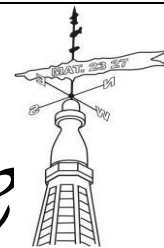


# The Weathervane



RAYMOND VILLAGE COMMUNITY CHURCH, United Church of Christ Newsletter

May, 2022

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## From the Pastor . . .

Dear members and friends of RVCC,

This writing “Desiderata” by Max Ehrmann might appeal to you if you feel like meditating.

*GO PLACIDLY amid the noise and the haste and remember what peace there may be in silence. As far as possible, without surrender, be on good terms with all persons. Speak your truth quietly and clearly; and listen to others, even to the dull and the ignorant; they too have their story.*

*Avoid loud and aggressive persons; they are vexatious to the spirit. If you compare yourself with others, you may become vain or bitter, for always there will be greater and lesser persons than yourself.*

*Enjoy your achievements as well as your plans. Keep interested in your own career, however humble; it is a real possession in the changing fortunes of time.*

*Exercise caution in your business affairs, for the world is full of trickery. But let this not blind you to what virtue there is; many persons strive for high ideals, and everywhere life is full of heroism.*

*Be yourself. Especially do not feign affection. Neither be cynical about love; for in the face of all aridity and disenchantment, it is as perennial as the grass.*

*Take kindly the counsel of the years, gracefully surrendering the things of youth.*

*Nurture strength of spirit to shield you in sudden misfortune. But do not distress yourself with dark imaginings. Many fears are born of fatigue and loneliness.*

*Beyond a wholesome discipline, be gentle with yourself. You are a child of the universe no less than the trees and the stars; you have a right to be here.*

*And whether or not it is clear to you, no doubt the universe is unfolding as it should.*

*Therefore be at peace with God, whatever you conceive Him to be. And whatever your labors and aspirations, in the noisy confusion of life, keep peace in your soul. With all its sham, drudgery and broken dreams, it is still a beautiful world.*

*Be cheerful. Strive to be happy.*

Easter Blessings,

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 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 . . .*

- May 1, 2022- 10:00 a.m. – Worship  
11:00 a.m. – Deacon’s Meeting (in person)
- May 8, 2022- 10:00 a.m. – Worship - Happy Mother’s Day!
- May 9, 2022- 6:30 p.m. – Council meeting on Zoom
- May 10, 2022- 4:00 p.m. – Pastoral Relations Committee meeting
- May 14, 2022- 5:00 p.m. – Drive Thru Pot Roast Supper
- May 15, 2022- 10:00 a.m. - Worship
- May 22, 2022- 10:00 a.m. – Worship
- May 29, 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 (May 2, May 16 and May 30) 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 (May 10 and May 24) 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, Betty Burdette (Catherine Berry’s sister),  
The Family of 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,  
Rebecca Wicks, The family of Adma Willis.

*May Lectionary Lessons*

**May 1, 2022 - Third Sunday of Easter**

- \*Acts 9:1-6, (7-20)
- Psalm 30
- Revelation 5:11-14
- John 21:1-19

**May 8, 2022 - Fourth Sunday of Easter**

- \*Acts 9:36-43
- Psalm 23
- Revelation 7:9-17
- John 10:22-30

**May 15, 2022 - Fifth Sunday of Easter**

- \*Acts 11:1-18
- Psalm 148
- Revelation 21:1-6
- John 13:31-35

**May 22, 2022 - Sixth Sunday of Easter**

- \*Acts 16:9-15
- Psalm 67
- Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5
- John 14:23-29 or John 5:1-9

**May 29, 2022 - Seventh Sunday of Easter**

- \*Acts 16:16-34
- Psalm 97
- Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21
- John 17:20-26



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**

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

- |        |                    |
|--------|--------------------|
| May 1  | A.J. Olsen         |
| May 4  | Kathleen Bent      |
| May 12 | Charlotte Rowe     |
| May 18 | Judy Day           |
| May 26 | Christine Eldridge |
| May 30 | Alice Morrison     |
| May 30 | Chuck Waldron      |

## Worship Update

### Holy Week

The meaning of Holy Week was so much more powerful because we went on the journey together – Triumphal entry to Jerusalem with palms to a somber Maundy Thursday worship to a joyous Easter celebration with special music – All LIVE!



### Upcoming Worship

Our pianist, Michael Bostock, will be participating in piano competitions on Sunday April 24 and Sunday May 1. Many thanks to Cherie Moore (4/24) and Patrick Martin (5/1) for providing music on those Sundays.

Petra will be visiting her mother in Germany May 23-30, therefore Sunday, May 29 will be a lay worship service focused on Psalm 23. We hope you will join us!

**Live worship and Coffee Hour** - It is great to be in LIVE worship! We pray together, sing together, and enjoy being together. Then we can join together in fellowship during coffee hour. Many thanks to our coffee hour hosts: Catherine Berry, Cheri Moore, Judy Munson, Brenda Olsen, Bonnie Pierpont and Kay Roach.

**COVID precautions** – we will continue to monitor the Maine CDC website for guidance. For now, **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.

## *Mission Corner*

### March and 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:

- March 8 - \$1000 from Mission Fund
- April – you all contributed more than \$550! When we have the final tally, we will send a check for double that amount (matching funds from Mission Fund)

### April Mission – Church World Service Hygiene Kits

Thanks to Sarah Allen for making school kit bags and your generosity last fall, we will send over a dozen school kits. This spring we collected 30 hygiene kits! All will be sent to Church World Service early in May. What an accomplishment!

## 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.

## 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



## Summary of April 7, 2022 Coordinating Council/Deacons Meeting

The meeting was called to order by Tom Wiley, Moderator, at 6:30 PM, on April 7, 2022. Present were Tom, Petra, Rolf, Caryl, Deb, Brenda, Judy, and Craig Messenger.

Tom offered the opening prayer.

The agenda was reviewed, end time of 7:30 was set.

Craig had joined the meeting to talk about the upcoming supper season. He suggests the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month, starting in May. It was agreed to stick with drive in version, which has worked well for the past two years. An increase in price was suggested, but others felt we should keep it the same as last year. We want to keep people coming. Craig had met with new owner at local butcher shop, and feels we will be able to keep expenses at last years level. It was agreed to start the second Saturday in May. Tom will work on updating flier and getting it in the upcoming all church emails, as well as the Weathervane. Rolf suggested that we announce cut off time of noon for ordering meals for that evening. No orders will be accepted after that time.

**Treasurer's Report:** Brenda presented the financials for the first quarter of 2022. Brenda is keeping her eye on a couple of things. She is hoping not to have to need an oil delivery before the price goes down. She is also watching American Funds. She has sold one, but is keeping an eye on two others, waiting for them to come back up before she needs to sell them. Total income of \$18,575.33 was slightly over budget for the quarter. Total expenses were also over budget for the quarter. Current quarter net excess expense of \$9,007 was worse than the budgeted excess expense of \$7,729(includes \$2,853 in American Funds stock decrease). Brenda also reported that we have received donations in memory of Adma. It was suggested that we let Adma's daughter know about what comes in. We also need to thank people for those donations.

**Clerk:** nothing to report

**Trustees:** Rolf is planning on replacing the hot water heater in time to put it in the dumpster which is coming for clean out and demo of the thrift shop. Craig will help him with the hot water heater.

**Missions:** We continue to collect for Ukraine. Judy announced that Church World Service has announced collection date for hygiene and school kits for early May. Bags and a list attached are available for collecting supplies for hygiene kits. We have the supplies for school kits, and

Sarah Allen has made the bags for them. They just need to be assembled.

**Christian Education:** Last session of the Lenten book study will be next week. It has gone well.

**Stewardship:** Brenda will work on a quarterly pledge letter after Easter.

**Deacons:** They met on Tuesday, all is set for Holy Week.

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

**Pastor:** Petra reminded us of Sunrise Service on Easter in Casco. There will not be a breakfast. Petra will probably be taking another week of vacation in May, depending on her mother's needs.

**Old Business:** Rolf announced that fill the dumpster day with what remains in the thrift shop will be Saturday April 23. Demo of the building will be shortly after that. Propane tank in the area has been removed. There was discussion of whether we need any change at this time in our Covid policies. It was decided not to make any changes. We will continue to revisit this issue at least monthly.

**New Business:** Rachel has requested use of the vestry for line dancing on Thursdays and Fridays beginning in early June. The council approved her request. Petra announced that Chan Roach, Deb Feagans, Alice Oldford, and Caryl Gilman have agreed to read the book "Holy Conversations", and participate in discussion to follow. Weathervane will probably be printed on April 28, deadline for submitting will be the weekend prior.

Our next meeting will be Monday, May 9, at 6:30 PM, via zoom. The deacons are going back to meeting in person.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Munson, Clerk





We will have monthly “take out” suppers, the following dates:

May 14

June 11

July 9

August 13

September 10

**Pot roast and gravy, potatoes, green beans, carrots, a roll, and a brownie for \$12.**

**(Cash or checks only. No credit cards.)**

**Meals are takeout only. We are taking orders for pick up Saturday.**

**Pick up time is between 5:00 and 6:00 p.m.**

**They will be hot and ready to take home!**

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**You must order in advance!**

**CUT OFF time to order is Noon on Saturday so that we can ensure everyone receives a great quality meal.**

**Sorry, We will NOT have extra meals available.**

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**To order your meals please call the RVCC office at 655-7749 and leave a message with your name, number of meals and time you will pick up. Or if you prefer you can send an e-mail to [office@rvccme.org](mailto:office@rvccme.org) with the information.**

As it says in the song “My Way” ... and now the end is near!

We are moving toward the final phase of removing the thrift shop so we can do reshaping of the driveway and add some additional parking. The final task before the demolitions was to clean out the long years of; paraphernalia, matter, detritus, scrap, long forgotten items or what ever colloquial term you wish to tie to the years of accumulated goods.

We had a great crew of helpers to move the items from the thrift shop to the dumpster and a big thanks goes out to the crew of Brenda Olsen, Craig and Megan Messinger, Petra and Scott Smyth, Caryl Gilman



## May Mission Opportunity – supporting Sebago Lakes Region Fuller Center for Housing Project = Linda and John G

RVCC is a founding member of Sebago Lakes Region Fuller Center for Housing (SLRFC). As a reminder, SLRFC provides home repairs for aging adults and veterans enabling them to stay in their homes safely. This faith-based organization started in 2019 with six founding member church/organizations in the communities of Raymond, Standish, and Windham, Maine.

Despite the ongoing impact of Covid-19, SLRFC helped 14 families in the Sebago Lakes Region during 2020 & 2021. These projects involved 60 volunteers working over 470 hours. SLRFC has replaced leaking entry doors, repaired siding and painted a garage, repaired rotted windows, done fall clean-ups, bulky waste removal, installed a storm door, installed a new walkway for a safer entrance, and partnered with a local roofing contractor to have a new roof installed for a local veteran in Raymond.

The largest project to date involves helping a couple struggling with advanced [ALS](#). John G is completely physically disabled and lives 24/7 in a wheelchair. He is nonverbal, but communicates through a computer tablet. His wife, Linda, is his full-time caretaker. Getting outside is a lengthy and painful process, involving multiple maneuvers and a wheelchair lift in the garage. Because it is hard for him to be moved, he does not leave the house at all except for necessary appointments. Even worse, the house does not have a second exit that he can access, and he would be in grave danger in the event of a fire or other emergency.



The goal is to build a second exit from the home so that in the event of a fire John could be quickly removed from the house; and to build an attached deck and ramp so that John and Linda could safely get outside to enjoy the fresh air and sunshine.

This project involves months of design, planning, budgeting, support from suppliers, contractors, volunteers, and significant fundraising. SLRFC plans to complete the project in August 2022. SLRFC will commit \$5,000 of the projected \$45,000 cost from our Sebago Fuller Housing funds, as well as all volunteer hours to manage the project, fund-raise, and get community volunteers to help on work days. One project day, July 29th, will involve part of a 35-member Fuller Center bike adventure tour group as they finish a cross country ride from Oregon to Sebago Lake, Maine. Other organizations partnering on this effort include our founding churches, St. Josephs College, and

PowerServe, a local community service group involving high school students and community leaders.

**We at RVCC have a chance to contribute to a life changing solution for John and Linda.** An ADA approved doorway is a key element. The estimated cost for the door (without installation) is \$2,000. **We are asking the congregation to contribute to the purchase of the ADA door** and RVCC Mission Fund will match your contributions. We plan to cut a check for this project in mid-June.

**Thank you for your support!**





*Raymond Village Community Church*

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Raymond, ME 04071  
(207) 655-7749*

**Next Weathervane  
Deadline:  
May 20, 2022**

**Our Moderator, Tom Wiley, shared the prayer below to open the April Council meeting. It needed to be shared with our entire RVCC family.**

We come to you Heavenly father

We come to you with our sorrow and strife,

Ready to receive your healing powers

We come to you with our hearts open

To receive your guidance and love

We come to you with bewildered joys

In awe of the marvels which you produce

Our lives will forever be fulfilled

As long as we come to you Heavenly Father