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# The Weathervane



RAYMOND VILLAGE COMMUNITY CHURCH, United Church of Christ Newsletter

February, 2020

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## *From the Pastor...*

### **Oh, the Things We Have Done – Together!**

This column is an excerpt from my recent Annual Report – for those who might not have seen it or read it. As I begin to transition from pastoral ministry here at RVCC, I am so aware of the many wonderful things we accomplished together. They are programs and events and opportunities to celebrate and keep in mind as you decide how best to move forward as a faith community...

Fourteen plus years is a long time for a pastor to serve in a single church. As I look back over those years, I am struck by how much we have done together to make our church a vibrant and creative faith community. We should all be proud of our efforts!

Let's remember together some of the highlights in a few of the important areas of church life:

#### MISSION AND OUTREACH

- First Mission Trip for Youth and Adults – Sunset Gap (Tennessee)
- Six Adult Mission Trips - Maine Seacoast Mission
- Two Youth Mission Trips – Common Cathedral and H.O.M.E

#### FELLOWSHIP

- Weekly Fellowship Café
- All-Church Potluck Advent Brunch
- Parallel Sabbatical Journeys
- Window Panel Painting Project
- Church History Time Line Project and Recognition of Long Time Members

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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 . . .*

February 2, 2020-	10:00 a.m. – Worship
February 5, 2020-	6:45 p.m. – Council meeting
February 8, 2020-	7:00 p.m. - RAA Mollyockett Chorus concert
February 9, 2020-	10:00 a.m. – Worship – Scout Sunday 11:15 a.m. – Sweetheart Brunch
February 11, 2020-	2:00 p.m. – Knitting group
February 16, 2020-	10:00 a.m. – Worship 11:15 a.m. – Potluck & Congregational Meeting
February 23, 2020-	10:00 a.m. – Worship
February 25, 2020-	2:00 p.m. – Knitting group

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

- Scouts, BSA Troops 800 & 851 meet on Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m.

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

-Qigong is every Saturday at 8:00 a.m.

### **Bring your Sweetheart and make it a date!**

The Mollyockett Chorus from Norway, Maine, a chapter of Sweet Adelines International, provides an imaginative, talented and fun performance of songs to please audiences of all ages. The group sings popular tunes in four-part a capella harmony, often called “barbershop” style. Windham High School Katahdin program chefs will provide a table of Sweetheart refreshments in celebration of the upcoming Valentine’s Day. Saturday, February 8 at 7:00 PM. Doors open 6:30 PM. Suggested Donation \$10.00. Sweet refreshments served!



### *From the Pastor, continued . . .*

#### WORSHIP

- Christmas Eve Pageant
- St. Lucia Service
- Ash Wednesday Service
- Holy Week Seder Meal
- Hymnfest
- Creative Use of Technology in Worship
- Themed Advent Vespers Service – Longest Night, Silent Night, Holy Mother/Holy Child
- RVCC/Casco Village Church Combined Easter Daybreak Service
- Liturgist Training
- Weekend with John Bell from the Iona Community
- Friends of the Groom

#### MUSIC

- Very Occasional Men’s Choir
- Youth Singers
- Guest Musicians Program

#### BUILDING AND GROUNDS

- Vestry Kitchen Renovation
- Energy Audit
- Handicapped Accessibility Audit
- Removal of Extra Pews
- Front Yard Perennial Garden
- Exterior Church Sign
- Shade Cover for Patio
- Vestry Bathrooms Spruce Up

#### COMMUNICATIONS

- All-Church Email
- Facebook Page
- Updated Website
- Consistent Press and Media Coverage

#### RAYMOND AREA COMMUNITY BUILDING

- Community Garden
- Community Friendship Meals
- Joint Lenten Programs with PUP churches
- Partnerships – Raymond Arts Alliance, Raymond Library, Age Friendly Raymond, Windham High School Katahdin Program, Lions Club, Faith Lutheran Church

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## Prayer Concerns



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

### **In our Church Family:**

Louise Doyle, Polly Dyer, Margo Fournier,  
Arthur and Deborah Lafond, Bev Lindell,  
Joan Morton, Frank Sullivan, Tom Wiley,  
Adma Willis

### **In our Extended Family:**

Michael Cadotte, John Keimel

### **In our Community:**

Janet Cairns, Tommy Keith, Bill N., Dan Tibbetts

## Our Church's Vision

*-We will maintain a building that is accessible to all so that we can welcome all people.*

*-That we will encourage the arts.*

*-That we will feed the hungry.*

*-That we will enhance communication and programming among community groups.*

*-That we will support the aging and elderly.*

*-We will worship a God that is still speaking in our world today.*

## Music in February

It's hard to believe that our Guest Musician Program has been in place for well over a year now. We have had such a variety of musicians with such wonderful gifts to share. Here's what we can look forward to in February:

February 2- Rachel Scala – vocalist and flute

February 9- Sigrid Sibley – vocalist, guitar, and mandolin

February 16 Cheri Moore - piano

February 23 Gary Wittner (jazz guitar) and Cheri Moore

*From the Pastor, continued . . .*

GRANTS AWARDED TO RVCC (and what they helped us to do)

- National Clergy Renewal Grant – Parallel sabbatical journeys
- Resourcing the Local Church Grants– Kitchen renovation, John Bell weekend
- Calvin Institute Vital Worship Grant – Window panels, St. Lucia service, Friends of the Groom, Lenten book study, Lenten prayer service, etc.
- Calvin Institute Music Grant – Hymnfest
- Summer Collegium in Support of Small Church Ministry Grant – Church history timeline
- National UCC Brown Endowment Grant – Rev. Nancy's continuing education at Ghost Ranch

We have come a long way together. That is for sure! My prayer for you is that going forward you as a congregation will affirm and build on the potential you have to be a beacon of hope, justice, peace, and Christ's light here in Raymond.

## What is Scout Sunday?

Scout Sunday is observed in many churches which charter scout units. Historically it has been held the Sunday before February 8, which is the anniversary date of founding of the Boys Scouts of America. The organization was incorporated on February 8<sup>th</sup>, 1910.

This year is the 110<sup>th</sup> anniversary of BSA.

Our church has been a sponsor of scouts for nearly 25 years.

We charter Pack 800 which is for youth ages 5 to 10 ½ years old. Now cub scouting is for boys and girls. We also charter Troop 800 which is a traditional boy's troop with scouts age 10 ½ to 18. And in February of 2019 we became one of the chartering organizations for Troop 851 which is a female scout unit, these groups are very busy in an around the community and within our church.

The recyclable shed, retaining wall and outdoor patio are among the Eagle projects which have been created by some of our scouts.

Although not active, we also hold the chartering rights to sponsor Crew 1675 which is for venture scouts aged 14 to 21 and is also a coed unit.

Many of our church members have been involved in scouting through the years, as parents, leaders, merit badge counselors, and even scouts themselves.

Congratulations on a 110-year commitment.

## Summary of December 4, 2019 Coordinating Council Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 6:15 PM on Wednesday, December 4, 2019 by Tom Wiley.

Present were Tom, Rolf, Brenda, Judy, Caryl Gilman and Nancy Yates.

Judy offered the opening prayer, a Christmas Version of 1 Corinthians 13.

Rolf made a motion, seconded by Brenda and passed to approve the minutes of the October 2 meeting.

**Treasurer's Report:** Brenda presented the Treasurer's Report for November. Current Contributions were \$5,188 for the month in the general fund, less than budget by \$255. Year to date contributions are \$118 lower than budget. Fund Raisers included income from our table at the Library Craft Fair, budget however had assumed a fair of our own. Rental from the Parsonage has increased from \$509 to \$719 per month. Two months rent was included in the November report. Total income of \$7,006 was under budget by \$342 for the month. After adjusting for the American Fund valuation increases, total income is only \$17 less than budget year to date. Pastoral ministry expense has varied from budget due to timing of quarterly payments. This expense is expected to be close to budget by the end of the year. Diaconate expense at \$525 was over budget by \$275. This account, combined with the expenses for Music Director, are right on budget for the year. Supply pastors expense of \$175, did not have a budget for the month, however, year to date this expense is under budget by \$175. Administrative costs were over budget by \$368, due to purchase of new computer. Part of this is offset by donation in previous month of \$200 toward computer. Trustees were over budget by \$249. Total expenses for the month are \$8,636, over budget by \$1721, but for the year to date, under budget by \$1.98. Brenda is predicting a loss of \$4,738 for the year versus our budgeted loss of \$21,472. This positive variance can be primarily attributed to the increase in American Funds of \$13,047

Brenda also reported that she feels we have seen the end of fundraising income for the siding project. Caryl suggested that we bring this matter up at the annual meeting. Even though we have a good interest loan for this project, people need to understand that we will be paying off a loan. Brenda also expressed that although our pledge campaign got off to a strong start this year, she is now seeing a decrease in some of the pledges recently received. It was suggested that we need to emphasize that we have a vision, and are moving forward. The vision could be on the cover on the

Annual Report, and it could also be in the letter mailed with first quarter pledge statements. Rolf made a motion, seconded by Tom, and passed to accept the Treasurer's Report subject to year end review.

**Budget:** Brenda presented the proposed budget for 2020. Pledges for 2020 are expected to come in slightly higher than this year, fundraising income will be down. Total income will be up slightly for the year. The proposed budget has a 2.8% cost of living increase in Pastoral Ministry. This is what was recommended by the UCC. Proposed deficit for 2020 currently stands at \$24,342, it could increase. At the rate we are going, we will run out of money in another two to three years. People at the annual meeting need to be aware of this. Will they just accept the deficit budget or will there be discussion of how to make our money last longer. Those present at the council meeting discussed various possibilities.

**Designated Funds:** Brenda and Caryl raised the issue of "current" vs. "endowed or invested funds". After a great deal of research, they both agree that there is \$24,654 in the first category which they would feel comfortable moving from Christian Education and Music into the General Fund. They both felt that this could be done with a council vote. Tom made a motion, seconded by Rolf and approved to move this \$24,654 into the General Fund. This would prolong our ability to operate for probably another year. There is another pool of funds totaling \$10,847.15 for which they found some evidence that donors may have wanted only the interest used. This was a number of years ago, however. They feel that these funds also should be moved into the General Fund, but that in this case it would require a vote of the governing body of the church (i.e. the congregation). This vote will take within the Treasurer's Report at the Annual Meeting, we will include the agenda in the annual report booklet, so people are aware that this vote will take place.

**New Business:** The agenda for the Annual Meeting was reviewed. The articles will be taken in numerical order. Under Article 2, "to adopt a budget" will be 2 additional items, the siding loan, and the issue of designated funds. Break for lunch will probably take place between Articles 3 and 4. It was suggested that lunch be similar to last year, with prepared bag lunch. Nancy Yates has agreed to become a Deacon. Rolf make a motion to appoint Nancy Yates as a Deacon, seconded by Tom and approved.

**Reports of the Coordinators:**

**Clerk:** nothing to report

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**Spiritual Affective Disorder:  
Epiphany Season Worship Series**

Winter can be a time of Seasonal Affective Disorder when the lack of sunlight affects our moods and ability to cope effectively. But Spiritual Affective Disorder can also be a factor as we lead lives that are too crowded, busy, overcommitted, sometimes disturbing and uncertain. At the turn of this new year, we will explore everyday life activities that can become spiritual practices—deepening our experience of a meaningful life and make us more “light-hearted.”

“Arise! Shine! For your light has come!” (Isaiah 60:1)

As some of you know, we began this worship series in early January on Epiphany Sunday. It will continue through February to the beginning of Lent. Here’s what you can look forward to:

**February 2<sup>nd</sup> – Lighten Up!**

Life can be serious business. Certainly watching the daily news can give the impression that there is little good to find in the world. This week we will choose to lighten up as we look for the delight and especially, humor, in life. Perhaps laughter is the best medicine!

**February 9<sup>th</sup> – Make My Day**

Rather than see doing good as “obligatory sacrifice,” the prophet Micah said that when we live our lives with a love for kindness for all God’s people, we are fulfilling God’s desire to spread justice and love. What if we lived each day on the lookout for ways to make someone’s day through a kind and unexpected gesture? It might just make *our* day as well!

**February 16<sup>th</sup> – Walk this Way**

Research shows that one of the most effective mood-boosters is moving our bodies. Stretching, walking and dancing can send feel-good endorphins coursing through us and the change can feel like a light coming on. Old Testament authors used the metaphor of “walking” in God’s ways to help us see the benefits to our spiritual lives of moving toward the goodness of God. This week our spiritual practice of movement will remind us that we are a blessed gift of God’s love in action in the world!

**February 23<sup>rd</sup> - Leave Room for Dessert**

The server at your favorite restaurant might regularly say to you, “leave room for dessert!” In other words, don’t eat to excess—leave some room. This is a good spiritual practice that goes all the way back to the ancient Israelites. The book of Leviticus advocates gleaning, which is the practice of gathering food for those who need it out of the abundance of what is available.

The question we will explore this week is: What awareness can we bring to the food we buy, cook and throw away as part of our spiritual mandate to care for the human family? Whether it is cooking more than enough and sharing with someone who needs it, buying extra at the grocery store to donate to the food bank, or getting involved in a gleaning network’s efforts, our everyday use of food is our spiritual practice this week.

**Get Ready for Lent!**

Patrick and Rev. Nancy are so excited about what is coming up in worship during Lent! With the help of our choir and several additional vocalists and instrumentalists, our worship will focus on the well-loved musical “Godspell”. Each week we will focus on two songs and the scenes that accompany them – with narrative to place those songs/scenes/parables into the context of Jesus’ life and ministry. It is sure to be a rockin’ good time – and one to invite neighbors and friends to! Keep a watch for more details!

**If you are not in the choir but wish to be part of this worship series, please be in touch with Patrick or Rev. Nancy. All are welcome to join in as long as they can attend rehearsals!**

**We wish the following people a happy February birthday!**

February 1	Bill Feagans
February 5	Cheri Moore

*Council Minutes, continued . . .*

**Trustees:** Rolf reported the repair of chimney to stop a leak into the furnace room will take place on January 4.

**Missions:** Caryl Gilman reported that the local Fuller Center application to be approved as a Fuller Center covenant partnership has been accepted by the national organization. Next step is State of Maine approval of their 501(c) 3. Once that happens they will be able to establish a bank account to accept the contributions that the founding members have promised. Caryl also reported that we will be working with the local firefighters association to provide CO (Carbon Monoxide) detectors to those in need in Raymond. As a start, we have bought 10 detectors out of the Sommers fund. A set amount from the Sommers fund will be available each year to continue this project. Judy reported that the Thanksgiving basket project has been successfully completed. She also reported that we will be giving Walmart gift cards to the local schools for their Christmas gifts for kids program.

**Moderator:** Tom reported that he has spoken with a gentleman who would like to use our facility for a Karate class. He suggested that he get in touch with Raymond Arts Alliance. There was no old business. There is no Weathervane published in December. To Do lists were discussed. The next meeting will be January 8, at 6:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Judith Munson, Clerk

## *Rev Nancy Retirement and Next Steps for Pastor*

Recently Rev Nancy let us know that she plans to retire after worship on Easter April 12, 2020. After nearly 15 years with us, it is difficult to think about Nancy's departure and next steps, yet, we must.

The Council used a portion of the Annual meeting to discuss this topic with the 19 people (members and friends) in attendance. There is a 2-page document that was handed out in the annual meeting which is attached to the email with this Weathervane. Here is a quick outline of the information discussed.

- RVCC Council and congregation have been notified by letter and/or email
- Maine Conference UCC has been notified and is determining which of the 2 Conference Ministers will support this church in our next steps.

Note: There are currently 31 churches seeking pastors.

- During Annual meeting, the following items were asked and answered:
  - RVCC is a UCC church. Please affirm that we will seek an authorized minister of the United Church of Christ. *Yes (17 people)*
  - (For a church to be operational and even "vibrant" it takes everyone.)  
Do you actively seek to keep the church open? *Yes (17 people)*
  - As the answer to the prior question was "Yes" and it will take work to keep the church open and find a pastor, the congregation was asked to "stand up and be counted" to do that work *16 people stood*
  - We discussed what Rev Nancy does now (info available from any Council member), then listed the top 3 priorities for the next pastor
    1. Lead worship and visit the sick/shut in (takes over 50% of available time)
    2. Help RVCC transition from a long-time pastor to be ready for the next pastor
    3. Work with the RVCC congregation to move forward with the RVCC vision

The next pastor would need to spend less time on administration, meetings, community work, etc. in order to focus on priorities 2 and 3 above.

We agreed we needed more time to talk as a congregation about pastor next step. The group at annual meeting decided **we should meet on Sunday February 16 immediately after worship and we will bring a pot luck lunch.** The topics to be discussed about pastoral search will be:

1. What type of pastor should we seek? Interim? Pastoral supply? *Please refer to the attachment with the Weathervane for definitions of types and how to decide.*
2. How long might the tenure of the next pastor be? Why?
3. Discuss key elements of the RVCC profile (required to seek a pastor)

The Council plans to work with the information provided at annual meeting and future congregational meetings to start/continue the search. **YOU** are a part of this process, so please continue to work with us. Whenever you have questions or have input to provide, whether in a meeting or at a different time, contact any Council member **please!**

Tom Wiley, Moderator	655-2048	twiley2@maine.rr.com
Brenda Olsen, Treasurer	655-4670	bolsen001@maine.rr.com
Rolf Olsen, Trustee	655-4670	rolsen001@maine.rr.com
Judy Munson, Clerk	839-2078	cmmunson24@yahoo.com
Caryl Gilman, Missions	627-5073	carylgilman@gmail.com

### ***Calling all RVCC members and friends to a congregational meeting Sunday February 16 following worship.***

As mentioned in a separate article, the people at annual meeting decided they would like to meet again soon to discuss two topics:

- 1) Next steps on pastoral search
- 2) Next steps on music

**The meeting will begin immediately after worship (around 11am). Please bring some food to share – a pot luck luncheon.**

See you there!

RVCC Council

# Annual Sweetheart Brunch

## Sunday February 9<sup>th</sup>



It's that time again!

Join us for a delicious brunch.

There will be pancakes, eggs, bacon, sausages, baked goods, fruit and more!

Join us after church for fellowship and food with your favorite valentine.

*Join us for a time of fellowship and fun! Let the kids do the cooking! We are also accepting donations of baked goods for the brunch such as muffins, scones, coffee cakes, pastries, etc. Please let me know if you think you can help us out. Thanks! Brenda Olsen*

### **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!

### **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 Northern Light Home Care & Hospice volunteers. Volunteers are needed most to help hospice patients in Cumberland and York 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 about this opportunity and sign up for our upcoming training session!

Beth Simmons, LSW, Northern Light Home Care & Hospice Volunteer Coordinator

207-400-8852

Spring Schedule:

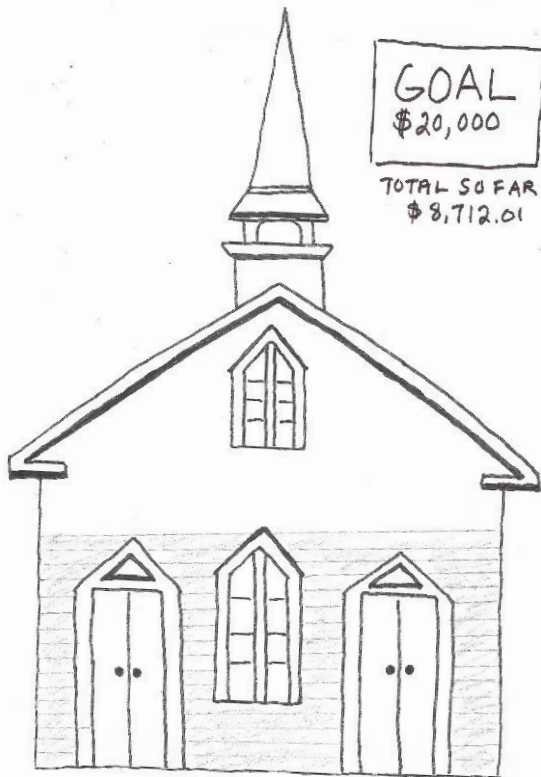
Dates: Tuesday, March 10, 17, 24, 31 , 9:00am – 1:00Pm | Tuesday April 7, 4:30pm - 6:30pm

Location: Suite 1, 50 Foden Road, South Portland, ME 04106



*Raymond Village Community Church*

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



### **Our Vinyl Siding Project is in need of funding.**

Donations can be made directly to the church P.O. Box 285, Raymond, Me. 04071) or through the GoFundMe page <https://www.gofundme.com/raymond-village-community-church-renovation>).

Watch our progress towards our goal of \$20,000, in your monthly Weathervane! Tell your friends and neighbors too, that they can help support the renovation of this historical community building!

The project is done – what happens now?

Even though we are finished with the work on the building we are still looking for funding. This church has been part of the Raymond community since the late 1800's. From the religious side it is a denomination of the United Church of Christ, from a supporter of the arts we are a sponsor and venue for the Raymond Arts Alliance, from a community outreach perspective, we are the venue for AA, a sponsor organization for the Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts and a member of the Raymond Age Friendly organization. The building is often used for family gatherings, community dinners, weddings and a general meeting space. So, please remind your friends, family and neighbors that we need their

help to maintain this useful and historic building.