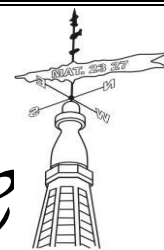

The Weathervane



RAYMOND VILLAGE COMMUNITY CHURCH, United Church of Christ Newsletter

May, 2020

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Moderator Musings



My last article featured embracing change. Well, I guess we got it whether or not we wanted it. From no groups gathering, to keeping your distance, to having some of the usual supply chains being interrupted. For the most part, our church building has set right where we left it.

Oh, there have been a few folks stopping in for a variety of tasks to help keep us running and moving forward. The office still needs to run in some capacity and bills need to be paid still. Your council, deacons and search committee have been meeting regularly using online technology. And as we bid adieu to Rev Nancy and welcome Rev Joanne Painter to our pulpit, we are doing it with the use of technology. With the help of Rolf Olsen and Will Feagans we are bringing you weekly sermons featuring the deacons, Rev. Painter and the musical skills of Patrick Martin.

Having the building virtually unoccupied has also allowed Rolf and his “Trusty, Trustee Helper” (aka Brenda) to begin transforming the downstairs bathrooms. You may have noticed the items were in storage waiting for the perfect time. Well, it may not be perfect, but it is the time to work on that project. We thank them for this endeavor and look forward to seeing the updates.

But all in all, the building is just still a building. As we have seen this past month, the church is still there. Folks are reaching out to check on others. Making phone calls and sending text messages to make sure we have enough supplies, and yes even toilet paper. The church really is: the online messages of love, hope and music which we are sharing with you.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone soon!!!! In the meantime, check out the church webpage, Facebook or now even the You Tube channel. That is where the church is. And yes, you are the church. It’s not just the white building with a steeple on Main Street. *Tom Wiley Moderator*

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!

May Lectionary Lessons

May 3, 2020

*Acts 2:42-47
Psalm 23
1 Peter 2:19-25
John 10:1-10

May 10, 2020

*Acts 7:55-60
Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16
1 Peter 2:2-10
John 14:1-14

May 17, 2020

*Acts 17:22-31
Psalm 66:8-20
1 Peter 3:13-22
John 14:15-21

May 21, 2020

*Acts 1:1-11
Psalm 47
Psalm 93
Ephesians 1:15-23
Luke 24:44-53

May 24, 2020

*Acts 1:6-14
Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35
1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11
John 17:1-11

May 31, 2020 - Pentecost Sunday

*Acts 2:1-21
Numbers 11:24-30
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
1 Corinthians 12:3b-13
Acts 2:1-21
John 20:19-23
John 7:37-39

RVCC Gardens

The work begun in the fall will continue. The side garden (aka Memorial Garden) was 80% complete by winter. The front garden bushes had a major pruning. The big, leggy rhododendrons were cut back to stems hoping to have new growth in spring. The upper third front flowerbeds (closest to the building) have been dug and replanted. Now we will work on the remainder of the front gardens...over time...as we can.

If you have plants that you would like to donate and/or you would like to help, please contact Caryl at 627-5073 or carylgilman@gmail.com.

Strengthen the Church

For many years, Raymond Village Community Church has taken pride in being a 5 for 5 church, that is we support all 5 of the special UCC offerings. The Strengthen the Church offering is the second of these special offerings this year. It supports the expansion of ministry and growth of UCC local congregations. As God calls our congregations to be the church in new ways, your support of this offering will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches, and develop spiritual life in our youth and young adults. To me, this seems like an offering which we, as a church, can really relate to.

This special offering is due to be received on Pentecost Sunday, May 31. Who knows whether we will be in church together on that Sunday. If not, you could mail a check to RVCC, PO Box 285, Raymond, ME 04071. Please indicate your check is for Strengthen the Church on the memo line. You can also make your gift on line directly to the United Church of Christ. Go to www.ucc.org/stc, and hit the "give" button. As you provide your name, address, and financial information, type in Raymond Village Community Church on the "I belong to this congregation line."

Thanks you for your support. Judy Munson

May Birthdays!

We wish the following people a happy birthday this month! Perhaps you will want to remember them with a card or special greeting!

May 1	A.J. Olsen
May 4	Kathleen Bent
May 12	Charlotte Rowe
May 18	Judy Day
May 26	Christine Eldridge
May 30	Alice Morrison
May 30	Chuck Waldron

The Deacons are working to compile/update our Birthday list. We have never published a Weathervane in January, so do not have a list of January birthdays, but would like to. If you have a birthday in January, please either call the church office (655-7749, option 2) or email Deb Feagans at feagans04@yahoo.com.

Easter Flower Update

Since publishing our "Special Edition," we had an additional Easter Flower order. The flowers were given by Marian Wright in memory and honor of John Robert Wright and Betsy Lee Wright. We give our thanks to Marian for her generous order.



Please keep the following people in your prayers:

Michael Cadotte, Louise Doyle, Polly Dyer,
Margo Fournier, the Lambert/Lindell family,
Arthur and Deborah LaFond,
Bill N., Frank Sullivan, Dan Tibbetts

We need your help for the prayer portion of worship. If you have someone you are concerned about or whom you believe could use our prayers, please either call the church (655-7749) and leave a voice message in the Deacon inbox (#2) or email the office at office@rvccme.org. We will include these names in prayer time in the next worship.

Please help us keep this list current. If you have requested prayers for someone who no longer needs to be on the list, let us know that, too.

-RVCC Deacons

Worship via video thanks to Rev Painter, Patrick and the Deacons

At this writing, our first two worship services on video have been recorded and ready for April 19 and April 26. During the preparation for and recording of each worship video we learn something new. After viewing the April 19 video, we learned it would be helpful to announce the hymnal, page number and verses when we announce the hymn Patrick will sing. We welcome your feedback too! Please email carylgilman@gmail.com with any suggestions. Thank you! The videos will be posted to YouTube every Saturday evening. The link is: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCc1hBkBTarnZF-H4O7YN5ew>

Search Committee Update

Despite the need to be socially distant, the Search Committee has continued to work hard to locate a new minister for RVCC. After initial interviews, we narrowed the candidate pool, spoke to references and conducted more in-depth second interviews via Zoom video-conferencing. We look forward to meeting with the Council soon to make a recommendation regarding our top candidate.

Missions Corner

Daisys' Children – WOW!

How awesome that your donations to date total \$1180! We already sent over \$1800 to Daisys' Children and now will send an additional \$465, which includes the Mission Fund matching funds. That puts our total combined contribution to \$2360! We have contributed 20%+ of what is needed to complete the Nutrition Center.

Raymond Food Pantry needs monetary donations!

As we have all seen on TV, food pantries have more and more customers. They all are doing “drive thru” pickup for customers. The same is true for Raymond Food Pantry. Here is the status at end of April. The pantry still does receive donation from Hannaford and Shaws, and new sources like St Joseph's College and LL Bean. They can also purchase food for pennies on the dollar from Good Shepherd. The types of food available through these sources are: vegetables, dairy, canned vegetables, bread and other staples. Protein availability is way down.

Monetary donations would enable the Pantry to buy food/protein from places like BJ's. Per the CDC, they cannot accept food donations from individuals.

Raymond Village Church has already sent a donation and we ask that you consider making a donation as well to Raymond Food Pantry, PO Box 900, Raymond, Maine 04071.

HANNAFORD GROCERY CARDS

We have Hannaford shopping cards available for purchase in denominations of \$100 and \$50. Every \$100 you purchase means RVCC gets \$5. You buy the card for \$100, you buy \$100 worth of groceries and RVCC gets \$5!!! How great is that? I am available to get cards to you. Just send me an e-mail (bolsen001@maine.rr.com) or give me a call (207-838-0123). Thanks! Brenda

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

Summary of Wednesday, April 15, 2020 Coordinating Council Meeting

A meeting of the coordinating council and deacons was called to order at 5:00 PM, on Wednesday, April 15, 2020 by Tom Wiley. Present were Tom Wiley, Rolf Olsen, Brenda Olsen, Caryl Gilman, Nancy Yates, Deb Feagans, and Judy Munson. The meeting was held remotely, each of us in their own homes, via Zoom.

Deb Feagans offered the opening prayer.

Rolf made a motion, seconded by Caryl, and approved to accept the minutes of April 3, 2020.

Rolf made a motion, seconded by Nancy Y, and approved to accept the minutes of March 29.

Treasurer's Report: Brenda presented the Treasurer's Report for March. She reported that, considering the fact that we have not been in church together since March 15, we are not in bad shape. Total Income of \$6,857 was under budget by only \$232.10 for the month. She expects that pledge income will continue to be paid during our time away from church. We will lose some of the other contributions which are budgeted at \$563 per month. Total expenses of \$10,303 was over budget by \$1,521 for the month. Brenda did transfer \$10,000 from American Funds into our cash account in April. This was an expected withdrawal to deal with cash flow. Although it is alarming to have seen a loss of \$17,884 recorded in March in our American Funds, we had a similar loss in the 4th quarter of 2018. We have already seen a recovery of much of this in the first two weeks in April. Rolf made a motion, seconded by Caryl, to accept the Treasurer's Report was accepted subject to year end review.

A question was raised about the fact that we will not be able to have pot roast supper in May. Tom reported that Craig still has corned beef in his freezer from the Community Meal which we were unable to have on March 17. Caryl suggested that we could cook the meat and vegetables, put it in take out containers, and give them to local food bank for distribution at their next pantry day, the 4th Thursday of the month. This will be explored further.

Update from Pastoral Search Committee: Rolf reported that after the first round of interviews, they have narrowed their search down to 3 candidates from the original four. References have been called on these, and 2 of the three have submitted videos for the committee to view. Second interviews will be done next week, followed by a recommendation to the Council for final decision. It was agreed that the ideal way to introduce our new minister to the congregation would be in person, not remotely. Only one of the potential candidates would be relocating, the other two are local. It will be up to Tom to negotiate final call agreement with the candidate whom we select.

Update from Music Search Committee: Brenda reported that she has had only one response since she distributed job description for music director.

Services with Joanne Painter: Caryl reported on how the process was going. The video for April 19 has been completed, Nancy Yates is now working with Joanne on the video for the 26th. Joanne had given us the hymns which she wanted to use for the first few weeks, these have already been recorded by Patrick, so changes can not be made. Completed videos will be posted to You Tube by Rolf.

Reports of the Coordinators:

Clerk: nothing to report

Trustees: Rolf has been working on renovating the bathrooms off the vestry. He also plans to do some work in Nancy's office to get it ready for a new pastor.

Unfortunately the scouts have not been around to do spring clean up, there is a lot of sand to be swept up. Nate, our tenant in the parsonage, has been doing some work on cleaning up gardens, however. Caryl reported that she has more planting to do in the gardens, she will get to this once she is out of quarantine. It was hoped that others would help, we could maintain a distance between us.

Missions: Caryl reported that we will make a \$500 donation to the food pantry, they are having a tough time. One check has already gone to Daisy's Children, but more has come in for them, another check will be sent. Brenda reported knowing of people who have made masks, could they be distributed locally. She was informed that Cathy Gosselin, town health officer, might know of people who could use them, or who could use other help.

Stewardship: Brenda reported that she has just purchased some Hannaford grocery cards. She would be willing to meet people individually at church who might want to purchase them. She plans to get out quarterly pledge statements by the end of April.

Deacons: The Deacons met last week. The prayer chain at this point, consists of Deacons and Chan. Nancy Y suggested that cards be sent out for Mothers Day, since we will not be together. She will take care of that. Those wishing to have anything in the all church email need to go through the Deacon for that week. Deacons will send everything to Lori. Lectionary will go in the all church email each week.

Moderator: Rolf reminded us that emails coming in to Nancy Foran at the office email should now be forwarded to Tom. After May 15, Rolf suggested that we get rid of that email address. Tom reported that he had received an email from John McDuffie, passing on his memories of people who had belonged to the church.

Old Business: Caryl said that she would take on job of keeping Little Library stocked. She will also be representing the church at meetings of Fuller Center. She has not heard anything further from Pat Graves about family reunion which she wanted to hold at the church.

New Business: Caryl reported that Gary from the food pantry could use one of our large wood tables, Rolf and

Continued next page . . .

Council Minutes, continued . . .

Brenda will get one to him. Realizing that we needed a storage location to store the pieces of a worship service until they are combined into one video, Caryl has gotten a new drop box. Only Caryl, Rolf, and Will Feagans will have access to it. Tom will follow up with Dan and Lori about some computer upgrades in progress.

We will continue to put out the Weathervane at the end of each month. There was discussion on what should be in the May Weathervane. The next meeting will be Wednesday, May 6, at 5:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Judith Munson, Clerk

School/Hygiene Kits

Normally in early May, we are packing up our hygiene kits and school kits to deliver to local Church World Service collection sites. This year is far from normal, however. Local kit depots are closed at least through May 31.

We do have the bags and supplies to put together a good number of school kits. We do not, however, have the supplies needed for hygiene kits. And Church World Service is reporting that supplies, especially of hygiene kits, is running low in warehouses. "In the face of natural disasters, violence, or grinding poverty, hygiene kits can mean the difference between sickness and health . . ."

We do not know when we will be able to worship together again. But in the meantime, we can all do our part in collecting items for hygiene kits. If you can help us stock up on any of the items on this list, we would appreciate it. We will let you know when and how we will be collecting them. Items needed are:

- One hand towel (measuring 15" x 28" to 16" x 32")
- One washcloth
- One wide-tooth comb removed from the package
- One fingernail or toenail clipper removed from the package (either one is acceptable)
- One bath-size bar of soap in the original package
- One toothbrush in the original package
- Ten standard size Band-Aids

Keeping in Touch . . .

A note from Polly Dyer:

Dear Friends,

I hope this finds everyone healthy, I miss everyone.
I am fine. Lisa and Dan take good care of me.
Lisa has taken me out for a ride around Selago Lake.
Have kept busy sorting out craft things. Made a few cards.
Really enjoy the services on the computer.
I keep my head and hands busy. I worry about you-people that need to be out around other people.
Will be nice to see everyone again. You stay safe and healthy.

Sending Blessing to all

Love

Polly

As you can see
I had a problem making
this fit in the envelope.
Your laugh for
the day
Love
Polly

Holy Humor . . .





Raymond Village Community Church

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Church Closing Updates

As things are still in a state of flux due to COVID-19, we can not be sure when we will again be able to meet in person or begin to hold classes and events at RVCC. We will keep you updated in the weekly all church e-mail, and in the monthly Weathervane. You can also call the Church office at 655-7749 with any questions. In the meantime, please visit our YouTube channel to view our ongoing services.

We are still waiting to schedule a celebration with Rev Nancy and Patrick

Rev Nancy has retired, while Patrick continues to play music on a “fill-in” basis. Much as we would like to hold the celebration and soon, we need to be patient and schedule when it will be safe to meet. The country is investigating how to “reopen” and that will take a while. Just know that, we have not forgotten!

RVCC Council