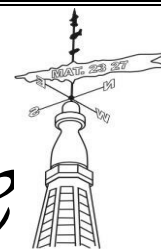


The Weathervane



RAYMOND VILLAGE COMMUNITY CHURCH, United Church of Christ Newsletter

December, 2020

Table of Contents	Page
From the Pastor.....	1
This Month at RVCC	2
Keeping You Safe.....	2
In Memory of Bob Metz	2
Prayer Concerns	3
December Birthdays	3
Hannaford Grocery Cards	3
Lectionary Lessons.....	3
Raymond Arts Alliance.....	3
Council Minutes.....	4
Knitting & Crocheting Group.	5
Advent Worship 2020.....	5
Moderator Musings	6
Carbon Monoxide Detectors...	6
Cookie Sale	7
Missions Corner.....	8
Pledge Card	9
Annual Meeting Warrant.....	9
Anti-Racism Conversation	10
Happy Holidays	10

From the Pastor . . .

November 29th marks the first Sunday of Advent, a period of four weeks during which we prepare for Christmas. Historically, Advent was a somber season, a mini Lent, a time for deep penitence. We have moved from viewing Advent as a season of fasting and penitence to a time of expectant waiting and preparation. It is no surprise that we are an impatient culture and Advent challenges us and encourages us to be reflective and learn how to patiently wait. For the child who lives in all of us it could be waiting to see what is under the tree on Christmas morning. What will the surprise gift be? For the adults it might be connecting with loved ones via Zoom, Skype, Face-time, Instagram, or even snail mail.

When I was growing up we would sit at the kitchen table with our parents every Sunday afternoon during the season of Advent and light the candles on the Advent wreath. We enjoyed eating special cake and drinking hot chocolate and our anticipation grew with each subsequent week. Each candle lit brought us closer to the celebration on Christmas day. As we grew up we realized that our simple Advent traditions were also a reminder of what the season was really about.

The Advent candles we will light at our church represent four inspirational themes: hope, peace, joy and love. During this season, may you find time to reflect, write, dream, paint or share any other artistic gifts and express new possibilities and new hopes.

May you also ponder upon scriptures to find hope for our future.

First Sunday of Advent: *“The days are surely coming, says God, when I will fulfill my promise”*... (Jeremiah 33:14).

Second Sunday of Advent: *“The dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace”* (Luke 1: 78-79)

Third Sunday of Advent: *“Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and thanksgiving let your request be known to God”* (Philippians 4:6)

Fourth Sunday of Advent: *“And they shall live secure...”* (Micah 5:4c)

Blessings on this Advent season, Pastor Petra Smyth

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 . . .

December 6, 2020-	10:00 a.m. – Worship
December 13, 2020-	10:00 a.m. – Worship on Zoom
December 14, 2020-	6:30 p.m. – Deacon meeting via Zoom
December 15, 2020-	5:30 p.m. – Council meeting via Zoom
December 20, 2020-	10:00 a.m. – Worship
December 24, 2020	4:30 p.m. – Christmas Eve service
December 27, 2020-	Worship service on YouTube only.

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

Keeping You Safe

As COVID numbers are increasing across the State, we wish to reassure you that your safety is always a concern and let you know what we are doing to try to keep everyone safe.

First, we are now requiring that everyone in the sanctuary, including the Pastor, Deacon and musician, wear a face covering at all times. We are considering installing plexiglass shields on the lectern, Pulpit and piano.

As cold weather has arrived and we must keep windows closed, we turn the heat up in the hours before the service so the room is at a comfortable level of warmth during the service, but turn off the heat during services so that the blower cannot act to circulate the virus.

Hand sanitizer is available as you enter and we encourage everyone to use it. Your bulletin and communion elements, are already placed in the pews. No offering plates are passed, instead donations can be placed in a basket at the rear of the church.

At the infrequent times when outside groups use the sanctuary, the space is sanitized thoroughly. Most groups using the church are using spaces other than the sanctuary.

For those of you who do not or cannot attend services in person, we continue to have the services recorded and are available to you on our you tube channel.

In Memory of Robert Victor Metz

Robert (Bob) Metz, 94, of Cresskill, NJ died peacefully at Sunrise of Cresskill, NJ on November 4, 2020.

The son of Victor and Alice (Larsen) Metz, Bob was born August 21, 1926 and grew up in Rutherford, NJ. He graduated from Blair Academy High School, Blairstown, NJ in 1944. Bob loved his time at Blair as well as his summers spent in Sharon, CT at his Uncle Albert's farm.

Bob enlisted in the Merchant Marines, Kings Point, NY and served the last two years of WWII on various ships transporting troops throughout Europe. After the war, Bob graduated from NYU where he earned his degree in physical education. At NYU he met his future wife Gloria Rauh.

Together they raised three children in Paramus, NJ.

After graduating from NYU, Bob took a position as a teacher and coach at Poly Prep, Brooklyn, NY. He then moved to NJ to work at Fairleigh Dickinson University. In his 32 years at FDU, he served as intramural director, professor and chairman of the physical education department, wrestling coach, golf coach, and Associate Athletic Director. He also co-founded the Metropolitan Athletic Conference and served as president of the Metropolitan Wrestling Coaches Association.

Bob had an interesting and varied background in working with young people. In the early 50's Metz ran the Bergen-Passaic handicapped children's camp which operated at a Westwood campsite. Later, he spent his summers at Camp Hawthorne in Maine where he was the waterfront director and head counselor. He would later go on to become owner and director of Camp Hawthorne. In 1986 he and Gloria moved to Raymond, Maine to spend their retirement years. Although retired, Bob was very active in the Raymond Village Community Church, was chairman of Tassel Top, the town's park and beach, chairman of the Camp Sunshine golf fundraiser and president of his road association. He also continued for many years as his class rep for Blair Academy keeping in touch with fellow classmates and writing the class notes.

Bob was an active golfer and skier and loved spending time with Gloria on the lake boating and enjoying the beautiful Maine scenery. He was a great story teller and quick to laugh. Bob Metz had a zest for life, a unique ability to find joy in each day, and to share that joy with anyone who came into his life. He adored his wife and family, cherished his friendships and had a special place in his heart for each of his grandchildren and great grandchildren who brought him immense happiness.

Bob is survived by his children, Pamela and husband Ken, Richard and wife Carole, and Peter and wife Mally, as well as five grandchildren, Kevin, Ryan, Lorraine, Tyler and Lindsey and two great children, Raleigh and Arlo.

Memorial donations can be made to Camp Sunshine at Sebago Lake, 35 Acadia Road, Casco, ME 04015 or online to campsunshine.org If an online donation is made, please be sure to click the Camp Sunshine Casco, Maine site and type, in memory of Bob Metz.



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, Penny Warrikoff,
Adma Willis

Happy Birthday!

December 7	Cassi Gordan
December 10	Lois Waldron
December 15	Jeff Stevenson
December 28	Caryl Gilman



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

DECEMBER LECTONARY LESSONS

December 6, 2020 - Second Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 40:1-11
Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13
2 Peter 3:8-15a
Mark 1:1-8

December 13, 2020 - Third Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11
Psalm 126
or
Luke 1:46b-55
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
John 1:6-8, 19-28

December 20, 2020 - Fourth Sunday of Advent

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16
Luke 1:46b-55
or
Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26
Romans 16:25-27
Luke 1:26-38

December 24, 2020 - Nativity of the Lord

Isaiah 9:2-7
Psalm 96
Titus 2:11-14
Luke 2:1-14, (15-20)

December 27, 2020 - First Sunday after Christmas

Isaiah 61:10-62:3
Psalm 148
Galatians 4:4-7
Luke 2:22-40



RAYMOND ARTS ALLIANCE EVENT

On December 11th, the Raymond Arts Alliance will be videotaping a music event at 7:30 p.m. that will be recorded to their Facebook page. The Raymond Village Church supports the Raymond Arts Alliance by providing a facility to host events. In these difficult times when musicians have not been able to play at their normal venues, we are happy to host this event. The group is called TIME ZONE and is a trio of these musicians; Gary Wittner (7 string guitar), Michael Gallant (violin), Eric LaPerna (tabla, percussion). They will perform music from the Middle East, original jazz and more. View on RAA Facebook (www.facebook.com/raymondartsalliance/)

**Summary of November 17, 2020
Coordinating Council Meeting - DRAFT**

A joint meeting of the coordinating council and deacons was called to order via zoom on Tuesday, November 17, 2020, by Tom Wiley. Present were Tom, Rolf, Brenda, Caryl, Nancy, Deb, and Judy.

Deb offered the opening prayer.

The agenda was reviewed, it was determined that we will try to end by 7:00 PM.

Treasurer's Report: Brenda presented the financial report for October. Current contributions were \$4,039 for the month in the General Fund. This was less than budget by \$1,478 for the month, and by \$3,405 for the year. Pledged contributions were \$3,189 for the month. We have been averaging between \$3,000 and \$4,000 per month, so this is typical. Income from supper fund raiser was \$655, but did not include cost of food. Grocery card sales was \$95. No rental income was recorded for the month, this is a shortfall of \$1177. It is expected in November. Total income of \$4,839, was under budget by \$2,000 for the month and by \$4,890 for the year. Expenses included pastoral ministry of \$3,732, under budget because budget assumes numbers from Rev. Nancy. Other expenses include Diaconate at \$500, Administrative at \$1,038, and Trustees at \$2,783. Total expenses of \$8,053 was under budget by \$1,710 for the month. There were no transactions in PP&E fund for the month. Contributions to missions for the month was \$213, mission payments for the month was \$1,052. Brenda did report that she had to take money from American Funds for cash flow purposes. Caryl made a motion, seconded by Nancy and approved to accept the treasurer's report subject to year end review.

Pledge Report: As of Sunday, November 15, we had received 6 pledges for cleaning totaling \$2,180, 13 pledges for general fund totaling \$28, 920, and one pledge for missions for \$600. These numbers are not far off of last years totals at the same time.

Reports of the Coordinators:

Clerk: nothing to report

Trustees: Rolf reported that the lights to be installed in the classroom have been received. He also has the cable to run from the office through the attic to the sanctuary. This will allow us to start live streaming our services. He needs an extra set of hands for these projects, Will Feagans might help. He has someone lined up to plow the parking lot for the winter, still needs someone to shovel.

Missions: Caryl reported that we have funded purchase and installation of ten CO detectors in Raymond homes through the Somers fund. Our mission for December will be Maine Seacoast Mission. In addition, in December, usually at the Christmas Eve Service, we take an offering for the Veterans of the Cross. We will also collect for that on December 20. She is proposing that our mission for

January be Daisy's Children. Rolf expressed concern that we did not prepare enough hot meals for the food pantry on our usual Thursday in November. Caryl reported that it is hard to predict how many clients might show up. She will talk to Gary at the food pantry about this, and also about best Thursday for the hot meal in December.

Deacons: The Deacons met last week. They discussed plans for Christmas Eve service. There will be only one service, at 4:30 PM, it will be open first to those without internet access. The service will be taped, and available on You Tube by 6:00 PM. There was discussion about the fact that the church will be open the evening of December 5 to view the Windham Chamber Singers concert. Additional cleaning will need to be done after that service because we will be in church the next morning, less than 24 hours after the program the night before. There was discussion about looking into shields for the pulpits, masking of minister and deacon does impact quality of taping.

Moderator: nothing to report at this point in the meeting.

Old Business: Rolf reminded us that now that heat is on, and windows are closed, we should turn the heat up before the service, so we can turn it and the fan off during the service. Caryl suggested that we should put something in the Weathervane to remind people what we are doing to make sure they are safe in the sanctuary. Brenda has hoped for the past two months that we would get to the issues of handicap parking and accessibility to the sanctuary. Unfortunately we have had a lot on our plates and don't get to this discussion. A small group will meet to start this work. Judy will provide them with copies of previous minutes in which this topic was discussed. Brenda also reported that we have entered into an agreement with Keith Neubert to provide music on Sunday mornings. Thanks to the Music Committee for their work.

New Business: There was discussion on Annual Meeting. We need to have it, our charter requires it, we need a budget approved, and officers elected. It will be held on January 24, 2021, at 1:00 PM, via zoom. There will be a special all church email with the zoom invitation, and with information which people will need – i.e. budget, slate of officers, annual report etc. We will make an effort to provide those without zoom capability the chance to give us their input. In the annual report, there will be no report for Christian Education, Tom will write the annual reports for music and Deacons, Caryl will write the "Our Wider Church" report. Since people may be printing the annual report on their home printers, we should make sure that Lori condenses the number of pages, we do not need a page for each report. There was brief discussion on criteria to be used if we want to go to all virtual services. No decision was made. At this point, as long as we are taping on Sunday mornings in the sanctuary, we are open to those who feel comfortable coming.

The next meeting will be December 15, at 5:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Judith Munson, Clerk



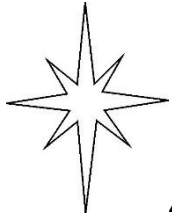
HATS & MITTENS

The knitting & crocheting group, with a lot of help from Sarah Allen, 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) 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.



Advent Worship 2020

The first Sunday of Advent, **November 29th** is the Hanging of the Greens. The sanctuary will already be decorated for Christmas with candles in the windows, garlands up front, and new Advent hangings for each week. The poinsettia "tree" (wired stand filled with poinsettias), a tradition begun by Rosemary Tripp, will be placed in the center of the dais. We appreciate all who donated funds for poinsettias to fill this out! The "centerpiece" is a new Advent wreath donated by Lori Lambert and family. The worship, led by Tom Wiley and Deb Feagans, will be one of readings, music videos and lighting the candle of **HOPE**.

The second Sunday of Advent, **December 6th**, Rev. Allison Curry will lead worship and offer communion. Rev. Curry and Caryl Gilman will light the candle of **PEACE**.

The third Sunday of Advent, the worship for **December 13th** will be via zoom / video only as Pastor Petra will be in quarantine after returning from Germany. Worship will be led by Maine Conference Minister, Rev. Jonna Jensen. We are grateful she can join us! Pastor Petra and Tom Wiley will light the candle of **JOY**.

The fourth Sunday of Advent, December **20th**, we hope to have Pastor Petra back at the pulpit to lead worship and light the candle of **LOVE** with Nancy Yates.

Christmas Eve, **December 24th**, we ask that you and your family enjoy worship from home on YouTube, unless you do not have internet. We invite a very small number of people who do not have internet to join us in person for a 4:30 PM worship which will be taped and posted on YouTube by 6pm. If you wish to attend in person, please leave a message on the church voicemail: 655-7749. Link to RVCC YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCc1hBkBTarnZF-H4O7YN5ew>



Moderator Musings

May auld acquaintance, be forgot and never brought to mind. Well I think that might be the perfect way to send this year adieu. Read on and I'll have another suggestion.

Unfortunately, I suspect the past year will be brought to mind for many years as it has definitely changed the world and how we react and respond to these changes will determine and define, who and what we will become as a person, church family and citizenship.

While the future chapters are still to be told, I decided to look back upon some New Year eves of the past. Some of those have certainly formed who I have become. Never mind the times of dancing with lampshades. I suspect we all have a couple of those type memories also. No, I am thinking of some of the different memorable new years.

One of the first occurred when I was somewhere around ten years old. One of the families in the neighborhood was going to host a New Year's Eve party for all the parents nearby. While this party was to occur across the street, at our house we would have our own party for the neighborhood kids. One of my oldest sisters would be the babysitter and watch the children. The family that was hosting the party made sure that we had a memorable evening as well, as many of the food and decorations they had at their party, also made their way across the street to the youth party. You will note that I said many. I suspect that the adults may have had some libations which we did not. But I can tell you there was one thing we had at the kid's party, which they did not have. I can also say I have never had that special drink since then. In the haste of planning and prepping everything for two functions, the host mom had made a fruit punch and added mixed vegetables. Yes, a can of mixed vegetables and fruit punch. We later learned that her intention was for a can of fruit cocktail to be added to the drink. And the son of the mom who made the punch. He was so adamant that he insisted his mom always made punch that way. She learned of her mistake a few weeks after the party and we told her how "Bob" was so intent on protecting his mom's image. Perhaps it should be noted, that "Bob" did not really know what it took to nourish the brain, but instead he knew how it was to

operate. He went on to earn a Doctorate of Psychiatry at a prestigious D.C. university. He also told me once, you had to cook Vienna sausage as they were raw meat.

And then there was the New Year's Eve in 1985 in which a group of friends got to together for dining and dancing. There were 4 of us who went to school together who ending up inviting friends go out as a group. We met in Orono and then travelled to Waterville for the evening. Well, one of those friends invited her college roommate to join the group that night. That roommate turned out to be an education major at the University of Maine. And perhaps you can figure out where this is going. Yes, that was the first time I had met Bonnie. As they say, the rest is history.

And then there was the New Year's Eve in 1999. Remember Y2K. The world was going to end. Computer systems were going to crash. All functions of the world were going to be significantly altered due to this technological doom which had been forecasted. Well we wanted to celebrate with our families before the world ended. One of my friends rented the vestry and held a party for our families and children at the church that night. I remember going to the sanctuary at midnight with him to pray for the world. But nothing happened. We went home and watched the news. Everything was fine. Y2K passed with barely a whimper.

Do you think that it might have been 20 years late??? Hmmm, You Say. Perhaps this explains it all. Well let's all grab the fruit punch spiked with mixed vegetables and say good bye 2020. It only seems appropriate.....

Tom Wiley Moderator

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 or Caryl Gilman at RVCC carylgilman@gmail.com.

Raymond Village Community Church

Holiday Cookie Sale

Were you looking forward to our Annual Cookie Walk held during our Christmas Fair? Don't fret, we still have you covered for your Holiday Cookie needs.

This year we will be taking pre-orders for Holiday Cookies to be picked up on **Sunday, December 20th from 11 am – 1 pm.**

Cookies available to order:

- Snicker Doodles
- Ginger Snaps
- Holiday Sugar Cookies
- Pumpkin Molasses
- Toffee Nut Squares
- Peanut Butter Blossoms
- Chocolate Chip
- Oatmeal Raisin

For **\$5.00** (cash or check ONLY, no credit cards) you will get **12 cookies** of your choosing from the above list. Cookie orders will be ready for pickup **11am – 1pm** on **Sunday, December 20th.**

To place your order please call the RVCC office at **655-7749** and leave a message with your name, phone number, cookie choices and time you will pick up. Or if you prefer you can send an email to **office@rvccme.org** with information. **Orders due by December 15th.**

Missions Corner

Raymond Food Pantry: The month of November saw an increase in the number of families served – up from approximately 32 to 40. The pantry provided a Thanksgiving meal this year including a turkey or a gift card for a turkey. On December 24th, the RVCC “community meals” team is preparing a hot meal for each Food Pantry patron to be handed out that evening. Many of you ask if they have enough funding and the answer is “yes” (for now).

Thanksgiving Baskets: In addition to baskets provided to food pantry patrons, there are always a few people who need some extra help at Thanksgiving. These folks were identified through the Raymond school system. RVCC donated \$30 Hannaford gift cards for each of these families.

Raymond Holiday Gift Program: Once again this year, we will donate Walmart gift cards to the Holiday Gift program in the Raymond Schools ensuring that no child goes without holiday gifts. After all, who is not happy to have a gift card, to shop for exactly what they want. Judy Munson has worked with the social worker at the Raymond schools to make this happen.

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!)

On Thanksgiving Sunday, Nov 22, we collected the following items to send to Cherryfield, ME during Thanksgiving week... ***Thank you so much!***

5 Toothpaste	3 Shampoo	15 toothbrushes
17 bars of soap	6 Lip Balm	

On **Sunday November 29 and Sunday December 6**, we ask you to bring monetary donations so we can buy other gifts which are on the Missions’ Amazon wish list. ***If you prefer 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.)

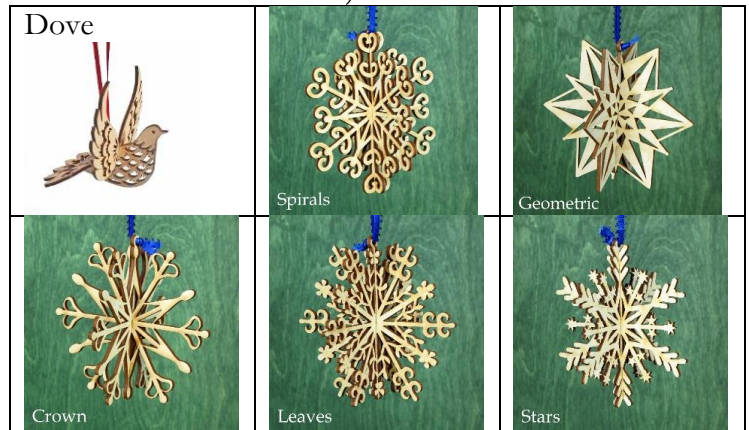
Daisy’s Children

January 2020, Sharon Beckwith, the founder of Daisy’s Children spoke to us about how this non-profit started and what they have been able to accomplish for children in Honduras.

A Maine based organization helping over 150 impoverished children and their families in Concepcion del Norte', Santa Barbara, Honduras, with education, medical, and nutritional needs. “What began as a chance meeting of three children who lost their mother, Daisy, to malnutrition has grown to become a source of nutritional food, potable water, education, and medical intervention for 100 children in Concepcion del Norte, Honduras.”

A year later, January 2021, we will focus on Daisy’s Children again. This time, we would like to take advantage of a program for Christmas. They have partnered with Doles Orchard Box Shop to offer an ornament for \$20 and that same amount pays for 20 meals for a child in Honduras.

We are hoping many people would be willing to donate all or a portion of \$20 for an ornament that would be used on the sanctuary Christmas tree for 2021 AND pay for meals for a child in Honduras. Caryl would place a bulk order for these for RVCC and pick up (COVID safe) with no shipping fee. You can specify one of the 6 ornament designs below or a heart (not pictured). All approximately 5 inches high. **Please make contributions by Dec 31, 2020** by mailing a check to Raymond Village Church, PO Box 285, Raymond ME 04071. (please put “Daisy’s Children” on the memo line)



If you would like to order one or more ornaments for yourself, you can contact Caryl directly (627-5073) to include your order with the RVCC order (no shipping) OR you can order directly at Daisys’ Children Facebook page. Direct orders have a shipping cost of \$7.95/each.

<https://www.facebook.com/daisyschildren/>

Thanks to all who have returned their 2021 pledge cards. If you have not done so already, please return your pledge card to Nancy Yates, RVCC, PO Box 285, Raymond, Me. 04071 or bring it with you to church on Sunday.

2021 FINANCIAL COMMITMENT – RAYMOND VILLAGE COMMUNITY CHURCH

2021 --- A New Year!

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

Raymond Village Community Church, UCC

Warrant for Annual Congregational Meeting

January 24, 2021

Notice is hereby given to the members of the Raymond Village Community Church, UCC in Raymond, Maine that you are duly called to meet at our Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, January 24, 2021. The meeting will be held via zoom starting at approximately 1:00 PM. Because the meeting is being held remotely, there will be no need to postpone due to inclement weather.

The business of the meeting shall be as follows:

Article 1: To hear and act upon the reports of all officers, Coordinators, Task Force, and Committees;

Article 2: To adopt a budget for the fiscal year 2021;

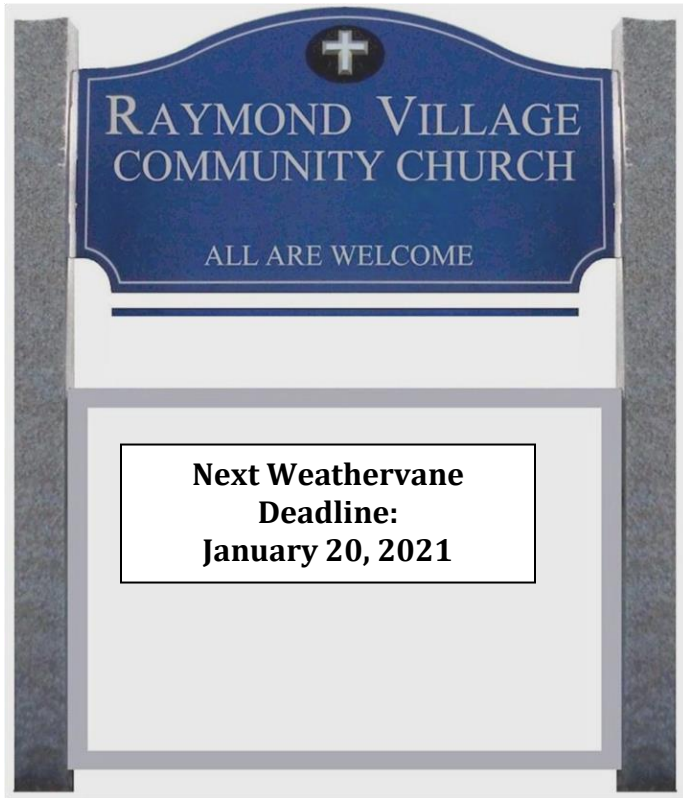
Article 3: To elect a slate of officers to serve for the year;

Article 5: To transact any other business that shall lawfully come before this meeting.

Notice of this meeting is hereby given on this the 10th (and 17th) day of January, 2021.

Respectfully,

Judith T. Munson, Church Clerk



Raymond Village Community Church

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

Anti-racist Conversation

Last month we asked you if you would be interested in joining a conversation about racism or anti-racism. So far, to my knowledge, Petra and I have not heard from anyone interested. I can understand this as it seems like the conversation could be “too big” or “too overwhelming”.

I talked with my sister, Anne, who is leading a Christian women’s conversation about bias. Bias is a disproportionate weight in favor of or against an idea or thing, that can be prejudicial or unfair. Biases can be innate or learned. Having a bias does not mean you are a “bad” person. The key is to recognize a bias and examine what, if any effect, that has on decisions or actions. We agreed that we were brought up to believe that higher education, college, was a key to a successful work life. I know that I carried that bias through my work life and it likely affected hiring decisions with which I was involved. Yet I also know that there are many people in this world who have been very successful without a college education.

What’s the point? Knowing our own biases can help us examine whether or how they are affecting us. Conversation with others provides a way to see situations in a different light. We hope you will consider joining a virtual conversation at RVCC starting in January and let us know what you would like to talk about. Please contact Petra at church (655-7749) or Caryl (627-5073)

Happy Holidays!

As a reminder, we will NOT publish a Weathervane edition for January, 2021. We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy and Safe New Year!