

The Weathervane



RAYMOND VILLAGE COMMUNITY CHURCH, United Church of Christ Newsletter

February, 2022

Table of Contents	Page
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From the Pastor.....	1
This Month at RVCC	2
Prayer Concerns	2
Lectionary Lessons.....	2
Happy Birthday!.....	2
Missions Corner.....	3
Moderator Musings	4
Hannaford Grocery Cards	4
Thank You.....	4
Knitting Group.....	4
Council Minutes.....	5
Zoom Worship	5
Sweetheart Brunch	6

From the Pastor . . .

Thank you for my Christmas present. The gift certificate to Good Life Market is perfect. During the summer and fall the local clergy group meets there for lunch every month. Once the weather turns nicer, we will be gathering at the market again and thanks to you I will be enjoying soups and sandwiches.

When you read this month's newsletter, I will be on vacation for the first week of February and study leave for the second week. My friend, retired clergy, Rev. Allison Curry, will lead worship on Zoom February 6th and February 13th

Allison will also cover pastoral emergencies from Feb 1st through Feb 14th. Her contact information is: allisoncurry43@gmail.com cell: 207-730-3287

With the blessing of the council, I will work remotely from Florida for the last two weeks of the month and lead worship on Zoom February 20th and 27th. I will also be available via phone and e-mail. Tom Wiley and Caryl Gilman as well as Lori Lambert have my contact information.

If there is a pastoral emergency during the last two weeks, and someone needs an immediate visit, Rev. Leslie Ann Chatfield will be covering pastoral emergencies from Tuesday, February 15th until Monday, February 28th. Tom and Caryl have her contact information.

I will be thinking of you and holding you all in prayer while I am away. My mother suggested that I use her Florida house for Sabbath rest for two weeks. I will be exploring books for a Lenten study while I am gone.

While you are in church on Sundays, I will be too, as I attend different churches in Florida.

Early notice for March: We intend to have an Ash Wednesday worship on Zoom on March 2 - details available closer to March.

Shalom,

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 . . .

- February 6, 2022- 10:00 a.m. – Worship on Zoom with Rev. Allison Curry
- February 12, 2022- 11:00 a.m. – Sweetheart Brunch
- February 13, 2022- 10:00 a.m. – Worship on Zoom with Rev. Allison Curry
- February 15, 2022- 5:30 p.m. – Council meeting via Zoom
- February 20, 2022- 10:00 a.m. – Worship on Zoom
- February 22, 2022- 4:00 p.m. – Pastoral Relations Committee via Zoom
- 5:30 p.m. – Deacon’s meeting via Zoom
- February 27, 2021- 10:00 a.m. – Worship on Zoom

If you are unable to join live Worship on Zoom, services may be viewed on our YouTube channel at:

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

The Friendship Group meets on the second and fourth Monday of the month from 9:30a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Scout Troop 800 meets on Mondays at 6:30 p.m.

The Knitting Group meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month from 2:00 – 3:30 p.m.

AA meets in the Vestry every Friday at 7:00 p.m.



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, Walt Read, Charlotte Rowe, Cora
Sullivan, Dan Tibbetts, Penny Warrikoff,
Janet Walker, Adma Willis

February Lectionary Lessons

February 6, 2022 – Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

Isaiah 6:1-8, (9-13)
Psalm 138
1 Corinthians 15:1-11
Luke 5:1-11

February 13, 2022 – Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany

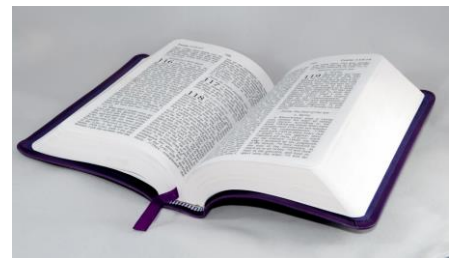
Jeremiah 17:5-10
Psalm 1
1 Corinthians 15:12-20
Luke 6:17-26

February 20, 2022 – Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany

Genesis 45:3-11, 15
Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40
1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50
Luke 6:27-38

**February 27, 2022 – Transfiguration Sunday
(Last Sunday before Lent)**

Exodus 34:29-35
Psalm 99
2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2
Luke 9:28-36, (37-43a)



Happy Birthday!

February 1
February 5

Bill Feagans
Cheri Moore



November & December Missions

You all were VERY generous!

The final tally for Seafarers' Friend, delivered in December were

- 11 completely filled ditty bags
- 40 encouragement cards (thanks Polly!)
- 5 Filipino Tagalong Bibles (purchased by Mission Fund)

There were so many items left from this collection! Personal care items were given to the **Raymond Food Pantry** – over 50 items. These items were put together with some stock to make 16 bags of personal items to hand out in December.

The other items went into the **Seacoast Mission** box which was mailed on December 6.

- 4 round puzzles
- Puzzle and activity books
- Pens and pencils
- 10 decks of cards
- 6 pair of socks, 3 pair of mittens and 2 hats – thanks to the knitting/crocheting group!

In addition, some congregants and the Mission fund purchased items through the wish list on Amazon for direct shipping to Seacoast Mission.

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

Raymond Food Pantry

Attendance at the Food Pantry was down again in December; however, some patrons have contacted the Pantry to say they will come back starting in January or February.

The Pantry does have enough food and, thanks to a new volunteer, enough workers for the current level of patronage.

February Mission

Every year, usually at the beginning of the year, we send support to Daisy's Children. As a reminder the mission of Daisy's Children is to provide sustenance, education and medical support to the disadvantaged children of Honduras. Because of the food, water, shelter, regular meals, and other necessities Daisy's Children provides, many of these children are alive today.

This year, we invite you to sponsor a child individually as the church sponsors multiple children. Here is an excerpt from their website: <http://daisyschildren.org/>

“BECOME A SPONSOR

Sponsoring a child through Daisy's Children allows you to directly affect and change a child's life!

In addition, you can share your life and correspond with them regularly. Because of the continued travel of our volunteers, sponsors can send personal notes, exchange pictures, and special gifts with their child. You can hear their appreciation and find out how you are changing their lives every step of the way.

Unlike other donations and sponsorships, your sponsorship dollars are spent directly on the nutritional and educational needs of your child. Your funds go directly to your child in the form of medical assistance, food, vitamins, school supplies, books, and so much more.

You can sponsor a child and for as low as \$25 a month, less than \$1 per day. For less than what you spend on a beverage, you can change a child's life in the *most* powerful way!

Sponsorships are made in increments of \$25.

Sponsoring a child is easy and a great way to show your support directly to the children and families of Honduras. The impact such an act will have, even on your *own* life, is immeasurable.

Change a child's life today!

Moderator Musings



Well. Here we are. In the midst of winter. Nightfall leaves the evening sky cold and clear. The day-time highs are in the single digits. Most water sources have turned to a frozen sheet of ice. And yes, our Florida friends are worrying whether they should wear shorts today or will the low temps in the sixties be too cold. Yes, Winter is tough on many. I'm glad the decision to wear shorts has already been made for me. One less thing to worry about. How about you?

We often enter the winter season coming on the coat tails of the joyous holiday season. All the lights, music, traditions, pies, feasts and families are now just memories. The new year has come, and we all must resolve to be better next year.

You know that feeling very well, I am sure. Let's exercise more often, Let's lose weight. Let's get more sleep. Let's be more neighborly. And then the doldrums of winter take over and we end up with the winter blues. Been there...

Done that. How about you

Let's turn the WINTER BLUES into the WINTER DO's.

Clean that closet which shelves haven't seen the light of day for years. You know the one, after you close the door, you run just to make sure that all the items stuffed in, do not fall out and add more stress to your life.

You can always grab some jigsaw puzzles to help you through the cold, dark days of winter. Get those fingers moving and the mind will follow in helping to while the time away.

Take up a new hobby. Try painting, maybe not the artistic type of painting but add a fresh new layer of color to a room in your house.

How about joining the church's knitting group?

Learn a new skill online, there are many distinct types of videos and specific channels to help you along the way,

Fancy to be a writer, take a stab at it. Start putting pen to paper or fingers to the keyboard as I have done here.

If you are a gardener, study up on a new species of greenery to add to your landscape. Maybe a new breed of tomato to plant or some new flower to add to your greenery scenery.

What are you waiting for? Next thing you know spring will be here.

-Tom Wiley Moderator

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

Thank You!

Many thanks to the RVCC family for all the lovely Christmas thoughts. From Avon to candy, greeting cards to gift cards, ornaments and everything in between, Dan and I are most appreciative. Warm wishes to all in this hopeful New Year!

Blessings,

Lori

Knitting & Crocheting Group

We are currently working on hats & mittens for children. 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.



Summary of Tuesday, January 4, 2022 Coordinating Council/Deacons Meeting

A joint meeting of the coordinating council and deacons was called to order via zoom, at 5:30 PM, on Tuesday January 4, 2022, by Tom Wiley. Present were Tom, Rolf, Brenda, Petra, Nancy, Caryl, Deb, and Judy.

Judy offered the opening prayer. Tom reviewed the agenda and set an end time of 7:00 PM.

Treasurer's Report: Brenda presented the 4th quarter treasurer's report. It continues to show us doing better than budgeted. Total income for the quarter was over budget by \$3,617, and over budget for the year by \$10,700, which includes gain of \$8,778 in American Funds. Total expenses for the quarter were under budget by \$131 for the quarter, under budget by \$7,336 for the year. The final year end report will be coming in the annual report. Brenda does not anticipate many changes, however. We did have some gains in the American Funds this quarter. They continue to do well, and are allowing us to continue as a church longer than we originally anticipated. There were some year end contributions, we may need to ask families where they would like them to go. Twenty pledges for 2022 have come in, for a total of \$42,734, Brenda is still expecting a couple more pledges. At this point, the 2022 budget has not changed since presented at our last meeting.

Reports of the Coordinators:

Clerk: Judy reported that she has been working on the annual statistical report.

Trustees: Rolf suggested that we need to keep an eye on our neighbors during the winter months. They tend to move their cars to our parking lot, then our plow person can't do a good job on the parking lot. Rolf continues to work on the mouse problem. He would appreciate if we would let him know about off schedule events. Rolf raised once again the possibility of tearing down the thrift shop building. We had originally thought that we could not afford to do it. Our neighbor, however, has offered to pay one half the cost. Because of where the property line runs, he will benefit from some of this, but we will gain a couple of parking spots. Tom made a motion that we spend up to \$3,000 toward our portion of removing the thrift shop, seconded by Caryl Gilman, and passed. We will need to clean out the building, there is some stuff there we will want to keep. We will pay for this from the Fran Mains memorial fund.

Missions: Caryl reported that we collected \$270 toward the Christmas fund. For next year, she is suggesting that

she will try and limit projects which depend on donations from the congregation to every other month.

Deacons: Allison Curry is going to preach on February 6 and 13, while Petra is in Florida. She is comfortable with doing it via zoom. She will also cover any pastoral care needs, that do not need Petra, for early February. Leslie Chatfield will be available for pastoral care needs for the rest of the month.

Pastor: Petra has been working on picking a book for the Lenten book study. Petra will be in Florida for the month of February. During the first week, she will be on vacation, the second week will be her study week, she will work on the Lenten series, The last two weeks she will be working remotely from Florida and will lead worship via zoom.

Old Business: The agenda for the annual meeting was reviewed. Tom will talk about the State of the Church, Rolf will lead the Old Business section. Tom reminded us to get annual reports to Lori. He will do one for music, if it has not been done.

New Business: We need to promote the January Saturday Brunch/Bingo. Brenda will put something in the ACE. With Covid increasing, we are aware that some people will not feel comfortable coming. We need to reevaluate this before setting a date for a February brunch. Tom reported that he has been reviewing our call agreement with Petra. There are items in the agreement that have not happened due to Covid, we need to move ahead with these. Petra said that she expects a workshop with Paul Nickerson about outreach and growth may happen in March. This could be helpful in addressing these items. Weathervane should be printed on the 25th or 27th of January, Judy will check with Lori.

The next meeting will be held on February 15th, at 5:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Munson, Clerk

ZOOM WORSHIP

Worship will be held on Zoom during January, February and March of 2022. Please join us!

The Zoom will open at 9:45 a.m. Please join before 10:00 a.m. when the worship and recording will begin.

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=bkZvL0lIT21ROXR2d1phaEhiZ2MzQT09>

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".



Raymond Village Community Church

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Sweetheart Brunch

Saturday 11:00 AM, February 12th



Join us for a delicious brunch of pancakes, eggs, bacon, sausages, baked goods, fruit and more! Our second social brunch of 2022. Join us for fellowship and food with your favorite valentine.

We'll do the cooking, but we could use some donations, for example; sausage, bacon, pancake mix, syrup, butter, milk, juice, fruit and baked goods such as muffins, scones, coffee cakes, pastries, etc. Please let me know if you think you can help us out. Thanks! Brenda Olsen (207-838-0123 or bolsen001@maine.rr.com)