

The Weathervane



RAYMOND VILLAGE COMMUNITY CHURCH, United Church of Christ Newsletter

April, 2020

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From the Pastor...

We Live in Interesting Times.....

Interesting times, to say the least! Who would have thought that my final worship services with you would be online rather than live, that I would be leading worship with none of you sitting in the pews!

Who would have thought that those “one last time” visits would be phone calls – and that those phone calls would primarily be about whether some of you were doing OK in the midst of the COVID19/coronavirus pandemic!

Who would have thought that my final Weathervane column would not be “remember when, remember when” and a reminder of the boundaries we must put in place when I leave!

Who would have thought that the most important thing I could write about and leave you with is keeping yourselves safe and healthy while still – because we are a church, because we are a faith community – remaining outwardly focused in whatever ways we can.

So – first, I remind you of the health protocols:

1. Wash your hands frequently while singing “Happy Birthday” through twice (That will take you 20 seconds, the recommended amount of time).
2. Use hand sanitizer whenever you leave a public place – or get your mail or newspaper in the morning.
3. Stay home if you feel sick – especially if you have a cough or fever.
4. If you do cough or sneeze, do it into your elbow and not into the air around you.
5. Practice “social distancing” – keeping others 6 feet away from you.

Perhaps most important, however, is recognizing that these protocols are only as effective as you taking them seriously – now just for the

Continued next page . . .

The Weathervane is published monthly for distribution at the 15th of each month preceding the issue for it to be included. 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 . . .

RVCC is following recommendations from the Maine CDC regarding precautions with regard to the COVID-19 pandemic. At this time, we will not plan on having in-person worship services or events at RVCC until the current restrictions are lifted.

Rev. Nancy and Patrick do have plans to record services or portions thereof, through Easter Sunday. Please look for information on Facebook and in All Church emails as to how you can view these services.

If you need any additional information, please feel free to contact the Church office at office@rvccme.org or (207) 655-7749.

April 5, 2020-	Palm Sunday <i>(Palms will be available to pick up outside the Vestry door on Saturday and Sunday.)</i>
April 10, 2020-	12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. – Virtual Good Friday Vigil
April 12, 2020-	Easter Sunday

Fuller Center Volunteers Needed

The Fuller Center will soon be looking for volunteers for projects beginning this summer. However, in the meantime, **the Board needs two board members from RVCC.**

Along with our financial contribution, our commitment was to help as best we could fill the Board. Our current Board members are Rev. Nancy and Sheila Bourque. Rev. Nancy can no longer represent our church when she retires, and Sheila feels that she is best suited as an at-large board member.

The Board meets the last Monday of the month from 5:45 – 7:15 P.M. and is very disciplined about meetings remaining within that timeframe. It is a high energy, positive, and committed group. If you are interested in serving in this way or would like more information, please contact the Church Office or our Church Moderator, Tom Wiley (twiley2@maine.rr.com).

Worship on Palm Sunday and Easter

Rev. Nancy and Patrick have been planning worship for Palm Sunday and Easter. It looks like it will not be in the sanctuary and most likely will be taped and available online. In the meantime, the Godspell portion of our Lenten worship is being filmed. It is hoped that they can be uploaded to youtube. If it all works as planned, you will receive a link via an all-church email to access them.

From the Pastor, continued. . .

next couple of weeks but conceivably for the next several months.

Second, remember that this is not the time to isolate and insulate yourself from those around you. We are blessed that there are many ways to keep in touch and help one another out.

1. Call someone just to check in and let them know you care.
2. Use skype, zoom, facetime, facebook to reach out to others.
3. Send a card or a note
4. Leave some flowers or chocolate or something special on someone's porch.
5. Don't hoard groceries – and share a roll of toilet paper when you can!

Above all, remember that our God is a God of healing and compassion – and calls us to be the same – even in what may seem like a small and insignificant way. If we learn nothing else from these difficult times, I hope that we will learn that we are a vital and caring community and that, with the help of our God, we will get through this and be stronger and more vital and more caring that we were before.

In closing, I pray that the words of Christopher Robin to Winnie-the-Pooh will be true for us as we go our separate ways:

*"Promise me you'll always remember...
You're BRAVER than you believe,
STRONGER than you seem,
SMARTER than you think,
and LOVED more than you know."*

SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Search Committee consists of Rolf Olsen, Bob Yates, Bonnie Wiley, Dick Day and Deb Feagans. Rolf has been keeping in touch with all of the candidates and keeping the committee on track. The committee has met twice, the second time via phone conference. To date, we have received and reviewed application materials from a number of good candidates. We plan on conducting initial, brief, interviews with all candidates via video-conferencing in the coming weeks. After these initial interviews, we will decide on our next steps. If you have any questions about the process, feel free to contact any of the committee members.

Prayer Concerns



Our prayers of concern go out to:

In our Church Family:

Louise Doyle, Polly Dyer, The family of Nancy and Joe Foran following the death of Nancy's Mother on March 24th, Margo Fournier, The Lambert/Lindell Family with the passing of Bev Lindell, Arthur and Deborah Lafond, Joan Morton, Frank Sullivan, Bonnie Wiley, Adma Willis

In our Extended Family:

Michael Cadotte, John Keimel, Adrian and Juliana Parejo

In our Community:

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

A Virtual Good Friday Vigil

We will not be able to do our traditional Good Friday Vigil in the sanctuary this year. In past years, individuals have volunteered to sit quietly for ½ hour time segments between 12 noon and 3:00 P.M., the hours that tradition has it that Jesus hung on the cross before he died.

This year, the Deacons would like to do a virtual vigil. They would love to have as many people as possible participate – and will prepare online resources (reflections, readings, artwork). They hope that many of you will commit to taking a few minutes or even an hour to sit quietly in a special spot at home, in your backyard etc. to think about what happened on Golgotha over 2000 years ago.

We will send out the resources by an all-church email – and hope that many of you will participate in the vigil on this most important day in Christianity. If you would like to receive the resources through the mail, please contact Rev. Nancy (nancy1@maine.rr.com) or the Church Office (office@rvccme.org, 655-7749).

Little Free Library Librarian Needed

We are looking for a volunteer to watch over the Little Free Library in front of our church building. All that is involved is swapping out books every 4-6 months – and asking for donations of favorite books (any genre) to replace them. A small amount of time is needed, but you could make a big difference in the lives of people in our town. Please contact the Church Office or our Moderator, Tom Wiley (twiley2@maine.rr.com) if you can help out.

Mission Corner



Our **Lenten mission** continues through April 5: **Daisy's Children**. The mission of Daisys Children is to provide sustenance, education and medical support to the disadvantaged children of Honduras.

Many of you have already given to this mission in the past weeks. The total congregation contribution to date is \$895 – WOW! We said the Mission Fund would at least match your contribution. And you still have time to give!

Some of you may have been waiting for Palm Sunday, April 5. If you have not yet had a chance to give and you want to - you can mail a check to the church (PO Box 285, Raymond, ME 04071) and it will be deposited and sent on. OR

You can donate anytime online. <http://daisyschildren.org/>

- Their highest priority is finishing this year the Nutrition Center built on their own land. They need \$10,000-\$12,000 this year to finish plumbing, electrical and the security fence. This center will help them serve the 190 children they serve now and potentially more!

To contribute to this project, you can use this link [2017-NUTRITION CENTER PROJECT](#) where you will find further description and a “click here” to donate.

- You could give money to feed a hungry child -
 - \$25 helps provide 45 meals
 - \$50 helps provide 90 meals
 - \$75 helps provide 135 meals

If you would like to do this, just go to <http://daisyschildren.org/> and you will see “Make a Difference” on the right hand side of the screen

- You could sponsor a child for as low as \$25 per month. Your sponsorship dollars are spent directly on nutritional and educational needs of the child, including medical assistance, food, vitamins, school supplies, books and more.

If you wish to sponsor a child, <http://daisyschildren.org/> and select “Sponsor”.

What we know now is that we will send at least \$1895 to Daisys Children which is over 17% of what they need to raise this year to finish the Nutrition Center. Thank you!

Summary of Sunday, March 8, 2020 Coordinating Council Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 12:30 PM, on Sunday, March 8, 2020 by Tom Wiley.

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

Caryl Gilman made a motion, seconded by Nancy Yates, and approved to accept the minutes of the February 5, 2020 meeting. A motion was also made and approved to accept the agenda of this meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Brenda presented the Treasurer's Report for February. Current contributions were \$5,679 for the month in the general fund, more than budget by \$162. Total income was \$7,201, over budget by \$361 for the month, but under budget by \$34, year to date. Total expense of \$13,395, was over budget by \$1909 for the month, but under budget year to date by \$1,182. Current month net excess expense of \$6,194 was worse than budgeted by \$4,647. Year to date net excess expense of \$5,771 is better than budgeted excess expense of \$6,920. There were contributions from the Go Fund Me website for Fran Mains of \$168.45. The final invoice for the vinyl siding project was entered in February and resulted in a credit to expense of \$742. The loan on the vinyl siding project was also paid off in February. All adjustments and transfers approved at the annual meeting have been completed. Caryl made a motion, seconded by Nancy Y, and passed, to accept the Treasurer's Report subject to year end review. Caryl also made a motion, seconded by Nancy Y, and approved to pay Patrick \$50 per rehearsal for any extra rehearsals involved in Godspell.

2020 Staff Changes: Caryl reported that celebration plans are well underway. Rolf reported that the Search Committee has received 4 resumes to consider. All of them have been contacted, and all are interested in a designated term position. The committee is working on developing interview questions, but need input from the council on these questions before their next meeting on March 19. Phone interviews will be conducted before candidates are invited to meet with the committee. There was considerable discussion amongst council members of the criteria to be considered in the hiring process. Caryl will work on a summary of what we are looking for. It was agreed that the Search Team will manage updates to the Congregation until the final decision is made. There was considerable discussion on the Call Agreement, and how many units or time should be devoted to various tasks. Caryl reminded us that we need a new Pastoral Relations committee. One person from the Search Committee will be on it, we will need two more. Tom will start making plans for coverage by Supply Pastors, it was suggested that he plan for coverage for at least two months at this point. Rev. Nancy reminded that he also needs to plan for pastoral coverage for emergencies.

Brenda reported that the Search Committee for someone to replace Patrick has not met yet. Nancy Yates, Craig Messinger, Cherie Moore and Brenda will serve on this committee. There was discussion about what we are looking for, and what we expect from this person. It was agreed that the job will be posted at \$75 per Sunday, although we would go as high as \$100.

Reports of the Coordinators:

Clerk: Hub report for the UCC (statistics and financial) has been completed.

Trustees: Spring clean up is coming, will schedule with the scouts.

Missions: Caryl has spoken with the Casco church about alternate plans for how to participate in the Good Friday Walk. An alternate, safer community route has been discussed, as well as plans for people to walk on their own and submit their miles for support by our church.

Christian Education: Book Study with Chan Roach has started. Seven people plus Chan are participating. Nancy spoke about Pilgrim Lodge programs, we do have scholarship funds available, she will write up something about this for the Weathervane.

Stewardship: Brenda is sending out one more letter to those who she had thought would pledge, but have not yet.

Deacons: There will not be a service on Maundy Thursday, but Rev. Nancy suggested, as a compromise that she will have the church open from 6 to 7 PM, and will serve communion.

The church will also be open on Good Friday from noon until 3:00 PM.

Moderator: Tom reported that he has spoken with Lori, and talked about her role in the transition period.

Pastor: Rev. Nancy reported that she is cleaning out files etc. and tying up loose ends. She would like someone to take over the little Free Library box in front of the building. Books need to be changed out every few months.

Old Business: Rev. Nancy is still looking for replacements for the Fuller House Board. Martha Morrison is considering it. Brenda offered to work with Sheila and learn how to keep website updated, then possibly pass it on to someone else. It is hoped that Lori will keep Facebook updated. But Lori will not solicit materials for Facebook, we need to make sure it gets to her.

New Business: There was discussion about a request from Pat Graves to use our space for a family reunion. Caryl Gilman will act as host for the event. Judy will help. Tom talked about AED training, he will use Craig to conduct the training, but needs to schedule the training session with other users. Weathervane items for the next issue was discussed. Our next meetings will be Sunday, March 29, at 12:30, and on Wednesday, April 15, at 6:30. The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Judith Munson, Clerk

“We rise by lifting others.” Robert Ingersoll

Ideas for helping others from Woman’s Day –

- **Give to a charity** - a couple of ideas not listed above
 - Save the Children <https://www.savethechildren.org/> is passionately committed to one goal: Giving all children the best chance for the future they deserve – a healthy start in life, the opportunity to learn and protection from harm. Every day and in times of crisis. Here in the U.S. and around the world. Whatever it takes. In fact, they’ve been the world’s leading charity for children for 100 years.
 - Feeding America <https://www.feedingamerica.org/> For more than 35 years, Feeding America has responded to the hunger crisis in America by providing food to people in need through a nationwide network of food banks. Today, Feeding America is the nation’s largest domestic hunger-relief organization—a powerful and efficient [network of 200 food banks across the country](#).
- **Buy gift cards to local businesses now for use later.** Many non-essential businesses are required to close such as restaurants, bars, gyms, movie theaters and stores. Small businesses are likely hit hard by the loss of income. To help alleviate the burden and give these businesses some revenue in the meantime, purchase gift cards. This helps generate revenue for that business now when times are slow. In many instances you can do this online OR, if you are out getting groceries or a prescription anyway, then consider buying a gift card

“The more I can think about and help others, the less I fret about myself.”

I spend time thinking about how to stay connected while staying at home. I have a list of people I want to contact regularly – not every day but over the course of the week, so I am contacting at least one person every day.

- We can all call the people we know and love plus shut-ins
- We can write a letter – this is good practice for kids and adults as most people are used to some electronic form of communication
- If you email, then try emailing your family, friends and neighbors who have email.
- If you text and have someone you know who prefers to text, like my nephews, you can check in that way
- If you use facetime or skype or some other video conference method, consider what they might need. I’ve offered to have my grandson (age 6) read to me over facetime so his mom and sister have a few minutes to themselves AND he has another person listening as he is reading every day.
- Look for something fun to do and share it. Here is a page I found for kids on national geographic. I tried some of the silly personality quizzes and compared results with my granddaughter and my sister 😊
<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/family/in-the-news/coronavirus/> page down to “boredom busters”

And, I have expanded my prayers to cover family, friends, church, people who are sick, out of work, and people I don’t know who just need to feel God holding them in an embrace.

Feel free to write me with an email about what you are doing to stay sane, healthy and connected during this time and I will share over time: caryl@gilman@gmail.com

Peace,

Caryl

Food programs in our community – a status

Raymond Food Pantry The pantry is going to a "drive up" no contact distribution. At this point the pantry is stocked with dry goods. Donated perishable and protein intake is down. The current buying frenzy and empty store shelves is impacting all pantries. If there is a need for help from RVCC, the Pantry Director, Gary, will let us know and we will let you know through all church email or Weathervane.

Windham Raymond School Nutrition Program is committed to making sure that NO CHILD in RSU#14 goes hungry during our Covid-19 Closure. Their plan to feed the children in our community will be an extension of the already existing Backpack Food Program. For regular updates on what is happening, go to facebook.com and search for Windham Raymond School Nutrition

Note: These minutes are not official until adopted at the 2020 Annual Meeting.

Minutes of 2020 Annual Congregational Meeting – January 26, 2020

Moderator Tom Wiley called the meeting to order at approximately 11:10 AM, by presenting the agenda and setting the quorum. There were approximately 18 people in attendance.

Opening Remarks: Tom thanked those who had prepared lunch for us. He reminded those present that we have a lot of changes coming up. He asked that we go into the meeting with a positive spirit and open mind. His opening prayer was from our Mission Statement. He reminded us that we own and are responsible for our own thoughts. Caryl Gilman moved that we accept the minutes of the 2019 Annual Meeting as printed. The motion was seconded by Nancy Yates and approved.

Agenda Article 1: Caryl Gilman made a motion to waive the reading of the reports of the coordinators. The motion was seconded by Nancy Yates and approved. We were reminded to keep in mind “Our Church’s Vision” as we review and adopt a budget for fiscal year 2020.

Agenda Article 2: Brenda Olsen presented the Treasurer’s Report. She reported that we finished 2019 with a deficit of \$11,064, better than budgeted deficit of \$21,472, due to gain in value of American Funds. Our Plant, Property, and Equipment Current Fund will end the year with ending balance of only \$6,068, due to expenses of siding project. We currently have a loan out on this project, which we will probably pay off. Missions Fund Balance ended up higher than it started by more than \$5,000. We are always looking for ideas for Mission projects.

Brenda presented the 2020 budget. Although we know that Rev. Nancy is retiring and that Patrick’s plans have changed as well, this budget is based on their current status, we do not know enough to change it at this point. This budget includes a decline in fundraisers, primarily because there is not a yard sale in the budget. Our rent subsidy from the state for the parsonage is increasing, however. Pledges received to date are short of proposed budget. It was mentioned that we are short of donations to cover cleaning expenses. A number of people had included a donation for cleaning on their pledge card. This needs to be looked into further. At this point, we are budgeting a loss of \$21,472 for 2020. Caryl Gilman made a motion to accept the budget as presented, it was seconded by Deborah Feagans. Caryl explained that we need to pass the budget so we can continue to operate. We can

change it as we have more information. The budget was passed, with no opposition.

Brenda Olsen introduced a discussion of the issue of designated invested funds, some of which are restricted to the extent that only the interest can be used. We have such funds in the categories of General, PP&E, Missions, Education, Music, and Scholarships. Ultimately, we are going to have to face running out of resources to continue the church as we know it. Having use of the resources that have been designated within various funds could be critical. At their December meeting, the council approved the transfer of \$14,327 From the Current Funds of Music and Education to the General Funds. This is the result of being able to track expenses from 2005 to 2019 that should have been paid from Music and Education Funds, but instead were paid from General Funds. Three motions were made:

1. Caryl Gilman made a motion, seconded by Nancy Yates and approved to move invested funds to current funds of the same category: \$3162 in General Fund, \$3,519 in PP&E, \$16,719 in Education, \$2,797 in Missions, and \$2,736 in Scholarships. Woody Beach clarified that we are doing this so we can spend all of it, not just interest.
2. Caryl Gilman made a motion, seconded by Rolf Olsen and approved to transfer \$10,350 from current music and education to general fund.
3. Brenda Olsen made a motion, seconded by Caryl Gilman and approved to eliminate invested/designated fund classifications.

Staffing Changes: Caryl Gilman began the discussion about Rev. Nancy’s retirement. She asked those in attendance, first, since we are a UCC church, do we want to search for a UCC pastor, 17 said yes. She asked those in attendance, do you actively seek to stay open, 17 said yes. As the answer to the previous 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.

The discussion on what we want a pastor to do was tabled until we move downstairs for lunch.

Agenda Article 3: A slate of Deacons for 2020 was presented: Deb Feagans, Tom Wiley, and Nancy Yates. The Deacons will select their own representative to

Continued next page . . .

Annual Meeting Minutes, continued . . .

serve on the Coordinating Council. 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, Missions-Caryl Gilman, and Trustees-Rolf Olsen. Rolf made a motion, seconded by Caryl, to accept the slate of Deacons, to accept the slate of coordinators, and also to allow the council to appoint people to fill empty seats until the next annual meeting. This motion was approved.

Agenda Article 4: To consider revising By Laws Article XI. Caryl Gilman explained that Article XI deals with the issue of what would happen to our building should RVCC and the corporation dissolve. Currently the article says that the physical property and real estate of the church shall pass to the Maine Conference of the United States of Christ. They feel this should be changed. Caryl Gilman made a motion, seconded by Nancy Yates, that 'In the event the RVCC and the corporation should dissolve, the ownership of the physical property and real estate of the church shall pass to an organization legally considered a non-profit organization. In no instance shall any property, real or otherwise pass to any private individual or individuals, nor to any "for profit" organization". The motion was approved.

Staffing Changes continued: Caryl Gilman led discussion of what we want our pastor to do, and more specifically, what we want an interim pastor to do. People were in agreement that in order to allow an interim to lead worship, help us with the transition process, and help us live into our mission, we, the congregation will need to become more involved in the ministry of the church.

There was also a discussion of finding someone to replace Patrick. We need to define what we want, and what we can support, in terms of a choir, guest musicians etc. We need to define what role we want music to play in worship. It was decided to have another congregational meeting after worship on February 16. There will be a pot luck lunch. Choir members will be encouraged to attend.

New Business: Tom Wiley announced that we are getting an AED donated from In a Heartbeat. We will see to it that we, and others we use our building are trained in its use.

Rev. Nancy offered a closing prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 1:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Judith Munson, Clerk

Rev. Nancy's Fireside Chats

Rev. Nancy will be periodically recording +/-5 minute check ins that will be posted on Youtube. They will consist of perhaps a brief reminder of something coming up, a prayer or reading, and a blessing or benediction - just to remind us that we are in this together, and no one need be alone.

You'll find out when another Chat has been posted via a special all-church email.

She is also thinking of trying out a Zoom Happy Hour - watch for details!

Mental and Spiritual Wellbeing

As we deal with the coronavirus and the disruption to our daily lives, everyone focuses on our physical health, but that is only part of who we are. Here are some ideas to take care of yourselves mentally and spiritually:

- Get outside when possible – take a walk, breathe some fresh air, do some stargazing at night. Remind yourself that God is all around us.
- Eat healthy food. Try to stay away from the “junk” food as much as possible.
- Read some good books – and check out the Little Free Library in front of the church (It's just been restocked!).
- Use technology to stay connected – facetime, Facebook, emails, phone calls, zoom, skype, online courses.
- Buddy up – esp. if you live by yourself. Find someone to make this journey with you.
- Sing! Want a copy of our CD, “Songs that Make You Happy”? Contact Rev. Nancy or the Church Office.
- Take a break from the news – do a puzzle instead – or maybe color or draw!
- Keep a gratitude journal.
- Remember that “laughter is the best medicine.”
- THINK POSITIVE. In the midst of the challenges, watch for the crocuses sprouting. Look for robins. That's where you'll likely find God.
- Reach out with acts of kindness.

PRAY – and keep the faith. Turn to God with your concerns. “Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.” (Matthew 7:7)

Easter Is Coming - Order Your Flowers

The thought of not having Easter morning service in our sanctuary is hard to imagine, but increasingly looking like it will be a reality. To bring us all some Easter joy, Rev. Nancy and Joe are intending to display Easter flowers and the Cross on the front steps of the church on Easter morning. You will still be able to pick your plants up at noon on Easter Day.

We are encouraging everyone to order their Easter flowers this year. Rev. Nancy's hope is that we will have LOTS of flowers and that some of you who do not usually contribute flowers will do so this year as we make a powerful statement to the Raymond Community about who we are – a people of hope, solidarity, and new life in these dark and difficult times.

We anticipate that Skillins will remain open as they are considered an agricultural business. However, we will hold off on cashing checks until the orders are placed. Please send this form with your payment to the church office (P.O. Box 281, Raymond, ME 04071) before April 3, 2020. If you could also email your order form to Deb (feagans04@yahoo.com) that would be very helpful!

_____ Hyacinths @ \$3.25 each

_____ Daffodils @ \$7.99 each

_____ Tulips @ \$7.99 each

_____ Easter Lily @ \$8.99 each

Name: _____

Total Due: \$ _____

In Memory / Honor of: _____



One Great Hour of Sharing

OGHS is the refugee, relief and development special mission offering of the UCC. One Great Hour of Sharing is at work all around the year, all around the world - sharing resources and changing lives. The UCC works with domestic and international partners, to provide support to health, education, refugee, agricultural, and emergency relief initiatives. The timing for this offering date is Sunday March 22. However, as we will not be in church physically, you can make a donation directly at https://www.ucc.org/oghs_gifts OR you can mail a check to the church (PO Box 285, Raymond, ME 04071) and it will be deposited and sent in for you. Please note in the memo section of your check that it is for OGHS.

No Maundy Thursday Communion

In an effort to support all of the CDC guidelines and to keep one another healthy, Rev. Nancy will not be serving communion on Maundy Thursday.

Pilgrim Lodge

It's hard to think that summer will ever be here – or be quite the same as summers past! But let's hope that Pilgrim Lodge is operating as usual come the summer months!

For information on schedules and registration, check out their website (www.pilgrimlodge.org). There is also an application form for PL scholarships. If you have trouble accessing it, please contact the Church Office, and we will scan or mail you a form. PL scholarship applications are due no later than May 15th.

Our church also has limited scholarship money to offset camp fees for those who need financial assistance. Contact the Church Office for more information.

Town of Raymond Phone Tree

Cathy Gosselin, Raymond Health Officer, is coordinating volunteers to check on Raymond residents. Each volunteer has a list of people to call and a script to ensure all are consistent in the questions asked like “how are you feeling?”, “so you have enough food and medicine?” and “Do you want to remain on the phone tree?”

If you would like to help, please contact Cathy Gosselin at covid19@raymondmaine.org or you can call her at 756-2374

RAA presents "Jazz/Poetry Project"

Featuring Betsy Sholl, former Maine State Poet Laureate

This performance includes Gary Wittner (guitar) and Jim Cameron (saxophone). This trio has created interactive arrangements of Sholl's poetry in which music and text are thematically and rhythmically connected. The trio listens intensely to each other, as specific words and phrases are coordinated with the music. There are also improvisational sections, without words, woven into the arrangements. Saturday April 18th from 7-9 PM. Doors open at 6:30PM. Refreshments will be served during an intermission. Suggested Donation \$10. (Pending Current Coronavirus protocols)

Church Pianist

Responsibilities:

Play the piano for all regularly scheduled worship services (Sundays, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Christmas Eve) as well as special services that may arise during the church year. Services typically include preselected hymns but could also include music played during quiet times of the service that is not preselected. Music might also include Prelude and Postlude music selections at the discretion of the Pianist.

Duties and Tasks:

Work with the pastor to present music to enhance the worship experience.
Coordinate outside musicians for special music during regular and special services as needed.
Arrange for back up pianists during absences.
Other duties as directed.

Qualifications:

Musical background with interest in sacred music and familiarity with a variety of musical styles.
Musical training and experience with a variety of musical groups preferred.
Demonstrated proficiency in playing piano.
Ability to organize, effectively collaborate, and communicate with others.
Respect for the faith and religious traditions of our church.

Payment:

Typical hours required on Sunday services from 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM.
Paid as an Independent contractor.
Payment rate is \$75 per service.

Eco-Palms for Palm Sunday

Before the COVID19 outbreak, Rev. Nancy ordered eco-palms for Palm Sunday as she usually does. The order cannot be cancelled because the palms have been harvested. In addition, they provide much needed income to small farmers in Central and South America. Consequently, the palms will arrive! Rev. Nancy will leave them in water in a pail outside the Vestry door on Saturday, April 4th through Sunday, April 5th. Please stop by and take a few, so that, in your own way, you can remember the beginning of Holy Week and Jesus' entry into Jerusalem.

Financial Update

In case you are wondering... The finance function of the church is still in business. Andy will be paying bills as usual and Nancy will be collecting payments as usual. Pledge payments or other contributions would be greatly appreciated. These can be made by mail to RVCC, PO Box 285, Raymond, Me. 04071. Or if you would like to set up an automatic payment please send an e-mail to Nancy Yates at finance@rvccme.org or nlymaine@gmail.com.

Thank you. Brenda Olsen, Treasurer

Spring Cleanup

Well, at this point we are not sure when we will be able to do a spring cleanup, but at some time, soon we hope, we will again be able to get out and about and get back to some normal routines. One of those routines will be a good spring cleanup of our church.

We will keep you up to date on things that need to be done, but one of the big areas this year will be painting of the outside doors on both the sanctuary and vestry. With our siding project done, it highlights the painting that needs to be done on those doors. If you can help out on this, let me know so we can plan ahead for it. Other tasks may include some inside painting and some window cleaning.

The more hands we have the easier the tasks become, there is something for everybody and it will be a great way to get back into getting into the church again.

Contact me with any questions or your ability to help out.

Thanks,
Rolf



Raymond Village Community Church

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

You will be invited to a party with Rev Nancy and Patrick at some point in the future . . .

Given the state of the nation and the world as of this writing, we will postpone the celebration scheduled for April 11 until some point in the future. It is important for all of us to get together to celebrate our time together, say goodbye and wish each other well. Ordinarily, this should happen by the time Rev Nancy retires and Patrick moves on. However, these are not ordinary times. Rev Nancy and Patrick have indicated they would come to the celebration when it can be scheduled considering the schedules, health and safety of all.

If you have questions, please contact Caryl Gilman at carylgilman@gmail.com