bathroom project, to the top of the agenda. He thanked Bob for coming. There was discussion on whether we wanted an ADA compliant bathroom. Nancy had reminded us that as a church, we are exempt from ADA compliance rules. Rolf reminded us that we may be exempt, but an organization who uses our space may not be. The bottom line is, however, that we do not have enough square feet in those two bathrooms to make one compliant bathroom, so what are we trying to accomplish. The original reason was to make it nicer, and handicapped accessible, although not ADA compliant. The quote we have of \$15,300 to completely renovate that space seems like a lot to spend. And we do not know what would be sufficient bathroom space, if down the road our space were to be used for a senior center independent of the church, for example. Rolf said that we could possibly put in bathroom(s) in the youth room space on the next level up. Rev. Nancy reminded us that we, as a council, had discussed the use of the Ray Neal money and felt that handicapped accessibility was a top priority that reflected Ray's values and his love for our church. Judy made a motion that we get a study done on handicapped accessible possibilities for this building. The motion was seconded by Rolf and approved. We will have to get a bid on doing the study. In the meantime, we could consider doing something inexpensive to improve the bathrooms off the vestry, keeping in mind that if we wanted to make the next level of the building accessible, we could lose those bathrooms to a ramp.

Treasurer's Report: Brenda presented the January 2019 Treasurer's Report. Total Income of \$7,598 was over budget by \$1,050 for the month. Of this, there was Christmas Fair Income of \$249 which had been collected through PayPal. These funds were transferred back to December. Current pledges were better than budget by \$363. Total expenses of \$8,088 was under budget by \$277 for the month. Current month net loss of \$490 was less than budgeted loss of \$1,817. The PP&E fund was reduced by \$13,000 for the initial down payment to Ridgeline Exteriors for the vinyl siding contract. There is an approved loan for this project, however it has not been initiated. We will wait until the project is completed and contributions and grants have been totaled, before we determine if the loan will be needed. Rolf made a motion, seconded by Rev. Nancy to accept the Treasurer's Report, subject to year end review.

Reports of the Coordinators:

Clerk: nothing to report

Trustees: Rolf reported on the flooding under the exterior

door to the vestry. Because drain was frozen, water flooded in under the door and into area under the ramp in the vestry, then out into the room. Repairs will need to be made in the spring. Area under ramp will have to be ventilated to prevent mold issues. He is suggesting putting heat tape in the drain may prevent it from freezing in the future. Area under threshold is fixed temporarily, but will need permanent repair in the spring.

Missions: nothing to report

Christian Education: Rev. Nancy reported that Chan will be leading a Lenten book study starting Thursday, March 7. It will be based on the book "Lies We Believe About God" by Wm. Paul Young.

Stewardship: Concern was expressed that we need to continue to get out quarterly pledge updates, even though we have no one in charge of Stewardship at this point.

Deacons: Tom reported that the Deacons met the first Sunday of February. They are making plans for Lent and Easter,

Moderator: Tom is working with our attorney on legal papers that we have to file each year. They did not have correct name for Treasurer.

Pastor: Rev. Nancy reported that our first free friendship meal had been a great success, with over 50 people being served. There will be a follow up article on it in the Windham Eagle. On Wednesday, February 20, there will be a Fraud Prevention Program held in the Vestry. It is being sponsored by RVCC, the library, and Age Friendly Raymond. On May 9, Rev. Nancy and Marie Guerin will hold an advanced care planning workshop here.

New Business: Rev. Nancy reported that we have been asked if we would like to have a Little Free Library Box on our property. This is a national organization, not connected with the local library. We will select a spot in the spring, has to be visible and close to the road. Nancy reported that she and Sheila will be getting together a group that would like to publish a newsletter with community events sponsored by several community organizations: RVCC, the library, the Lions, the Raymond Arts Alliance and Age Friendly Raymond. It seems to make sense to do one newsletter, this would not take the place of our Weathervane, however. Brenda raised question of when next free supper would be. She thinks it needs to be on a set schedule.

Raymond Arts Alliance has approached us with a couple of requests. Could there be a sign on church property saying that they hold events here. Also, they are asking if we would allow them to serve wine at one of their events. Rolf suggested that we not change our policies, but allow upon request. We need to check further into this, liability, insurance concerns etc. There was brief discussion on items and dates for upcoming Weathervane. There will be a Deacons Assistants dinner in March. There will be installation of Deacons and Council members on March 17. Raymond Arts Alliance has 3 events. Our next meeting will be March 13, at 6:45 PM. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Judith Munson, Clerk



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

Opportunities for Prayer During Lent

Private devotions and times for prayer are so important to deepen our spirituality and create a more fulfilling relationship with God – especially during the Lenten season. During Lent, many people take on the discipline of regular personal devotions. Here at church, we offer several opportunities help you to remember people and events in prayer.

1. **Prayer Chain** – Our Deacons and a few other interested individuals maintain our Prayer Chain . If there is someone that you would like prayers for during the week, simply call or e-mail Rev. Nancy with whatever information you care to share. Rev. Nancy will notify those on the Prayer Chain, who will remember the people YOU care about in their individual prayers. If you would like to be part of the Prayer Chain, please contact Rev. Nancy (650-7845 or revnancy@rvccme.org) . The only requirement is that you commit to remembering those for whom special prayers have been requested.
2. **Lenten Prayer Banner** – As we move into Lent, our Lenten Prayer Banner will be displayed in the Vestry. The names of everyone on our Prayer Concerns List will be written on a small cross that will be displayed on the banner. The deacons encourage you to write down the names of people you want to remember in prayers on the small paper crosses as well and pin them to the banner. On Good Friday, the Banner will be moved into the sanctuary for the Prayer Vigil. The prayer banner can be a meaningful way to reach out to and remember those you care about who are in need.
3. **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.

Our Altar Needs YOU!

Our Christmas poinsettias are long gone, and we are all eagerly awaiting some springtime weather. However, alas! 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 how ever many arrangements arrive!