

### RAYMOND VILLAGE COMMUNITY CHURCH, United Church of Christ Newsletter

July, 2020

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## From the Pastor ...

Dear RVCC members and friends,

My first few weeks with you have flown by. Despite us not being able to meet together as a community of faith in the sanctuary yet, I have been fortunate to connect with several of you by phone, e-mail, zoom, or in person. It is becoming more evident to me, even though you have not been able to be physically in the same space for the last three months, you have been keeping each other in prayers, thoughts and minds.

Below are a few of the quotes I have heard over the past few weeks that are all about <u>you</u> the church family:

- ...is a busy member
- ...always willing to pitch in
- ...is very attentive
- ...takes care of me
- ...there are a lot of good people
- ...always pitching in
- ...know that I can call for help
- ...miss seeing everyone
- ...have a "can do" attitude
- ...is good to me
- ...generous to the church
- ...just ask me if you need something
- ... are such wonderful people
- ...donates flowers
- ...has a beautiful voice

It brings such joy to my heart to witness the care you have for one another.

I want to assure you that the council is diligently planning for us to be together again in person.

We are following state and local regulations and keeping abreast of CDC guidelines. We are being mindful of trying to offer a safe and healthy space

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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 or to Judy Munson, 23 Lawn Ave., Gorham, ME 04038 – cmmunson24@yahoo.com – Thank you for reading our newsletter!

### July Lectionary Lessons

### July 5, 2020 - Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67

Psalm 45:10-17

Song of Solomon 2:8-13

Zechariah 9:9-12

Psalm 145:8-14

Romans 7:15-25a

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

### July 12, 2020 - Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 25:19-34

Psalm 119:105-112

Isaiah 55:10-13

Psalm 65:(1-8), 9-13

Romans 8:1-11

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

### July 19, 2020 - Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 28:10-19a

Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24

Wisdom of Solomon 12:13, 16-19

Isaiah 44:6-8

Psalm 86:11-17

Romans 8:12-25

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

### July 26, 2020 - Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 29:15-28

Psalm 105:1-11, 45b

Psalm 128

1 Kings 3:5-12

Psalm 119:129-136

Romans 8:26-39

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

#### From your Editors

Although we have not been worshipping together in our sanctuary, a lot has been going on at RVCC! The Church office is open. Pastor Petra is in the office on Wednesdays and Lori is there on Thursdays. Visitors with masks are welcome, but please call ahead.

Rolf with the help of his sidekick Brenda completed work in the bathrooms off the Vestry, such an improvement! Caryl Gilman with encouragement from Brenda Olsen has worked wonders in the gardens. Rolf with help from Dale Gilman has repaired the front deck and the ramp going down to the driveway.

A new canopy has been installed over the patio off the Vestry and is providing a shady space for groups to meet in a safe manner. Our Line Dancers have been meeting on Thursday mornings to visit and keep in touch. The knitting group has also started meeting there on the second and fourth Tuesday.

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

for us gather at some point in the future.

Once again, I wish to express my sincerest thanks of your continual financial support of our church. Many of you have either sent in money or used the online option and for this we are most grateful.

When the church building is open to everyone, you will notice that the pastor's office has been repainted. Thank you to all who spent time prepping the space and making it look so fresh and welcoming. Additionally, a special thanks to the search committee and the council for welcoming me to RVCC.

It continues to be a delight to learn more about you and it is my hope that I will meet each one of you in the next months.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to me if there is something on your mind or if you want to introduce yourself. When you receive this newsletter contact me at this new e-mail <a href="mailto:pastorpetra@rvccme.org">pastorpetra@rvccme.org</a> or call 207-781-3783.

Finally, please be assured that you and your families are in my prayers.

Blessings and joy,

Pastor Petra

### Pilgrim Lodge Update

Pilgrim Lodge will not have a 2020 camp season. This decision was based on the belief that it is the best way to protect the health and safety of everyone and ensure the sustainability of Pilgrim Lodge for years to come. The small year-round staff of three will spend this summer checking as many things as possible off the never-ending PL maintenance to-do list as well as working on grant writing and fund raising, cutting costs and most importantly planning for 2021. Pilgrim Lodge relies on the revenue from summer camp fees to run the camp in the summer and support full-time staff year-round. To keep PL staff working so camp will be ready for next summer, they have a goal of raising \$50,000. For this reason, the Missions team is sending \$1000 from the RVCC mission fund. If you would like to donate as well, you can donate online at www.pilgrimlodge.org/giving/ or send your donation to Pilgrim Lodge, 103 Pilgrim Lodge Lane, West Gardiner, ME 04345.



Please keep the following people in your prayers:

Michael Cadotte, Louise Doyle, Polly Dyer, Margo Fournier, Arthur and Deborah LaFond, Bill N., Kay Roach, Frank Sullivan, Dan Tibbetts, Bonnie Wiley

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 <a href="mailto:office@rvccme.org">office@rvccme.org</a>. 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

### July Birthdays!

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

July 5	Catherine Berry
July 14	Joan Morton
July 23	Betty Shively
July 24	Nancy Yates
July 28	Kaleigh Lambert

The Deacons are working to update our Birthday list. We do not have a list of January birthdays, but want to create one. If you have a birthday in January, please either call the church office (655-7749, option 2) or email Deb Feagans at <a href="mailto:feagans04@yahoo.com">feagans04@yahoo.com</a>.

### 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.



### Moderator Musings

Summer time and the living is easy. Well. Maybe not this year. It might be a little bit harder than normal. But we can definitely make it better just by trying to take care of ourselves and each other during this pandemic summer. Ask your neighbor if they need help. Deliver someone a meal. Pick them a pint of berries or even a bundle of flowers. How about a fresh baked pie?

Some of my most cherished memories invoke thoughts of summer. Why should this year be anything different? It will be what you make of it. Get out there and do some day trips to places you may have not been since your youth or maybe even never.

There are many places I have been as a youth which I have never been back to. What about you? I think of places such as Fort Knox and Perry's Nuthouse as a few. There are just as many places I have never been to either. Just this spring I went to Harspwell, for the first time.

I often think back to many summertime memories of fishing with my grandparents. In mid afternoon they would show up and we kids would get in the back of the 'Old Green Datsun' pickup truck and travel over an hour to South Twin to go fishing. Over the bumpy roads with wind in our hair and not too many cares in the world at the time. It was fresh air all the way. We would always get there around 4 p.m. and we would fish until almost dark.

After being on the water a while my grandfather would find a place to drop anchor so we could go swimming and pick wild berries. Then we would have the best tasting 'suppah'. A sandwich of white bread, cheese and salami. No, condiments ever. Then we would get set in for the best fishing of the evening. After darkness had fallen and the boat was all trailered up we would again pile in the back of the truck. We would watch the skies and stars and fall asleep on the ride home. The trip was not over until the next morning when we went back to our grandparents to help clean the fish. That was the last chapter of each and every fishing trip.

This is the summer to relive some of those childhood memories or make some new ones. Grab the old family photo album and look back at some of your own pictures. There must be trips you can take again.

Perhaps you are limited by resources or the place may no longer be around. If you can't physically go, then go there

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### **RVCC Gardens Update** (pictures 6/13)



<u>Front Gardens</u> update: The gardens have been weeded, dug and replanted with perennials then mulched. Many thanks to the following people who donated to these gardens:

Rita Gerry Memorial fund – mulch Judy Day – Baptista

Catherine Berry – spiderwort Nate Rand – Astilbe and Bee Balm Charlotte Rowe - Turtle head and yarrow Brenda Olsen - Hosta, chives & orange day lilies

Marian Wright – Daisies, coreopsis, pink cone flower, 3 varieties of day lily, obedient

Memorial Garden update: The chrysanthemums from Marian Wright have been planted along with hens and chickens donated by Catherine Berry. One correction on memorial names in last month's weathervane. The heather given by Kathleen Bent is in memory of her mother Helene.

### Thank You from Rev. Nancy!

Thank you so much for the lovely photo retrospective and personal notes that Caryl Gilman dropped off at Little Farm recently. The album brought back many wonderful and fun memories of my 14+ years as your pastor.

Thank you also for the two beach plum trees that Nancy Yates brought to me earlier in the summer. Joe and I knew just where to plant them! We look forward to some excellent beach plum jam in the years to come.

I will carry with me always the remembrances of my time with you. We accomplished much and changed a lot over the years – both as individuals and as a congregation. All in all, it was a good run!

Take care, each one of you – and I wish you only the best as you discern what comes next for you as a church. May your journey be blessed, go with courage and hope – and know that the Spirit will lead you to new times and unimaginable adventures.

- Rev. Nancy

### Moderator Musings, continued . . .

in memory. Rearrange the photo albums, old movies, and travel brochures. Think back to why those areas bring back the great memories and think about some of the people in the photos who are no longer with us. Cherish the adventures you have had in your life.

Remember, it's the little things that matter the most. Sometimes they get swept away with the whirlwind of the world we live in now. Write down some notes why you think so fondly of these memories. You can have that summer again, if only for a few moments. But alas, don't forget, the job isn't done until you "clean your fish".

Tom Wiley Moderator

#### 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

# Summary of Tuesday, June 2, 2020 Coordinating Council Meeting

A meeting of the coordinating council and deacons was called to order at 5:30 PM on Tuesday, June 2, 2020, by Tom Wiley. Present were Tom, Rolf, Nancy Y., Caryl, Brenda, Deb, Judy, and Pastor Petra. The meeting was held remotely, each of us in their own homes, via Zoom. Brenda led us in our opening prayer, a prayer for those suffering from injustice.

A motion was made by Rolf, seconded by Nancy Y, and approved to accept the minutes of our May 19, 2020 meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Brenda presented financial reports for the month of May. Total income of \$8,265 was over budget by \$1,125 for the month, although under budget by \$747 year to date. Total expenses of \$4,779 were under budget by \$5,884 for the month, and under budget by \$9,758 year to date. Brenda reported that the American Funds had recovered and then some, from the loss she reported at our April 15 meeting. Brenda had been working on a revised budget for the year 2020. It is now showing a loss of \$11,869, as compared to the loss of \$24,342 in the original budget. The new budget reflects less income from pledges, loose plate offering, pot roast suppers, grocery card sales, and income from RAA events, as well as a change to the pastoral expense. Caryl made a motion, seconded by Rolf, and approved to accept the Treasurer's Report subject to year end review.

Caryl followed up on the question of whether we want to add a Pay Pal Button to our website. We already have a Pay Pal account. Caryl reported that Sheila Bourque who is our website expert, is staying in Arizona, and not expected to return to Raymond this spring. Both Caryl and Brenda will be in touch with her and try to set up some remote training on updating our website.

### Reports of the Coordinators:

**Clerk:** nothing to report

**Trustees:** Rolf reported that the reno of the bathrooms has been finished. He and Dale Gilman had worked on repair of the deck and ramp today, and it is in good shape. Painting in Pastor Petra's office has been completed. Book shelves need to be put back, and we need to get a new dehumidifier. Eventually, we also need to paint exterior doors of the building. Thanks to Rolf for all he has done, and to Nancy and Bob Yates for helping with painting.

**Missions:** As we did in May, we will prepare another hot dinner for those who receive food from our local food pantry. It will be done on Thursday, June 11. Pastor Petra would like to help. Caryl reported that we

will make a donation this spring to Pilgrim Lodge. They are not opening for the camping season, but will still have expenses. Caryl is going to be our representative to the Fuller Center board. She will be going to a meeting on June 22. They are asking how we want to be involved. Judy reported that she has bags and supplies to put together school kits. Nancy reported that some people have been bringing in supplies for hygiene kits. To date, Church World Service has not posted new dates for opening of a local site to collect these.

**Deacons:** Assigned dates for June and July. Moderator- including transition checklist: Tom announced that there will be no release of vows celebration for Rev. Nancy. Caryl announced that there will be no retirement celebration for Rev. Nancy. She has spoken with Nancy, there is no way that this can be done in the way that we all want it to be done in the near future. Caryl presented a letter which will go out tomorrow. It outlines how people can talk to Nancy to say good bye, and how they can watch the slide show which has been put together. Rolf has been working on purchasing a new computer for Pastor Petra, he needed more money, Nancy made a motion, seconded by Caryl, and approved to spend up to an additional \$600 for computer. Rolf has been in touch with Dan concerning setting up email for her. He has changed messages on phone machine.

Pastor: Pastor Petra thanked those who worked on fixing up her office. She will be in the office on Thursdays, plus another day to be determined. Recording of Sunday services will also take place on Thursdays. This week it will be done at 4:30, Will is waiting for Amazon to deliver a microphone. There was discussion about when we should think about reopening. Petra has spoken to many churches around us who are saying they will not worship in person until August or September. It was suggested that we could make phone calls, and poll the congregation as to what would make them comfortable to come back.

Other Business: The Pat Graves Family Reunion will not be happening this summer. Rachel Knights has asked if her line dancers could meet socially in the parking lot every week or so, may go inside to use bathrooms. Rolf announced that he has spoken with A.A., they are ok to continue to meet in parking lot, with possibly going in to use bathrooms. Caryl will put together check list with cleaning protocol for such inside usage. Tom announced that the Windham Eagle will interview Pastor Petra next week. Our next meeting will be on June 23<sup>rd</sup>, at 5:30 PM, it will focus on sound equipment, including updating what we have, plus new equipment needed to video and/or livestream services. Will is working on needs and prices. Respectfully submitted, Judith Munson, Clerk

### Missions Corner

The Raymond Food Pantry sent us an appreciative letter thanking us for monetary donations to the Food Pantry in this difficult time for many people. During the first Food Pantry in May, the patrons of the Food Pantry were very thankful for a cooked meal to take home, ready to eat. The same core crew (Craig and Rolf) and other helpers provided a meatloaf meal on June 11. They delivered 48 suppers with generous portions. Forty-one were handed to Food Pantry patrons and 7 went home with volunteer staff. Very tasty meatloaf and a prepared meal was appreciated!

Raymond Elementary and Jordan Small Middle Schools Summer Backpack program: The backpack program provides food for hungry children on weekends and holidays. The Town of Raymond is seeking your help in providing food this summer. Food can be dropped off at any time over the summer at the Public Safety Building or the Town office.

Items needed are: peanut butter, tuna, pasta, pasta sauce, mac n cheese, instant oatmeal, cereal, canned juice, juice boxes, goldfish crackers, pretzels, cheese or peanut butter crackers, breakfast bars, applesauce, granola bars or graham crackers.

Other ways to help: monetary donations are very helpful. RVCC already made a donation, but private donations would also be much appreciated. \$30/week can fill one backpack. Also needed are volunteers to pack and/or distribute the bags.

### Safety/Freedom from Fear

This is one of the 5 focus areas for the mission committee. In my every-day life, I don't have to think about safety often. News reports over the past weeks and months tell me that other people, primarily people of color, DO think about this *very* frequently. In fact, I was watching the *Today* show during the June 8th week when Al Roker and 2 other black men were talking about teaching their sons about what they can/shouldnot-do to be safe as a black man in America. On the same day, I read an article called "White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack", written by a white woman. It lists 50 things she does NOT have to think about, but she has learned black people do have to think about these things...like: I can go shopping alone most of the time, pretty well assured that I will not be followed or harassed. This reminded me that racism is not just about intentionally/actively hurting others who are different. Racism is a belief that race is the primary determinant of human traits and capacities and that racial differences produce an inherent superiority of a particular race. In order to be able to discuss what RVCC can do for missions regarding safety/freedom from fear, we need to have a greater awareness. I encourage you to take this time of continued shelter in place to learn more about racism and antiracism. There are two websites that have resources: The Maine Conference list is at:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1S\_iIqXGB0o3d2wsMVpj0xwSKITgCIHdlojNtFll-qBU/edit\_and Katie Couric has a list on medium.com. At some point, RVCC can move from general awareness to specific awareness in Raymond and the surrounding communities.

-Caryl Gilman

P.S. Added 6/20 – Gov Janet Mills proclamation about Juneteenth:

 $\underline{https://www.maine.gov/governor/mills/sites/maine.gov.governor.mills/files/inline-files/Juneteenth-June20th.pdf}$ 

### **Hygiene Kit Update**

Normally in early May, we have packed up our hygiene kits and school kits to deliver to local Church World Service collection sites. This year is far from normal, however. Local collections sites will be opening in late August or early September. 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.

- One hand towel measuring approximately 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

### **Church Re-Opening Guidelines**

The Council and Deacons continue to meet to discuss reopening our Church for in-person worship. As we begin to prepare, we want to let everyone know what church will look like when we do re-open, because things will be different! We hope to re-open in the next few months, but will be recording services through at least August 16<sup>th</sup>.

First, we ask that you not attend if: you have any symptoms of illness such as a fever of 100 degrees F or more, new cough, new sore throat, new runny nose or nasal congestion, new shortness of breath, new muscle aches/fatigue, new loss of smell/taste, chest pain.

### What do I need to do in order to attend?

- **RSVP for each service you plan to attend in advance.** It sounds a little odd to RSVP for church, but it won't be forever! This will keep us within the re-opening protocol for social distancing which limits pew space.
- **Bring your favorite mask!** All congregants <u>must</u> wear a face mask at all times in the church. Please plan to bring your own mask.
- Plan to arrive a few minutes early so that the worship service can start as close to on-time as possible. Remaining socially distant, and being mindful of others will take a little time.

### What will happen when I arrive?

- Everyone will be asked to enter through the front doors. Maintain social distancing as you come into the church. The Vestry entrance will not be used.
- **Greetings!** Upon entering the building, you will be greeted by a Deacon or Assistant who will give you a mask if you need one and ask you to use the hand sanitizer.
- Some pews will be blocked off. A Deacon or Deacon Assistant may direct you to a seat, to maintain proper distancing. We will be using every-other-pew and only two people will be seated per pew in order to maintain a 6-foot social distancing minimum. The exception will be for two or more members of the same family who may be seated together in the same pew. Maintain distancing as you locate a seat.
- Hugging, hand-shaking, close contact are discouraged. Remember, we're still doing our part to stop the virus' spread. This will be hard for many of us but keep in mind that it is temporary.

### **Worship Service Format**

- Unsafe to sing, or to have unison speaking. You will primarily be hearing from Pastor Petra and the Deacon on duty.
- The bibles and hymnals have been temporarily removed from the pews. All relevant information for the worship will be in Bulletins placed in pews.
- Communion Sunday will look a little different. For everyone's safety, we will provide pre-packaged juice and

- wafer in pews when you enter on Communion Sundays. This way fewer hands will touch the Communion elements.
- Children in church. Your children who are old enough to wear a mask are welcome to sit with you during the church service. We ask that you please be socially distance-minded and not allow children to walk around the building but remain with you during the service.
- Offerings we will not 'pass the plate'. Instead, there will be a designated basket near the entrance of the sanctuary for you to place your donations. You can also set up automatic weekly donations.
- **The only restrooms** which will be available are those on the same level as the sanctuary, just outside the office.
- **No coffee hour yet.** While there is still a chance of spreading the coronavirus, we must be vigilant in doing our part. So, there will not be a Fellowship Café before church or coffee hour following the service. The Vestry will be off limits.
- Exiting the church. Please remember social distancing as you leave the building and go to the parking lot. We will have back rows exit first and then move forward. There will be markings on the floor of the sanctuary to remind us of safe 6 foot distances.

We will be seeking input from Church attendees regarding these guidelines and comfort level in returning to church. A Deacon or Council member may be contacting you soon!

### **Knitting Group**

The knitting and crocheting group is now meeting outside at the church, on the patio, under the tarp, surrounded a beautiful garden. We meet the second and fourth Tuesday of the month (weather permitting). You are welcome to join us! Here are the things you need you know....

- Bring your own chair. If you do not happen to have one to bring, we can borrow a folding chair from the church, but we will need to sanitize it afterward.
- We need to maintain the 6 foot distancing rule.
- Bring something to drink. It is possible to get some water inside in case you forget. The leader will be the designated "water-geterer".
- The bathrooms are available in case they are needed. The leader will sanitize after the meeting.
- In general, anything used from inside the church will have to be sanitized afterward.
- If you are not feeling well, please stay home. If you are uncomfortable with socialization in this situation please do not feel you have to attend.
- Face masks are optional as along as we are distancing effectively – unless of course you decide you feel the need to sing! – then we need to move back or "mask up"!



Raymond Village Community Church

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

**Rev. Nancy Retirement (**this information was sent in an email on 6/3)

It seems like long ago that we invited you to a celebration of Rev Nancy's time with us on April 11. Rev Nancy retired from Raymond Village Community Church on April 12.

We did not have a retirement celebration at that time as it was not safe due to the COVID 19 outbreak.

Time flies...some things change and some things don't change!

What has changed?

Patrick Martin continues to provide music for worship and plans to do so through August. Thank you, Patrick!

RVCC hired Rev Petra Smyth as our 3-year designated term pastor and she started on June 1.

What hasn't changed?

While Maine slowly starts to reopen businesses, that reopening is much slower in Cumberland County. We thought about a social distancing celebration but not everyone would feel safe doing so. As it is not safe for all to participate, there will be no final celebration event.

While we cannot meet in person, we can reminisce viewing a slideshow of pictures / memories available on the RVCC YouTube Channel now. Enjoy! <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=40wpczVVnvU">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=40wpczVVnvU</a>

If you know of someone who wants to view pictures but doesn't have the internet, there is a copy of a memory book in the RVCC library. Just contact Nancy Yates to borrow.

And, what if you feel like you need more closure? Please contact Caryl Gilman to discuss your needs. email: <a href="mailto:carylgilman@gmail.com">carylgilman@gmail.com</a> or phone at 627-5073

**RVCC Council**