



The Weathervane

RAYMOND VILLAGE COMMUNITY CHURCH, United Church of Christ Newsletter

November, 2021

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From the Pastor . . .

Dear RVCC Family and Friends,

Thanksgiving is right around the corner. Yes, it has been a turbulent year and many things are on our minds as we continue to navigate our way through the pandemic. My hope is, that I, and we, say thanks often ---not just in November.

I am going to take a moment and say thank you for all you do as the members of the body of Christ, here in our congregation. The way you share your lives, your gifts, your passion and energy with one another and with our community makes me extremely grateful to be part of the Raymond Village Community Church.

The congregation surprised me with Dunkin Donuts gift cards on Sunday October 10th; unbeknownst to me it was pastor appreciation day and thanks to you I have been enjoying having coffee with my husband Scott.

Thank you for your thoughtfulness and generosity.

In her book, *Grateful*, the theologian and writer Diana Butler Bass lifts up the connecting work of gratitude as a practice.

Strange thing about gratitude—it always comes with a preposition. We are grateful for something, grateful to someone, and, often, grateful with others. Even in untargeted gratitude and when you are completely alone, prepositions show up...When it comes to gratitude, “me” always leads to “we”. Gratitude takes us outside ourselves as part of a larger, intricate network of sustaining relationships, relationships that are mutually reciprocal.” (Bass, Diana Butler, *Grateful* (p.97) Harper One Kindle Edition.)

I hope that you will have pockets of time during this busy season to give thanks to and for one another. May we give thanks to God for all the blessings that we have and may we, out of a place of gratitude, share our giving and sharing in the world.

Blessings and Joy,

Pastor Petra

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 . . .

- November 7, 2021- 10:00 a.m. – Worship – All Saints Sunday
- November 8, 2021- 5:00 p.m. – Deacons meeting on Zoom
- November 9, 2021- 2:00 p.m. – Knitting Group
- November 10, 2021- 6:00 – Council meeting on Zoom
- November 14, 2021- 10:00 a.m. – Worship – Stewardship Sunday
- November 21, 2021- 10:00 a.m. – Worship – Thanksgiving Sunday
- November 28, 2021- 10:00 a.m. – Worship – Hanging of the Greens

Please join us for Coffee Hour after Worship!

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

The Friendship Group will meet in the Vestry on November 8th and November 22nd.

Due to technical difficulties, we are not currently recording services, but hope to begin again soon. Keep an eye on All Church Emails for updates!



Please keep the following people in your prayers:

Amanda, Bill 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

November Lectionary Lessons

November 7, 2021 - Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Ruth 3:1-5; 4:13-17
Psalm 127
1 Kings 17:8-16
Psalm 146
Hebrews 9:24-28
Mark 12:38-44

November 14, 2021 - Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

1 Samuel 1:4-20
1 Samuel 2:1-10
Daniel 12:1-3
Psalm 16
Hebrews 10:11-14, (15-18), 19-25
Mark 13:1-8

November 21, 2021 - Twenty-Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

2 Samuel 23:1-7
Psalm 132:1-12, (13-18)
Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14
Psalm 93
Revelation 1:4b-8
John 18:33-37

November 28, 2021 - First Sunday of Advent

Jeremiah 33:14-16
Psalm 25:1-10
1 Thessalonians 3:9-13
Luke 21:25-36



Missions Corner

November Mission – Seafarer’s Friend

Years ago, our then choir director, Donna Hurd, told us about Seafarer’s Friend and we supported them with magazines, hats and more. In the last few years, this support fell by the wayside and we’d like to revive now.

Seafarer’s Friend has the mission to extend ministry of the churches to meet the unmet spiritual, social and practical needs of seafarers in the New England Maritime Community. They do this by providing hospitality = visiting aboard ships and hosting seafarers ashore. They also encourage seafarers, their families and community in the nurture of faith by making available bibles and support literature and chaplaincy services. And they do much more!

How can RVCC help?

- Write cards of encouragement – Polly was asked to do this and has already made 40!
- Provide Filipino Tagalog bibles – ordered by the missions committee
- Provide warm hats and scarves – our knitting group will work on this during the winter.
- Provide ditty bags – that is our current project. Many thanks to Sarah Allen for agreeing to make the bags. Now we, the congregation need to fill the ditty bags and we will send them when the organization is ready to receive them.

During November, please bring in any of the following:

| | | |
|--------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| Floss | Q tips (small packs) | Memo pads |
| Hairbrush | Kleenex – pocket size | soap |
| Nail file | Band-Aids | Deodorant |
| Nail clipper | pens | Word/number puzzles |
| Toothpaste | Pencils | Small jig saw puzzle |
| Toothbrush | Shaving cream – small | Mending kit – travel size |
| Lotion | Calendar – small | Playing cards |

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Worship – November is a packed month!

- **November 7th – All Saints remembrances and communion.** We will remember loved ones who died in the past year. ***If you have a loved one you wish to have remembered this year, please contact Pastor Petra at (207) 781-3783 or petra@maine.rr.com.***
- **November 14th – Stewardship Sunday** – a letter with pledge card will be mailed out on Nov 4. Please bring your completed pledge card on this Sunday
- **November 21st – Thanksgiving Sunday** We give thanks for all of our blessings.
- **November 28th – first Sunday of Advent and Hanging of the Greens** We will begin the journey to Christmas day and decorate the sanctuary.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

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

| | |
|-------------|--------------------|
| November 2 | Kay Roach |
| November 3 | Lynn Gagne |
| November 15 | Molly Keane-Dreyer |
| November 17 | Bill Dreyer |
| November 24 | Dick Day |

Missions Corner, continued . . .

Raymond Food Pantry

The supper crew cooked a yummy meal of BBQ chicken and rice which was well received by food pantry patrons and staff – thanks to Rolf and Craig and crew!

Even though the attendance at Food Pantry is down right now, there are still ongoing expenses. Therefore, the Missions Committee sent a \$500 donation to help keep the pantry going!

Thanksgiving and Christmas

In November and December we will also be working with social worker in the Raymond schools to ensure Thanksgiving dinners for needy families, as well as provide gift cards to ensure a good Christmas for kids in families who might struggle to provide.

Who owns the pews in the sanctuary?

“The church, of course.” would be Caryl’s answer and that is our goal by end of 2021.

Yet there is history that needs consideration on two fronts:

1. The people who paid to have the pews installed and had deeds for those pews recorded at the Cumberland County Registry of Deeds
2. The people who have been sitting in the same pew for years, as have their ancestors

Ernie Knights wrote a pamphlet called “Raymond Village Church, the first hundred years: 1879-1979”. On page 14 he explains that the following people purchased specified pews

| Owner | Pews owned (by number) |
|------------------|-------------------------------|
| Joseph Tukey | 2, 25, and ½ of 18 |
| Gibeon Davis | 5 and 19 |
| Erastus Plummer | 6, 21 and ½ of 28 |
| David Plummer Jr | 7 and 8 |
| William H Smith | 9 |
| John Mussey | 10 |
| Henry Harmon | 16 |
| Orrin Chipman | 18 |
| Thomas Morton | 27 |
| Annie W Leach | 31 |
| Margaret Leach | 37 |

There were other pews that were not purchased / paid for / registered, yet family members sat in the same pew for years – a great tradition.

Our sanctuary has undergone changes over the years, yet most of the pews have remained. Now, as we aim to make the church more accessible, pews had to be removed to make way for a ramp from the sanctuary to the office level with restrooms. This raised the question “What do we do with the pews that have been removed?”

We are taking this opportunity to ask anyone who has an ownership interest (as described above) in one or more pews to step forward and tell us what you want to do

- Return ownership of the pew(s) to the church, OR
- Remove your pew (which may be in pieces if removed to make room for the ramp...it can be reassembled)

Please contact us by December 15, 2021 to tell us your wishes.

Rolf Olsen: rolsen001@maine.rr.com

Caryl Gilman carylgilman@gmail.com

Or call the RVCC office at 655-7749 and leave a message with your name and phone number and one of us will call you.

Summary of Wednesday, October 20, 2021 Coordinating Council and Deacons Meeting

A joint meeting of coordinating council and deacons was called to order, via zoom, at 6:00 PM on Wednesday, October 20, 2021, by Tom Wiley. Present were Tom, Rolf, Brenda, Caryl, Petra, Nancy, Deb, and Judy.

Brenda offered an autumn prayer.

Agenda was reviewed, end time of 7:15 was set.

Treasurer's Report: Brenda had prepared monthly financials for review by those present. Contributions were \$3,782 for the month in the general fund, under budget by \$885. Year to date, contributions are over budget by \$1,831. Total expenses of \$5,487 are under budget by \$1,207 for the month, and under budget by \$7,205 year to date. She has had to make a withdrawal from the American Funds for cash flow purposes. Request has been sent to United Church of Christ for reimbursement for expense for ramp that was recently installed in the sanctuary. Caryl made a motion, seconded by Nancy to accept the report.

Reports of the Coordinators:

Clerk: nothing to report

Trustees: Rolf reported that the tarp over the patio has been taken down. Furnaces in the church and parsonage will be cleaned next week. He will take out air conditioning units. We need to shrink wrap windows in the vestry.

Missions: Caryl reported that we do not have a number yet for amount collected for Neighbors in Need. In November we will be collecting contents for ditty bags for Seafarers. In December we will collect items for Christmas Wish list for Seacoast Mission. We will also be working with social worker in the Raymond schools to ensure Thanksgiving dinners for needy families, as well as provide gift cards to ensure a good Christmas for kids in families who might struggle to provide.

Christian Education: nothing to report

Stewardship: Brenda and Petra have put together a Stewardship letter to go out. Stewardship Sunday is November 14th.

Deacons: Caryl reported that the deacons have planned out Sundays through November and December. Hanging of the Greens will be the last Sunday in November. Petra will be away from November 29 through December 6. She has prepared a lay led service for the Sunday that she is away. Pastoral emergencies will be covered by Joyce from the Casco church. Lori will be away from November 19 to December 5. Sunday bulletins are being prepared ahead. Office and phone coverage is being planned.

Moderator: nothing to report

Pastor: Petra will attend the annual meeting of the Maine UCC via zoom this Saturday.

Old Business: It was agreed that we do not feel confident with taping at this point. We need two new microphones. It was agreed that part of our problem now is that the microphones we have work on internet frequencies. This needs to be taken into account when purchasing new ones. Will had a couple of suggestions of what to buy, Rolf had another idea, as well. Caryl asked that Deb, Will, and Rolf collaborate on what we need and place an order within the next week. We also need to work out the best way to feed sound from piano into the system.

Outside coffee hour seems to be over, and most people seem to seem to be comfortable in the vestry without masks.

The town has indicated that they are closing Main Street for Halloween. It was agreed to have the church open and handing out candy with a simplified format. We will do it all outside, just candy, no music. Can let people in to use bathroom. Judy and Deb have agreed to be there for the whole time. Tom will check with Lynn to see if she is available. We will need help and candy. Tom will prepare info to be in all church email and calendar.

Lynn has agreed to lead Christmas cookie project again this year. Pick up will be after church on 12/19. She will be looking for people to bake, and to help package cookies on the 18th.

New Business: Caryl reported to us that as pews have been removed to install new handicap ramp, we have become aware that there are pews which have been actually owned, or presumed owned, by families or individuals. There are people who may have registered deeds to pews, and there are those whose families sat in the same pew for many years, and thus consider it to be theirs. Caryl would like to see this situation cleared up by the end of the year. She has written a letter asking families to make a decision and contact her or Rolf by December 15. They may remove their pew from the building (it may be in pieces but can be put back together), or they can return ownership of their pew to the church.

Preparation of the 2022 budget will take place in November. The annual meeting will be via zoom again this year, on Sunday, January 23. We will probably worship via zoom for the winter months. It was suggested that if we do, we should plan a couple of in

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Raymond Village Community Church

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

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.

Council Minutes, continued . . .

person fellowship events during that time. It was also suggested that we plan ways to get conversation going during fellowship time following zoom worship.

The Weathervane will be printed on October 28, our next meeting will be on Wednesday, November 10, at 6PM via zoom.

Respectfully submitted,
Judith Munson, Clerk