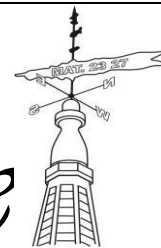

The Weathervane



RAYMOND VILLAGE COMMUNITY CHURCH, United Church of Christ Newsletter

May, 2021

**Breaking News: We are planning to start in person worship services on Sunday May 23rd.
See Page 6 for more details!**

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From the Pastor . . .

Dear RVCC members and friends,

There are signs that the earth is beginning to wake up again. The sun is warmer, and the days are longer. There are signs of new life peeking through the ground. What flower will we find first? Some of you spotted crocuses a few weeks ago.

Early April Scott and I went to Cape Cod. My heart was so excited to see daffodils in full bloom all along Main Street in Brewster. A feast for your eyes when we have been used to dirty snow, brown yards and sandy roads. When we came back home, we had to scale back our excitement about seeing any flowers but were nevertheless thrilled to notice the snow gone from the end of our driveway.

After being back home for a week, our forsythia is starting to bloom and there is a hint of green grass. Flowers are breaking through the earth. There seems to be a miracle of growth and renewal. Every day there is something new in creation to admire. It seemed like it happened overnight when our neighbor's magnolia tree blossomed with beautiful white flowers.

New life is happening. Remember when Jesus spent time with the woman at the well and the blind man? Both were not accepted members of society. When Jesus spent time with them, they experience being fully loved for who they were. A new life began for them.

It is through the lens of Jesus' suffering, death on the cross, and resurrection that we look to find ourselves transformed with new hope and new beginnings. May we embrace new blossoms in nature, new blossoms in our hearts, and new blossoms in the life of our church.

We look forward to a new beginning as the church council is discussing worshipping in the sanctuary again. So many of you have expressed

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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 . . .

- May 2, 2021- 10:00 a.m. – Worship on Zoom
2:00 p.m. – Deacon’s meeting on Zoom
- May 8, 2021- 5:00 p.m. – Drive Thru Pot Roast Supper
- May 9, 2021- 10:00 a.m. – Worship on Zoom
- May 11, 2021- 5:00 p.m. – Council meeting on Zoom
- May 16, 2021- 10:00 a.m. – Worship on Zoom
- May 23, 2021- 10:00 a.m. – Pentecost Worship in person and on Zoom
- May 30, 2021- 10:00 a.m. – Worship in person and 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 Burdett, Michael Cadotte,
Louise Doyle, Polly Dyer, Christine Eldridge,
Linda Eldridge, Anne Hodgman, Cherie Moore,
Walt Read, Charlotte Rowe, Frank Sullivan,
Dan Tibbetts, Penny Warrikoff, Janet Walker,
Adma Willis

From the Pastor, continued . . .

excitement about seeing each other in person. For the last four months we have been worshipping on ‘Zoom’ and we are almost ready to embark on the next adventure of reopening the sanctuary and being together. Stay tuned...

Let me leave you with the poem Spring by Susan Filson:

*Spring appears in whispers and hushed tones, as the
bellowing winter bows away. Drowsy flowers come to
attention waking from their sleep-yawning; with heads
turned upwards the Maestro called Sun. I watch with
anticipation as...the concert begins.*

Peace and Joy,

Pastor Petra

May Lectionary Lessons

May 2, 2021 – Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 8:26-40
Psalm 22:25-31
1 John 4:7-21
John 15:1-8

May 9, 2021 – Sixth Sunday of Easter

Acts 10:44-48
Psalm 98
1 John 5:1-6
John 15:9-17

May 16, 2021 – Seventh Sunday of Easter

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26
Psalm 1
1 John 5:9-13
John 17:6-19

May 23, 2021 – Pentecost Sunday

Acts 2:1-21 or *Ezekiel 37:1-14*
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
Romans 8:22-27 or *Acts 2:1-21*
John 15:26-27; 16:4b-1

May 30, 2021 – First Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 6:1-8
Psalm 29
Romans 8:12-17
John 3:1-17

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

March-April Missions – YOU are awesome!

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) – you donated **\$180!**

Feeding America – you donated **\$115!** The mission fund “doubled” that and together we sent **\$365!**

May Mission – Strengthen the Church

May 23, Pentecost Sunday, there will be a collection for Strengthen the Church. The Strengthen the Church Offering reflects the shared commitment of people across the United Church of Christ to cooperatively build up the UCC. The funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations. Conferences and the national setting equally share the gifts given by members and friends through their local congregations. **By your generosity to this offering, you build up the Body of Christ.**

Raymond Food Pantry

As a reminder, generally, attendance is down at the Raymond Food Pantry until late spring. We are connecting with the Food Pantry to determine when they need our help and they type of help needed. More to come!

May Birthdays – *do any need to be removed?????*

May 1	A.J. Olsen
May 4	Kathleen Bent
May 12	Charlotte Rowe
May 18	Judy Day
May 26	Christine Eldridge
May 30	Alice Morrison
May 30	Chuck Waldron



CHURCH WORLD SERVICE KITS

When I went searching yesterday, I was amazed at the amount we had collected last fall for the school kits. Thank you all so much. I am in the process of sorting it and putting it in bags. There is a bin outside the vestry door for any donations you wish to make toward the hygiene kits. The list of what needs to go into those kits is in the All Church email. I will pick up any items that are in the bin next Wednesday, the 5th, and take everything to the local collection depot next Thursday. Thanks for your generosity.

Congratulations to us!

As was presented at the annual meeting, we are embarking on a multi step plan to help improve the accessibility of our church to those with handicaps. The plans for this year are to do some reshaping on the driveway area near the existing ramp, to do some rework on the entry way and vestibule entrance to the sanctuary, do some modifications to the pews on the right-hand side in the sanctuary, construct a handicap ramp in the sanctuary and to remove the porch/breezeway on the thrift shop.

It was mentioned that we would be looking at grants that could help us with the financial side of this endeavor and consequently we applied for a grant “resourcing the local church” thru the Cumberland association of the UCC. We were informed this week, that we are the recipient of this grant at the maximum amount of \$5,000.

A big thanks goes out to the team of Brenda Olsen, Caryl Gillman, Bob Yates and Rolf Olsen who pulled together the information and prepared the grant application.

Keep in mind that the awarding of the grant is only the beginning of the process The hard work starts now of getting the work done. This will need assistance from all hands. There will be things that all can do ranging from some yard work and general after construction cleaning to helping hands with much of the work. Don't wait to be asked ... volunteer now and get to the head of the line!

Moderator Musings



Flowers and People. There are many varieties of flowers out there and nearly as many traits and personalities of people. I will never claim to know anything more than the basics of each grouping. Folks spend years studying both; and even earn doctorates. But recently I have been given some thoughts to how some flowers are just like some people.

During Easter, folks were asked to present their flowers on screen to help bring some normalcy to the season. Each and every time I looked at our Easter Lilies, I could not help but note that when it bloomed, each flower looked like an old fashion victrola. It opened wide and loud to pronounce that “Hallelujah, Christ has Risen.” And today they still remain open. I suspect you know some people like that. They are wide open and ready to shout to the highest. Some might even say that could be me.

And then what about the simplicity of a Tulip. It is firm and strong as a bud but does not open too wide when compared to the Easter Lily. It remains centered in its original state. The characteristics of a Tulip would be to be strong but not too big and bold. I can name a few people like that.

And then we look further down the spring calendar we will have some Dandelions sprouting up. Now we all know they are not really flowers but appear as such. That’s right. They are a weed. A negative, nuisance that grows in your lawn. Yet some folks find the beauty of them and make a feast of Dandelion greens or even go further to create a Dandelion wine. This takes the negative out of the lowly Dandelion and finds the good in it. Just like the Dandelion which may be a nuisance, there can be found good and useful purposes in each of us.

And then think further what about the Carnation. They can take on many colors to become an accessory for the upcoming senior prom. A flower that is very versatile. I bet you know some folks like that too. Some one who is always very dependable and steadfast.

And we all know that with every Rose there comes a thorn. A beautiful colorful flower but also has a sharp side to it. Do you know someone like that? Just approach with care!

Later in the summer we have the simplicity of Daisies and Buttercups . Yellow and white for the majority of the

Continued next column . . .

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

Moderator Musings, continued . . .

colors. Always bringing joy. To me, they seem like a basic flower. Maybe there is more there than meets the eye. We’ll have to ask those with a botanical background to be sure. But we too know folks who would be the Daisies and Buttercups of the world.

And as autumn begins to take hold, we have the Sunflower appearing to shout its presence with its large size flowers and abundance of seeds. The summer is coming to an end but not without a final hurrah. We all know someone who is a late bloomer but provides so much. Thank you, Sunflowers!

But who was the poor sap that the Stinking Benjamin was named after?

Tom Wiley Moderator



**WE WILL RE-OPEN FOR IN-PERSON WORSHIP ON
Pentecost Sunday - May 23, 2021!**

Our sanctuary will be decorated with red geraniums that will be handed out. We invite everyone to wear red! Please invite a friend to join us!

We will have an outdoor Coffee Hour with coffee, tea and treats!
(Bring a sweater just in case.)

We are planning a month-long celebration of re-opening for RVCC!
Stay tuned for details of special celebrations each week.

Of course, we will continue to follow COVID protocols to ensure the health and safety of our congregation. We will continue to require masks and social distancing in the sanctuary.

For the first few weeks, we will offer a hybrid worship which will be in person and on Zoom for those who do not feel comfortable worshipping in person.

We can't wait to see YOU!!!!



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Dear RVCC members and friends,

I'd like to share with you an opportunity to experience a day of Abundant Hope, and "hope" that you will save the morning of May 16th.

Below is a message from Rev Tim Higgins with all the information you need to participate.

I will be preaching that morning on the topic of Hope and joining the outdoor wellness fair at St. Ann's later that morning and look forward to seeing you there.

Blessings,

Pastor Petra

What is a "Day of Abundant Hope"?

It's a day when **Hope** teams with **Faith** and believes in what's possible.

Religious leaders join to share a message of Abundant Hope from their individual platforms to help congregations deal with and potentially come out of COVID along with resiliency and hope in the conversation about recovering from addiction.

In this conversation about resiliency, it's important to have a positive, hopeful, solution focused outlook on what's possible.

We believe there are plenty of stories, resources and opportunities to shine a light on the goodness that is found in our communities with those celebrating prevention and freedom from addiction.

The fact is that no one is immune from the devastation of addiction and everyone who has recovered has a story to share, every story matters and every story shines a light for others to see.

As a community, we all have the power to **amplify** - on this day we're choosing to **amplify** messages of **hope** and **resiliency**.

We are unified around the desire to share a message of abundant hope on the same day so that, as a group, our voices can be just a little bit louder.

See next page for more details about the event . . .



Raymond Village Community Church

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

Day Of Abundant Hope

Join us for the day as religious leaders unite to amplify a message of resiliency & hope followed by a covid-safe outdoor wellness fair!

Highlights include:

- Adding your personalized piece to Glenn Simpson's new art puzzle project:
Building Community Connections
 - Interactive team games
 - Demos with yoga, reiki, mindfulness
 - Swag bags with resources available
- Substance Prevention & Recovery vendors
 - Toast Truck and more ...

May 16, 2021
10am – 1pm

At St. Ann's Episcopal Church
in Windham