

# The Weathervane



RAYMOND VILLAGE COMMUNITY CHURCH, United Church of Christ Newsletter

May, 2019

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## From the Pastor...

### New Worship Series Begins in May

The question for us after Easter is this: How do we live into the hope and power of the resurrection in our own lives? Beginning on May 5<sup>th</sup>, we will explore that question in a worship series entitled “Drawn In: Living the Creative Life With God”. We’ll connect with our inner creativity that will offer us renewed energy we can use to follow our passions to make our world a better place for all. Here’s a brief outline of the series in May:

#### May 5<sup>th</sup> – “Dream”

All creation began with the dream of God. Likewise, all of our actions are born out of a dream and vision for the future. This is our birthright: to imagine and create. What brings you alive? What moves your soul in the very deepest way? What you create out of that answer is your greatest gift to the world and the way in which you are part of God’s ongoing creative dream.

#### May 12<sup>th</sup> – “Hover”

Hovering is the creative posture of taking a moment to see the “big picture”. Sometimes we skip the important step of paying quiet attention to this question: “What one thing do we need to focus on now?” For us then: What ONE thing would work on at this point in your life? What do you feel drawn to?

#### May 19<sup>th</sup> – “Risk”

To create is to assert ourselves in a way that is risky, that invites stepping into the unknown. How can you use your talents to multiply the gifts in the world? What can you do to risk what God has given you to expand love and grace in the world?

#### May 26<sup>th</sup> – “Listen”

Listening as part of creativity is about perceiving. We open our senses to better understand what is emerging. Once the act of creating begins, we listen to how the Spirit may be guiding us and unfolding possibilities we were previously unaware of.

**I hope you will join in and begin to unlock your own unique creativity!**

The Weathervane is published monthly for distribution at the first of each month. Articles may be submitted as paper copy, electronically via disk or email by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month preceding the issue for it to be included in. Computer files should be submitted as MSWord (.doc) or rich text format (.rtf). If you have any questions contact Debbie Feagans or Judy Munson. Articles can be dropped off at the church office, mailed or emailed to: Raymond Village Community Church, PO Box 285, Raymond, ME 04071- [office@rvccme.org](mailto:office@rvccme.org) or to Judy Munson, 23 Lawn Ave., Gorham, ME 04038 – [cmmunson24@yahoo.com](mailto:cmmunson24@yahoo.com) – Thank you for reading our newsletter!

### ***This Month at RVCC . . .***

May 2, 2019-	5:00 p.m. – Community Meal
May 5, 2019-	10:00 a.m. - Worship
May 9, 2019-	6:45 p.m. – Council Meeting
May 12, 2019-	10:00 a.m. - Worship
May 14, 2019-	2:00 p.m. – Knitting Group
May 15, 2019-	6:30 p.m. – Foster Parent Workshop
May 16, 2019-	10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. – Coffee & Conversation in Church Office
May 18, 2019-	5:00 p.m. – Pot Roast Supper
May 19, 2019-	10:00 a.m. – Worship
May 23, 2019-	6:30 p.m. – Advance Care Planning Workshop
May 26, 2019-	10:00 a.m. – Worship
May 28, 2019-	2:00 p.m. – Knitting Group

**Please join us for the Fellowship Café Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. The Café is hosted in May by the Choir.**

-Scouts, BSA Troops 800 & 851 meet 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 on Saturday May 18 & 25<sup>th</sup> from 7:15 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.

### **Kudos to Our New Officers and Coordinators!**

We recently installed our 2019 church officers and coordinators that YOU elected at our Annual Meeting in January. These people make up our Church Council and give their time to ensure the fair governance of our church. Next time you see one of them, be sure to thank him or her for all they do at RVCC:

Moderator – Tom Wiley  
Clerk – Judy Munson  
Financial Secretary – Nancy Yates  
Head Trustee – Rolf Olsen  
Treasurer – Brenda Olsen

We also installed our 2019 Deacons. They are:

Tom Wiley  
Debbie Feagans  
Linda Eldridge  
Lynn Gagne

### **Special Worship Music in May**

Here's what you can look forward to when you come to church in May:

**May 5<sup>th</sup>** – Patrick Martin – piano and vocal

**May 12<sup>th</sup>** – Our Choir

**May 19<sup>th</sup>** – Hugh Maynard (oboe) and Katie Gray (violin)

Hugh and Katie have played together for several years and will be offering special music as well as accompanying our hymns and responses.

**May 26<sup>th</sup>** – Patrick Martin

### **Advanced Care Planning Workshop on May 23<sup>rd</sup>**

Rev. Nancy and Marie Guerin are offering an informative workshop on Advanced Care Directives and reflecting on your own desires in the event of a health crisis, chronic, or terminal illness. They will be using the Five Wishes format, a values-based way to work through an Advanced Directive. In addition, they will be encouraging participants to develop strategies for having those sometimes difficult conversations with family.

The workshop will be held in the Vestry and will begin at 6:30 P.M.



*Our beautiful  
Easter flowers!*

*Thanks to Linda  
Eldridge for  
coordinating the  
ordering again  
this year and to  
Rev. Nancy for  
arranging them  
all.*



## *Moderator Musings*

By the time you are reading this Easter has arrived. He has risen indeed. My wish to you and all in your life is to have a blessed spring. HE HAS RISEN INDEED. But he cannot be risen, without the “she” in the story.

Easter tells us about the all-male supper and the betrayal of Judas and the roles and characteristics of all the other males involved in the story of the disciples and the events of the crucifixion and the resurrection. Females take on an important role in both the resurrection of Christ and the celebration of Easter and our church life during this time of year.

The scripture tells us about the three Mary’s. But we have our own women of worship in this church season.

As in the bible, Mary of Bethany prepared the way for the burial of Christ. She was the person who washed his feet with perfume before the disciple meal. And Mary of Nazareth remained by his side from his first to last breathes.

And Mary Magdalene was also with the 12 disciples and her love remained steadfast to the savior even as he suffered the torture and then the ultimate resurrection.

Just like the bible, the women of our church help to keep this season and all others operating allowing us to participate and enjoy the times in our church. In advance please accept my sincere apology and my appreciation of your work for any I may have failed to recognize.

First off would be Reverend Nancy as she uses her creativity each week to teach us of this story. This year she helped us to institute the “prayer chair”, clad in purple majestic colors.

I also have many deacons past and present who also are the women of worship. From those who came before us such as Elaine York, Joan Morton, Pauline Cadotte, Adma Willis, Sarah Allen, Cora Sullivan and those who have passed such as Jane Jordan and Frances Mains.

I currently can also praise these women in our church deacon family Lynn Gagne, Linda Eldridge, Deb Feagans, Caryl Gilman, who help serve as deacons. Also, the deacon assistants such as Emily Feagans, Polly Dyer, and Nancy Yates. And we can also count on Catherine Berry to help during services by helping to collect offering.

*Continued next column . .*

## *Prayer Concerns*



### **Our prayers of concern go out to:**

In our Church Family:  
Pauline Cadotte, Polly Dyer, Carol Hall,  
Frank Sullivan

In our Extended Family:  
Michael Cadotte, Dorothy Hews, Jeffrey Lambert

In our Community:  
Janet & Gary Cairns, Gary & Deb Cassidy,  
Tommy Keith, Dan Tibbett

## **Foster Parenting in Maine**

Have you been a foster parent? Do you know much about foster parenting here in Maine? Join us on Wednesday, May 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 P.M. in the Vestry for a program we are co-sponsoring with Raymond Library. We will learn about the need for foster parents in our own community and learn about the kids that benefit from it. Sharon Dadmun from SMART Child and Family Services in Windham will be presenting this informative program. Come and learn about this important perspective on community here in the Lakes Region.

### *.Moderator Musings, continued . . .*

And the office would not function this time of year without Lori Lambert with support from Judy Munson, Caryl Gilman, Nancy Yates and Brenda Olsen in all the tasks they share and help each other with.

We also would not have Easter flowers without Linda Eldridge. And if you are reading this article, we must thank the editors of the Weathervane, Deb Feagans and Judy Munson.

He has risen indeed. But not without “her”. Thank you to all the women who help run this church and to those who will step forward in the future.

*Tom Wiley, Moderator*

## Summary of April 10, 2019 Coordinating Council Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 6:45 PM on Wednesday, April 10, 2013 by Tom Wiley. Present were Tom, Rolf, Brenda, Rev. Nancy, and Judy.

Tom offered the opening prayer.

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

**Treasurer's Report:** Brenda presented the March 2019 Treasurer's Report. Current contributions were \$6,691 for the month in the general fund. This was better than budget by \$1549 for the month. Year to date pledge payments and cleaning contributions are \$2,093 better than budget. Stock Funds showed a major improvement since the end of the year. We basically recovered the negative adjustment that was made at the end of 2018. The balance of \$156,150, at the end of March is one of the highest recorded since the fund's inception. Total increase to the American Funds account was \$12,876. Most of this was capital gains. Total income of \$12,925 is over budget by \$6,126 for the month.

Under expenses, several areas need attention or watching. Only one reimbursement for health insurance this year, we should bring this up to date. Annuity payments to the UCC pension funds is behind schedule, this needs a follow up call. Special music has its own account, it covers one special musician per month for \$900 total for the year. Have already spent \$850 for the year. But Music Director's pay is under budget for the year. Discussion will be had with Patrick and Nancy concerning this. Total expenses of \$15,317 is over budget by \$5,880 for the month. Much of this is in heating oil expense, and it is unlikely that we will see another oil delivery this season for either the church or the parsonage.

Unfortunately the gain in our investment funds of \$5,281 does not translate into immediate cash availability, cash in our checking account is falling. In order to ensure that we have the cash available to meet upcoming expenses, Brenda will be requesting a withdrawal of approximately \$10,000 from our American Funds account. Rolf made a motion, seconded by Tom to accept the Treasurer's Report subject to year end review.

**Old Business:** Sheila Bourque joined us for discussion of a report summarizing the visit from Eric Dibner, ADA Compliance Officer. Important points which we need to remember: although as a church we are exempt from the federal Americans with Disabilities Act, the Maine Human Rights Act says that people with disabilities need to have equal access to all public places, programs, and activities. Barriers to accommodations must be removed as they become "readily achievable", ie, when financially feasible.

We need a plan, we need to know what needs doing, so we can do it whenever possible. Most important consideration is accessible routes – walkways, parking, interior and exterior points of entry. We also need to consider emergency alarms and communication – how information is conveyed, and reachability of things along routes, door knobs vs. door handles, weight of doors/self closing doors etc.

After discussion, Rev. Nancy and Sheila are recommending that we proceed with a first phase, making the sanctuary accessible, and from there, the office level and bathroom(s) there. This would involve repairing the current ramp, grading and paving upper portion of the driveway to provide parking, cut down or remove pews to put in accessible ramp from sanctuary to office level, enlarge doors leading from sanctuary to office area, and renovate bathroom(s). Rev. Nancy and Sheila are working on a AARP National Challenge Grant. Deadline is soon. This would allow the church to become more accessible to the community. Volunteer labor would definitely be needed. The council unanimously agreed to going ahead with the grant application.

### Reports of the Coordinators:

**Clerk:** nothing to report

**Trustees:** Rolf reported that he was still working on toilet repairs, and that the problem of a high water bill, due to leaking toilets, will be adjusted. Rolf reported that the problem which he was facing with fundraising for the siding project due to the fact that we do not have a 501c3 number has been solved. Rev. Nancy spoke with the Maine Conference office and found that local churches can use their 501c3 number in situations like this.

**Missions:** Judy reported that we are collecting for and preparing hygiene and school kits, which need to be ready to deliver by May 1. Nancy reported that the collecting of children's books and easy readers to send to Ingles Villa Carmela will continue through Easter Sunday, then be sent.

**Christian Education:** The Lenten book study led by Chan has been going well. It will end shortly. Rev. Nancy will be in touch with Walt Reed about a summer book study.

**Deacons:** Tom reported that the Deacons have not met, due to conflicts, but plans for Palm Sunday and Easter are progressing. Nancy told him that there is coverage for April 28, when she will be away. This Sunday off is part of the pilot program which the council voted on in November, in which we are giving Nancy 48

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### Mission Corner

Last month, we described the 2019 mission focus areas, the traditional RVCC mission projects and mentioned one new mission project for Lent. This month, we will describe planned spring/summer mission activities and how you can participate.

On March 12, the Missions team provided the ***first grant for Random Acts of Kindness*** to Martha Morrison to purchase personal and household items for the Raymond Food Pantry. These are items not generally available through the Pantry. A great idea!

March 31 was the ***One Great Hour of Sharing offering*** 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. RVCC will send \$190 to help!

Our Lenten project was a book collection to support ***Ingles Villa Carmela (Hands on English)***, an English as a Second Language School for children and adults in northern Argentina. As always you are all very generous! As of April 14th, 39 books of varying kinds have been collected. We will update the total amount of books collected after Easter.

April is a busy month as Judy Munson is collecting ***hygiene kits*** through April 28. After back-to-back hurricanes for several years, hygiene kit inventory in the warehouses is at an all-time low. Hygiene kits make sure that people have the most basic of supplies from nail clippers to washcloths to help them keep clean in the wake of an emergency. All collected hygiene kits plus school kits from existing inventory will be sent to Church World Service Kit Depot in Portland by May 3th

Coming in June: ***Strengthen the Church offering*** June 9 looks to the future of UCC by supporting youth ministries and full-time leaders for new churches in parts of the country where the UCC does not have a strong presence.

**We are still hoping to hear from you! What organizations or events do you wish RVCC Missions would support?**

### Council Minutes continued . . .

hours (3 Sundays of prep/worship) to being visible in the community.

**Pastor:** Rev. Nancy reported that she is busy planning for Holy Week. There will be a drop in coffee hour in the church office tomorrow. The next community dinner will be May 2, they have some help from outside the church for that event. Rev. Nancy and Caryl Gilman attended an event recently on being a “brave church”. She and Marie Guerin will lead an Advanced Directive workshop on May 23.

**Old Business:** On behalf of Missions, Rev. Nancy made a motion that RVCC join Faith Lutheran Church, St. Joseph’s College, and others in forming a Fuller Center Covenant Partnership in the Lakes Region. The motion was seconded by Tom and passed. It was agreed that Brenda and others will proceed to spruce up at least the men’s bathroom off the Vestry. Brenda reported the 6 people had attended the meeting of the knitting group which she is starting.

There was discussion on what needs to be in the next Weathervane. The first Pot Roast Supper will be May 18, something on the yard sale should also be in. Our next meeting will be Thursday May 9. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Judith Munson, Clerk

Northern Light Home Care & Hospice

**is offering an open grief support meeting on:  
May 13, 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 Box

Just a reminder that we now have a prayer box on the table at the back of the sanctuary. Rev. Nancy collects those prayer concerns and joys Monday morning and sends them to the people on our prayer chain to remember during the week. She will also include them in prayers the following Sunday.



## You're Invited!! Knitting & Crocheting

Are you a Knitter? A Crocheter? A Beginner? A Life Long Artist?

Would you like to join the company of others who enjoy this craft?

I am starting a group that will meet at the church. Our first meeting will be Tuesday, April 9<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm and then again, every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month, at the same time. Please spread the word to your neighbors, families and friends, beginners or not. Everyone is invited. Please bring your own beverage.

Brenda Olsen ([bolsen001@maine.rr.com](mailto:bolsen001@maine.rr.com))

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### *Vinyl Siding Project*

*As was discussed at the annual meeting, we have decided to replace the existing clapboard exterior with vinyl siding. This gives us an exterior that will eliminate the need for painting which needs to be done approximately every 7 years. In the past 2 painting cycles, we have been fortunate to be able to get assistance from the correctional facility which eliminated the labor costs for painting, however that assistance is not available to us at this point. The cost difference between painting the full church and steeple and doing the vinyl siding was less than \$3,000 and the benefit of not needing to revisit the cost of painting in the future made this approach the responsible decision.*

*The work on this will be beginning the end of May and should take 4-6 weeks to complete. As the work will be done during the week and all work is done outside, there will be no impact activities going on inside or normal Sunday services.*

*As this is a major cost item, we are looking for additional donations to help offset the cost and as part of that we have started a Go fund Me campaign so people can donate to the cause both in town and from out of town. Donations can be made at*

*[www.gofundme.com/raymond-village-community-church-renovation](http://www.gofundme.com/raymond-village-community-church-renovation) . You can also make donations by check to the church and just put in the memo section "Siding Project"*

*Lets all prepare for a bit of dust but a beautiful building once the work is completed.*

*Thanks, Rolf*



We are whipping  
up a new supper  
team this year.  
But we need you  
as the final  
ingredient.

## Pot Roast Suppers 2019

This year Tom Wiley and Craig Messinger have teamed up to lead the suppers. We still need your support to help, cook, serve, bus, clean and spread the word.

The first supper will be **on May 18<sup>th</sup>** and will be held the third Saturday of the month in June, July, August and September.

This is an important summer event for our church. Please help when asked, or step forward.

**Thank You in advance.**

**Remember we can't spell SUPPER without "U"**

# RVCC Yard Sale

Are you asking yourself – what can I do to get ready for this year's yard sale?

Well, you can...



Clean out your closets, garage, basements, kid's rooms, camp or office. We take your unwanted goods! And don't forget your neighbors, family & friends. Here are some examples of items we are collecting for the sale...new or used furniture, books, clothes, household goods, knick knacks, pictures, kid's toys, music, working appliances and electronics, power tools, dishes, etc. We will pick up. Contact Rolf Olsen 655-4670



Volunteer! We need volunteers to move stuff and pick up stuff. It's a lot of work to get ready for this big event. We need help before, during and after. Contact Brenda Olsen 655-4670



Start thinking about donating a silent auction item! Pinch your pennies, make a craft or piece of art or solicit a local business. And don't forget your neighbors, family & friends. We are looking for new unopened gifts, gift certificates or tickets. Contact Brenda Olsen 655-4670



Start collecting for your own Mini-Yard sale at a table at our Yard Sale! And don't forget your neighbors, family & friends. It can be a craft to sell, new or used goods. Rent a space (\$10) or a space with a table (\$15) And don't forget your neighbors, family & friends. Contact Rolf Olsen 655-4670



Practice baking your favorite treats for our bake sale table! Provide samples at coffee hour!



**SAVE THE DATE.....JUNE 22nd FROM 8:00 TO 2:00**





## ***Join Us For A Free Community Friendship Meal***

It is a chance for us to gather as a community here, in Raymond – to greet our neighbors and see old friends. We celebrate May Day, gardens and the end of showers and the beginning of flowers!



Get out your umbrellas and rain boots and join us for a delicious spiral ham, roasted spring vegetables, potatoes, something “yummy” for dessert and good old-fashioned friendship. Please spread the word, tell your neighbors and friends – and perhaps even invite them to come along with you.

**Thursday, May 2nd from 5:00 – 6:30 P.M.**



**RAYMOND VILLAGE COMMUNITY CHURCH**

27 MAIN STREET (P.O. BOX 285) • RAYMOND, MAINE 04071  
(207) 655-7749



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

### **Rev. Nancy's Community Corner**

In addition to creating special worship services for Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, and Easter which tend to draw more community members than usual, Rev. Nancy has been working with Age Friendly Raymond as they move ahead with programs to help make Raymond a more livable community for everyone. She attended a class at St. Joe's to hear the students present their data analysis of the Assessment Survey done last summer.

She also met with a Supervisor at SMART Family Services to develop a program on foster parenting to be present in May and co-sponsored by the Raymond Library. In addition, she attended a day-long conference with Caryl Gilman on being a brave church in the midst of changing times and worked with Sheila Bourque on a grant application to begin some much-needed handicapped accessibility work at our church.

### **Spring is Coming**

And so is line dancing. Rachel will start teaching again on June 3, with classes on Monday and Thursdays from 10 until 11:30. In addition, there will be a Friday class at the same time beginning June 7. This class is ideal for anyone needing/wanting slower music and modified steps, and for those with no dance experience. Mark your calendars and dust off your dancing shoes.

### **Stewardship Campaign Person Needed**

Though our Annual Stewardship Campaign is not until the fall, we are searching now for someone to coordinate that effort. It involves working with Rev. Nancy to write and prepare for mailing a stewardship letter – as well as quarterly update letters to members who have pledged their financial support to our ministries. In addition, this person would follow up all pledges with thank you notes. Please talk with Tom Wiley or Rev. Nancy if you are interested in finding out more.

### ***Dessert Makers Needed***

*We're looking for some volunteers to make yummy desserts for the Community Friendship Meal on May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Pies? Cakes? Jello? Pudding? What's your specialty?*  
*Please contact Deborah Lafond if you can help - [rev-deborah-loomis-lafond@gmail.com](mailto:rev-deborah-loomis-lafond@gmail.com) or 655-7557.*