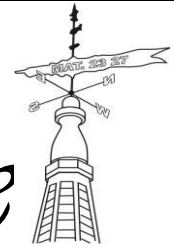

The Weathervane



RAYMOND VILLAGE COMMUNITY CHURCH, United Church of Christ Newsletter

September, 2020

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From the Pastor . . .

Dear Church Members and Friends,

With gratitude I thank the church for making it possible for me to be on vacation with my family. Archie, who is our 18-month-old grandson, loved running on the beach, sitting in tide pools, and chasing the seagulls. It was so much fun to watch him enjoying himself.

During the worship service in the month of July you answered a weekly question about your church experiences during the worship service so that I might get to know you better. I thought it would be interesting for you to know more about your church family. With that in mind I have included two questions with the correlating answers.

The first question was about your earliest memory of church.

Caryl: My earliest memory of church is when I was about 6, leaving Sunday school and trying to find my Dad, who was SS superintendent...so in an office and not out in the hall with the other dads.

Chan: My first memory of church is a prayer time we were kneeling and I opened my eyes and noticed the picture of the good shepherd holding the lamb and I knew I was the lamb being held by Jesus. I was probably four or five. My dad always said my first service was spent on the fire escape because I was fussing. I would have been a week old. I started declaring the word very early.

Linda: My first memory of church is when my family attended the Baptist church on Congress Street in Portland "Jesus Never Fails" when I was about five years old. That big old building made me feel like I was going into a cave.

Deb: I grew up attending a large UCC church in Providence RI. My dad had attended the same church as a child and my parents were very involved in the church. I remember as a fairly young child I sang at an ordination that was held at the church. I was quite proud of myself and held a Hymnal. I couldn't yet read and apparently held the Hymnal upside down. One of the ministers was behind me and noticed it was upside down and then told my parents. I am still occasionally reminded of my error! *Cont'd 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 . . .

- September 6, 2020- 10:00 a.m. – Worship in RVCC Sanctuary
- September 13, 2020- 10:00 a.m. – Worship in RVCC Sanctuary
- September 15, 2020- 5:30 p.m. – Council & Deacons Meeting via Zoom
- September 19, 2020- 5:00 – 6:30 p.m. – Take Out Pot Roast Supper (See page 5 for more information.)
- September 20, 2020- 10:00 a.m. – Worship in RVCC Sanctuary
- September 27, 2020- 10:00 a.m. – Worship in RVCC Sanctuary with Rev. Petra Smyth

If you are unable to join us in person for Worship, services may be viewed on our YouTube channel at:

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

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.

Welcome Back!!

Well August came and we were able to see some familiarity happening in our church. First, we had a drive through take out Pot Roast Supper and were able to package 80 meals to go. Thanks to everyone who helped get things done.

And secondly, we held an in person worship the next day. By utilizing social distancing standards we were able to join together as a church family once again. The services will still be taped and available for those who can not make it. Look for the link in the All Church Email.

From the Pastor, Continued . . .

Tom: My earliest memory of church was to go to a youth group event. They were practicing for the Christmas show which included an adaptation of Scrooge too. I was scared of why there would be ghosts coming to the show.

Bob: I was raised in the 1st Presbyterian Church in Utica, NY. This was a very large church which included a balcony. One memory I have is we had a Junior/High fellowship which met on Sunday evenings. Each week a different person was chosen to lead the service. When it was my turn to lead the group. I started off with the Lord's Prayer, but couldn't remember how it started... finally, I said...Our Father etc. Afterwards, the pastor came up to me and told me how meaningful it was to start the Lord's Prayer with a silent prayer!! Whew!!! I lucked out on that!

The second question was: How old were you when you received your Bible and who gave it to you?

Vicki: I grew up two (actually formerly three) doors down from the church, and went to Sunday School and church there as a child, and then later as an adult. My first Bible was a gift from Raymond Village Community Church – probably around second or third grade. It was a coveted and prized possession, and represented an important milestone in my life at the time.

Judy: First Bible given to me on June 5, 1949, by Rev. J.C. MacDonald, of the Union Church in Waban, Massachusetts. I would have been 8 years old at the time. Can't say that I remember Rev. MacDonald, but I do remember where the church is, and that it was an old stone church.

Martha: "Presented to Martha Robinson by the Woodfords Congregational Church School, Sept. 24,1950."

Sarah: My first bible was my pink Baptism Bible which I loved until I was given my big kids Bible (I still have) passing from 3rd grade to 4th in Sunday school here in this church

Chan: My third grade Sunday School teacher gave me a Revised Standard version and I asked for a KJV and my folks got me one. I still have the KJV. I used both of them even into college.

Despite not being able to worship in the sanctuary since I have been with you, thank you for your willingness to answer questions about your relationship with God and the life of Church. Let us continue to stay connected and appreciate each other's personal stories.

Blessings and Peace, Pastor Petra



Please keep the following people in your prayers:

Michael Cadotte, Louise Doyle, Polly Dyer,
Margo Fournier, Arthur and Deborah LaFond,
Bill N., Walt Read, 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

Happy Birthday!

September 1	Bryce Sullivan
September 2	Roy Lindell
September 4	Gwen Roach
September 7	Emily & Will Feagans
September 10	Tracie Morris
September 13	Robin Morrison



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

September Lectionary Readings

September 6, 2020 - Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Exodus 12:1-14
Psalm 149
Ezekiel 33:7-11
Psalm 119:33-40
Romans 13:8-14
Matthew 18:15-20

September 13, 2020 - Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Exodus 14:19-31
Psalm 114
Exodus 15:1b-11, 20-21
Genesis 50:15-21
Psalm 103:(1-7), 8-13
Romans 14:1-12
Matthew 18:21-35

September 20, 2020 - Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Exodus 16:2-15
Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45
Jonah 3:10-4:11
Psalm 145:1-8
Philippians 1:21-30
Matthew 20:1-16

September 27, 2020 - Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
Exodus 17:1-7
Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16
Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32
Psalm 25:1-9
Philippians 2:1-13
Matthew 21:23-32

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

Sebago Lakes Region Fuller Center for Housing has its first project to help a couple with repairs on their home! So happy that the mission can be put into action this late summer and fall!

At the same time, in order to continue the work, there must be funding. That's were the virtual bike ride this September 12-26 comes in. Riders register for the ride, find sponsors whose donations will support SLRFC mission, and receive a T shirt at the completion of the ride.



For more information, or to sponsor a rider, please go to the Sebago Lakes Region Fuller Center for Housing website: <https://www.sebagofullerhousing.org/>

We touched base with **Grace Street Ministry** to find out how it is for the homeless, we heard back from Pastor Jeff early in August: "Things on the street are, to put it kindly, in flux. Emergency shelters have opened and are now closing. The soup kitchen is no longer providing meals on site (instead delivering them in a van to various sites), they've cleared out the area by Preble Street and the folks have moved to a section of Deering Oaks Park across from the soup kitchen. There's also a protest encampment in front of city hall. The good news is that the homeless have stepped out of the shadows. The bad news is that the city and Preble are not yet working and playing together well and winter isn't that far off. The Grace-Street Pastors have continued to be out with the community through all of this. And as I tell people when I'm out, "if I ever run out of socks, they'll take away my license to pastor". Thanks for helping us care for "the least of these".

Let's help ensure Pastor Jeff never runs out of socks!
During the month of September, please bring white socks to church or leave them in the tote outside (similar to school kits above). If possible, please bring diabetic white socks...they are the most requested. (Walmart carries these.) Thank you!

Moderator Musings



Hurry Up and Wait. That used to be the typical refrain when going to the doctor's office or hospital. You better be there on time or else. Surely you have been told that in some regards. But now it is an everyday occurrence. Items are delayed when ordered, shipped, delivered and even manufactured.

We have become such a microwave society. We have come to expect things in an instant. No more waiting for the paper boy to arrive. No more waiting for the 6 o'clock news to check out the weather report for tonight's snowstorm.

Nope, we have it all at our fingertips, except when we don't. And then what? And then the thoughts begin.

Why haven't they responded yet? Do you think they got the voice message I left? What if I pushed 2 instead of star? I hope they check their voice mail soon and pick up the milk on the way home from work. Or maybe I'll just go get it myself. That way I will know it's been taken care of.

Even the service and support we provide to others sometimes is hurriedly done and in an instant. I've got 10 minutes to take care of what you need. And we are all about getting something done and moving on the next big thing. We've got lots to do. We listen to respond but never really listen.

But hold on. Hurry up and Wait might really just be hurry up and never mind the waiting.

Lets' slow things down and wait for a change. Take time to enjoy the beauty of the earth and its flowers. Take time to write a letter with pen and paper. Take time to call someone on the phone instead of just sending a text or Facebook greeting. Let's try it and see. See if we can stop the hurrying and just wait.

We all know better days have to be ahead, if we follow and believe in Christ's way. But alas, in the meantime.....

Tom Wiley Moderator

**Summary of August 18, 2020
Coordinating Council Meeting - DRAFT**

The meeting was called to order at the church, in person at 5:30 PM, on Tuesday August 18, 2020, by Tom Wiley. Present were Tom, Pastor Petra, Brenda, Rolf, Nancy, Deb, and Judy.

Rolf made a motion, seconded by Brenda, and approved, to accept the minutes of the meeting of July 21, 2020 meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Brenda presented the financial report for July, and shared her concerns with the council. Contributions for the month in the general fund were \$3,779. This was less than budget by \$1768 for the month, and under budget by \$3949 for the year. In addition, our current budget estimate included \$4,576 in pledges which Brenda feels are not unlikely to come in. There was no rental income for the month, but two months were paid in August. Total income of \$4,650 was under budget by \$2,689 for the month, and under budget by \$5,605 year to date. Latest estimate expects that we will be under budget by over \$11,000 at the end of the year. Expenses for the month were under budget in categories of Pastoral ministry, diaconate, and administrative. Trustees, however was over budget by \$1543, several projects in June and July were completed, including new tarp for the patio, annual fire extinguisher inspection service, new computer for Pastor Petra and a new dehumidifier. Latest estimate for expenses expects that we will be under by budget at \$16,893 at the end of the year. Tom mentioned that we had received a letter that our financials from last year had been reviewed and that they looked to be in order. Judy made a motion, seconded by Nancy and approved to accept the treasurer's report subject to year end review.

Reports of the Coordinators:

Clerk: nothing to report

Trustees: Rolf reported that he had installed 2 automatic hand sanitizer dispensers. A vent for the septic system was either hit or run over, that will need to be repaired.

Missions: Judy and Petra reported. Caryl is planning to collect socks for the Portland street ministry in September. It was suggested that we might think about Dunkin Donuts gift cards as well, those had been popular last year. Rolf reported that they had prepared,

packed, and delivered 48 hot meals for the patrons of the Raymond Food Pantry on Thursday, August 13. Judy reported that she is finishing up collecting and packing hygiene and school kits. They will be delivered on August 24 to a collection site in Gorham. Pastor Petra reported that both she and Caryl are writing paragraphs for the Weathervane concerning the three rings of racism. Each will write a paragraph about each of the rings, to appear in the Weathervane for the next three months. We will see where it goes, hopefully opening up discussions.

Christian Education: Pastor Petra reported that there will be no summer book study this year. Walt Read has returned to his winter home in Illinois with health concerns. Our prayers are with him.

Stewardship: Orders received so far, are about 50 to 60 pot roast dinners ordered for Saturday evening, seems to be popular. We will start serving meals at 5:00 PM.

Deacons: Pastor Petra is back from vacation, has had a negative Covid test, and is excited about welcoming people to worship in person on Sunday morning. Caryl and Brenda are working on changes to the website. The rest of the meeting was spent in the sanctuary going over plans for Sunday. We are, hopefully, ready to livestream on Sunday morning.

The next meeting will be via zoom on September 15, at 5:30 PM. Going forward, we will try to meet in person at least once a quarter, probably on a Sunday after church.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Munson, Clerk

SCHOOL KITS

Although we won't be putting together School Kits until next Spring, now is the perfect time to gather what we need while back to school sales are going on.

We especially need:

- blunt scissors;
- unsharpened pencils;
- 70 count notebooks; and
- 30 centimeter/12 inch rulers.

There will be a plastic tote outside the sanctuary door for the next few weeks for your donations.

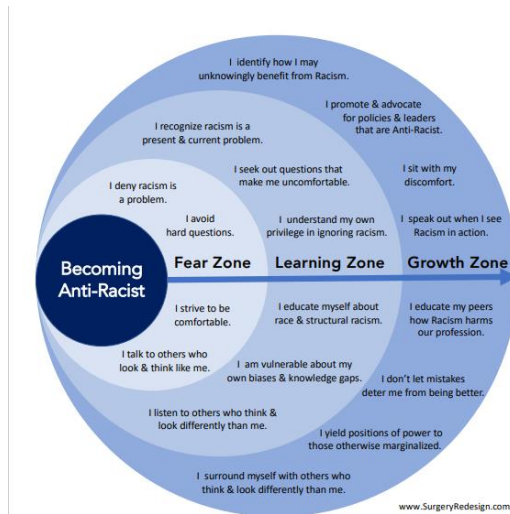
Thank you!

An Anti-Racism Conversation

In July, Rev. Petra introduced a visual about Becoming Anti-racist in an all church email:

<https://umich.app.box.com/s/d1zl3r2dls07gs76wjfybv9z52m397ho>

Before Rev. Petra went on vacation, we, Petra and Caryl, had a conversation about this.



We started with the Fear Zone and hope our conversation will spark some thoughts and conversations of your own.

Caryl:

I'd like to provide context before provide any comments. I was born and raised in western Massachusetts where it was highly unlikely to see anyone whose skin was not white, except when we went to my grandparents' house outside Philadelphia. There as children, we met some children from back street that my grandmother referred to as colored. When she found us playing together, she told the other children that they were welcome to play in the side yard EXCEPT when her grandchildren were here...so they went home. Needless to say, my siblings and I were puzzled, but as is the way with children we were more focused on playing that anything else.

I believe racism is a problem because I've heard about it for the past 20 years...not all the time but off and on. Most of the people I know and talk *with look & think like me*. They are my family and friends...people I see frequently and people I see a few times a year. However, I do think about my nephew who is a black man and my niece who is a teen of Chinese descent. I haven't heard them tell me but can guess that they might face different challenges than me. Until June, *I strove to be comfortable*. Being retired, I just didn't spend a lot of time pushing myself to learn or grow, until recently. Then George Floyd died and that was a wake-up call for me.

Petra:

I grew up in a small village one hour outside Frankfurt, Germany. There were only 800 residents. My Mom is a white American and folks were 'suspicious' about her and did not go out of their way to invite her and our family to neighborhood gatherings. When I was in first grade, an American military family moved to our village. They had black twin girls my age. My Mom invited them to play with me at our house and I played at their house several times before they had to move again. Just because I've never been discriminated because of my skin color, doesn't mean that I have never been discriminated against. When I arrived in this country, I was belittled because I was born and raised in Germany. We can all see racial injustices happen when we watch the news or read the newspaper.

I tend to avoid hard questions and don't always know what questions to ask. I feel that having a dialogue with those around us could open our eyes about racism and injustices. Living in Maine, I talk mostly to others who look and think like me. I am guessing that most of us do. Therefore, it is easy to forget challenges other people face. One should always be aware that every person has something to offer and we should remain open to absorbing new ideas and challenges. Let us remember the old adage: Never judge a person until you walked a mile in their shoes.

Petra & Caryl:

We hope you have found our discussion interesting and thought provoking. We would be pleased to hear your thoughts, comments and/or experiences about this sensitive but very topical subject that is on everybody's mind.

Been missing the RVCC Pot Roast Suppers?

Mark this date in your Calendar! September 19th



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! Please order in advance! We likely will NOT have extra meals available.

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



Raymond Village Community Church

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

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"!