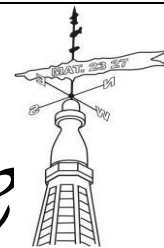


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# The Weathervane



RAYMOND VILLAGE COMMUNITY CHURCH, United Church of Christ Newsletter

March, 2022

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## *From the Pastor . . .*

After much needed time for restoration in Florida I came to the realization that you have continued to be by my side. In the musical “Into The Woods” the character of Cinderella sings:

*“Mother cannot guide you. Now you are on your own.  
Only me beside you, still, you are not alone. No one is  
alone.”*

We come to church to worship. To say “I do” before our Creator, family and friends. To connect with one another. To sing. To pray. To bury our loved ones, when the time comes to cross over into God’s arms. We come to church to find quiet time with our God. Reflect on how we can love and serve others and God on a higher level. But we also join a church family so we can remember time and time again that we are not alone. Never alone.

As human beings and Jesus followers we all experience hard times, broken relationships, losses of all kinds. Thanks be to God we don’t walk this path alone. If you are feeling alone, scared, or lost please call or email me. As I have learned, we need each other. Thank you RVCC for reminding me that I am never alone.

Blessings and Peace,

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 15<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:office@rvccme.org) or to Judy Munson, 23 Lawn Ave., Gorham, ME 04038 – [cmmunson24@yahoo.com](mailto:cmmunson24@yahoo.com) – Thank you for reading our newsletter!

*This Month at RVCC . . .*

March 2, 2022	5:30 p.m. – Ash Wednesday Service on Zoom
March 6, 2022-	10:00 a.m. – Worship on Zoom
March 12, 2022-	1:00 p.m. – March Social Gathering
March 13, 2022-	10:00 a.m. – Worship on Zoom
March 15, 2022-	5:30 p.m. – Deacon’s Meeting on Zoom
March 16, 2022-	7:30 p.m. – Council/Deacon Meeting on Zoom
March 20, 2022-	10:00 a.m. – Worship on Zoom
March 27, 2021-	10:00 a.m. – Worship – in person!

**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 9:30 a.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.

Lenten Book Study will be either Monday or Wednesday evening at 6:30 p.m. on Zoom. It will begin the week of March 6<sup>th</sup>.



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,  
Dan Tibbetts, Penny Warrickoff, Adma Willis

*March Lectionary Lessons*

**March 6, 2022 – First Sunday in Lent**

Deuteronomy 26:1-11  
Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16  
Romans 10:8b-13  
Luke 4:1-13

**March 13, 2022 – Second Sunday in Lent**

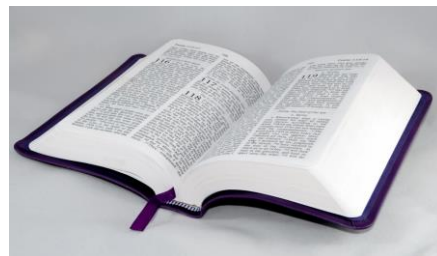
Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18  
Psalm 27  
Philippians 3:17-4:1  
Luke 13:31-35 or *Luke 9:28-36, (37-43a)*

**March 20, 2022 – Third Sunday in Lent**

Isaiah 55:1-9  
Psalm 63:1-8  
1 Corinthians 10:1-13  
Luke 13:1-9

**March 27, 2022 – Fourth Sunday in Lent**

Joshua 5:9-12  
Psalm 32  
2 Corinthians 5:16-21  
Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32



Happy Birthday!

March 2	Jeri Keane
March 14	Vicki Gordan
March 29	Jeff Morris
March 30	Bob Yates



## Missions Corner

### Raymond Food Pantry

We are seeing a small resurgence of patrons/attendance at the Food Pantry. All are grateful for the food provided. The Pantry does have enough food and, thanks to a new volunteer, enough workers for the current level of patronage.

### January & February Mission Fund donations – Thanks are pouring in!

- UCC Global Ministries - \$500 for tornadoes out west
- Boulder County Wildfire fund - \$1000 for people whose homes were burned in the Marshall Fire in Boulder County, CO. A member of the fund organization called to thank us!
- Good Shepherd Food Bank - \$250 a letter of thanks on behalf of the many Mainers facing hunger.
- Daisy's Children - \$200 to sponsor a child/children. This money provides sustenance, education and medical support to disadvantaged children of Honduras

### March Mission – One Great Hour of Sharing – March 27

This Lenten Offering supports the disaster refugee and development ministries of the UCC within the Wider Church Ministries. When you give to One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS), you deploy resources to people in need all around the world, and in our own communities. When man-made or natural disasters strike, love responds. Not just of the immediate future, but for the long haul. When you give to OGHS, you are working alongside families to restore not only structures, but hope. Your giving ensures that no matter how difficult the situation, Love remains.



### Lenten Book Study: "Falling Upward – A Spirituality of the Two Halves of Life"

by Richard Rohr. We will be reading selected chapters - *Description from Amazon:*

"In *Falling Upward*, Richard Rohr seeks to help readers understand the tasks of the two halves of life and to show them that those who have gone "down" are the only ones who understand "up." Those who have somehow fallen, and fallen well, are the only ones who can grow spiritually and not misuse "up". More than anything else, he describes what "up" (in the second half of life) will look like and could look like. Most of us tend to think of the second half of life as largely about getting old, dealing with health issues, and letting go of life, but the whole thesis of this book is exactly the opposite. What looks like falling down can largely be experienced as "falling upward." In fact, it is not a loss but somehow actually a gain, as we have all seen with elders who have come to their fullness, and life flows out from them naturally."

Either Monday or Wednesday night at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom

**If you are interested, please contact Petra by 2/25 and let her know along with your preference for Monday or Wednesday.** [petra@maine.rr.com](mailto:petra@maine.rr.com)

*If you are reading this after 2/25 and want to join, feel free to contact Petra anyway*

## Minutes of 2022 Annual Congregational Meeting January 23, 2022

*Note: These minutes are not official until adopted at the 2023 Annual Meeting.*

Moderator Tom Wiley called the meeting to order at approximately 1:05 PM. There were approximately fifteen people in attendance.

Opening Remarks: The meeting was held via zoom. Tom welcomed all who joined in their own homes. This has been another unusual year due to Covid, but we have continued to operate and thrive in spite of it. We have worshipped in person and via zoom. We have continued to be a part of, and to give generously to our community. People have come to a new version of our pot roast dinners. We have thrived under the leadership of Pastor Petra Smyth. His opening prayer was from our Mission Statement. We pray that God will guide our deliberations. Ephesians 4:2 reminds us that we own and are responsible for our own thoughts. Caryl Gilman made a motion to accept the minutes of the 2021 Annual Meeting as printed. The motion was seconded by Brenda Olsen and approved.

**Agenda Article 1:** Rolf Olsen made a motion to waive the reading of the reports of the coordinators and to accept those reports. The motion was seconded by Caryl Gilman and approved.

**Agenda Article 2:** Brenda Olsen presented the Treasurer's Report and Budget for 2022. Brenda reviewed the 2021 financials. Due to gains in our investments with American Funds, and a few more pledges than anticipated, we have finished the year better than budget. Excess expenses of \$6,630 in the general fund were lower than our expected net excess expense of \$24,070, but we can't budget for that going forward. She reviewed the Plant, Property and Equipment Fund. Current balance is \$10,858. Missions continues to be an important part of RVCC. Mission's payments were intentionally planned to be higher in 2021 than in 2020. There is a strong balance in the Missions Funds, and it is our intention to continue to use these funds more than in previous years. Brenda presented the 2022 budget, it is similar to 2021, there is a raise for Petra. For 2022, she is budgeting a loss of \$23,231. Assuming similar deficits moving forward, she predicts we will have the ability to weather the shortfall for 2022, and likely for 2 more years after that. Bonnie asked how we cover our deficits, it is with the income from our American Funds investments. Woody had a question about the Fran Mains fund, it is for handicap accessibility. We will talk more about that later. Caryl

Gilman made a motion to accept the 2022 budget as presented, seconded by Deborah Feagans, and approved.

**Article 3:** To elect a slate of officers and deacons for 2022:

Slate of Deacons for 2022: Caryl Gilman, Deb Feagans, Cora Sullivan, Tom Wiley, Nancy Yates

Slate of Coordinators for 2022: Moderator-Tom Wiley, Treasurer-Brenda Olsen, Clerk-Judith Munson, Financial Secretary-Nancy Yates, Missions-Caryl Gilman, Christian Education-vacant, Trustees-Rolf Olsen, Stewardship-vacant. Tom Wiley asked for any nominations from the floor, there were none. Caryl Gilman made a motion to accept the slates of Deacons and Coordinators, seconded by Brenda Olsen, and approved. Caryl Gilman made a motion to allow the council, at a regular meeting, to fill open positions, seconded by Rolf Olsen, and approved.

**Article 4:** Old Business: Rolf Olsen reviewed the Handicap Access presentation which was made at last year's annual meeting. It had included improving outside access to the building by improving the driveway access on the office side of the building, installing a ramp from the sanctuary to the office area, and redoing the entrance into the sanctuary and installing an air curtain. To date, we have installed the ramp from the sanctuary to office area at a cost of \$2271. This cost was covered by a grant from the Maine UCC, Resourcing the Local Church. We were unable to do work on the driveway, due to problems with finding contractors and materials. But, good news is that our neighbor has agreed to help with the cost of removing the thrift shop, which will give us more space to work with. This project, along with refinishing the driveway will hopefully happen in the spring. Woody raised concern about the state of the granite steps in the front of the building. They have shifted over the years, and are not even. Rolf reported that a lot of dirt would have to be moved, and the steps would have to be reset, a major job. He suggested installing an additional hand rail would help. Rolf will speak with the contractor doing the driveway job about possibility of releveling the steps. Rolf is hopeful that installing air curtain into the sanctuary will happen in 2022. Work to complete access from sanctuary into office area, and installing handicap accessible rest room will not happen during 2022. There was no additional Old Business.

*Continued next page . . .*



**Article 4:** New Business: Tom mentioned to those present that we are at the mid point of our three- year contract with Pastor Petra. Much of the first eighteen months has been spent with Covid issues, but we need to get back to the business of her contract which was to work with a church in transition. He thanked Petra for all she has done to help us with working through Covid issues. Tom asked for input on the “State of the Church”. He announced that we hope to be back worshipping in person by March 23. In the meantime, zoom is working, and we still have contact with each other. Polly thanked those who work to make this happen. Petra suggested that we need to do a “dry run” before returning to in person worship. We have some new equipment, and need to make sure it is working and we are able to tape. Petra would always welcome other participants in our worship services, with Spirit Spotlight, or in other roles. Brenda announced that we will be holding a Sweetheart Brunch on Saturday February 12, at 11:00AM. There will be a game as well.

Petra offered the closing prayer. A motion was made by Caryl Gilman, seconded by Rolf Olsen, and approved to adjourn the meeting at 2:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Munson, Clerk

## *Sweetheart Brunch*



Many thanks to all who made our second social gathering a great success! Rolf, Craig, Brenda and Emily cooked a delicious brunch. Judy and Deb helped with set up and everyone helped clean up. We all had a bunch of laughs over Brenda’s Valentine’s “Mad Libs.”



# Bingo



Our first way to do a social gathering during the winter months, was lots of fun! Everyone brought dish to share and there was plenty for everyone. Prizes included bags of candy, Christmas items, sudoku game and some household goods. The last game was a 50/50 payout of the pot and the winners were... Judy and Brenda!

# Brunch



## 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.

## 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](mailto:bolsen001@maine.rr.com)) or give me a call (207-838-0123). Thanks! Brenda

## Ash Wednesday, March 2

Lent is a season of reflection and waiting. It is also an opportunity to stop and deeply reflect on where we are called to invest our time and energy. The Ash Wednesday worship service on March 2<sup>nd</sup> will be a brief service of reflection at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom.

## Summary of February 15, 2022 Coordinating Council/Deacons Meeting

A joint meeting of the coordinating council and deacons was called to order via zoom, by Tom Wiley, at 5:30 PM on Tuesday, February 15, 2022. Present were Tom, Brenda, Rolf, Caryl, Nancy, Judy, Deb, and Petra.

The agenda was reviewed. Finish time of 6:30 was set. Deb offered the opening prayer.

**Treasurer's Report:** Brenda presented a brief financial summary of January. Expenses were higher than income, but she is not concerned, pledges will catch up. Oil prices have gone way up, not unexpected, she will watch it. She needs to redeem some American Funds for cash flow purposes, but wants to talk with our financial advisor there, first. She has an appointment with him coming up soon.

**Clerk:** nothing to report

**Trustees:** On Saturday, Rolf discovered that our hot water heater has given out. Obviously it will have to be replaced. Cost will probably be in the \$500 range, plus installation. Rolf also reported a small leak in the roof over the stairs going up to the office space. Probably not a big deal, but he can not get up there at this point.

**Missions:** Caryl reported that we sent a check from the church to Daisy's Children in February. A donation for \$200 has recently been sent to Preble Street. At some point, when we are back worshipping in person, she would like to collect socks, etc. for Preble Street. One Great Hour of Sharing will be collected on March 27.

**Christian Education:** nothing to report

**Stewardship:** nothing to report

**Deacons:** Caryl reported that there will be an Ash Wednesday service on March 2, at 5:30 PM, via zoom.

**Moderator:** Tom had nothing to report.

**Pastor:** Petra reported that she has chosen a book for the Lenten Study, It is "Falling Upward" by Richard Rohr. The book study will be held on either Monday or Wednesdays, starting March 7 or 9, depending on which day seems to be better for participants. Length will be 6 weeks, discussion will be held via zoom.

Petra has spoken with our designated term associate conference minister, Alexis Fuller-Wright concerning resources for us as we plan for the next few years at RVCC. She recommended starting discussions with a book titled "Holy Conversations" by Gil Rendle and Alice Mann. This will probably start after Easter. Others

will be asked to join the council members and deacons in these discussions.

**Old Business:** It was decided to start return to worship in person on March 27. In the meantime, Deb, Rolf, and Will will meet at the church, go over all the audio/video equipment, and make sure it is in good working order. There will be a third get together before we meet in person, it will be a Corned Beef and cabbage luncheon on March 12, at 1:00 PM.

**New Business:** Caryl reported that the Fuller Center has bike rides in the summer to raise money. There is a bike ride which will end in Windham at the end of July. There will be a work day on July 29, we have been asked to prepare box lunches for 45 people. Caryl will be away at that time. Nancy and Brenda volunteered to take care of this project.

The next meeting of the Deacons will be on March 15 at 5:30 PM. The next meeting of the Council will be on March 16, at 7:30 PM. Being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 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".

## Back to live worship – Sunday March 27

It seems so long since we were together! Zoom is good when we don't want to drive and/or we want to see people who live "away" with us, yet we love to be together in person. Sunday, March 27, we will resume live worship in the sanctuary!





*Raymond Village Community Church*

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

## ***March Social Gathering***

***Happy St. Patrick's Day!!!***

A decorative green border featuring shamrocks and leaves, positioned below the "Happy St. Patrick's Day!!!" text.

Join us for a corned beef lunch on Saturday, March 12<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 – 3:00 P.M. Come in out of the cold and join us for a traditional corned beef and cabbage dinner with Irish bread and good old-fashioned friendship. Plus...Test your knowledge of Ireland and Irish traditions and legends in a game of trivia. Cost will be \$5/person and we invite you to bring a dessert to share. Please call the office to reserve a spot. 655-7749