

---

---

# The Weathervane



RAYMOND VILLAGE COMMUNITY CHURCH, United Church of Christ Newsletter

June, 2020

---

Table of Contents	Page
Moderator Musings .....	1
June Lectionary Lessons.....	2
Strengthen the Church.....	2
Update on Re-Opening .....	2
Easter Flower Update.....	2
Prayer Concerns .....	3
June Birthdays.....	3
Thank You Rev. Painter.....	3
RVCC Helps Food Pantry .....	3
Hannaford Grocery Cards .....	3
Financial Update.....	3
May Council Minutes .....	4
RVCC Garden Update .....	5
Celebration Update .....	5
Hygiene Kits.....	5
Letter from our Moderator.....	6
Biographical Statement.....	7
Thank You.....	8

**Please see page 2 for an important update regarding Worship plans for early June!**

## Moderator Musings



Well. Spring has definitely sprung. The leaves and plants are waking up from their winter's respite. There have been some fiddleheads and dandelion greens consumed, yards raked, soil turned and dreams of summer are on the horizon. Better get that lawn mower out and make sure it runs. What is on your short list?

Although maybe in a different capacity as in years past, the church is being awoken too. We will welcome a new Pastor to lead us. We look forward to Reverend Petra Smyth leading us into our future. She will begin her duties officially on June 1st. Together we will awaken the community and Christian spirit within our church and our church family.

We will also be following some new safety guidelines as we surmount the tasks of the pandemic. It seems like these tasks will change often and we will need to be flexible as we adopt and adapt these items to our daily and weekly church activities. I ensure you that the council and your deacons have been working on these details in a yeoman's fashion. Part of that is the responsibility of knowing and accepting what we think our plan looks like now, may be totally different by tomorrow.

And yes, summer in the Sebago Lakes Region will be different. Will our out of state snow birds come this summer? We hope to see them in some fashion. We know that the tourism industry will be totally different this summer. We also know there are many friends, neighbors and strangers in our town who are struggling. Many have lost jobs and do not know what their future holds. That truly is different.

But we, (you and I and the lamppost) can turn the different into difference. We can support the local missions' programs to help with the food pantry.

Did you know we served a hot meal to go to some of the patrons last month? It was greatly received. Remember last year we said we wanted to

*Continued next page . . .*

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!

## June Lectionary Lessons

**June 7, 2020** - *First Sunday after Pentecost, Trinity Sunday*

Genesis 1:1-2:4a

Psalm 8

2 Corinthians 13:11-13

Matthew 28:16-20

**June 14, 2020** - *Second Sunday after Pentecost*

Genesis 18:1-15, (21:1-7)

Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19

Exodus 19:2-8a

Psalm 100

Romans 5:1-8

Matthew 9:35-10:8, (9-23)

**June 21, 2020** - *Third Sunday after Pentecost*

Genesis 21:8-21

Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17

Jeremiah 20:7-13

Psalm 69:7-10, (11-15), 16-18

Romans 6:1b-11

Matthew 10:24-39

**June 28, 2020** - *Fourth Sunday after Pentecost*

Genesis 22:1-14

Psalm 13

Jeremiah 28:5-9

Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18

Romans 6:12-23

Matthew 10:40-42

### \*\*\*UPDATE ON RE-OPENING\*\*\*

New recommendations on safely reopening churches seem to be coming out often. As this Weathervane goes to print, your council and deacons have not made a decision on when to resume worship together. We will keep you informed as to when we will be together again in our sanctuary. Rest assured that this is a decision that will be made with an abundance of caution. You will be informed of what we are doing to keep everyone safe and healthy.

Starting on Sunday, June 7, Petra Smyth will become our new pastor "remotely". Her first service(s) will be recorded in our sanctuary with Patrick and a Deacon. It will be available for you to view in the same manner that you have joined Rev. Painter in the past several weeks.

(The link is:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCc1hBkBTarnZF-H4O7YN5ew> . Please look for updates in your all church email. If you have questions, you can call the church office at 655-7749. Please leave a message in the Deacon/Council Mailbox (#2).

### Moderator Musings, continued . . .

be involved in the community? Well that certainly goes toward that goal.

And what about just a kind gesture to the clerk who asks you to please step back or who may have been working three shifts in a row. What about the person stocking shelves? Thank them. Forget the fact that they are in your way. Say Hi. Give them a smile.

Reach out to your neighbor. Can you pick them up something at the store or vice versa? Can they use help around their house (following safety guidelines of course)?

Yes, this summer can be very different. We can get out in our own area and explore the beauty it offers. I know I am not alone in the fact that there are many nearby spots which I have never been to.

There should be less traffic, well except for the air traffic from the black flies and mosquitos. I think they will still come no matter what the situation is.

So, make it a different summer. And make a

difference. - *Tom Wiley, Moderator*

### 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](http://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



Please keep the following people in your prayers:

Michael Cadotte, Louise Doyle, Polly Dyer,  
Margo Fournier, 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](mailto: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*

### June Birthdays!

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

June 17	Walt Read
June 18	Kyle Sullivan
June 22	Andy Morrison
June 24	Chan Roach
June 28	Sarah Allen
June 29	Tucker Olsen

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 [feagans04@yahoo.com](mailto:feagans04@yahoo.com).

### Thank You Rev. Painter

We want to offer our sincere thanks to Rev. Painter for leading us in worship for the past few weeks. We so appreciate her flexibility and willingness to work with the Deacons us to provide the RVCC family with a remote worship service each week. We all learned a lot about Zoom and enjoyed getting to know Rev. Painter!

### RVCC Helps Food Pantry

Amid the challenges we are all facing during the Covid-19 restrictions, your church has continued to find ways to help our neighbors when they need it most. As you may be aware just before we started the “stay-at home” and social distancing, we had planned a community dinner of corned beef and cabbage. Before we could put on the supper, we had to cancel the event because of gathering size limits and comfort levels of the people who generally attend the community meals.

Fortunately, we could freeze the meat we had already purchased but just what do you do with 30 some odd pounds of frozen corned beef? Well as many times happens in the life of the church a need arose. The local food pantry who supplies meals to our neighbors ran into the situation of lack of availability of meat and people to help out preparing the meals. Serendipity ... the perfect way for our church to do what we do best and help out those in need. A small team of cooks, peelers, and assemblers got together and put together a meal of corned beef, cabbage, potatoes, carrots, and meatloaf and delivered 40+ meals to the food pantry for their Thursday meal on the 14<sup>th</sup> of May.

A big thanks to Craig, Megan, Tom, Bonnie, Martha, and Caryl for getting this organized, cooked, packaged, and delivered and all the while keeping things properly sanitized and maintaining proper social distancing.

Your Church hard at work for you during trying times!

Rolf

### 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](mailto: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](mailto:finance@rvccme.org) or [nlymaine@gmail.com](mailto:nlymaine@gmail.com). Thank you. Brenda Olsen, Treasurer

## Summary of Wednesday, May 6, 2020 Coordinating Council Meeting

A meeting of the coordinating council and deacons was called to order at 5:00 PM on Wednesday, May 6, 2020 by Tom Wiley. Present were Tom Wiley, Rolf Olsen, Brenda Olsen, Nancy Yates, Caryl Gilman, Deb Feagans, and Judy Munson. The meeting was held remotely, each of us in their homes, via Zoom.

Nancy Yates led us in prayer.

Caryl Gilman made a motion to accept the minutes of the meetings of April 15 and April 27. The motion was seconded by Nancy Yates and approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** Brenda presented financial reports for the month of April. She reported that as expected, income was down for the month, but expenses were also down. Current month net excess expense of \$981 was better than budgeted amount of \$3,658. Year to date, net excess expense of \$10,245 is better than budgeted amount of \$12, 272. (This excludes the loss on the American Funds) Brenda is planning on putting together a revised estimated budget in the next few weeks. A lot has changed since we accepted the budget at the annual meeting. Brenda is also in the process of sending out pledge statements and a cover letter. The letter will go to not only those who pledge, but also to others on our list of members and active friends. Nancy Yates made a motion, seconded by Rolf, to accept the Treasurer's Report subject to year end review.

### Reports of the Coordinators:

**Clerk:** nothing to report

**Trustee:** Rolf reported that the reno. of the men's room is almost complete. The incident with sheet rock dust setting off smoke detectors revealed a problem that we need to deal with. Rolf had assumed that our smoke detectors were monitored by the fire department, they were in the past, but they are not now. This needs to be corrected, and will be an unbudgeted expense. Rolf is still working on getting the pastor's office ready for Pastor Petra. Caryl and Nancy Y. are willing to help with priming, if needed. Rolf reported that gardens, thanks to Nate and Caryl Gilman are looking good. Parking lot needs a good cleaning, however. Tom will talk to the scouts, they are meeting remotely, but possibly could send some boys to do the sweeping.

**Missions:** Caryl reported that there will be information in this week's all church email about Strengthen the Church offering, and about putting together hygiene kits. We are doing the best we can about keeping up with these special offerings which we do each year, in spite of not being in church. On Thursday, May 14, Craig Messinger and Rolf

will be preparing and boxing up meals which the food pantry will hand out to their clients. It will be a simple meal, corned beef, potatoes, carrots, plus a meat loaf if they run short on corned beef. They plan to prepare between 30 and 40 meals. They need a few people in the morning to peel, keeping safe distance, and a few in the late afternoon to box up the meals.

**Christian Education:** nothing to report

**Stewardship:** covered in treasurer's report.

**Deacons:** went over dates for June

**Moderator:** Tom reported that the call agreement with Pastor Petra had been completed and signed. He has also been working on lots of lists of to do items.

**Old Business:** Brenda reported that Patrick is now available to stay with us until the end of August. Caryl reported that she has talked with Dan and Lori trying to figure out delay in setting up new computer which we have had for awhile. After discussion at our meeting, it was decided that Brenda and Rolf might have some solutions to what we are trying to do. They will work with Dan and Lori. We would like to have new systems, plus purchase a lap top for Pastor Petra before June 1.

There was discussion of how the Zoom sermons have been going. Tom expressed thanks to Rolf, Caryl, and Deb and Will Feagans for making this work. The number of viewers seems to vary each week, but the numbers which Rolf can see does not necessarily reflect how many are watching. In general, people seem to be happy to have something to watch each week. We need to check with Lori and make sure the link is in the body of the all church email each week.

**New Business:** Caryl announced that she had just heard that Pilgrim Lodge will not be opening at all this summer. Although not opening, they will have expenses, but no income. Caryl and Judy will discuss giving them help from our missions budget. Brenda also mentioned we have money in scholarship funds. Tom presented his transition check list. It was decided that there will be something brief in this week's all church email announcing that we have a new pastor. A letter with more details will go out soon to our Weathervane lists. We need to set up a Pastoral Relations Committee. He thought Bonnie might be interested. We also need a deacon and one other person on this committee.

**What will church be like in June?** There are lots of questions to be asked and decisions to be made before we reopen our building, hopefully in June. There are recommendations from the Maine UCC, and

*Continued next page . . .*

## *RVCC Gardens Update*



The Memorial Garden is complete with the exception of 2 plants to be added

- Chrysanthemums in memory of Captain John and Betsy Louise Wright by Marian Wright
- Peonies in memory of Fran Mains from Nancy Yates (in the fall)

Memorial plants include

- Heather in memory of Andrew Bent from Kathleen Bent
- Pink lilies, dianthus, spiraea, ground phlox and more in memory of Rita Gerry
- Iris, jonquils, stonecrop sedum and Jacob's ladder in memory of Al Rowe from Charlotte Rowe's garden
- Solomon's seal in memory of Fran Mains
- Stonecrop sedum and ground phlox in memory of Captain John and Betsy Louise Wright by Marian Wright

The next Weathervane will include an update and picture of the front gardens where we have been blessed with donations of money and plants as well!

### ***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

### ***Council Minutes, continued . . .***

recommendations expected from the Maine Council of Churches. When will people feel comfortable coming, do we continue to tape for those who prefer to stay home. How do we deal with big groups, how do we clean, etc.

etc. It was decided to have a special meeting of council and deacons next Wednesday, May 13, at 5:00 PM to begin to go over these questions. After that we will invite Pastor Petra to join us for at least one meeting, probably remotely, to discuss plans for her first service with us.

Respectfully submitted,  
Judith Munson, Clerk

### **Hygiene Kit Update**

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.

- 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

Thanks, Judy Munson



## RAYMOND VILLAGE COMMUNITY CHURCH

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

May 18,2020

Dear RVCC Friend,

I am pleased and excited to inform you that Reverend Petra E. Smyth will be leading our church family. She will be joining us on June 1, 2020. Reverend Petra has a background in Pastoral Clinical leadership through Maine Medical Center and received her Masters of Divinity from Bangor Theological Seminary.

She has served area churches as a supply pastor and most recently served as bridge pastor at State Street UCC. Reverend Petra brings ten years of service to us with also leading worship at Waterford Congregational UCC, Sweden Community Church and as moderator for the Oxford/Union Association.

Petra and her husband Scott, have raised two grown daughters and welcomed their first grandson in February 2019.

With this announcement, I would also like to acknowledge and thank the search committee for bringing forth this candidate. The search committee worked hard to find the right pastor for us. With special thanks to the leadership of Rolf Olsen, I additionally want to recognize Dick Day, Deb Feagans, Bonnie Wiley and Bob Yates.

As of this writing we are still working through the best way to reopen the church amid the current status. In the coming weeks, the council and deacons and staff will be developing plans to welcome Reverend Petra and will provide opportunity for you to meet and welcome her yourself. Additionally, we will be inviting you to join together for worship in some format. Please look for current information to be delivered by the weekly All Church email and the Weathervane.

On behalf of the Council and Deacons at RVCC, WELCOME Reverend Petra Smyth.

Yours in Christ's Service,

Thomas L. Wiley  
Moderator

## Biographical Statement

### Rev. Petra Smyth

Born and raised near Frankfurt, Germany, I am the oldest child of a German father, who was a lawyer, and an American mother, who grew up in Washington, DC. Today my parents and my younger brother Michael live in Frankfurt.

After graduating from high school in Germany, I took a gap year living in Connecticut, learning English, intending to return to Germany.

However, God had other plans for me. I enrolled at Bridgewater State College, Bridgewater, MA. I graduated with a B.S., in Early Childhood Education and an M.ED., in Special Needs Education. Over the next several years, I taught kindergarten, was an educational technician in an elementary school, and worked with individual students who needed extra support. Additionally, I was a German teacher for children in preschool through grade 7.

I felt my first tug to ministry during middle school confirmation class but did not act on it for many years. In 2004, I studied Clinical Pastoral Education at Maine Medical Center in Portland. I enjoyed visiting patients and was encouraged to complete my Master of Divinity degree at Bangor Theological Seminary.

In 2013, I was called by God to serve as pastor at the Waterford Congregational Church, UCC. It was a blessing to grow spiritually and continue to be engaged in mission and service to both the local community and the world. I also partnered with another minister to serve the nearby Sweden Community Church during the summer months.

After six years, I took time off to visit my elderly parents and spend time with our first grandchild, who was born in February 2019.

Over the past year, I attended the "Festival of the Homiletics" in Minneapolis, MN. I finished my term as Moderator at the Oxford/Union Association and provided pulpit supply at various churches in the Maine Conference. I was the bridge pastor for State Street Church in Portland during the summer of 2019.

I am blessed with great friends and family. My husband Scott and I have two grown daughters nearby. Samantha lives in Portland and works for Unum, and Carolyn lives in Scarborough with her husband Pat and our 15-month old grandson Archie.

I am looking forward to serving the Raymond Village Community Church and getting to know each of you.

Blessings and Joy,

Rev. Petra Smyth





*Raymond Village Community Church*

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

To the pastoral search committee for their work in finding our new pastor  
To Craig and the folks who helped deliver hot meals to the food pantry  
To Rolf and Brenda for getting the bathrooms redone  
To Andy, Lori, Nancy, Brenda and others who have kept the office running  
To Caryl for cleaning and reorganizing the sanctuary  
To Patrick, Reverend Painter and my fellow deacons for weekly services  
To Will Feagans, Rolf and Caryl for all the work in producing those services  
To Reverend Painter for adopting to the electronic worship  
To you, our church family for taking care of each other  
To the painting crew renewing the pastor's office  
To Deb, Judy, Lori and Sheila for continuing to deliver timely information  
To all the council and deacons who have spent many hours in remote meetings  
To you, our church family again (especially if you're still reading this list)  
And finally, to our Lord for guiding us through these obstacles we have surpassed.



With sincere appreciation for all  
Submitted by Tom Wiley