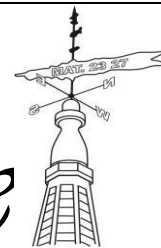

The Weathervane



RAYMOND VILLAGE COMMUNITY CHURCH, United Church of Christ Newsletter

August, 2020

Table of Contents	Page
From the Pastor.....	1
This Month at RVCC	2
Grand Re-Opening!	2
Prayer Concerns	3
August Birthdays	3
Hannaford Grocery Cards	3
August Lectionary Lesson.....	3
Financial Update.....	3
Missions Corner.....	4
Help playing services?.....	4
July Council Minutes.....	5
Moderator Musings	6
Safety/Freedom from Fear.....	6
Church Re-Opening	7
Knitting Group.....	7
Pot Roast Supper.....	8

From the Pastor . . .

Dear Church Members and Friends,

Although this is not the summer you might have anticipated, I hope you find some delight in being outside and enjoying the warm weather as we navigate our way through a very unusual year.

Thanks to excellent lay leadership, we continue to tape our services in the sanctuary.

We do not know what the future will hold, but the council continues to stay informed about the latest guidelines to a potential reopening of the sanctuary. On July 21st, Mr. Richard Karg MS, a national/international consultant for epidemics and pandemics, presented a webinar on church ventilation and air quality during this pandemic. Mr. Karg is on the ASHRAE (American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers), Epidemic Task Force. Other churches from Maine joined us for this webinar.

Our goal is to keep everyone safe and not to compromise anybody's health. We look forward to welcoming you for in-person worship services beginning on Sunday, August 23rd, at 10:00. It will be the first opportunity to worship together in the sanctuary since March. The planned safety guidelines are in this newsletter. The service will be recorded for those who do not feel comfortable participating in-person.

The council feels the risk is low because the windows will be open during the summer months allowing for adequate airflow. We will re-evaluate after six weeks.

We have begun our small "getting to know each other" gatherings next to the memorial garden under the canopy. Everybody brought their lunch and their chair. It was a delight to meet you in person and beautiful to witness you reconnecting with one another after four months of not seeing each other. We will continue having these small gatherings in the next couple of months.

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 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!

This Month at RVCC . . .

- August 2, 2020- 10:00 a.m. – Worship available on YouTube – “Pleas, Angels & Fun” music service
- August 9, 2020- 10:00 a.m. – Worship with Rev. Allison Curry on YouTube
- August 16, 2020- 10:00 a.m. – Worship with Rev. Allison Curry on YouTube
- August 18, 2020- 5:30 p.m. – Council & Deacons meeting at RVCC
- August 22, 2020- 5:00 – 6:30 p.m. – Take Out Pot Roast Supper (See page 8 for more information.)
- August 23, 2020- 10:00 a.m. – Worship in RVCC Sanctuary with Rev. Petra Smyth
- August 30, 2020- 10:00 a.m. – Worship in RVCC Sanctuary with Rev. Petra Smyth

The Line Dance group gathers under the awning at RVCC every Thursday from 10:00 a.m. to noon. Bring your own chair and come visit!

The Knitting Group meets under the awning at RVCC on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month.

From the Pastor, continued . . .

Thanks to the trustees, the downstairs bathrooms have been renovated. We are now looking at updating the room where the knitter's group meets, and other groups in the future will gather. I am very excited about this and promise to pledge a new comfortable chair for that room.

During my vacation, you will be well-taken care by these three ladies who will each cover one week for any pastoral emergencies that might come up.

Rev. Allison Curry will cover the first week of my vacation from Saturday, July 25th until August 2nd. Her contact information is allisoncurry43@gmail.com cell: 207-730-3287

Allison is also leading worship on August 9th and August 16th.

Rev. Cynthia Biggar will cover the second week starting Monday, August 3rd, until Sunday, August 9th. Her contact information is pastorbiggar@gmail.com cell: 207-205-4591

Rev. Marcia Charles will cover the third week starting Monday, August 10th, until Sunday, August 16th. Her contact information is revmcharles@gmail.com home: 207-894-2414 or cell: 207-400-1162

Please stay safe and healthy, and I look forward to touching base with you upon my return.

Summer blessings,

Pastor Petra

**WELCOME
BACK!!!
IT'S TIME.**



We want to invite you to the “grand reopening” of RVCC for in person worship. I want to inform you the council, deacons and Pastor Petra have been continuously working toward this goal since the pandemic began.

We are planning to reopen Sunday worship on August 23rd, using the social distance guidelines included on page 7 of this issue of the Weathervane. We miss seeing our congregation together and want to “softly” celebrate our new pastor with you all.

We will try this for a six week period and will continue to assess the events during and after this time.

We also hope to be able to begin livestreaming worship services starting on August 23rd. If not, we will still post electronic services during this period as well. We will see they are posted by the following Tuesday.

**COME ONE, COME ALL.
HOPE TO SEE YOU SOON.**



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 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

August Birthdays!

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

August 5	Deb Feagans
August 5	Judy Munson
August 7	Angela St. Pierre
August 17	Polly Dyer
August 17	Linda Eldridge
August 21	Bob Metz



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

August Lectionary Readings

August 2, 2020 - Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

[Genesis 32:22-31](#)
[Psalm 17:1-7, 15](#)
[Isaiah 55:1-5](#)
[Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21](#)
[Romans 9:1-5](#)
[Matthew 14:13-21](#)

August 9, 2020 - Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

[Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28](#)
[Psalm 105: 1-6, 16-22, 45b](#)
[1 Kings 19:9-18](#)
[Psalm 85:8-13](#)
[Romans 10:5-15](#)
[Matthew 14:22-33](#)

August 16, 2020 - Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

[Genesis 45:1-15](#)
[Psalm 133](#)
[Isaiah 56:1, 6-8](#)
[Psalm 67](#)
[Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32](#)
[Matthew 15: \(10-20\), 21-28](#)

August 23, 2020 - Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

[Exodus 1:8-2:10](#)
[Psalm 124](#)
[Isaiah 51:1-6](#)
[Psalm 138](#)
[Romans 12:1-8](#)
[Matthew 16:13-20](#)

August 30, 2020 - Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

[Exodus 3:1-15](#)
[Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b](#)
[Jeremiah 15:15-21](#)
[Psalm 26:1-8](#)
[Romans 12:9-21](#)
[Matthew 16:21-28](#)

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

Missions Corner

Thank you from the Town of Raymond for the church donation of \$300 to the Town of Raymond's summer Backpack program which is currently distributing food to 10-12 very appreciative families per week.

A big Thank You from Pilgrim Lodge for the \$1000 donation from RVCC to help them during a year of no camp revenue.

Sebago Lakes Region Fuller Center for Housing is raising money to be able to help seniors in Raymond, Windham and Standish via a virtual bike ride between Sept 12th and Sept 26th. More can be found on their website at <https://www.sebagofullerhousing.org/>

The **Raymond Food Pantry** is in good shape right now! I talked with the Food Pantry Director, Gary Bibeau on July 9 and here is what I learned. The Raymond Food Pantry has received money that alleviates some of the strain they were feeling in March/April/May.

1. With the help and support of Cathy Gosselin, Deputy Chief & Health Officer Raymond Fire/Rescue and Jessica Fay, Representative to Maine Legislature, the Food Pantry applied for and received a "Cares Act" award that will pay a lot of the annual expenses for running the pantry.
2. The Food Pantry applied for and received a grant for 4 new tables. This is great news as the existing tables were breaking down...not a pretty scene when they are loaded with boxes of food!
3. Many people sent cash donations to the Food Pantry at PO Box 900 Raymond and this money is used to supplement food for distribution.

For all of you who have been a part of this, THANK YOU! RVCC will stay in touch with the Food Pantry.

This month, the Mission team will send a donation to **Feeding America**, a nationwide network of 200 food banks and 60,000 food pantries and meal programs that provides food and services to people each year. Together, they are the nation's largest domestic hunger-relief organization. They work to get nourishing food – from farmers, manufacturers, and retailers – to people in need. At the same time, they also seek to help the people we serve to build a path to a brighter, food-secure future. Additional information from their website.

The Feeding America network of food banks has a robust infrastructure and a high degree of coordination. They secure donations from national food and grocery manufacturers, retailers, shippers, packers and growers and from government agencies. They have a staff that works to match excess food with food banks that most need it.

The food banks distribute food and grocery items through food pantries and meal programs that serve families, children, seniors and individuals at risk of hunger. Last year alone, the Feeding America network distributed more than 3.6 billion meals to people in need.

The Feeding America nationwide network of food banks also supports programs that improve food security among the people we serve; educates the public about the problem of hunger; and advocates for legislation that protects people from going hungry. Individuals, charities, businesses and government all have a role in ending hunger.

When you contribute to Feeding America, you are joining our efforts in nearly every community in all 50 states, Washington D.C., and Puerto Rico. If you would like to send a donation as well, you can accomplish this

- Online at https://secure.feedingamerica.org/site/Donation2?df_id=28150&mfc_pref=T&28150.donation=form1&src=Y20YP4B1Z&s_subsrc=c&s_keyword=feedingamerica%20org&msslkid=7689bfb3afcd1ad5e210e0bf01580606
- By sending a check to Feeding America, PO Box 96749, Washington, DC 20090-6749

Need some help playing the prerecorded weekly services?

Here is some information that might help.

The easiest way to access the weekly services is to subscribe to the weekly e-mail that is sent out on Thursdays of each week. If you are not already receiving this e-mail please send an e-mail to office@rvccme.org to request your e-mail added to the list. If you open the PDF version of the attached document there is a link to the YOUTUBE channel for the church. Click on the link. The link looks like this

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCc1hBkBTarnZF-H4O7YN5ew>

The next way is to open your Internet service on your computer (Google, Microsoft Edge, Safari, Explorer, etc.) In the Search field type in "YOUTUBE Channel". At the YOUTUBE Channel website Search for "Raymond Village Community Church". There are a few selections. Look for the one with the most subscribers and it says service and sermons in the description. Open this channel by clicking on the picture of the church. Move your cursor over the picture of the service you wish to view and click on the picture. Generally, the most recent service will be the first video listed. Find the subscribe button and you will not have to do the Search anymore. This channel will then be listed under your subscriptions.

Hope this helps!

Summary of July 7, 2020 Coordinating Council Meeting DRAFT

The regular monthly meeting of the coordinating council and Deacons was called to order at 5:30 PM, on Tuesday, July 7, 2020, by Tom Wiley. Present were Tom, Rolf, Brenda, Nancy, Caryl, Judy, Deb and Pastor Petra. The meeting was held remotely, each of us in their own homes, via Zoom. An end time of 7:00 PM was determined for the meeting.

Caryl offered the opening prayer

Rolf made a motion to approve the minutes of June 23, seconded by Nancy and approved.

Treasurer's Report: Brenda reported that current contributions were \$4,004 in the general fund, less than budget by \$1,563 for the month, and \$2,181 under budget for the year. There was no income from fundraisers. Income from the Raymond Arts Alliance will be reconciled and paid in July, it will be less than \$400, their activities obviously have been very limited this year. Investment income included an adjustment for gains of \$7,924 in the American Funds account. This almost covered the loss we recorded for the first quarter. Total income of \$13,494 is over budget for the month. Excluding gain on investments, this was under budget by \$2,419, and under budget by \$5,755 year to date. Latest estimate expects that income will be under budget by \$6,190 at the end of the year. Expenses were under budget in all categories for the month. Normally we would have paid our conference dues in May, we have not yet received that bill, will follow up on that. Rolf also wants to do work on the door at the parsonage this year, that will be an additional expense. It was suggested that we try to do pot roast dinners, as take outs, this summer. We will need to advertise. Rolf will talk to Craig about this, possibly do it the end of July. A motion was made by Judy, seconded by Rolf, and approved to accept the Treasurer's Report subject to year end review.

Clerk: nothing to report

Trustees: Rolf reported that the tarp is up over the patio. Also, the fire monitoring system is up and working.

Missions: Caryl reported that our primary July mission will be Feeding America. The Raymond Food Pantry is in better shape than it has been. Caryl is serving as our representative on the board of the Fuller Center. They are doing a major fund raiser, a bike ride. More details coming on how that can be done. Also, the North Windham Church is doing a fundraising concert for

Fuller Center on July 11, featuring Dan Strange and Ashley Liberty. It will be a remote event. Caryl will continue to put articles in all church email about racism. Resources are coming out from UCC conference, as well as other denominations.

Christian Education: Pastor Petra would like to see one of the Sunday School rooms fixed up and more user friendly. We agreed that it is a good idea, will pursue it.

Stewardship: nothing to report

Deacons: The Deacons confirmed new taping times. Through July, Fridays will work best. Petra will be in touch with supply pastor filling in for her in August, and discuss taping two services on one day.

Moderator: Tom is aware that he needs to get a Pastoral Relations Committee up and running as soon as possible. He had hoped that we would be back to worship as normal before picking a third member for the group.

Pastor: Petra would like to organize several small bring your own lunch meetings with members and friends. She is anxious to put faces to names. She is hoping that as we are calling members and friends about returning to church, we can mention this. Caryl suggested that we finish our calling by July 14. Nancy had completed all of her calls, all but one would be comfortable to return to worship in person with the guidelines we are proposing.

Old Business: Rolf reported that we are having website problems, need to wait on training. He is still working with Dan on the office computer. He is having doubts about using Google Drive. Petra's computer is up and running, however.

Equipment needs: Will Feagans joined us and presented us with lists of equipment and prices for us to consider in order to upgrade our sound system, and in order to livestream our services. After explanations by Will and discussion, Caryl Gilman made a motion to spend \$1572 to purchase the equipment, computer, and 1050ti component for the computer in order to be able to livestream services. The motion was seconded by Brenda and Nancy. It was explained that this expense will not come out of our general fund. After discussion, it was recommended that we up this amount to \$1800 to allow for other things, such as cables, which we might need. Caryl changed her motion to read \$1800, the motion was seconded again and passed. Will will give the information to Rolf for purchasing.

We will meet again on Tuesday, July 21, at 5:30. On the agenda will be take out suppers, feed back from phone calls we have been making, and the luncheons which Petra is proposing.

Respectfully submitted, Judith Munson, Clerk



Moderator Musings

Read the directions. How many times have you put things together and then had to take them apart again? What is the difference between slot A and slot D? Well it could be quite a bit.

And then sometimes when you are finished you have left over pieces. At least we can be thankful that sometimes the directions will advise you that there will be extra pieces. That way you don't have to sit and wonder and worry about what piece may have been put together wrong. Phew. That's a relief.

I once had a test in school which the teacher said "you must read all the questions, before you begin the test." I can't remember what grade it was in or and who the teacher was but I do remember the last question said "It was..... Did you read the first 24 questions before you got to this one? Were you able to refrain from picking up your pencil and starting to write down answers? If so, turn your paper over. You will get a grade of 100. I am not sure if I was one that followed the directions or not. I probably had answered some questions already. Indeed, a case of not following directions.

How about a recipe? We think we know what we are doing. Oh wait, did it say egg whites? Oops. And does it need baking soda or baking powder? Does it need to raise? Oh, okay it's baking powder. And what temperature was the oven set at? And who's oven cooks those in 25 minutes? Not mine.

And we have all heard stories of someone following directions too much such as when a GPS system causes the person to end up stuck in the mud on some far-off dirt road because, "they took the next left" instead of waiting for the paved and marked road.

And there are many things in today's technological world that we probably shouldn't trust. And we shouldn't follow the directions but sometimes we do get caught up in scams, half baked ideas, and even lies. So where do we turn? What can we trust? How can we follow the directions? The answer was written many years ago.

One of my fellow deacons, has a notebook with a picture of bible on the front. The message it contains is so powerful. It says, "Open the book and follow the directions." That is all we need to do.

It still holds true today, perhaps even more than ever. Just open the book and follow the directions.....

Tom Wiley Moderator

Safety/Freedom from Fear

Last month, July, this section broached the subject of anti-racism and provided a couple of websites with resources. Since that time, in the July 9th All Church email included a list of anti-racism resources from the seven member denominations of the Maine Council of Churches. (Maine UCC is one denomination.) Between the lists and news on TV and books and more, it could be easy to overwhelmed! Where to start? What to do? I certainly don't have the answers for you but I can give you some of my thoughts, which are still forming and changing as I learn more.

A good friend reminded me to start with focusing on my core beliefs, in this conversation and in others. Much is contained in Micah 6:8 (NIV) and I add "show kindness" *He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you?*

To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly^{ly} with your God.

Even after I was able to articulate that, I was still "swamped" with too many choices. So, I thought and prayed and realized that, until I starting looking at other people's perspective about racism, I was just seeing things through my own "lens". I have learned over the years that the way I see a situation is often different from the way another person may see the same situation. (Even if we are standing together watching at the same time!) This makes sense because we may have come from different parts of the country, with differing heritages/customs, and with differing experiences. This helped me realize that my focus for learning about racism and anti-racism, would start right now on learning about people who are different from me in one or more ways. A couple of examples

- Reading: Recently, I read an interview with Tyler Perry in People magazine where he talks about feeling "...exhausted from all the hate, and the division, the vitriol I see online from one to another....." yet he still is carrying on and helping others
- Watching movies or documentaries such as "Just Mercy", a movie about a black man wrongly accused of killing a white woman and "Becoming" a Netflix documentary about Michelle Obama looking at her life, hopes and connection with others as she tours with her book "Becoming." Most recently "John Lewis: Good Trouble" regarding his role in promoting non-violence.

I plan to continue this process through the summer. I hope these thoughts are helpful to you.

Caryl Gilman

Church Re-Opening Guidelines

The Council and Deacons met on July 21 and decided that it is time to re-open RVCC for in-person worship. Our first worship service in the Sanctuary will be August 23, 2020.

While we look forward to everyone back in the Sanctuary, we understand that some people will not feel comfortable attending in person, so we will continue offering a remote worship option. Our plan is to begin livestreaming services starting August 23, but if we have technical difficulties, services will be recorded and available on YouTube by the Tuesday following worship.

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?

- **Bring your favorite mask!** All congregants must 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 look forward to welcoming you back to RVCC!

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

Been missing the RVCC Pot Roast Suppers?



**Mark this date in your Calendar!
August 22nd**

Same good food, pot roast and gravy, potatoes, green beans, carrots, a roll, and a brownie for \$10. (Cash or check only, no credit cards.) Meals are take out only. We are taking orders for meals for pick up between 5:00 and 6:30PM that Saturday. They will be hot and ready to take home!

To order your meals please call the RVCC office at 655-7749 and press #2 to leave a message with your name and number of meals. Please also indicate what time you want to pick up your meals. Or if you prefer you can send an e-mail to office@rvccme.org with the information.