
The Weathervane



RAYMOND VILLAGE COMMUNITY CHURCH, United Church of Christ Newsletter

September, 2021

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From the Pastor . . .

Dear RVCC Family and Friends,

Here is a riddle for you---Who in our congregation is learning a second language? The short answer: All of you are learning a second language right now and have been for years. Can you guess?

Learning a language can be challenging. Our German friends Swen and Roland came to visit us several years ago. It was long before cell phones were part of our daily lives. Their estimated time of arrival was lunchtime; unfortunately, it took them two hours longer to make it to our home. Swen had been practicing his English skills and proudly announced: “We were stuck in a traffic jelly.”

So, you might be curious as to what language we are learning at this time. Jesus is always challenging us with stories that appear so simple on the surface. Jesus asked many questions making us think very carefully about how to answer them.

Trey Hall wrote in the *Christian Century* magazine about “The gospel as a second language”

We all have something to add about our experiences of how the gospel is lived out in our lifetime. Most of us have heard the gospel stories about *The Good Samaritan* as well as *Mary and Martha*. Each of those stories evoking your different viewpoints of what it means to be a Good Samaritan as well as different times in your life when you have been a “Mary” or a “Martha”.

Trey Hall writes: “*The church includes first-and second language speakers, with a myriad of gorgeous accents. Let’s practice together, all testifying to what it’s like to encounter God.*”

On a lighter note, when you receive this newsletter, I will be on Cape Cod visiting with Scott’s family and practicing “Sabbath” which is a great church word too.

May you experience ‘Summer Sabbath’ moments and I look forward to hearing your interpretation of what Sabbath means to you.

Summer Blessings,

Rev. 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 . . .

- September 5, 2021- 10:00 a.m. – Worship – Communion Sunday
- September 8, 2021- 5:00 p.m. – Deacons’ meeting on Zoom
- September 11, 2021- 5:00 p.m. – Drive Thru Pot Roast Supper
- September 12, 2021- 10:00 a.m. - Worship
- September 14, 2021- 2:00 p.m. – Knitting Group
5:00 p.m. – Council Meeting on Zoom
- September 19, 2021- 10:00 a.m. – Worship
- September 26, 2021- 10:00 a.m. – Worship
- September 28, 2021- 2:00 p.m. – Knitting Group

All services 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 after Worship!

Line Dancing is every 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, Charles Lum,
Walt Read, Charlotte Rowe, Frank Sullivan,
Dan Tibbetts, Penny Warrikoff, Janet Walker,
Adma Willis

September Lectionary Lessons

September 5, 2021 - Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23
Psalm 125
Isaiah 35:4-7a
Psalm 146
James 2:1-10, (11-13), 14-17
Mark 7:24-37

September 12, 2021 - Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Proverbs 1:20-33
Psalm 19
Isaiah 50:4-9a
Psalm 116:1-9 *or*
Wisdom of Solomon 7:26 - 8:1
James 3:1-12
Mark 8:27-38

September 19, 2021 - Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Proverbs 31:10-31
Psalm 1
Wisdom of Solomon 1:16-2:1, 12-22 *or*
Jeremiah 11:18-20
Psalm 54
James 3:13 - 4:3, 7-8a
Mark 9:30-37

September 26, 2021 - Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22
Psalm 124
Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29
Psalm 19:7-14
James 5:13-20
Mark 9:38-50

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

RVCC Pot Roast Suppers Continue!



Our next supper is:

September 11, 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.

Save the date for our LAST take out supper of the year on October 9, 2021!

LINE DANCING, YEAAAH!!!!

Line Dancing is continuing into the Fall. New people are invited to join at any time! Classes will be in the Church Vestry Monday, Thursday and Friday. Friday being beginner and a slower pace class. 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.

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

Moderator Musings



Well, we are in the midst of the harvest season. Folks have canned pickles, tomato sauce, green beans and many other items. You've probably had some fresh grown corn on the cob. Earlier in the year you probably picked some berries and ate what you could and made some jams and jellies for the upcoming winter season.

It certainly has been a bountiful growing season aided by the June warmth and the July rains. At our house we have had a fine crop of tomatoes and potatoes from our container gardens. And each week we have received additional vegetables from a farm share.

Soon, we will pick fresh apples and enjoy the bounty of pies, crisps, apple sauce and just good ole apples to eat by hand. And fall will see the bounty of pumpkins and winter squash soon arrive.

There are many local farm markets and road side stands to obtain the freshest that mother earth has to offer. And there are many folks out there who have spent many hours out in all kinds of weather to bring us these pleasantries. Let's say our blessings for all those who have helped us benefit not only our food, but also our love for this time of year

And slowly, the days length has diminished and soon we will be celebrating a harvest moon. The harvest moon is one of the harbingers of the coming of autumn. This moon tends to give off extra light as the days become shorter and the nights longer. This moon is one of the biggest and brightest based on the tilt of the earth at this time of year. In days of yore, farmers would use the moonlight as extra time to help with the harvest.

Eventually, we will look forward to the spring time again, so we can begin the process of getting to that ultimate harvest again. It is a perpetual cycle of growth and renewal that comes at just the right time to will away the doldrums of winter.

But let's not wish the harvest away just yet. Take the time to enjoy the changing of the season. Grab those most recent treasures from the garden, pick some apples, and prepare for the autumn to come once again. Yes, we have shorter days ahead, but to me some of the best times of the year are in September!!!

What about you?..... Are some of your favorite days, this time of the year?

Tom Wiley Moderator

Missions Corner

As we close out August, we will end our collection of socks for **Grace Street ministry** on Sept 5.

(<https://www.gracestreetministry.org/>)

For the end of August through mid-September, we will be collecting school supplies for school kits (mailed out in May). Please bring

- Blunt scissors
- 70 count notebooks (3 per kit)
- 12 inch ruler
- hand held pencil sharpener

Please note that this list is shorter than normal, we already have plenty of pencils, crayons and erasers.

Raymond Food Pantry – Many thanks to the team who cooked and delivered meatloaf dinners to the pantry on 8/12. Patrons and staff enjoyed them!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

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

September 1	Bryce Sullivan
September 2	Roy Lindell
September 4	Gwen Roach
September 7	Emily & Will Feagans
September 10	Tracie Morris
September 13	Robin Morrison



Summary of Tuesday, July 27, 2021 Coordinating Council/Deacons Meeting

A joint meeting of coordinating council and deacons was called to order via zoom at 5:00 PM, on Tuesday, July 27, 2021 by Tom Wiley. Present were Tom, Rolf, Petra, Nancy, Brenda, Caryl, Deb, and Judy.

Nancy offered the opening prayer.

Tom reviewed the agenda and set an end time of 6:00 PM.

Treasurer's Report: Brenda reported no surprises in the financial report. American Funds are doing well, the gain in them has covered the withdrawal we had to take for cash flow purposes. Total income for the month of \$8,808 was over budget by \$2,100 for the month, and over by \$8,351 year to date (includes gain of \$5,728 in American Funds). Total expenses of \$5,177 was under budget by \$1,570 for the month, and by \$6,750 year to date. Nancy made a motion, seconded by Caryl, and approved to accept treasurer's report subject to year end review.

Reports of the Coordinators:

Clerk: nothing to report.

Trustees: Rolf reported that the annual state inspection on the Parsonage is coming up shortly. He and Nate are doing a few things to prepare, but he doesn't expect any problems.

Missions: Caryl has not received any suggestions for new missions. We will do socks for homeless in Portland during the month of August.

Christian Education: nothing to report

Stewardship: Tom has spoken with Craig, he will be able to run the August Pot Roast Supper. Brenda is about to send out Stewardship letter and statements for second quarter of the year.

Deacons: Caryl reported that their schedule for August is all set.

Moderator: Reports from Tom will come later on the agenda.

Pastor: Petra reported that we can feel free to call Jona at the conference office if we have any questions or problems during her time away. Jona is prepared to help if people we have lined up for coverage are not available at the last minute. Petra also reported that Paul Nickerson is offering a workshop via zoom, on September 11, with follow up coaching on the topic of "Telling our Story and Sharing our Faith". Petra will send the info to us. Caryl suggested that we try to involve others from the congregation, not just council members and deacons.

Audio/Visual and Covid Discussion:

It was agreed that the wearing of masks while singing seems to be well accepted. It was agreed that we need microphones on each podium, or a wireless on each person, even if we are not taping. We still seem to have problems with sound quality. We could attach wireless microphone to a lavolier, or we also have a holder that attaches to ones head, which we could try. Rolf feels a lot of our sound problem is due to moving of head away from microphone. We need to continue to work on sound quality, especially if we are going to start taping again in September. The Maine conference UCC has contacts that we may try to confer with.

Old Business: Rolf updated us on handicap accessibility projects which are being partially funded by UCC through Strengthen the Church grant. Work on driveway will not be until September. We may need to go with a metal ramp, not wood, in the sanctuary. There was concern expressed about noise of metal. It will be a permanent, not temporary installation, so should not be too bad. Tom announced that we have found a new pianist, he thanked members of the search committee. His official start date will be in September, but we are proceeding with paperwork, in case we need him to fill in sooner. His name is Michael Bostock, a student at Waynelete, and the Portland Conservatory of Music, and very active in a number of musical groups and ensembles in Portland area.

New Business: Brenda Olsen announced that the status of Raymond Arts Alliance has kind of fizzled during Covid. They will become a committee of the library. The financial agreement between the church and RAA will cease to exist, but they will continue to pay us to rent space for some events. There was discussion about whether we need to update our rental use document. We will need to look at fees for them.

The next meeting will be on September 14, at 5:00 PM via zoom. The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Munson, Clerk



Raymond Village Community Church

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Knitting & Crocheting Group

Our knitting and crocheting group has been meeting in the re-painted Sunday School room next to the furnace room. As nice weather continues, 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. Here are some other instructions

- **Please bring your own folding chair.**
- **Masks are optional 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.**

September Worship Updates . . .

September communion will be Sunday September 5. This will be the last Sunday in our summer worship music series. Sigrid Sibley will sing and play the guitar and/or mandolin. Thanks to all of our summer musicians!

As Summer comes to an end, we will begin recording services every week and posting them to YouTube. Visit our YouTube channel if you are not able to join us in person. The link is:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCc1hBkB TarnZF-H4O7YN5ew>

September 12 is the “premiere” of our new pianist, Michael Bostock. His qualifications include first place in Portland Conservatory of Music 2020 Ocy L Downs piano competition, performing music from memory. We are lucky to be able to hire him! Please join us in welcoming Michael to RVCC!