

# The Weathervane



RAYMOND VILLAGE COMMUNITY CHURCH, United Church of Christ Newsletter

November, 2020

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## From the Pastor . . .

Do you have friends or family members who push back when you are questioning something and say to you: “Have an attitude for gratitude,” and you just don’t want to hear about it in that moment?

Well, I decided in honor of the celebration of Thanksgiving, that I will rewrite the saying with to: “Have an attitude for gratitude but allow for detours.”

In that way, we are giving ourselves permission to still mention our gripes, complaints, and snarky remarks but with a twist. For each negative output, I would be responsible for acknowledging a positive outlook with a gratitude statement.

When you read this newsletter it will be within a day or two of our Presidential election, and how many of us are looking forward to no longer being subjected to numerous, and almost unending, political ads that have flooded the media? I know I am tired of it—but that is only my first gripe. Now I have to turn my negative energy into positive energy by stating how women are celebrating 100 years of voting rights, that our vote is anonymous, and each vote is equal regardless of who we are. This reminds me of the scripture reading where it said everyone is equal in Galatians 3:28: *“There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus”*

Let’s give that a try to get us through the next few months of holiday celebrations, pandemic, and the stresses of life.

I can’t help but lament over the world’s devastating loss of life due to Covid-19 as well as everyone who is recovering from the illness. Where do I see God’s presence during this health crisis? We only have to look as close as our frontline workers who care for our needs; our supermarkets, hospitals, nursing homes, schools, hotels, restaurants, pharmacies, and stores. Each of these employees take care of us. And while life isn’t so easy these days, we can count our blessings to be fortunate enough that we Mainers are doing

*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!

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

- November 1, 2020- 10:00 a.m. – Worship in RVCC Sanctuary
- November 8, 2020- 10:00 a.m. – Worship in RVCC Sanctuary
- November 9, 2020- 6:30 p.m. – Deacon meeting via Zoom
- November 10, 2020- 4:00 p.m. – Pastoral Relations Committee
- November 15, 2020- 10:00 a.m. – Worship in RVCC Sanctuary
- November 17, 2020- 5:30 p.m. – Council meeting via Zoom
- November 22, 2020- 10:00 a.m. – Worship in RVCC Sanctuary
- November 29, 2020- 10:00 a.m. – 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 Knitting Group meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month from 2:00 – 3:30 p.m.

### **CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS**

It's the time of year when the Raymond Fire Dept. offers to help families who are eligible receive a carbon monoxide detector at no charge. This program is managed by the Raymond Firefighters Association and the Raymond Village Community Church, and with the generous assistance of Lowe's in North Windham. Eligibility is determined by a simple form. If you know of someone who may have a need or if you have questions please contact John Facella at the Raymond Fire Dept [jafacella@yahoo.com](mailto:jafacella@yahoo.com) or Caryl Gilman at RVCC [carylgilman@gmail.com](mailto:carylgilman@gmail.com).

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

our best to keep the Covid-19 numbers low. To keep reminding us of all the things we can be grateful for, we have I will leave you with

“A Thanksgiving Blessing” written by Naomi King:

*Let us take a moment of silence as we hold up what is in our heart, the thanksgiving of our souls.*

*Let us join our hands and hearts in gratitude on this wondrous day, where we have the abundance of our lives before us. We remember on this day of bounty all of those who do not have enough, who are afraid, who are lonely, and who suffer. We wish for the abundance of this world to be shared, for fear to become love, for the lonely to feel welcomed, and for the suffering to know rest and joy. For the labors, the love, the care that gave the delights of this and every day, we say “Thanks!” For the nourishment of our spirit, the challenges that strengthen us, and the friends we have on the journey, we sing “Thanks!” For all that is our lives, for these good gifts, we whisper, “Thanks!” Overflowing with gratitude, let us shout, “Thanks!” Amen*

May you and your families have a happy and healthy Thanksgiving.

Blessing and Peace,

Pastor Petra

### *Missions Corner*

**Grace Street Ministry.** As Petra says, “I wish you could have seen Pastor Jessica Moore’s face when I brought her the over 60 socks we collected!” Incredulous! And **so** grateful to receive the socks for the people on the streets. All of you who contributed – YOU ROCK!

### **Raymond Food Pantry**

The Raymond Food Pantry continues to support people in Raymond who are eligible and who have signed up. As I work there on Thursdays when we distribute food, I can tell you that every family gets lots of food every two weeks! Each source of food (e.g. Good Shepherd and local grocery stores) has plenty at the moment to supply the Raymond Food Bank. The Raymond Food Bank will supply the thanksgiving baskets to their patrons this year. RVCC will supply other families in need with Hannaford gift cards through the Raymond schools’ social worker. This opens up an opportunity to focus on another familiar mission for Thanksgiving. Caryl



Please keep the following people in your prayers:

Michael Cadotte, Louise Doyle, Polly Dyer,  
Christine Eldridge, Linda Eldridge, Margo Fournier,  
Anne Hodgman, The family of Joe Knights, Bill N.,  
Walt Read, Rebecca Smyth, Frank Sullivan,  
Dan Tibbetts, Sascha & Penny Warrikoff,  
Adma Willis

### Happy Birthday!

November 2	Kay Roach
November 3	Lynn Gagne
November 15	Molly Keane-Dreyer
November 17	Bill Dreyer
November 24	Dick Day



### 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

## NOVEMBER LECTIONARY LESSONS

### *November 1, 2020 - All Saints Sunday*

Joshua 3:7-17  
Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37  
Micah 3:5-12  
Psalm 43  
1 Thessalonians 2:9-13  
Matthew 23:1-12

### *November 8, 2020 - Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost*

Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25  
Psalm 78:1-7  
Wisdom of Solomon 6:12-16  
Amos 5:18-24  
Wisdom of Solomon 6:17-20  
Psalm 70  
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18  
Matthew 25:1-13

### *November 15, 2020 - Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost*

Judges 4:1-7  
Psalm 123  
Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18  
Psalm 90:1-8, (9-11), 12  
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11  
Matthew 25:14-30

### *November 22, 2020 - Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost*

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24  
Psalm 100  
Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24  
Psalm 95:1-7a  
Ephesians 1:15-23  
Matthew 25:31-46

### *November 29, 2020 - First Sunday of Advent*

Isaiah 64:1-9  
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19  
1 Corinthians 1:3-9  
Mark 13:24-37

## Summary of October 13, 2020 Coordinating Council Meeting - DRAFT

The meeting of council members and deacons was called to order via zoom on Tuesday, October 13, 2020 by Tom Wiley. Present were Tom, Pastor Petra, Brenda, Rolf, Nancy, Caryl, Deb, and Judy.

Judy offered the opening prayer, the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm.

The agenda was reviewed, end time of 7:00 PM was set.

Rolf made a motion to accept the minutes of September 15, 2020, seconded by Brenda and approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** Brenda presented the financial report for September. Current contributions were \$5,517 for the month in the general fund. This was less than budget by \$50 for the month, and under budget by \$1,927 for the year. This included \$1,700 of unexpected, unpledged contributions. Income from fundraisers included \$546 from Pot Roast supper, about the same as last month, \$90 from grocery card sales, and a payment from RAA of \$145, for a total of \$781 income from fundraisers. An adjustment of \$3,134 was made, increasing the valuation of the American Funds at the end of September. This reverses the decrease that was recorded after the first quarter of this year. The account now reflects an increase of \$295 for the year. Total income of \$10,928 was over budget by \$2,989 for the month, and under budget by \$2,889 year to date. Total expenses of \$5,749 were under budget by \$1,836 for the month. Most of this was in pastoral ministry, because budget assumed Nancy's salary and benefits; plus there were no cleaning bills paid in September, this will likely appear in October. Current month net excess income/expenses of \$5,134 was better than budget excess income of \$309. Most of this variance for the month comes from the positive adjustment to the valuation of American Funds.

**Clerk:** Judy had nothing to report. Caryl had some questions about reporting of year end statistics in this pandemic year. Caryl will try to reach out to conference office about these.

**Trustees:** Rolf has pulled air conditioners out of windows. He is still waiting on scouts to do some outside work. The scouts have not started to have meetings in the church yet.

**Missions:** Petra reported that she had recently met up with Jessica Moore. The street ministry in Portland is very grateful for our donation of socks. Caryl talked about how we can help Maine Seacoast Mission for Christmas. People will be able to go on to Amazon to select gifts, saving Caryl from some mailing. Judy reported that we will not be collecting food and putting together Thanksgiving baskets. The Raymond Food Pantry will provide baskets for Thanksgiving to their clients. Judy will be in touch with the social worker at the Raymond Schools, we will provide Hannaford gift cards for families which she identifies who do not get help from the food pantry.

**Stewardship:** Brenda reported that she has a letter written to go out with end of September statements to those who pledge. With a few revisions, and a pledge card, this could be

a Stewardship letter. Stewardship Sunday will be November 8.

**Deacons:** The Deacons had had a recent meeting at which they discussed how taping was going, Christmas season, and thoughts about Christmas Eve. They would propose 2 services on Christmas Eve, one at 4:30, the other at 6 or 6:30. One of the services will be taped for those unable to attend. We would need to allow enough time for disinfection between services. People would have to make a reservation to attend, numbers would be limited. We are thinking about asking Patrick to return and participate, possibly a guest vocalist who could be recorded remotely. Petra will contact Patrick.

**Moderator:** nothing to report

**Pastor:** Petra reported that she is taking boundary training on November 7, via zoom. She is also participating in an online workshop titled "Shaping Faith in Crisis" through the Presbyterian Older Adult Ministries Network, on October 27 and 28. Also her transfer from Oxford County is completed. Brenda and Caryl continue to work on the web page, they welcome feedback.

**Old Business:** The town of Raymond and the Sheriff's office are discouraging Halloween activities on Main Street, so the church will not be open for Halloween.

**Music:** Decision has yet to be made on someone to play hymns etc. each Sunday.

**Schedule for Taping:** Deb and Rolf will do it on October 11 and November 8. Meghan is willing to do 3 Sundays in November.

**Feedback on having live services:** Everyone seems to be comfortable with how things are going at this point. We will not be opening windows as much as weather gets cooler. Rolf suggested bringing up heat in the sanctuary well before start of service, then turning off circulating fan during the service. Our heating system can not filter out the virus. There was mention of winter weather and ice on the front steps, we may need to go in through the vestry.

**October 25 service with Conference:** The service will be broadcast as a zoom meeting which we will join, Rolf will set up screen and show it on that. We need to remind people what is happening that day, with signs, announcements etc.

### **New Business:**

**Rental Request:** We have received a request for rental of a room on Saturdays mornings for a preschool music class. Teacher has agreed to pay \$100 per month for first three months, then an increasing rate based on attendance. We need to replace the lights in that room. Rolf can do the work, cost will be about \$300. Caryl made a motion, seconded by Nancy and approved to spend that amount.

As use of rooms increases with cooler weather, Deb suggested that we should consider putting signs with occupancy limit on each room.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 PM. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, November 17, at 5:30, via zoom.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Munson, Clerk



## HATS & MITTENS

The knitting & crocheting group is making hats & mittens for Raymond Elementary students, ages 6-8. We expect to make at least 25. Would you like to help? We have yarn and some patterns. You are welcome to join us for our group meetings if you would like some instruction or assistance. Please let me know if you need anything or would like to help. Thanks! Brenda ([bolsen001@maine.rr.com](mailto:bolsen001@maine.rr.com)) or 207-838-0123

### *Knitting & Crocheting group*

We have been meeting all summer, under cover on the patio at the church, but alas it is time to move inside. For those of you who are comfortable in doing so, please join us on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month. We will meet in the Sunday School room next to the furnace room. There will be a sign near the door. We will use the entrance under the patio, rather than walking through or gathering in the vestry. Here are some other instructions

- Please bring your own folding chair.
- Please always wear a mask once you are inside.
- Please keep a safe social distance.
- Bathrooms in the Vestry will be available.
- Please stay home if you are not feeling well or have been in contact with someone who has the coronavirus.

### Maine Seacoast Mission

Spreading Christmas cheer is one of the Mission's oldest traditions. Their presents wrapped in white paper tied with red string are iconic. The tradition of Mission Christmas presents began more than 100 years ago with Mission gifts to island residents and lighthouse keepers. (Caryl even saw this on a short documentary about island life!)

We invite you to help the Mission put presents under trees for individuals and families unable to do it alone. Covid-19 has stretched budgets tighter and made shopping more difficult. In the past you have been very generous to Seacoast Mission. I hope we can continue this year in one or both of the following ways:

1. ***On Thanksgiving Sunday, Nov 22***, rather than bring food, ***we ask you to bring toiletries for all ages to church:*** Toothpaste, Shampoo, Body Wash, Lotion, Lip Balm, Hair Brushes, Deodorant, Shaving Supplies. Note: you can leave items outside the church office door. If you prefer not to shop but want to participate, please call Caryl at 627-5073. I will be mailing all of these donations by 11/25.
2. On a ***Sunday Nov 29 and Sunday Dec 6***, ***we will ask you to bring monetary donations so we can buy other gifts*** which are on the Missions' Amazon wish list. ***If would like to order/send items directly***, here is the wish list link: <https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1V3LB3G19X56U>

All items must arrive in Cherryfield by Dec 10 in order to be used this year. (Items arriving later will be stored for next year.)

### **Sebago Lakes Region Fuller Center for Housing**

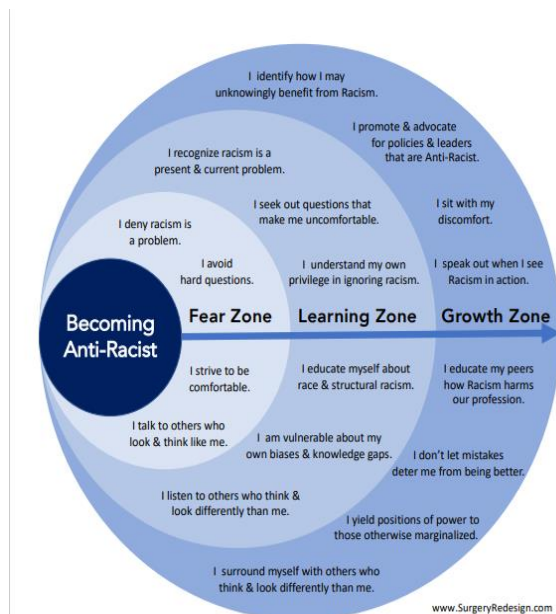
On Saturday, October 3, I was one of 5 volunteers who worked on replacing a rotting deck, steps and railing for a senior in Windham. After "masking up", then signing a form saying we had not been near people with COVID and having our temp taken, we were ready to go. I spent the first half of the day with a crow bar taking apart the existing deck along with 2 other people. Then, I partnered up with another woman to measure and cut boards for the new deck with a chop saw. By 4pm, the new deck was on! The two most experienced people decided to finish details on Monday and it is all done now. The homeowner was very grateful!

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>

## 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/d1zl3r2dlso7gs76wjfybv9z52m397ho>



In the past two Weathervanes, we first talked a bit about ourselves, then our view of the Fear Zone. Then we shared our thoughts on the Learning Zone. This month we are applying our curiosity to be more aware of anti-racist viewpoints.

**Petra:** The first statement that speaks to me is how I identify with unknowingly benefiting from racism, considering that I am an average looking white, middle-aged white woman. I don't have any remarkable or added tattoos or piercings on my face. Here are some examples that come to mind, being pulled over by the police, my first thought was the price of my speeding ticket (Yes, I was speeding) rather than thinking about the possibility of going to jail for a relatively minor traffic violation.

I have a black friend who has trouble finding a hairdresser in Maine who can style and cut her hair type.

Additionally, I never gave it a thought about putting a band-aid on my wounds until recently, a young immigrant from Africa, showing me her arm that covered a cut with a band-aid matching her skin color.

The second phrase I picked on the Growth Zone chart asks us to surround ourselves when given the opportunity with different people.

Last year I had an opportunity to help out at a clothes closet located in a local Church in Portland. One day

several ladies who had recently immigrated from Africa, were looking for jackets and shoes. Despite our language barrier, they did not know English and I do not know French. We were able to muddle through our conversation with gestures and drawings. It would have been easy for me to walk away and find someone who knows French, but I chose to stay with the ladies and forge a relationship even just for a few minutes.

**Caryl:** I wish I could say I relate to all of the statements listed, but it turns out the only one I can say at this point is "I don't let mistakes deter me from being better." I think this is because I'm still in the Learning Zone. The thing about making mistakes is that I can learn from them. I met a man with very black skin and referred to him as African American. It turns out his origin was not in Africa but Haiti. He said he preferred I ask his heritage vs. assume that his skin color meant a specific origin. What I do now, if referring to someone I have met but not had a chance to discuss heritage is a "person of color". And, I recognize some people will not appreciate this reference and it's OK. I'll get to learn more!

**Petra:** The other statement I could relate to is: I don't let my mistakes deter me from being better.

I found myself in a particular situation with a person who neither identified with being female or male. I mistakenly thought the person was a male and proceeded to introduce 'him' to another friend, saying: "This is "Max," and it is his first time visiting us today. Max immediately responded that he preferred being introduced them/they. Thankfully, Max has been gracious as I sometimes forget that they (Max) do not want to be confined by female or male pronouns. It does take practice!

As we think about being part of the solution on the topic of "Becoming Anti-Racist" I am reminded of Micah 6:8:

And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

**Petra and Caryl:** We would like to start a discussion group in January with anyone who is interested.

Depending upon the number of people, it might be in the vestry if we can maintain 6ft distance and/or it will be on Zoom.

**What would you be interested in discussing?** We want to make this something you want to attend.

Examples could be: *Why do I need to think about racism when I live in Maine?* Please contact Petra or Caryl if you are interested. Email: [petra@maine.rr.com](mailto:petra@maine.rr.com) or [carylgilman@gmail.com](mailto:carylgilman@gmail.com)

# 2021 --- A New Year!

	<u>Pledge Amount</u>		<u>Annual Total</u>
For our church ministries (general fund)	\$ _____ weekly	mont <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> _____
Specifically for our mission programs	\$ _____ weekly	mon <input type="checkbox"/> y	<input type="checkbox"/> _____
Church Cleaning	\$ _____ weekly	monthly <input type="checkbox"/>	\$ <input type="checkbox"/> _____
Name _____			Date _____
Address _____			

Please return your Pledge card on November 8, Stewardship Sunday or mail directly to the church at P.O. 285, Raymond, Me. 04071

*We encourage you to use automatic debits to make your gift. Information available from the office.*

I will use automatic debits to my credit card or checking account.

## STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY IS NOVEMBER 8TH

*Thanks to so many of you who are continuing to support the church in so many ways, even if you are not physically present for all the meetings and events you used to enjoy. Let us not forget that, as we start talking about Stewardship for 2021 - a new year!*

*Next year's financial outlook will be similar to 2020, in that we will still be budgeting a loss. We discussed this at the annual meeting. Expenses are continuing but pledges are diminishing, therefore every contribution is important!*

*We are all looking forward to a return to "normalcy" in 2021. It may not come to all of us at the same time, but considering our church and the Christian community, we are all still here and working hard to continue this important journey. Please consider your journey as we begin our Stewardship drive for the upcoming year. Please return your pledge card to Nancy Yates, RVCC, PO Box 285, Raymond, Me. 04071 or bring it with you to church on Stewardship Sunday, November 8<sup>th</sup>.*

*Thank you,  
Brenda Olsen*



*Raymond Village Community Church*

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

### **Maine Conference 89<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting**

As with everything this year, this meeting was through webinar instead of in person. While I didn't actually "attend", I did read through the business reports and will provide summary information here. I will cover 4 items starting with the Conference budget for 2021.

The Conference presented a reasonable balanced budget for 2021. About 1/3 of this is the balanced budget for Pilgrim Lodge, which has not always been the case. More information below

Maine Conference Staff has had many changes in 2020. Just as RVCC is working through where we have been, where we are now and where we are going, the Maine Conference is in the same process. Rev. Deborah Blood, who has been Conference Minister for 5 years, has moved on and the Conference Board selected The Rev. Jenna Jensen as Interim Conference minister for 18-24 months. She is an experienced, thoughtful minister who will help the Conference prepare for the Conference minister believed to be called to journey with the Maine Conference into the future. Rev. Darren Morgan, Conference Associate Minister for 12 years, moved in May to pastor a church in Orleans MA. The Rev. Dr. Deborah Jenks is now in the role of Interim Associate Conference Minister.

In January, the Conference hired Rev. Jen Paty, Pastor Jen, as Outdoor Ministry Director to lead life and ministry at Pilgrim Lodge. When she was hired, no one knew there would be a pandemic or that the on-site outdoor programs would have to be cancelled for the summer. I know this was a blow to many kids and adults who love their time at Pilgrim Lodge, including me! There was a lot of activity this summer with 53 volunteers logging over 2000 hours of work on maintenance projects for the board walk, cabins, Quito, painting, rebuilding the art room and more! They also launched fund-raising to cover the loss of registration fees and are 75% to their goal. Lastly, the leadership team spent many hours looking at how to have a balanced budget and sustainable program in future. I pray for their success.

Lastly, the Conference presented Minister Compensation Guidelines for the coming year which is believed to be a COLA increase of 1.3% that matches that of the Social Security Administration.

If you would like more information or have questions, you can contact me. Pastor Petra will provide more information in upcoming sermons or writings.

Caryl Gilman