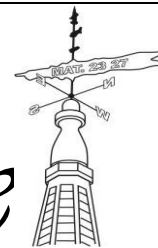


# The Weathervane



RAYMOND VILLAGE COMMUNITY CHURCH, United Church of Christ Newsletter

October, 2020

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## *From the Pastor . . .*

Dear RVCC members and friends,

We as a congregation are striving to stay connected with one another. During this pandemic we focus on reaching out with God's love and mercy in whatever way we can. This past June the Maine Conference called Rev. Jonna Jensen as our Transitional Conference Minister. Rev. Jensen started her ministry a few weeks ago. As you read her letter below, she is reaching out and eager to hear from each one of us.

Blessings and Peace,

Pastor Petra Smyth

### ***Letter from Rev. Jonna Jensen, Transitional Conference Minister:***

*Hello, Dear Saints of the Maine Conference United Church of Christ!*

*I am looking forward to the gifts of meeting you all and the holy work of listening among you. In these months of beginning, I want to spend as much of each workday as I possibly can listening to your voices. Please, tell me a story. Then, tell me another and another. Please, tell me a dream. Please, tell me where something hurts. Please, tell me what is launching your hallelujahs. Please, tell me what is feeding your souls and your ministries and what you're hungry for.*

*Thank you for helping me find listening spaces that we can share. Invite me to join you for your on-line worship services. Invite me to remotely join gatherings of groups or committees in your congregation. Invite me for some Zoom conversation with you or some telephone time. Write me an email or a letter with a stamp on it.*

*Day by day, you stir in my prayers. Day by day, I look forward to raising those prayers with more names and faces attached.*

*Here is my contact information:*

***Email:*** [jjensen@maineucc.org](mailto:jjensen@maineucc.org)

***Office Phone (Direct Line):*** [1.207.530.9591](tel:12075309591) ***Cell Phone:*** [1.207.616.6704](tel:12076166704)

*Thanking God for the gifts and promise of this season...and for each of you,*

**Rev. Jonna Jensen, Transitional Conference Minister  
Maine Conference United Church of Christ**

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!

### *This Month at RVCC . . .*

- October 4, 2020- 10:00 a.m. – Worship in RVCC Sanctuary
- October 11, 2020- 10:00 a.m. – Worship in RVCC Sanctuary
- October 12, 2020- 2:00 p.m. – Deacon meeting via Zoom
- October 13, 2020- 5:30 p.m. – Council & Deacons Meeting via Zoom
- October 17, 2020- 5:00 – 6:30 p.m. – Take Out Pot Roast Supper (See page 5 for more information.)
- October 18, 2020- 10:00 a.m. – Worship in RVCC Sanctuary
- October 25, 2020- 11:00 a.m. – View Maine Conference Worship in RVCC Sanctuary

**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/UCc1hBkBTar\\_nZF-H4O7YN5ew](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCc1hBkBTar_nZF-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! Last gathering will be on October 8<sup>th</sup>.

The Knitting Group meets under the awning at RVCC on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month from 2:00 – 3:30 p.m.

### **October 25 Maine Conference Worship**

We have an exciting opportunity to be part of the wider church community and worship with other congregations during the annual meeting for the Maine Conference, UCC.

The worship service hosted by the Maine conference, UCC will be held **Sunday, October 25th at 11:00 am**

The Raymond Village Community Church will be part of this service in our own sanctuary. A big screen will be set up so that we may be in connection with other churches in Maine since we can't gather physically together this year.

Please note that the service will begin at **11:00 am** and replace our 10:00 am service on October 25th.

### **Church and Covid**

So far, So Good! Thanks to everyone for adhering to our policies to protect each other during the reopening of our church. We still have a few weeks left in our six-week trial, but all indications are things are going well.

Many have held meetings in the parking lot over the summer months. (Knitting Group, Writing Group, AA, Scouts and Luncheons with Petra to name a few). With the onset of cold weather coming some of these events will begin to take place inside the building. We want to assure you we are working with these groups and have advised them of our sanitation procedures. All the while, one of our key vision points was to continue to be a member of the larger community by sharing our space when able.

We want to let you, the congregation know, that we have not taken these decisions lightly when allowing others to enter into our building. There have been many discussions at the council level. We have made safety a priority at all levels and want to assure you we feel we can adhere to these procedures while protecting each other.

Raymond Arts Alliance has also discussed the possibility of using the sanctuary for limited seating events and or taping which would include musicians and singing. If this idea moves forward, we will work with them to provide time and space as to when it will least impact others.

I personally ask that you reach out to me or any other council member to discuss any concerns you may have with the sharing of our space. Please let us know how you feel.

Sincerely,

Thomas L. Wiley

Moderator



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](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

### Happy Birthday!

October 1	Rolf Olsen
October 3	Brenda Olsen
October 4	Lori Lambert
October 12	Martha Morrison
October 16	Adma Willis
October 17	Bonnie Wiley
October 22	Carol Hall
October 27	Cora Sullivan



### 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

### October Lectionary Readings

#### October 4, 2020 – World Communion Sunday

Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20

Psalm 19

Isaiah 5:1-7

Psalm 80:7-15

Philippians 3:4b-14

Matthew 21:33-46

#### October 11, 2020 – Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 32:1-14

Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23

Isaiah 25:1-9

Psalm 23

Philippians 4:1-9

Matthew 22:1-14

#### October 18, 2020 – Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 33:12-23

Psalm 99

Isaiah 45:1-7

Psalm 96:1-9, (10-13)

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Matthew 22:15-22

#### October 25, 2020 – Twenty First Sunday after Pentecost

Deuteronomy 34:1-12

Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17

Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18

Psalm 1

1 Thessalonians 2:1-8

Matthew 22:34-46

### 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 September 15, 2020 Coordinating Council Meeting

The meeting was called to order via zoom on Tuesday, September 15, 2020, by Tom Wiley. Present were Tom, Pastor Petra, Brenda, Rolf, Nancy, Caryl, Deb, and Judy. Rolf offered the opening prayer.

The agenda was reviewed, possible plans for Christmas were added to it. We will try and end by 7:00 PM.

Rolf made a motion, seconded by Brenda, and approved, to accept the minutes of the August 18, 2020 meeting.

**Treasurer's Report:** Brenda presented the financial report for August. Current contributions in the general fund were \$7,638, over budget for the month by \$2,071. This was due to payment in full for the year, of a pledge which was being paid monthly. Income from supper fund raisers was \$556 from the supper in July, which is good news. Grocery card income was \$45. Rental income was \$916, which was rent for both July and August. Total income of \$9,906 was over budget by \$2,566 for the month, but under budget by \$3,039 year to date. Pastoral ministry expenses were under budget, because budget assumed Nancy's salary and benefits. Diaconate expense of \$350 was supply pastor expense during Petra's vacation. Administrative was over budget by \$290. Trustee's expense was \$2,168, over budget by \$1,593, but \$1,411 of this was cost of installing and providing monitoring of new fire alarm system. Total expenses of \$10,484 was over budget by \$645 for the month. Year to date the net excess expense of \$9,930 is better than budgeted excess expense of \$19,911. This excludes the loss on the American Funds. Brenda added that cash flow is looking good, she does not anticipate having to take anything from the American Funds for the rest of the year. Nancy made a motion, seconded by Caryl, and approved to accept the treasurer's report subject to year end review.

### Reports of the Coordinators:

**Clerk:** nothing to report

**Trustees:** Rolf has outdoor chores that need to be done, he has already spoken to the scouts to see what they can do. Air conditioning units can come out of the windows. We may need to start closing windows shortly, circulatory fan needs to be on to move the air, if windows are closed. The switch for that is in the furnace room. Rolf has spoken with representative from AA, there is concern that a couple of their people will not wear masks. There was discussion about how to compensate for that. We will buy some Lysol spray.

**Missions:** We are continuing to do a meal once a month for the food pantry. October 4 is date for

Neighbors in Need offering, same Sunday as World Wide Communion Sunday. We are continuing to collect school kit supplies, and socks for the street ministry in Portland through the month of September. Caryl announced that the Raymond Food Pantry has made other arrangements for distribution of their Thanksgiving baskets. In the light of the pandemic, and lack of volunteers to haul food around, we will advise the scouts that if they have a food drive in the fall, it should go directly to the food pantry, not to us. If we want to help anyone identified through local schools that need help with Thanksgiving meals, we will do it with gift cards.

**Christian Education:** Rolf suggested that Petra could use zoom if she wished to do a bible or book study in the coming months.

**Stewardship:** Brenda announced that we are selling very few grocery cards. First pot roast supper was well received. Will do one in September and possibly in October. Slukes will have an event on the evening of the September supper, so we will have orders from them. Brenda will send out pledge statements soon, with an update on current financial situation. A date has not yet been set for sending pledge letter or cards.

**Deacons:** October 4 is World Communion Sunday, plus Neighbors in Need. Petra suggested that people be asked to bring in items they may have from other countries to decorate the front of the church. It was also suggested that we have some breads for sale to augment our NIN offering. More volunteers are needed to run the video system each Sunday. Deacons signed up for coverage for the next 5 weeks. Caryl will work with Petra on All Saints Sunday.

**Moderator:** nothing to report

**Pastor:** Petra reported that she and the minister from the Lutheran Church will do a blessing of the animals on October 3. There is a new interim conference minister, she is doing zoom meetings with local clergy. Petra's last luncheon to meet members was today, it has been very successful. She is meeting with local clergy group. The topic of how in person worship is going was discussed briefly, we will continue with it as long as it feels safe. Petra would like to add names of Deacons, Council members, and other volunteers to the Sunday bulletin. On October 23 and 24, Caryl and Petra will attend the conference annual meeting via zoom. Petra has been giving thought to how to do Christmas safely. There will be a separate meeting of the Deacons to consider this.

### Old Business:

**Update of Video:** Currently we are not able to livestream. Rolf needs to run a internet connection line from the

*Continued next page . . .*

## Moderator Musings



Who's on First? What's on Second? I Don't know's on Third.

Has the majority of this year felt like the famous Abbott and Costello routine? I know in many regards it has for me.

We are told important information which soon becomes out dated and must adapt to the next level of standard procedures. And we have both the medical science and political science worlds colliding at record speed with each trying to prove themselves correct and thus the other side is not being truthful.

Take this pill. Wash your hands. Drink this kind of liquid. Sleep with your foot over your head. Don't purchase this product. No wait, that is okay as long as it is the kind in the blue bottle. PHEW. Where and when will it stop? Now Who's on first again? Correct. The first baseman's name is Who.

So, take a step back when there are so many points of contradiction and confusion. Stop and think what would Jesus do? What would Jesus believe? Turn out the negativity in your life. Yes, we all have it and sometimes we can't tell the difference ourselves.

Philippians 4, 8 and 9 remind us that whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely and whatsoever things are of good report, if any virtual and praise, think on these things. Those things which ye have both learned, and received and hear and seen in me, to do so and thus the peace of God shall be with you.

Well there finally. Perhaps things can begin to make some sense and you can move on to bigger and better discussions?.....

Like which came first? The chicken or the egg?

*Tom Wiley Moderator*

## Missions Corner

### Sebago Lakes Region Fuller Center for Housing

On Friday, August 28th from 9:00am to 4:30pm, the Fuller Center worked on their first project for an elderly couple in Windham. The project included repairing window and door trim, caulking and repainting and a bit of tree trimming. They had a professional volunteer with this type of work experience to guide them and some volunteers from the founding members. Fuller Center is now seeking additional volunteers as they are talking with more seniors about projects. Sign up to volunteer and donate some time by helping us keep this senior couple warm during the winter months or get ready for future projects.

<https://www.sebagofullerhousing.org/volunteer>

Thanks for your ongoing support of Fuller Center. Please let us know if you have any questions and we hope to "see" you there!" Be sure to follow and like us on Facebook and Instagram as well as peruse our newly established website.

**Socks, Socks, Socks!** In September we collected socks for **Grace Street Ministry**. Our aim – to make sure Pastor Jeff never runs out of socks to handout to homeless people! How did we do? As of 9/20, we have 40 pairs of socks and some money to buy more. THANK YOU! We will get the socks to Pastor Jeff in early October.

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

office, through the attic, so there is a stable internet connection to the computer in the back of the church, then this will be possible. One piece of equipment is not fully working, this probably need to be returned for repair.

**Update on Website:** Brenda reported that it is ongoing. She would like input from us on what changes are needed.

**Music:** Patrick has left, Aban has been with us for a couple of weeks, but will not be available on a regular basis. Starting on Sunday, October 20, Keith Neubert will be filling in as pianist.

**New Business:** Gary Wittner has approached us about using the sanctuary to tape a couple of RAA events, possibly with singing. Brenda will talk with Lori about this, there will be further discussion about how this can happen safely for them and for us. There was brief discussion about Halloween. Stewardship is coming up, Brenda will put something in the Weathervane, as a start. Petra asked if we would consider offering/renting one of our rooms for a small group/bubble of families needing child care in this time when most kids are not in school 5 days a week.

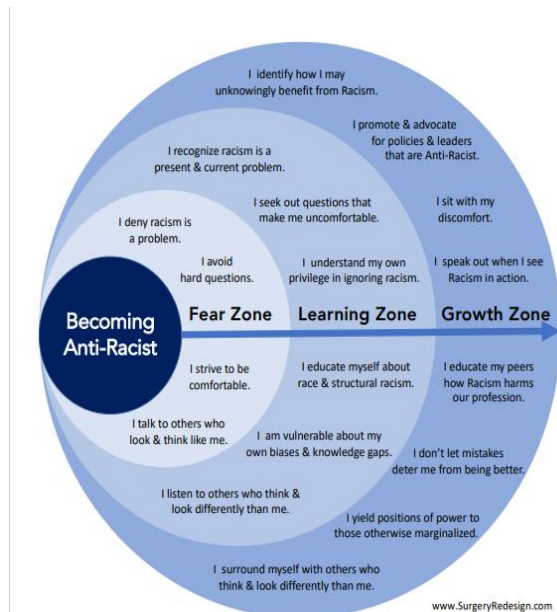
There was discussion of upcoming Weathervane. Next month's meeting will be October 13.

Respectfully submitted, Judith Munson, Clerk

## 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>



In last month's Weathervane, we talked a bit about ourselves, then talked about our view of the Fear Zone. This month, we will share our thoughts on the **Learning Zone**.

Petra: *One statement that got my attention was, "I am vulnerable about my own biases and knowledge gaps."*

*It is important to recognize that each of us looks through our own unique and specific set of lenses. We understand the world through lenses that make up the core pieces of our identity, including but not limited to our gender, race, and/or religious traditions and beliefs.*

*Part of the challenge when encountering people with life experiences that differ from ours is remaining non-judgmental. When we receive opinions with which we don't agree, it's important to not take them as a personal attack. Rather, recognize the opportunity to learn and ask questions which will allow you to "listen to others who think and look differently than me." The difficult part for me is to staying present, open minded as well curious of how people view the world, we live in.*

Caryl: I understand the difficulty in trying to be present and open-minded to others who are different from me. When my children were small, I focused on family as #1 with work and church as the other areas of focus. However, about 20 years ago, the company I worked for, Unum, decided to start a diversity program in an effort to create more awareness of multiple types of diversity with

the top two being race and ability/disability. To keep the story short, I will speak only about race. We talked about race, history of the US as we knew it and maybe there was a version of history that we (white people) were not aware of. We were asked to read at least a portion of "A People's History of the United States" by Howard Zinn. A lot to learn! Another thing we did was talk with people of color from outside the company who were asked to come in and talk about their experience as a person of color...and we could ask questions. One of the people was a black man with very black skin and a stature of about 5'10". When he walked in the room, the first thing I thought was "There is an angry black man!" Guess what, he was not angry, just feeling vulnerable. So why did I think that? I had to think about the messages I had received from childhood on (refer to last month's comments). During that period of time, I did listen, ask questions even if uncomfortable, felt vulnerable and more. When the program ended with a shift in senior management, I went back to being "a comfortable white person", not necessarily intentionally. I did have a lot going on at that time, with kids to raise, work and ill parents living in western Massachusetts, so I felt "full up". (Guess what?! If I was a person of color, it doesn't matter what else is happening, I would have to deal with being a person of color as I could not change the color of my skin.) When I retired and got more comfortable with retirement, I now try to educate myself about racism and structural racism. The most recent example is through the Maine 200 Discussions about who we are and who we want to be, hosted by Maine libraries.

Petra: *It appears to me that it might be easier to practice being present with one another when we gather together in church. One of our shared goals as parishioners is to listen to God and find practical applications of God's Word in the Church and our personal lives.*

*Although we come from different towns, denominations, and economic backgrounds we are charged with words from the Gospel of Matthew 22: v. 37 & 39 Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the lord thy God with all thy heart... And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.*

Caryl: This works for me! I hope others will join us!

## **Last RVCC Pot Roast Supper of the Season!**

**Mark this date in your Calendar! October 17th**

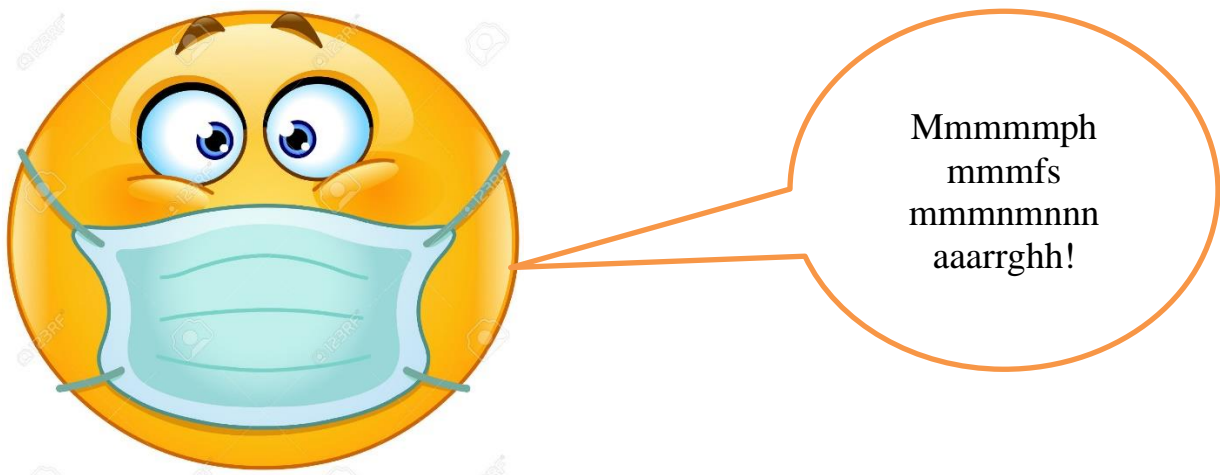


**Same good food, pot roast and gravy, potatoes, green beans, carrots, a roll, and a brownie for \$10. (Cash or check only, no credit cards.) Meals are take out only. We are taking orders for meals for pick up between 5:00 and 6:30PM that Saturday. They will be hot and ready to take home! You must order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



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



I think what he is trying to say is ***“Its Not Too Early To Start Thinking About Your Pledge For 2021!”***

It may seem early, but November 8<sup>th</sup> is Stewardship Sunday and that is only 7 weeks away!  
So, if you have been joining us for worship online or in person please remember, the church is still operating with the usual expenses and we will need to plan for 2021. Budgets are continuing to reflect a loss for the General Fund and our Fund for Building and Property is at now less than \$6,000 since the spending on the Vinyl Siding project this past year. It is your contributions that keep this church operating.