

The Weathervane

RAYMOND VILLAGE COMMUNITY CHURCH, United Church of Christ Newsletter

July, 2021

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From the Pastor . . .

Dear RVCC Family and Friends,

A few weeks ago, I mentioned during a worship service that we have an opportunity to ponder and enter into conversation with one another as we entertain the future of our church. This week, our newly designated term Associate Conference minister Alexis Fuller-Wright is inviting us to contemplate answering several questions to help us think about our own wishes and dreams for the Raymond Village Community Church. The questions are very thought provoking. I have included part of her letter to the Maine Conference below. Please share your insights and ideas with each other. I would love to hear from you via e-mail at: petra@maine.rr.com.

Please note, I will be leaving for vacation after worship on August 8 and will be away for 3 weeks.

Blessings on your summer,

Pastor Petra

Beloved Maine Conference,

It's a privilege to start our work together at this particular moment in time, as we begin to imagine what our post-pandemic realities will look like for the church. The pandemic has had a tremendous cost, and yet it's offering us a once-in-a-lifetime chance to pause and reimagine who we want to be as the gathered body of Christ and how we want to operate moving forward.

It would be easy to fall back into old patterns, but instead, I hope our churches will take some time to harvest our learnings from the last 15 months:

- *What did we gain during the pandemic that we don't want to lose?*
- *What did we lose? Are there parts that we don't miss?*
- *What do we need to grieve before we can welcome the new thing God is doing in our midst?*
- *What gifts does the church have to help people move through the cycle of death and resurrection?*

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 . . .

July 4, 2021-	10:00 a.m. – Worship
July 10, 2021-	5:00 p.m. – Drive Thru Pot Roast Supper
July 11, 2021-	10:00 a.m. – Worship
July 15, 2021-	5:30 p.m. – Council/Deacon's meeting/social
July 18, 2021-	10:00 a.m. – Worship
July 22, 2021-	12:00 p.m. – Pastoral Relations Committee
July 25, 2021-	10:00 a.m. – Worship
July 27, 2021-	5:00 p.m. – Council meeting

For July and August, services for the FIRST Sunday of each month will be recorded and may be viewed on our YouTube channel at:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCc1hBkBTarnZF-H4O7YN5ew>

Please join us for Coffee Hour outside under the awning after Worship!

Line Dancing will begin the week of July 12 and will be on Monday, Thursday and Friday from 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. in the Vestry.

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, Michael Cadotte, Louise Doyle,
Polly Dyer, Christine Eldridge, Linda Eldridge,
Anne Hodgman, Kaleigh Leighton, Mike Lindell,
Cherie Moore, Walt Read, Charlotte Rowe,
Frank Sullivan, Dan Tibbetts, Penny Warrikoff,
Janet Walker, Adma Willis

From the Pastor, continued . . .

The Greek root of the word crisis is "to sift," as in to shake out the excesses and leave only what's important. I wonder if perhaps the gift in the crisis of this pandemic is that it is allowing us to get clear about what is worthy of our time and energy, and how Jesus is calling us to follow in this moment.

As you harvest this wisdom, I pray that you will share your insights with us, so that together we can find our way towards the new thing God is doing in our midst. May it be so.

*God's Peace,
Alexis*

July Lectionary Lessons

July 4, 2021 – Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10

Psalm 48

Ezekiel 2:1-5

Psalm 123

2 Corinthians 12:2-10

Mark 6:1-13

July 11, 2021 – Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19

Psalm 24

Amos 7:7-15

Psalm 85:8-13

Ephesians 1:3-14

Mark 6:14-29

July 18, 2021 – Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

2 Samuel 7:1-14a

Psalm 89:20-37

Jeremiah 23:1-6

Psalm 23

Ephesians 2:11-22

Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

July 25, 2021 – Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

2 Samuel 11:1-15

Psalm 14

2 Kings 4:42-44

Psalm 145:10-18

Ephesians 3:14-21

John 6:1-21

RVCC Pot Roast Suppers Continue!



Our next supper is:

July 10, 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 continue to have monthly “take out” suppers,
so save the following dates:**

**August 14, 2021
September 11, 2021
October 9, 2021**

Missions Corner

We hope you all had a chance to be in church on June 13 to hear the Missions Sunday presentation about what RVCC has done for missions in the past year. (Sorry the YouTube recording has an echo).

We support a number of organizations now and yet always have room for more. Is there a non-profit organization you know that helps

- alleviate hunger?
- provide access to clean water?
- provides shelter?
- provides needed clothing?

If you would like RVCC to help, please contact Judy Munson, Caryl Gilman (627-5073) or Pastor Petra. Thanks!

If you have not seen the presentation and would like to do so, just ask Caryl about it.

Raymond Food Pantry

In Caryl's latest conversation with the Food Pantry Director, he had 4 calls from new patrons, yet the number of patrons who visited for the first pantry in June was still lower than the past. **The patrons were thankful for baked ziti from the RVCC chefs and crew!**

New COVID Guidelines

Based on changes at the State level and the ending of the State of Emergency in the State of Maine, the following changes were decided upon at our June Council/Deacon meeting: We still need to maintain some social distancing, but do not need to worry about restricting numbers in the sanctuary. It was agreed that we can now go in through the vestry, and up those stairs to the sanctuary. People who have been vaccinated do not need to wear masks except to sing. If not vaccinated, we request a mask be worn at all times anywhere in the building. Watch the All Church Email for any updates.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

We wish everyone with a birthday in July a very happy birthday!

July 5
July 12
July 14
July 23
July 24
July 28

Catherine Berry
Brenda Stevenson
Joan Morton
Betty Shively
Nancy Yates
Kaleigh Leighton



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

Summer Music and specifically two Sundays in August

We are enjoying Patrick Martin's musical talents this summer! In addition, we have three other musicians joining us for a Sunday or two. All of these musicians have been with us in prior years

- Gary Witner will share his musical gifts on guitar on June 20.
- Aban Zirikly will play hymns on the piano and play violin on August 8
- Sigrid Sibley will sing and play the guitar and/or mandolin on July 25 and September 5
- Katherine Rhoda will join us as our musician for August 1 and 29. She has a beautiful voice. She specializes in heartfelt music fostering authentic human connection. She plays marxophone, violin-guitar, harpeleik, and more. ***She would feel much more comfortable in our sanctuary if we all wear a mask and not sing.*** She will sing wearing a mask. We hope you understand that, regardless of CDC or government guidance, everyone has a different comfort level.

Thanks.

Moderator Musings

So, I am writing this month's musing from the cathedral of baseball shrines, Cooperstown New York. Home of the National Baseball Hall of Fame. What a quaint little town this is!!!!

This is a picture of Main Street I took at 6 a.m. one morning. Quite the slice of Americana at its best. I went to the diner for breakfast and to watch the best little place awaken and come to life. As the day went on and the week progressed, this place became quite active.

So here goes.....I hope I don't strike out with this month's article. This is the home of heroes and history of a game and a place of all-time records and all-star players.



What would you have been named as being in the hall of fame for? Would it be the champion chocolate chip cookie baker? Or the best boo boo kissing grandmother of all time? How about the best fishing partner and dad? Or would you be infamous for telling the best fish stories?

What about the greatest gardener of all the green earth? Maybe you are an artist and could be awarded with the recognition of the most prolific painter? Or maybe the champion of carpentry and are well known for your craftsmanship?

Maybe you are simply the best doggie mom? I know a few of those and one is in the same house as me. Perhaps some of your reviews may be more infamous than famous. I'll just leave that there as I know I have a few as well.

And I would be remiss if I didn't mention a team of players who are a great combination of faith, fun, and fellowship. That would be my fellow teammates and RVCC council members, deacons and Pastor Petra. A lot sure has been accomplished by this small group especially in spite of and in response to the pandemic. But we could not be the champions of Christ's service without out all the support and trust which you all have in us.

Yes, we work together like the lineup of DiMaggio, Gehrig and Mantle. We do get a lot accomplished with this leadership team in support of the church and greater community.

But any group of all stars always need fresh and new minds and bodies to step forward and invigorate those around them. We still have openings on the RVCC church council.

How about you becoming the next rookie of the year? Who knows what your hall of fame moment will be? Come on Slugger. Step up to the plate and take a swing!!!

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.

LINE DANCING, YEAAAH!!!!

The Raymond Village Community Church council has approved us for starting dancing again the week of July 12!! Classes will be in the Church Vestry Monday, Thursday and Friday. Friday being beginner and a slower pace. All classes will run from 10:00-11:30.

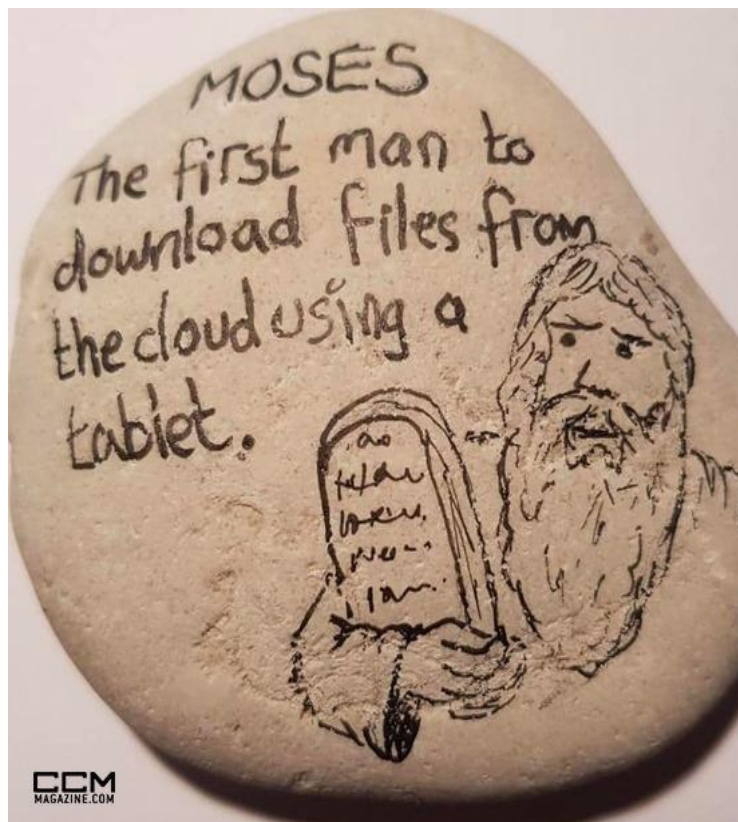
Masks will be optional. If you are fully vaccinated, you do not need to wear one, but feel free to do so if you are more comfortable. If you are not vaccinated, church policy is that you please wear a mask throughout the building. Looking forward to seeing some new faces as well as our dedicated familiar ones. Lets get moving!!

Your instructor: Rachel Knights, 207-655-4284, email: rachelscountryhearts@yahoo.com

Summer Worship Recordings

We have been talking about the recordings posted to YouTube and how to balance meeting the needs of the congregation with respite for Deacons. You may or may not realize that, of the 4 Deacons also tape worship. We have one additional non-deacon who can tape worship. This means that most Sundays we have 2 Deacons on duty – one as deacon and one to record worship. We hope you will understand that, for July and August, we will only record on the first Sunday = Communion. No recordings for other Sundays. Thank you.

Holy Humor



Summary of Tuesday, June 15, 2021 Coordinating Council and Deacons Meeting

The meeting of the coordinating council and deacons was called to order at 5:00 PM on Tuesday, June 15, 2021 by Tom Wiley. Present were Rolf, Brenda, Tom, Judy, Petra, Caryl, Deb, and Nancy Yates.

Deb Feagans offered the opening prayer.

The agenda was reviewed, finish time was tentatively set for 6:15 PM. The council/dacon get together at the home of Tom and Bonnie was tentatively changed from the 14th to 15th of July.

Treasurer's Report: Brenda presented the Treasurer's Report. Contributions are doing well. She did take money from the American Funds for cash flow purposes. Current contributions were \$5,706 for the month in the general fund, this was more than budget by \$1,239. Year to date contributions are \$3,108 over budget. Non pledged contributions were \$863 better than budget for the month, and this was the first month we have recorded any "loose plate" offering. First pot roast supper raised \$706 of net income. Total income of \$7,629 was over budget by \$1,520 for the month, and over budget \$6,251 year to date. This includes gain of \$2,498 in the American Funds. Expenses for the most part were under budget, with the exception of Diaconate. We used one supply pastor in May, and we paid Patrick for three weeks in advance. Total expenses of \$7,814 was under budget by \$1,742 for the month, and under budget by \$5,210 year to date. Nancy Yates made a motion, seconded by Rolf, and approved, to accept the Treasurer's Report subject to year end review.

Discussion on Reopening Guidelines: The following points were agreed upon, to go into effect on July 1: We still need to maintain some social distancing, but do not need to worry about restricting numbers in the sanctuary. It was agreed that we can now go in through the vestry, and up those stairs to the sanctuary. People who have been vaccinated do not need to wear masks except to sing. If not vaccinated, we request a mask be worn at all times anywhere in the building. Coffee hour will continue to be held outside, if weather is nice. There was discussion on singing more verses of hymns, no decisions were made. It was agreed to record services only on communion Sunday during July and August. Line dancing will be able to resume in the Vestry after July 1. No masks required for those who have been vaccinated. Non vaccinated are requested to wear masks.

Discussion on Vaccine Clinic: It was decided to revisit this item in the fall. At this point, you need to guarantee 10

people to hold a clinic. It does not seem that we would be serving a hard to reach population at this point, and vaccines are readily available in local pharmacies.

Reports of the Coordinators:

Clerk: nothing to report

Trustees: Rolf reported that Caryl had primed the front doors into the Sanctuary, they still need to have a final coat. Air conditioning units have been installed. The boy scouts have done the outside clean up.

Missions: Caryl reported that the Fuller Center is our mission for June. We do not have a mission for July, she will ask for suggestions.

Christian Education: Petra reported that she does a kids moment when Emma is in church.

Stewardship: It is time for statements to go out again to those who pledge.

Deacons: The Deacons are trying to get people to volunteer to cover coffee hour.

Moderator: nothing new to report.

Pastor: Petra thanked Caryl for leading worship on June 13. On June 27, Petra will be filling in for Joyce at the E. Raymond chapel. On August 8, she will be leaving for 3 weeks on Cape Cod with her family. She is in the process of setting up coverage for pastoral care for that time.

Old Business: Tom updated us on the search for a new pianist. A search committee has been formed, consisting of himself, Craig, Caryl, Lori, and Alice Oldford. They have met, put together an ad, and have had one applicant. The summer music program is all set, thanks to Caryl.

New Business: Tom will put a teaser in the all church email about changes in worship protocol which are coming up. He will wait until closer to July 1 to put all the changes in. These changes also need to go in the Weathervane. Weathervane will be printed on June 24. Our next meeting will be Tuesday, July 27, at 5:00PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Munson, clerk



Raymond Village Community Church

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