

The Weathervane



RAYMOND VILLAGE COMMUNITY CHURCH, United Church of Christ Newsletter

April, 2021

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From the Pastor . . .

It is hard to believe that today (March 20th) is the first day of spring.

During Lent we are encouraged to soul search and seek meaning for our life. Members of our congregation and our community are struggling with isolation, making sense out of serious health issues they themselves or loved ones are suffering through. Especially during the Lenten season, we can take time to remember when we feel lost or lonely. When we sense we have hit a brick wall we search for a way out. We look for a path out of the wilderness. Finding meaning and joy can be a difficult task.

During this season of Lent, we travel with Jesus on a journey which starts in the wilderness and travel with him through the last days of his life. It is during this time that we focus our energy on our personal relationship with God and practice showing God to others in our lives.

Trappist monk Thomas Merton said, "The whole Christian life is a life in which...the more we progress, the poorer we get so that the man who has progressed most, is totally poor—he has to depend directly on God. He's got nothing left in himself."

Doesn't it sound scary to have complete faith and trust in God? Please share with one another how you have made room for God in your life.

This is a busy season in the life of the Church, and I want to make you aware of the schedule for Holy Week:

Palm Sunday, March 28th - Palms will be available for pickup on Saturday, March 27th in a bucket outside the vestry door. Be ready to wave your palms during the traditional introit "The Palms."

Wednesday, March 31st - Last class for our Lenten study: "The Cup of our Life" by Joyce Rupp.

Maundy Thursday, April 1st - Tenebrae Service on Zoom at 6:00 p.m.

Good Friday, April 2nd - Home devotional sent to you via e-mail. The deacons and I put together appropriate Bible verses, readings and YouTube music.

Continued next page . . .

The Weathervane is published monthly for distribution at the first of each month. Articles may be submitted as paper copy, electronically via disk or email by the 15th of each month preceding the issue for it to be included in. Computer files should be submitted as MSWord (.doc) or rich text format (.rtf). If you have any questions contact Debbie Feagans or Judy Munson. Articles can be dropped off at the church office, mailed or emailed to: Raymond Village Community Church, PO Box 285, Raymond, ME 04071- office@rvccme.org or to Judy Munson, 23 Lawn Ave., Gorham, ME 04038 - cmmunson24@yahoo.com - Thank you for reading our newsletter!

This Month at RVCC . . .

- April 4, 2021- 6:30 a.m. – Sunrise Service behind Casco Village Church
10:00 a.m. – Easter Worship on Zoom
- April 11, 2021- 10:00 a.m. – Worship led by Deacons on Zoom
- April 18, 2021- 10:00 a.m. – Worship on Zoom led by Rev. Allison Curry
2:00 p.m. – Deacon’s meeting on Zoom
- April 20, 2021- 6:00 p.m. – Council meeting on Zoom
- April 25, 2021- 10:00 a.m. – Worship on Zoom

If you are unable to join live Worship on Zoom, services may be viewed on our YouTube channel at:

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.

A meal is prepared in the Vestry for the food pantry on the second Thursday of the month.



Please keep the following people in your prayers:

Amanda, Betty Berdette, Michael Cadotte,
Louise Doyle, Polly Dyer, Christine Eldridge,
Linda Eldridge, Anne Hodgman, Craig Messinger,
Walt Read, Charlotte Rowe, Frank Sullivan,
Dan Tibbetts, Penny Warrickoff, Adma Willis

From the Pastor, continued . . .

Sunday, April 4th - Easter Sunrise Service behind the Casco Village Church at 6:30 a.m.

Sunday, April 4th - Easter Service on Zoom at 10:00 a.m.
After Easter, I will be taking time off starting Monday, April 5th through Tuesday, April 13th.

Rev. Alison Curry will be covering pastoral emergencies during that week. Additionally, I will be taking Sunday, April 18th off and will be back leading worship on April 25th.

Blessings and Peace,
Rev. Petra Smyth

April Lectionary Lessons

April 4, 2021 - Easter Sunday

Acts 10:34-43
Isaiah 25:6-9
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
1 Corinthians 15:1-11
Acts 10:34-43
John 20:1-18
Mark 16:1-8

April 11, 2021 – Second Sunday of Easter

Acts 4:32-35
Psalm 133
1 John 1:1-2:2
John 20:19-31

April 18, 2021 – Third Sunday of Easter

Acts 3:12-19
Psalm 4
1 John 3:1-7
Luke 24:36b-48

April 25, 2021 – Fourth Sunday of Easter

Acts 4:5-12
Psalm 23
1 John 3:16-24
John 10:11-18



Been missing the RVCC Pot Roast Suppers?



**Mark this date in your
Calendar!**

May 8, 2021

Same good food, pot roast and gravy, potatoes, green beans, carrots, a roll, and a brownie for \$12. (Cash or checks 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 will likely NOT have extra meals available.

To order your meals please call the RVCC office at 655-7749 and 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.

We will have monthly “take out” suppers, so save the following dates:

**June 12, 2021
July 10, 2021
August 14, 2021
September 11, 2021
October 9, 2021**

Missions Corner

In the month of March, we talked about two missions: OGHs (One Great Hour of Sharing) and Feeding America. For that reason, we will continue our focus on alleviating food insecurity by continuing to talk about and collect contributions for Feeding America.

As a reminder, the Feeding America network is the nation's largest domestic hunger-relief organization. They believe that "Together with individuals, charities, businesses and government we can end hunger." They reported that last year they provided **4 billion meals**. This is why we've chosen to continue our focus on Feeding America in April.

Raymond Food Pantry

Many thanks for the tasty chicken and broccoli dinner delivered to the Pantry in February! Then the "favorite" of clientele - the meatloaf dinner in March!

As a reminder, generally, attendance is down at the Raymond Food Pantry until April or May, so we will wait until they need us, then make the Raymond Food Pantry our mission for that month.

Pastor Petra's Vacation

Pastor Petra will be on vacation from Monday April 5th through April 13th and out of the pulpit on Sunday April 11th and Sunday April 18th. April 11th will be a lay led worship by the Deacons. April 18th worship will be led by the Rev. Allison Curry.

April Birthdays

April 2nd
April 4th
April 12th
April 26th

Tom Wiley
Tim Morris
Bekah Gagne
Frank Morrison



Holy Week

- **Palm Sunday, March 28th. YES! There will be palms** for you to pick up on **Saturday March 27th** in a bucket outside the vestry door. Then you will be ready to wave your palms during the traditional introtit "The Palms" from YouTube.
- **Maundy Thursday, April 1st** at 6p.m. there will be a brief worship service via Zoom using the Sunday worship line. The worship will focus on the crucifixion of Christ.
- **Good Friday, April 2nd** there will be an opportunity for home devotional sent to you via email. Pastor Petra and the deacons are putting together appropriate Bible verses, readings and YouTube music.
- **Before Easter:** It would be great to be together in church and see the fabulous flower display that you all contribute to each year. However, we will be safely in our homes. That does not stop two traditions!
 - Having **Easter flowers** – we recommend you purchase what you'd like to have and have it in your home where we can see the flowers on Zoom.
 - **Remembering loved ones** – if you wish to offer up name(s) in celebration or remembrance, **by March 28th**, please email Caryl Gilman at carylgilman@gmail.com and I will put together a remembrance sheet we will mail out on the Thursday before Easter.
- **Easter early morning April 4th**, there is a sunrise service at 6:30 a.m. at the Casco Village Community church outside out behind the church.
- **Easter, April 4th** - put your flowers at home on display! The worship on Zoom will begin with "Christ the Lord is Risen Today" and end with the "Hallelujah Chorus" from YouTube. Keith will be playing a number of hymns as well. Let's celebrate together!

Moderator Musings



Where do you put your elbow grease?

I used the term “spiritual elbow grease” in the Wednesday night book study that I enjoyed with other members of our church. I was talking about how the class has resulted in extra work being applied to our faith spirit.

It seems the term “elbow grease” was used nearly 350 years ago in a poem that was written in 1672. The poem was written as satire against Samuel Parker who was an English church leader.

The poem was titled Rehearsal Transpos'd and was written by Andrew Marvell. He used it to describe the power of the written word vs. the spoken word. The written words could circulate unhinged, but the spoken words can change and even be rebutted in oratory discussions.

Part of what he wrote was:

Two or Three fellows in a corner with ink and elbow grease do more harm than a hundred systematical divines with their sweaty preaching.

The term “elbow grease” is an idiom for physical work. So how did this term continue through the years to end up meaning hard work or extra work, which sometimes may be all that is needed.

Certainly, we have all used elbow grease to clean many things. From household items to vehicles to treasures from the past, buried deep in the soil. They all take extra elbow grease to restore them.

I used the term to mean extra work being put into better understanding of the bible and all that it offers. But how often do we use elbow grease to find the faults of others? We put in extra time complaining about something we really have no control over and does not affect us. Look at the world around us.

Perhaps we should all use some spiritual elbow grease to get back to a better understanding of “love your neighbor as yourself.” These thoughts appear in both the book of Mark and Matthew. Maybe it was put there twice so we might pick up on it.?

So, let's put that spiritual elbow grease to good use. We hope all the extra work with your “spiritual elbow grease”, results in a positive way.

Until next time..... Keep scrubbing away

Tom Wiley, Moderator

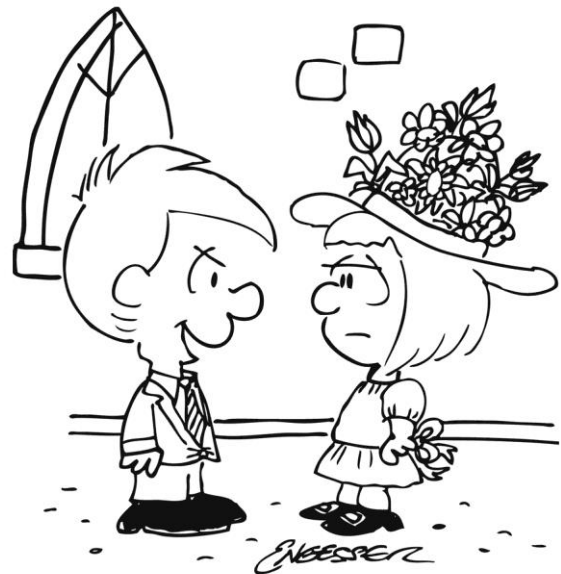
Knitting & Crocheting Group

Our knitting and crocheting group has been meeting in the re-painted Sunday School room next to the furnace room. As the weather grows warmer, we will meet outside if possible. We meet on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month from 2:00 – 3:30 p.m. We will continue to follow all necessary COVID protocols to keep everyone safe. We ask everyone to 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.

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



“An Easter bonnet? I thought you were Lady Gaga.”

Summary of Monday, March 8, 2021 Coordinating Council and Deacons Meeting

A joint meeting of coordinating council and deacons was called to order via zoom, at 6:00 p.m., on Monday, March 8, 2021, by Tom Wiley. Present were Tom, Deb, Judy, Rolf, Brenda, Caryl, Petra, and Nancy.

Caryl offered the opening prayer.

The agenda was reviewed, aiming for an end time of 7:15 p.m..

Caryl made a motion, seconded by Rolf, and passed, to accept the minutes of the February 16, 2021 meeting.

Craig Messinger joined the meeting to discuss pot roast suppers for 2021. We will plan to start in May, they will still be a drive through event. We agreed on price of \$12 per meal, we will continue to ask people to make reservations. Craig and Rolf will increase this number to account for those who do not call ahead. We agreed on the second Saturday of each month, Craig will get dates and other information to Judy in time for the April Weathervane. Caryl suggested that we also hold a pie sale during the October supper as a fundraiser.

Treasurer's Report: Brenda presented the financial report for February. Current contributions were \$2,945 for the month in the general fund. This was less than budget for the month by \$1,180, but over budget for the year by \$407. There have been no new pledges. Rent for January and February was received this month. Total income of \$4,773 was under budget for the month by \$1,035, but over budget by \$607 year to date. Most expenses, except for heating oil were under budget for the year. There were two oil deliveries for the church in February. Brenda is going to look into why expenses for secretary are under budget. Total expenses of \$7,105 was under budget for the month by \$2,189. Brenda is continuing to keep an eye on the cash flow. Nancy made a motion, seconded by Caryl and passed to accept treasurer's report subject to year end review.

Clerk: Judy reported that she has completed inputting 2020 membership and statistical information into the UCC data hub.

Trustees: Rolf reported that he has had to raise set point on thermostats to maintain a better air flow in the building, heating cost may go up slightly.

Missions: Caryl reported that our mission for February had been Good Shepherd Food Bank. We will be sending them \$350, \$250 from Missions budget, \$100 from donations from congregation. In March, our mission project will be Feeding America. We will also be

collecting for the first special UCC offering of the year in March, One Great Hour of Sharing.

Stewardship: Brenda has recently sent out stewardship statements and letter, trying to get a few more pledges in.

Deacons: Deacons had met on Sunday, March 7th, focusing on Lent activities. Petra will be on vacation from April 5th through April 13th, and out of the pulpit on Sundays, April 11th and 18th. The deacons will do a lay service on the 11th. Rev. Allison Curry will preach on the 18th.

Moderator: There was discussion on when we want to get into the church to work on sound issues. Tom also reported that Keith would like to receive enlarged copies of the hymns for each Sunday. It was suggested that Keith be in touch directly with Lori to set this up.

Pastor: Petra reminded us that the Maundy Thursday service will be on the same link that we use for worship on Sunday mornings. On Easter morning, April 4th, we have been invited to join the Casco church for a 6:30 a.m. sunrise service, in their parking lot. There will not be a breakfast following the service this year. Our regular Easter morning 10:00 a.m. service will be via zoom. People are asked to purchase their own Easter flowers to share with everyone on zoom. There will be some Easter flowers in the church. Lori will be singing as part of our Easter morning service. There was a discussion on how to best use soloists on zoom, would it work better to pre record them. Petra reported that there are 8 people, including herself in the Lenten book study. It is going well.

Old Business: none

New Business: There was brief discussion on reopening, possibly May 1st. Judy will talk with Lori about when to print Weathervane, and will get out date for when they need information for it. There was brief discussion about what would happen if we all unmute ourselves and try to do prayer or sing together during worship. Input from Brenda is that it may not sound good. We will, however, try and do the Lord's Prayer together on Easter.

The next meeting will be April 20th, at 6:00 p.m.. Meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Munson, Clerk

**LOOKING TO EARN SOME
\$\$\$ MONEY \$\$\$
DURING APRIL VACATION?!**

Sign up for **RAKE WEEK** at
MIGIS LODGE

April 19th – April 23rd
Exercise, Fresh Air, and
Up To \$13.50 an Hour...

Text, Call or Email Noah Seavey
207-409-7522 noah@migis.com

Text, Call or Email Matt Letellier -
207-281-2023 matt@migis.com
(no calls after 8PM, please)

**DON'T WAIT,
CONTACT US RIGHT AWAY!!!!!!**

Facilities Management Team
MIGIS LODGE – ROUTE 302 – SOUTH CASCO



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