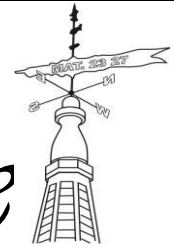


The Weathervane



RAYMOND VILLAGE COMMUNITY CHURCH, United Church of Christ Newsletter

December, 2021

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From the Pastor . . .

During this season of Advent, my sister-in-law Cindy is challenging herself to memorize the Magnificat from Luke1:46-55

We don't usually talk about Mary that much but upon further research I discovered that this song was the longest set of words spoken by a woman in the New Testament (and a poor, young, unmarried woman at that!). Traditionally we think of Mary as meek and scared but when singing this song, she comes across as a rebel who according to Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a German pastor and theologian who was executed by the Nazis, the Magnificat "the most passionate, the wildest, one might even say the most revolutionary hymn ever sung."

Theologian Warren Carter writes that in the time of Jesus, two or three percent of the population was rich, while the majority lived in poverty: "...*Mary speaks of a time when all will enjoy the good things given by God.*" Perhaps you feel compelled to learn the Magnificat by heart during this Advent season as we anticipate the birth of Jesus.

Blessings on this Advent season,

Pastor Petra

Luke1:46-55

And Mary* said, 'My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.

His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.

He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;

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!

December and January at RVCC . . .

December 5, 2021-	10:00 a.m. – Worship – Lay Worship led by Deacons
December 12, 2021-	10:00 a.m. – Worship
December 13, 2021-	5:00 p.m. – Deacon meeting via Zoom
December 14, 2021-	4:30 p.m. – Council meeting via Zoom
December 19, 2021-	10:00 a.m. – Worship
December 24, 2021-	5:00 p.m. – Christmas Eve service
December 26, 2021-	Worship service on YouTube only.
January 2, 2022-	10:00 a.m. - Worship on Zoom
January 9, 2022-	10:00 a.m. - Worship on Zoom
January 16, 2022-	10:00 a.m. - Worship on Zoom
January 23, 2022-	10:00 a.m. – Worship on Zoom 1:00 p.m. – Annual Meeting on Zoom
January 30, 2022-	10:00 a.m. – Worship on Zoom

Please join us for Coffee Hour after Worship!

The Knitting Group will meet on December 14 & 28, 2021 and January 11 & 25, 2022 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.

The Friendship Group will meet in the Vestry on December 6 & 20, 2021 and January 3 & 17, 2022 from 9:30 a.m – 12:30 p.m.

Scouts, BSA Troop meets every Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.

AA meets every Friday at 7:00 p.m.

Knitting & Crocheting Group

We are currently working on hats & mittens for children and hats, socks and scarves for Seafarer's mission. Of course, we are interested in your specific projects too!

Our knitting and crocheting group is currently meeting in the re-painted Sunday School room next to the furnace room. 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

- If you have been vaccinated, masks are optional once you are inside.
- Please keep a safe social distance.
- Please stay home if you are not feeling well or have been in contact with someone who has the coronavirus.

From the Pastor, continued . . .

He has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.
He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.'

Worship - Advent and Christmas

- **November 28 – first Sunday of Advent - HOPE - and Hanging of the Greens.** We will begin the journey to Christmas day and decorate the sanctuary. German Christmas traditions will be the focus of Spirit Spotlight.
- **December 5 – second Sunday of Advent – PEACE- and lay led worship.**
- **December 12 – third Sunday of Advent – JOY.** We will celebrate Rev. Joanne Painter's 50th anniversary of her ordination during Spirit Spotlight and coffee hour.
- **December 19 – fourth Sunday of Advent – LOVE.** Spirit Spotlight surprise!
- **Friday December 24 – Christmas eve worship at 5pm.** A service of readings and carols with special music by the RVCC women's quartet.
- **Sunday December 26 – no live worship.** Pre-recorded worship of music and readings on YouTube
- **Sunday January 2 – Zoom worship only begins.** We anticipate returning to live worship on March 20

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



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, Charles Lum, Walt Read, Charlotte Rowe, Dan Tibbetts, Penny Warrickoff, Janet Walker, Adma Willis

Our church family prays for Cora and The Sullivan Family as they grieve the passing of Frank Sullivan.

Michel Bostock – Award Winner!

On Thursday, Nov. 4, Michael Bostock, PCM student of Naydene Bowder, was awarded the Frank Glazer Medal for Piano Performance.

Michael was performing for the Noonday Concert Series on Thursday where the award was announced. The Frank Glazer Medal award is given annually to an outstanding PCM piano student in honor of concert pianist Frank Glazer (1915-2015). He studied with Artur Schnabel and Arnold Schoenberg, and taught at the Eastman School of Music and later Bates College.

You can watch the Nov 4th concert on YouTube at: <https://youtu.be/KDRibTgXNMc>

DECEMBER LECTIONARY LESSONS

December 5, 2021 – Second Sunday of Advent

Baruch 5:1-9 or Malachi 3:1-4
Luke 1:68-79
Philippians 1:3-11
Luke 3:1-6

December 12, 2021 – Third Sunday of Advent

Zephaniah 3:14-20
Isaiah 12:2-6
Philippians 4:4-7
Luke 3:7-18

December 19, 2021 – Fourth Sunday of Advent

Micah 5:2-5a
Luke 1:46b-55 or Psalm 80:1-7
Hebrews 10:5-10
Luke 1:39-45, (46-55)

December 24 & 25, 2021 – Nativity of the Lord

Isaiah 9:2-7
Psalm 96
Titus 2:11-14
Luke 2:1-14, (15-20)

December 26, 2021 – First Sunday after Christmas

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26
Psalm 148
Colossians 3:12-17
Luke 2:41-52

Raymond Village Community Church, UCC

Warrant for Annual Congregational Meeting

January 23, 2022

Notice is hereby given to the members of the Raymond Village Community Church, UCC in Raymond, Maine that you are duly called to meet at our Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, January 23, 2022. The meeting will be held via zoom starting at approximately 1:00 PM. Because the meeting is being held remotely, there will be no need to postpone due to inclement weather.

The business of the meeting shall be as follows:

Article 1: To hear and act upon the reports of all officers, Coordinators, Task Force, and Committees;

Article 2: To adopt a budget for the fiscal year 2022;

Article 3: To elect a slate of officers to serve for the year;

Article 4: To transact any other business that shall lawfully come before this meeting.

Notice of this meeting is hereby given on this the 9th (and 16th) day of January, 2022.

Respectfully,

Judith T. Munson, Church Clerk

Summary of Wednesday, November 10, 2021 Coordinating Council/Deacons Meeting

A joint meeting of the coordinating council and deacons was called to order via zoom by Tom Wiley on Wednesday, November 10, 2021, at 6:00PM. Present were Tom, Caryl, Brenda, Nancy, Rolf, Petra, Deb, and Judy.

Caryl offered the opening prayer.

Tom reviewed the agenda and set end time of 7:00 PM.

Treasurer's Report: Brenda reminded us that we had agreed to have formal treasurer report, only quarterly, not each month. She did report, however, that we had received reimbursement for the cost of the ramp in the sanctuary. She also reported that excess expenses for the month were \$2,661, better than budget of -\$3,189. She is starting work on the budget, will have a draft for our December meeting.

Reports of the Coordinator:

Clerk: nothing to report

Trustees: Rolf reported that the furnaces in the church and the parsonage had been cleaned recently. There was a lot more work than expected done in the church, but it should now run more efficiently. He is waiting for the scouts to clean up leaves. Thanks to Brenda and Caryl for cleaning out the furnace room.

Missions: Caryl reported that during the month of November, we will be collecting items for ditty bags for Seafarers. Polly has prepared greeting cards to go in the bags. We will be donating Hannaford gift cards to families identified by social worker in Raymond schools who could use help to put Thanksgiving dinner on the table. We have also ordered gift cards for use by food pantry for purchase of turkeys to be given out to their clients. The food pantry will reimburse us for these, so both pantry and church will benefit from discount that we receive. In December, we will be collecting items for Maine Seacoast Mission wish list. We will also be donating Walmart gift cards to parents of Raymond school kids who need help with Christmas gifts. Caryl also reported that she continues to be our representative on the Fuller Foundation board. They are working on three houses in the area this fall.

Christian Education: nothing to report

Stewardship: Stewardship letters have been sent out. Stewardship is this Sunday, the 14th.

Deacons: Caryl reported that schedule has been finalized through December. The first Sunday in

December will be a lay service, led by the Deacons, since Petra will be away. Communion will be a week late.

Pastor: Petra reported concerns about cleaning of kitchen and vestry. We have two back to back events on November 20 and 21. Rolf reported that normally, after a rental of that space, he would leave a message for his cleaners to pay special attention to that space, so they could wash floor etc. Council and Deacons agreed that in this case, we would pay special attention to how the space looked after coffee hour on the 21st. There was additional discussion on how best to use the cleaning time which we have budgeted for. Rolf also pointed out that normally a renter is responsible for clean up, and that if we need someone to go in for cleaning, there would be an extra charge.

Old Business:

Audio Visual: Rolf reported that he had spoken to Sweetwater. The equipment which he had originally been looking at, is not in stock. He and Will have agreed on other equipment, 2 microphones and 2 receivers, which are in stock, and should be ordered and shipped soon.

Cookie Sale: Lynn has agreed to go ahead with Christmas cookie sale. Orders need to be received by 12/14, pick up will be on 12/18. Orders can be emailed to the office. Tom will take care of publicity.

Annual Meeting will be held via zoom on January 23, 2022. Judy was reminded that the Warrant needs to be in the upcoming Weathervane since we do not print a Weathervane the end of December. The Warrant will also be read on zoom worship for the 2 weeks prior.

New Business: Zoom Worship will begin on January 2, 2022. The Deacon of the day will announce topic for conversation after service is finished. Caryl had sent a link to all of us listing possible topics. As we had previously discussed, we hope to have a Saturday social event for the months that we will not be in person. The first will be a pot luck brunch on January 15, at 11 AM.

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, December 14, at 4:30 PM, via zoom. The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Judith Munson, Clerk

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

We have since learned there were other pews sold that are not listed above such as one by Al and Charlotte Rowe and others by family of Dave and Kim Allen

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.

If there is no contact by Dec 31, 2021, we will assume you intend to return ownership of the pew(s) to the church.



Moderator Musings

How many times has someone asked you the following question? “What did you want to be when you grew up”?

I suspect many have said they would like to be a firefighter, race car driver, president, chef, teacher, mechanic or who knows how many other futuristic thoughts have been a part of a youngsters projecting what their life would be.

I suspect that not many would say that they would want to be known as the ultimate betrayer such as Judas Iscariot was as he committed his treasonous foil against Jesus in the darkness of Gethsemane. Was this what he thought he would be when he grew up? How many kids thought they would grow up to see the struggles we have as a country due to political divide?? How many thought they would be dealing with a lifetime of addictions due to a variety of substances? But we as Christians, still believe in being there to help people through these and other differences and deficiencies. Why? Because when we grew up, we wanted to follow the teachings and guidance of the good book.

I don't believe I ever had any ideas that I would be involved in the leadership, fellowship and worship of a small community church. How about you? Was that ever in your game plan for what you would do and become in your life.?

Maybe you had some of the interests you share now for the life of the church. Maybe you did dream of being in the choir, or playing an instrument. Perhaps you thought about being a great baker and have shared your passion with our church family at coffee hour. Maybe you had visions of being a world champion gardener and have been one of the folks to share your skills in keeping the altar looking fresh each and every Sunday, or keeping the church grounds maintained. Or maybe you thought you would be involved in helping to provide for others by making mittens and hats with the church knitting group. Maybe you always had a knack for numbers and have shared that skill with the church family in various duties.

So, what did you envision for your future? Have you met those futuristic thoughts you had as a youth? For me I used to think I'd want to become a 5th grade science teacher or a disc jockey on the radio. I guess

with my professional career I have met the science part of my dream. And with a long career as scoutmaster, I met many of the same ideas of teaching the future leaders of the world. It looks like my ease in public speaking has led me in many arenas and may have been part of that vision, although not on the radio and playing music.

So, what will I be when I grow up? When that happens, I'll definitely let you know.....

Tom Wiley Moderator

Missions Corner

November Mission – Seafarer’s Friend

You are all AWESOME! We received well over 100 items so far for the ditty bags by November 18, the date of this writing. Thank you!

AND, one of our parishioners told me she was shopping at Family Dollar in Raymond and had to keep asking where to find the items she wanted to buy. As she was telling the helpful clerk why she was looking for these items, a shopper overheard her and bought a \$25 gift card to help buy more. Thanks so much to the anonymous donor!

December Mission – Seacoast Mission Wishlist and Christmas Fund

We invite you to help us put presents under trees for individuals and families unable to do it alone.

Each year at Christmas time, through the kindness of our donors, the Mission provides holiday gifts to children, families, the elderly, and nursing home residents. Spreading Christmas cheer is one of the Mission's oldest traditions.

It began more than 100 years ago with gifts wrapped with red string and white paper to island residents and lighthouse keepers. Today our Christmas program includes mainland families and individuals along the Downeast coast in rural Washington County, and on Mount Desert Island.

There are two ways to help by **December 5**,

1. **Bring in items** to church from the wish list below

For all ages: Puzzle and Coloring Books, Crayons, Socks, Music and Movie DVDs, small Stuffed Animals, small flashlights, stationery, pencils and pens, card and card games

2. **Order items online** from the Mission's new [Amazon Christmas List](#). The items will be shipped directly to the Mission.

Continued next page . . .

Thanks to all who have returned their 2021 pledge cards. If you have not done so already, please return your pledge card to Nancy Yates, RVCC, PO Box 285, Raymond, Me. 04071 or bring it with you to church on Sunday.

2022 FINANCIAL COMMITMENT – RAYMOND VILLAGE COMMUNITY CHURCH

Working Together

	<u>Pledge Amount</u>		<u>Annual Total</u>
For our church ministries (general fund)	\$ _____	weekly <input type="checkbox"/> monthly <input type="checkbox"/>	\$ _____
Specifically for our mission programs	\$ _____	weekly <input type="checkbox"/> monthly <input type="checkbox"/>	\$ _____
Church Cleaning	\$ _____	weekly <input type="checkbox"/> monthly <input type="checkbox"/>	\$ _____

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

Please return your Pledge card on November 14, Stewardship Sunday or mail directly to the church at P.O. 285, Raymond, Me. 04071

We encourage you to use automatic debits to make your gift. Information available from the office.

I will use automatic debits to my credit card or checking account.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS . . .

We will NOT publish a Weathervane edition for January, 2022. We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy and Safe New Year!

Starting on Sunday January 2, 2022, we will resume having Worship on Zoom. The Council and Deacons have decided to resume Zoom worship for a variety of reasons. It enables more of our snowbirds to join us for worship, we don't need to worry about bad weather and most importantly it keeps us all safe from COVID concerns during the winter months.

You can access Zoom worship with the following link:

Just click the following link then "Open Zoom Meeting", then "join with video" and "join with computer audio".

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82211774347?pwd=bkZvL0lIT2lROXR2d1phaEhiZ2MzQT09>

There is a waiting room so the host will admit you.

The host receives a message that you are there as soon as you "join with video"

(Meeting ID: 822 1177 4347 Passcode: worship)

Mission Corner, continued . . .

December Mission – Christmas Fund

On December 19 and December 24, envelopes will be available to make an annual contribution to the Christmas Fund. The Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund is a Special Mission Offering that congregations have been supporting for over 100 years. The offering is administered through the United Church Board for Ministerial Assistance, the charitable arm of the Pension Boards. Funds provide direct financial support to those who serve the church and are facing financial difficulties. Active and retired clergy, lay employees, and their surviving spouses may be eligible for the Supplementation of Small Annuities, Supplementation of Health Premiums, Emergency Grants, and/or Christmas "Thank You" Gift Checks.

Raymond Food Pantry

Attendance at the Food Pantry has increased slightly at the last 2 pantries. Thursday November 18, the Pantry will distribute Thanksgiving baskets as well as standard Food pantry distribution.

The director of the Food Pantry, Gary Bibeau, said that the \$500 contribution of the church is making a positive difference in what they can offer. Thank you!



Raymond Village Community Church

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

Raymond Village Community Church

Holiday Cookie Sale

Were you looking forward to our Annual Cookie Walk held during our Christmas Fair?

Don't fret, we still have you covered for your Holiday Cookie needs.

This year we will be taking pre-orders for Holiday Cookies to be picked up on **Sunday, December 19th** from **11 am to Noon**.

Cookies available to order:

- Snicker Doodles
- Gingerbread
- Holiday Sugar Cookies
- Pecan Dreams
- Toffee Nut Squares
- Peanut Butter Blossoms
- Chocolate Chip
- Coconut Macaroons

For **\$6.00** (cash or check ONLY, no credit cards) you will get **12 cookies** of your choosing from the above list. Cookie orders will be ready for pickup **11am –Noon** on **Sunday, December 19th**.

To place your order please call the RVCC office at **655-7749** and leave a message with your name, phone number, cookie choices and time you will pick up. Or if you prefer you can send an email to office@rvccme.org with information.

Orders due by December 14th.