



The Weathervane

RAYMOND VILLAGE COMMUNITY CHURCH, United Church of Christ Newsletter

October, 2021

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From the Pastor . . .

Dear RVCC Family and Friends,

Although it is only October, I find myself celebrating Thanksgiving early this year. Managing all the emotions surrounding my mother’s terminal cancer diagnosis only three months after my father’s passing has been challenging. Despite this difficult time, it is with sincere gratitude that I say thank you to this wonderful congregation for all your love, support, and prayers while I take the needed time to support my mom. You have no idea how very touched my mother and I are for all your kindness. My mom mentions often how she appreciates “her” RVCC prayer warriors and how she feels the power of those prayers. She is constantly sending her love to you all. As do I. From the bottom of my heart, thank you.

As we enter the season of fall, I came across a reflection by Parker Palmer who is one of my favorite authors. He is a writer, speaker, and activist who focuses on issues in education, community, leadership, spirituality and social change. Below are excerpts of his essay which he wrote in 1995. If you are interested in reading this article in its entirety, it can be found on fetzer.org

Autumn is a season of great beauty, but it is also a season of decline: the days grow shorter, the light is suffused, and summer’s abundance decays toward winter’s death. Faced with this inevitable winter, what does nature do in autumn? She scatters the seeds that will bring new growth in the spring—and she scatters them with amazing abandon.

This hopeful notion that living is hidden within dying is surely enhanced by the visual glories of autumn. What artist would ever have painted a season of dying with such a vivid palette if nature had not done it first? Does death possess a beauty that we—who fear death, who find it ugly and obscene—cannot see? How shall we understand autumn’s testimony that death and elegance go hand in hand?

For me, the words that come closest to answering those questions are the words of Thomas Merton: “There is in all visible things...a hidden wholeness.”

Autumn constantly reminds me that my daily dyings are necessary precursors to new life. If I try to “make” a life that defies the diminishments of autumn, the life I end up with will be artificial, at best, and utterly colorless as well. But when I yield to the endless interplay

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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 . . .

- October 3, 2021- 10:00 a.m. – Worship – World Communion Sunday
- October 5, 2021- 5:00 p.m. – Deacons’ meeting on Zoom
- October 9, 2021- 5:00 p.m. – Drive Thru Pot Roast Supper
- October 10, 2021- 10:00 a.m. – Worship with Rev. Jonna Jensen
- October 12, 2021- 2:00 p.m. – Knitting Group
- October 17, 2021- 10:00 a.m. – Worship
- October 20, 2021- 6:00 p.m. – Council Meeting on zoom
- October 24, 2021- 10:00 a.m. – Worship
- October 26, 2021- 2:00 p.m. – Knitting Group
- October 31, 2021- 10:00 a.m. – Worship

All services will be recorded and may be viewed on our YouTube channel at:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCc1hBkBTar_nZF-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.

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, Phil Bostock, Wanda Bostock, Sheila Bourque, Michael Cadotte, Amy Downing, Louise Doyle, Polly Dyer, Christine Eldridge, Linda Eldridge, Rick Emery, Anne Hodgman, Kaleigh Leighton, Charles Lum, Walt Read, Charlotte Rowe, Frank Sullivan, Dan Tibbetts, Penny Warrikoff, Janet Walker, Adma Willis

October Lectionary Lessons

October 3, 2021 – 19th Sunday after Pentecost

Job 1:1, 2:1-10

Psalm 26

Genesis 2:18-24

Psalm 8

Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12

Mark 10:2-16

October 10, 2021 – 20th Sunday after Pentecost

Job 23:1-9, 16-17

Psalm 22:1-15

Amos 5:6-7, 10-15

Psalm 90:12-17

Hebrews 4:12-16

Mark 10:17-31

October 17, 2021 – 21st Sunday after Pentecost

Job 38:1-7, (34-41)

Psalm 104:1-9, 24, 35c

Isaiah 53:4-12

Psalm 91:9-16

Hebrews 5:1-10

Mark 10:35-45

October 24, 2021 – 22nd Sunday after Pentecost

Job 42:1-6, 10-17

Psalm 34:1-8, (19-22)

Jeremiah 31:7-9

Psalm 126

Hebrews 7:23-28

Mark 10:46-52

October 31, 2021 – 23rd Sunday after Pentecost

Ruth 1:1-18

Psalm 146

Deuteronomy 6:1-9

Psalm 119:1-8

Hebrews 9:11-14

Mark 12:28-34

From the Pastor, continued . . .

of living and dying, dying and living, the life I am given will be real and colorful, fruitful and whole.

This is a beautiful reflection on the Paradox of Fall and what a wonderful way to welcome Autumn.

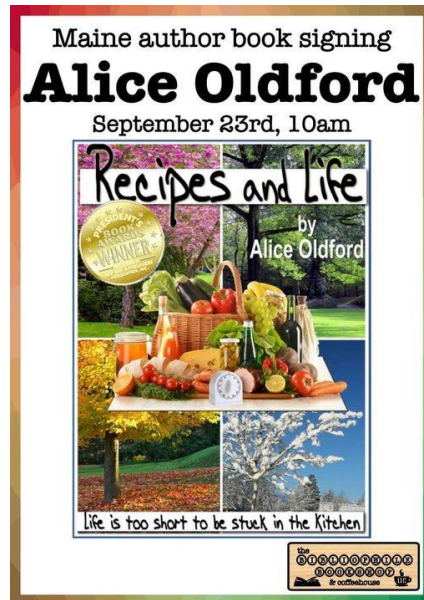
Blessings and Joy,

Pastor Petra

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALICE OLDFORD!

Check out the new independent bookstore in town at the Raymond Shopping Center, BIBLIOPHILE BOOKSHOP AND COFFEEHOUSE. New books, including a nice section for Maine authors, used books, gift items.

Bibliophile invited Alice Oldford for a book signing recently. Attendees enjoyed sampling Alice's gluten free brownies and trading kitchen tips and tricks. RECIPES AND LIFE sold out, but do not worry, shop owner Jessica Thompson-McCombs, immediately ordered more copies. Author signed books will be in the shop Oct 1. A great stocking stuffer, gift for a new graduate, shower, or someone moving into their first home.



DON'T MISS THE LAST POT ROAST SUPPER OF THE YEAR! Saturday October 9, 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.

Moderator Musings



Technology has its grip on our lives these days. Every ring, boing, beep, buzz and vibration are somehow impacting our day. Perhaps it is a call from a loved one, a video of a kitten falling off the back of the couch, or the extended warranty on your car is about to expire, for the third time this week.

You can use technology to program your heating system or the lighting in your house. You can put your grocery list online and some unknown person is entrusted with picking out your family staples for the week. You can ask some lady you have never met, what the weather forecast for today is. You can program the TV shows you want to watch and when you want to see them. You can even check in on your canine friend at doggie day care with a Bluetooth camera app, if you wish. All you need is at your fingertips these days.

How did the stories in the bible exist before technology? Let's take a look and see.

What if the Sermon on the Mount was live via zoom?

What if you forgot what the password was? I can't remember. Now was that, Jesusrules123 or 123Jesusrules?

Would everybody be sharing and forwarding the thoughts of the beatitudes to their friend list? What if there were political talking heads who were trying to influence your thoughts of what they felt the beatitudes should really be? What about the Lord's Prayer? Surely that would make a good meme or gif. Add some colorful background and voila. There you have it.

Would there be sound bites of all the animals being loaded onto Noah's Ark? Such as the lion says "roar" and the cow goes 'moo'. And what if you could stop and pause the music of each angelic harp being played through the great book. Then put it on replay again. Can you imagine that?

What if the tablets Moses used, were a modern-day tablet with a one touch screen? What if he went to the top of Mount Sinai and there was no internet access? Or heaven forbid (pun intended) he forgot to charge the batteries the night before.

Would there be a video graphics professional on call for assistance if they were needed that day? Now presenting Commandment Number 11 - "*Thou shall not, attempt this without a fully charged battery*".

And what about the story of Hold on, I'll be right back. I just got another ring, boing, beep, buzz and vibration. - *Tom Wiley Moderator*

OCTOBER WORSHIP UPDATES . . .

Sunday October 3 is World Communion Sunday and we will have some form of bread/rolls to share with you that day. This is also the Sunday will be receiving the Neighbors in Need offering on October 3, as part of our observance of World Communion Sunday. Neighbors in Need supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry, while two thirds is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries. This year, our NIN offering is focusing on supporting organizations and projects that are serving homeless and immigrant neighbors. If you are in church, you may place your offering for NIN in the offering basket at the back of the church, make sure you write NIN on the memo line of your check. If you are not in church, you can send your NIN offering to RVCC, P.O. Box 285, Raymond, ME 04071.

Sunday October 10, Conference Minister Rev Jonna Jensen will be preaching and Rev Petra will be the liturgist. We are having in-person worship with the exception of Rev Jonna who will be on Zoom – on the big screen! The sermon is titled, "*Called to Do, Called to Be*" based on the Mark 10:17-31 along with Hebrews 4:12-16.

She is looking forward to being with us. Here are Rev. Jonna's words in the latest e-mail she sent: I am glad to connect with the saints at Raymond Village Community Church on October 10th.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

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

October 1	Rolf Olsen
October 3	Brenda Olsen
October 4	Lori Lambert
October 12	Martha Morrison
October 16	Adma Willis
October 17	Bonnie Wiley
October 22	Carol Hall
October 27	Cora Sullivan



Raymond Food Pantry

Many thanks to the team who cooked and delivered lasagna dinners to the pantry on 9/9. Patrons and staff enjoyed them!

Summary of Tuesday, September 21, 2021 Coordinating Council/Deacons Meeting

A joint meeting of coordinating council and deacons was called to order via zoom, by Tom Wiley, on Tuesday, September 21, 2021. Present were Tom, Rolf, Brenda, Petra, Nancy, Caryl, Deb, and Judy.

Tom offered the opening prayer.

Tom reviewed the agenda, end time of 7:15 was agreed upon.

Treasurer's Report: Brenda presented the financial report for August. Income remains good. Expenses, year to date are still under budget. Total income for the month was \$8,136, over budget by \$1,678 for the month, and over by \$8,856 year to date (includes the gain of \$5,728 in the American Funds). Pledged contributions were better than expected and we also had a memorial contribution of \$500. Total expenses for the month were \$7,770, over budget by \$423 for the month, but under budget by \$5,997 year to date. Considering the fact that our financial picture remains stable, Brenda suggested that she prepare a brief one page update each month, just looking at the general fund. She would do a full report quarterly. Council members and deacons were in agreement with this suggestion. Caryl Gilman made a motion, seconded by Nancy Yates, and approved, to accept the treasurer's report subject to year end review.

Reports of the Coordinators:

Clerk: nothing to report

Trustees: Rolf reported that the ramp for the sanctuary has arrived. He is trying to schedule a work day to install it. Thanks to Caryl Gilman, front doors of the sanctuary have received a final coat of paint. The parsonage has passed its state inspection for another year. He has been in touch with the scouts about doing outdoor fall clean up, at their convenience. Brenda suggested a group to clean out the furnace room. Work on leveling the driveway and putting down reclaim could still be several weeks out. Caryl mentioned the parking area in front of the church is in bad shape. Rolf could also have that leveled and add reclaim. It will not interfere with town's sidewalk job. Rolf would like to take down the tarp over the patio so he could power wash that side of the building. We could use a pop up canopy for the October supper. But Brenda mentioned that we still use the patio for coffee hour and knitting group. It will be left up for now. Rolf continues to work on replacing florescent lights in the building. When the current round of replacements is completed, only the kitchen and office will have florescent lights.

Christian Education: nothing to report.

Stewardship: Stewardship Sunday will be November 14. Petra has a couple of speakers in mind. Brenda will talk to Petra about theme, and will do Stewardship letter.

Missions: Caryl reported we will make a donation to Preble Street in September. She also will talk to Raymond Fire

Department about possible need for CO detector/alarm in Raymond homes. We have installed CO detector/alarm and a smoke detector in home of one of our own members. A donation was made for Hurricane Ida relief through the UCC. Neighbors in Need offering will be received on World Communion Sunday, and for a couple of Sundays beyond that.

Deacons: Deacons will be handing out dinner rolls on World Communion Sunday. Jonna Jensen will be preaching via zoon on October 10, Petra will be conducting rest of the service in the sanctuary. Petra is working on preparing a pre-recorded service, should she be called away quickly to be with her mother. Patrick and four choir members will be working on recording a service of Christmas music to be used on December 26.

Pastor: She will be preparing ahead two Sundays of recording services. She asked whether any of us had suggestions for the room which used to be the nursery. She attended the installation of new pastor at the Westbrook Warren church. On October 23, in person, the workshop portion of the Maine Conference of the UCC will be held. On November 6, via zoom, the business portion of the meeting will be held.

Audio/visual and Covid discussions: Rolf let us know that there is still an audio problem with recording. The audio is not passing through the mixer, it is going right to You tube. We need to do mock run throughs to try and figure this out. Would be good to do this before the service on October 10 with our Transitional Conference Minister Jonna Jensen. There have been no changes from the CDC recently regarding Covid requirements. We seem to be in good shape for now with the precautions which we are currently taking.

Old Business: there was no additional old business to address.

New Business: Tom asked the group if we wanted to consider doing something for Halloween. Nothing has come out from the town at this point regarding Halloween. Any decisions made could be last minute. We will keep thinking about this. Tom asked if we wanted to do the Christmas cookie sale which Lynn Gagne organized last year. It was very successful last year, and something done easily in spite of Covid. Tom will talk to Lynn. No final decision, but will probably go back to zoom starting the first Sunday of January. This is something that Michael will be able to do from home. Will continue through mid to late March, possibly return to in person on first day of spring.

Weathervane deadline for September is Friday, September 24. Next meeting will be Wednesday, October 20, at 6:00 PM, via zoom. Meeting was adjourned at 7:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Munson, Clerk



Raymond Village Community Church

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Raymond, ME 04071
(207) 655-7749*

**Next Weathervane
Deadline:
October 20, 2021**

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.**

HALLOWEEN

For many years, RVCC has participated in the Trick or Treating event on Main Street during the evening of Halloween. Last year, the Town recommended not having the annual event.

We do not know what will happen this year. Until the event draws closer, we will not have any idea as to how to plan for this year. Please stay tuned to the weekly bulletin and all church email in the next few weeks.

Should we participate, we will once again ask for help with candy donations. We will let you know.

THANK YOU AS ALWAYS.

Sincerely Yours, The RVCC Council



LINE DANCING, YEAAAH!!!!

Line Dancing is continuing through the month of October, with the last class being on Friday October 29, 2021. 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.