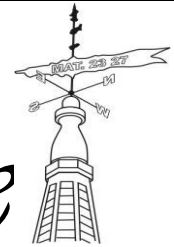


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# The Weathervane



RAYMOND VILLAGE COMMUNITY CHURCH, United Church of Christ Newsletter

April, 2022

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## *From the Pastor . . .*

My sister-in-law Cindy sent me the book "Surprise the World" written by Michael Frost. Cindy has overcome many challenges in her life and told me that this book revolutionized her faith journey in the last three years. Needless to say, I was intrigued.

The book outlines five things that can cause Christians to live surprising and "questionable" lives. "Questionable" means that your life is so amazing that other people want to know why you do the things you do, and the answer is because of your faith.

Michael Frost writes that we can share our faith in surprisingly simple ways:

*We BLESS people, both inside and outside the church.*

*We EAT together, sharing meals with believers and nonbelievers alike.*

*We LISTEN to the guidance and direction of the Holy Spirit as we engage with those around us.*

*We LEARN Christ as our leader and model for making disciples.*

*We see ourselves SENT by God to everywhere life takes us.*

Cindy is currently not driving, so she took a bus to get to an appointment. She exchanged friendly greetings with the bus driver, who helped her into the bus. Cindy felt compelled to hand the driver a gift card to a local coffee shop at the end of her ride. At first, the driver...her name is Latoya...declined the gift, but Cindy insisted.

The next thing she knew, Latoya was weeping. Through tears, she told Cindy that her husband and seven-month-old child had been in an accident a few hours earlier. Her spouse let her know that they were OK and that she should continue on with her day at work. Both ladies had a good conversation about the coincidence that Cindy surprised Latoya with a very small gift... only enough for a coffee and a pastry... on a day when she really needed support. Both were blessed by the conversation.

Indeed, we need to remember that all of us are a blessing, so let us go out into the world and be a blessing.

Lenten Blessings,

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 . . .***

- April 3, 2022- 10:00 – Worship  
April 5, 2022- 5:30 p.m. – Deacon’s Meeting on Zoom  
April 7, 2022- 6:30 p.m. – Council meeting on Zoom  
April 10, 2022- 10:00 a.m. – Palm Sunday Worship  
April 14, 2022- 5:30 p.m. – Maundy Thursday Worship Service  
April 15, 2022- Good Friday – Sanctuary open from Noon to 3 p.m.  
April 17, 2022- 10:00 a.m. – Easter Worship  
April 24, 2022- 10:00 a.m. – Worship

**If you are unable to join us in person, services may be viewed on our YouTube channel at:**

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

The Friendship Group meets every other Monday (April 4 & April 18) 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 on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.  
The last meeting is April 13, 2022.

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, Nate Rand, Walt Read, Charlotte Rowe, Dan Tibbetts, Janet Walker, Penny Warrikoff, The family of Adma Willis, Nancy Yates.

***April Lectionary Lessons***

***April 3, 2022 - Fifth Sunday in Lent***

Isaiah 43:16-21  
Psalm 126  
Philippians 3:4b-14  
John 12:1-8

***April 10, 2022 - Palm Sunday***

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29  
Luke 19:28-40  
Isaiah 50:4-9a  
Psalm 31:9-16  
Philippians 2:5-11  
Luke 22:14-23:56 or *Luke 23:1-49*

***April 14, 2022 - Maundy Thursday***

Exodus 12:1-4, (5-10), 11-14  
Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19  
1 Corinthians 11:23-26  
John 13:1-17, 31b-35

***April 15, 2022 - Good Friday***

Isaiah 52:13-53:12  
Psalm 22  
Hebrews 10:16-25 or *Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9*  
John 18:1-19:42

***April 17, 2022 - Easter Day***

\*Acts 10:34-43 or *Isaiah 65:17-25*  
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24  
1 Corinthians 15:19-26 or *Acts 10:34-43*  
John 20:1-18 or *Luke 24:1-12*

***April 24, 2022 - Second Sunday of Easter***

\*Acts 5:27-32  
Psalm 118:14-29 or *Psalm 150*  
Revelation 1:4-8  
John 20:19-31

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**

We wish everyone with an April birthday a very Happy Birthday!

April 2	Tom Wiley
April 4	Tim Morris
April 12	Bekah Gagne
April 26	Frank Morrison

## We returned to live worship on Sunday March 27!

It was a great Sunday together in the sanctuary, seeing everyone's faces, singing together and worshipping together!

### What are the COVID precautions?

At this writing, the incidence of COVID is very low.

**Masks are optional** in church and sanctuary whether listening, speaking or singing. You can sit in the sanctuary where you choose (as long as the camera can record worship!) We still have masks and hand sanitizer available. We will continue with offering in the basket near the outside door and communion using the little wafer/juice cups. If you have any questions, please ask a Deacon.

### Lenten Book Group

"Falling Upward - A Spirituality of the Two Halves of Life" by Richard Rohr. We will be continuing to read selected chapters on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m., through April 13. Please use the same Zoom link you do for Sunday worship.

## Missions Corner

### One Great Hour of Sharing – it's not too late to donate!

This Lenten Offering was collected on March 27. The funds go to support the disaster refugee and development ministries of the UCC within the Wider Church Ministries.

### March & April Mission – Help Ukraine!

UCC's Global H.O.P.E. team has issued an emergency request for help of Ukraine. (Humanitarian. Opportunities. Progress. Empowerment.) We sent funds on March 8 to help now. After Easter we will send more funds – money sent in to RVCC will be matched or doubled and sent in. If you would like to contribute, please mail your check to RVCC, PO Box 285, Raymond, ME 04071 and write "Ukraine" in the memo line. For more information, click [here](#).

## Lent and Holy Week Worship

We are in the midst of Lent now and, before we know it, Holy Week will begin. Here is an overview of our special worship plans for Lent and Holy Week:

**Palm Sunday on April 10<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.** - We will celebrate Jesus's triumphal entry into Jerusalem with palms and with traditional music played by Michael!

**Maundy Thursday, April 14<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m.** – We will worship in the sanctuary. At the Last Supper, Jesus commanded that people should love one another. To celebrate Maundy Thursday, we will tell the story of the days leading up to and of Jesus crucifixion and join in communion together.

**Good Friday, April 15<sup>th</sup>** - The sanctuary will be open from Noon until 3:00 p.m. for anyone who wants to come in. Petra or a Deacon will be on duty. The readings about the Holy week story will be available.

### Easter Sunday, April 17<sup>th</sup>

- **We are invited to join the Casco Village Church for a sunrise worship at 6:30 a.m. at the church.** (No breakfast will be served)
- **RVCC worship at 10:00 a.m.** will be a joyous event. **He is Risen!** The service will be full of music from begin to end. Two of Michael's school mates, Angel Ortiz (soprano) and Cat Sullivan (alto) will sing special music accompanied by Michael. **We invite everyone to bring flowers to put on display at the altar.** Potted plants, flowers in a vase, dried flowers, potted flowering plants. If you your flowers to be in celebration, honor, or memory of a loved one for Easter, please send your message and name of honoree to the office [office@rvccme.org](mailto:office@rvccme.org) by **Sunday, April 10<sup>th</sup>**.



## Summary of March 16, 2022 Coordinating Council/Deacons Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Tom Wiley, moderator. Present were Tom, Rolf, Brenda, Petra, Caryl, Nancy, Deb, and Judy.

Nancy offered the opening prayer.

Agenda was reviewed, end time of 8:30 p.m. was set.

**Financial Report:** Brenda gave a brief summary of February financial statement. \$1600 received from the previous year pledge has bumped up income. We have had some high price fuel deliveries, no surprise there. She will try not to get another oil delivery while prices are so high. We are paying insurance bills monthly now, not quarterly. She has asked the insurance company to reduce the value of the thrift shop building down to \$0. Brenda reported that due to the current volatile market, she has not made the changes which she proposed to our American Funds. Recently she had to make a withdrawal for cash flow purposes, but is not taking any more than she needs for the short term. The market will undoubtedly continue to go up and down.

**Clerk:** nothing to report

**Trustees:** Rolf reported that he has had to change cleaning companies. In the long run, he expects the cost to be about the same as we have been paying. He has not yet replaced the hot water tank. As long as we are still running the oil burner for heating purposes, he can still use the hot water off of that.

**Missions:** Caryl reported that during the month of March we are focusing on financial help for Ukraine, and on One Great Hour of Sharing.

**Christian Education:** Petra reported that the Lenten book study is going well, there are 6 people enrolled. They are meeting on Wednesday evenings.

**Stewardship:** Craig has requested to join us at our next meeting to talk about pot roast suppers.

**Deacons:** Caryl announced that the deacons had met the night before with a packed agenda. Plans were discussed for back to worship on March 27. Will, Deb, and Rolf have had a dress rehearsal with new equipment and feel all is ready for recording. Spring flowers will be in the church, lots of music. We will light a "peace candle for Ukraine" each Sunday. There will be a coffee hour. For Palm Sunday, Nancy to order Palms, again lots of traditional music. Plans were discussed for Maundy Thursday, service will be in dim light, there will be a number of readings. The church will be open as usual on Good Friday from noon until 3 p.m., with quiet music. Petra, Caryl, and Nancy will be there for an

hour each. Petra has spoken with Joyce at the Casco church about doing the Hunger Walk, one way. For Easter, on April 17, again lots of special music with Michael and two friends of his from school, an alto and soprano. We will end with the Hallelujah chorus, again with soloists and congregation. Easter flowers will not be ordered, but people are encouraged to bring in cut flowers or flowering plants to decorate the church. There will be a list in the bulletin of those who are remembered by the flowers, contact Lori at the church office to leave names. Caryl announced information about service of remembrance for Adma. Petra added that there will be an Easter Sunrise Service in the parking lot at the Casco church, there will be no breakfast. Petra will be away on April 24, Rev. Joanne Painter will preach. Caryl announced that she needs someone to tape the service on April 10, none of the deacons are available.

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

**Old Business:** Rolf and Deb reported that all went well in checking out equipment in the church for recording. Tom thanked Brenda, Rolf, and Craig for taking on the Saturday socials for the past three months. They were a great success.

**New Business:** Preparations are being made for back to in-person worship. Cleaning is being done, masks and hand sanitizer will be available. After discussion, however, it was decided that, for now, people should do what they feel comfortable with, but masks will not be required. We will revisit this before Easter. Weathervane will probably be printed on March 29, our next meeting will be on Thursday, April 7 at 6:30 p.m., Deacons will meet on Tuesday, April 5 at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Judith Munson, Clerk

### 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



# Covid-19 Vaccination Clinic

*No cost to you!*

April 5th 3:00-6:00 pm

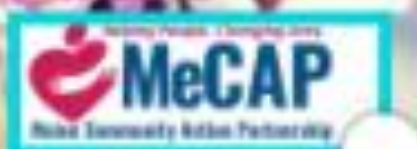
Pfizer, Moderna and Johnson & Johnson

1st, 2nd, and 3rd doses available

Ages 5-11 Pfizer Pediatric Available on Request

Windham Hill UCC

140 Windham Center Rd, Windham





*Raymond Village Community Church*

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

## **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.

## **Hygiene Kits**

For many years, RVCC has put together school and hygiene kits for Church World Service. In the face of natural disasters, violence, or poverty, hygiene kits can mean the difference between sickness and health for struggling families. One gallon zip lock bags, with a list of needed supplies attached, will be available in the back of the church on Sundays, April 3<sup>rd</sup> and April 10<sup>th</sup>. Please take one home and fill it with needed supplies and return it to the bin in the back of the church by Sunday, April 24. The past year has seen a number of natural disasters, with the current situation in Ukraine, I can imagine the need for these kits must be enormous.

P.S. Thanks to your generosity last fall, we already have the supplies we need to make up the school kits. And thanks to Sarah Allen, we have the bags to put them in.

## **POT ROAST SUPPERS RETURNING!**

We anticipate the return of our “Drive Through” pot roast suppers again this year! Keep an eye open for details in upcoming All Church Emails and the May Weathervane! These are an important fundraiser for our Church and we appreciate everyone who works so hard to make them successful!