
The Weathervane



RAYMOND VILLAGE COMMUNITY CHURCH, United Church of Christ Newsletter

November, 2022

Table of Contents	Page
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From the Pastor.....	1
This Month at RVCC	2
Prayer Concerns	2
November Lectionary Lessons	2
RVCC Family	2
Missions Corner.....	3
Council Minutes.....	4
Worship Updates.....	5
Knitting Group	5
Line Dancing Update.....	5
Hannaford Grocery Cards	5
All Saints Sunday	5
COVID update.....	5
Conference Annual Meeting....	6

From the Pastor . . .

It is good to be back with all of you. After being gone for two months, it feels wonderfully familiar and comforting to be back at church.

As many of you know, I went to Germany to pick up my Mom from the hospital and bring her home. The hospital set her up with a palliative team, who came to care for her three times a week.

A few weeks ago, during the worship service, I shared with you my conversation on the morning of Mom's death. My brother and I had been sitting at her bedside, sharing stories and looking at picture albums when Mischa and I were in elementary school. We laughed and had moments of silence as we looked at the pictures. We also recalled memories of how we, as a family, played tennis for many years. Both my brother and my Mom are dog lovers. When we were growing up, we had a border collie. His name was Rascal, and he lived for 14 years. There were lots of family pictures with Rascal. My Mom had shared if she could live her life over again, she would have a hundred dogs. She loved looking at the pictures, and so did we.

After one and a half hours of reminiscing, we could tell that our Mom was exhausted. It was 10:30 am, and the palliative team was due at 11:00 am. I asked my Mom if she wanted to sleep until the nurse came, and she agreed. I told her that I would check in on her in five minutes to make sure she was okay, and she looked at me and said: "Thank you."

Those were the last words she spoke. I shared with some of you a couple weeks ago the words from Meister Eckart: "If the only prayer you ever say in your entire life is thank you, it will be enough."

Since her death, I have had time to reflect on what she meant when she said: "Thank you." Initially, I thought my Mom's thank you was about coming back to check on her.

On a bigger scale, I now believe her "thank you" was also for you. You, as a congregation, supported my Mom and me as her illness progressed. It meant a lot to my Mom that I could come and take care of her. She knew that you supported us whole heartily.

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!

This Month at RVCC . . .

- November 6, 2022- 10:00 a.m. – All Saints Sunday & Communion
- November 7, 2022- 4:30 p.m. – Deacons’ meeting
- November 8, 2022- 5:00 p.m. – Council meeting on Zoom
- November 13, 2022- 10:00 a.m. – Worship – Stewardship Sunday
- November 20, 2022- 10:00 a.m. – Worship – Thanksgiving Sunday
- November 24, 2022- Happy Thanksgiving!
- November 27, 2022- 10:00 a.m. – Worship – Hanging of the Greens/First Sunday of Advent

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>

Line Dancing will be on Fridays from 10:00 – 11:30 a.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 (November 8 & November 22) 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, Michael Cadotte, Louise Doyle, Polly Dyer,
Christine Eldridge, Linda Eldridge, Rick Emery,
Christine Horwath, Charlotte Rowe.

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November Lectionary Lessons

November 6, 2022 – Twenty Second Sunday after Pentecost

Haggai 1:15b-2:9
Psalm 145:1-5, 17-21 *or Psalm 98*
Job 19:23-27a
Psalm 17:1-9
2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17
Luke 20:27-38

November 13, 2022 – Twenty Third Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 65:17-25
Isaiah 12 **
Malachi 4:1-2a
Psalm 98
2 Thessalonians 3:6-13
Luke 21:5-19

November 20, 2022 – Twenty Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 23:1-6
Luke 1:68-79 **
Jeremiah 23:1-6
Psalm 46
Colossians 1:11-20
Luke 23:33-43

November 27, 2022 – First Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 2:1-5
Psalm 122
Romans 13:11-14
Matthew 24:36-44

From the Pastor, continued . . .

So, I thank you, too, from the bottom of my heart for my precious time with my Mom.

I am returning to a life rhythm at home and church. Our last knitting group was filled with fun stories and laughter. Oh, yes, there was knitting too.

I loved reading about the success of the pot roast suppers and the new record of collecting over two hundred socks for Grace Street Ministry.

We continue to be the hands and feet of Christ and care for each other. It is a beautiful thing. Thank you again!

With gratitude,

Pastor Petra

MISSIONS CORNER

Recent Donations

You are all so generous in donating to two most recent collections!

Neighbors in Need: \$210

Global H.O.P.E. – Hurricane Disasters 2022: \$100 added to \$500 Mission fund donation

Seafarer's Friend - mid-October through mid-November

The mission at Seafarer's Friend is to extend the ministry of the churches to meet the unmet spiritual, social and practical needs of seafarers in the New England Maritime Community. They engage seafarers, their families and community by visiting aboard ships, welcoming and hosting seafarers ashore and being attentive to their needs, including ways to contact home, a clean and safe place to relax offshore, transportation to shopping centers, as well as social, educational and recreational activities. They also provide Ditty Bags = a bag full of personal items.

Many thanks to Sarah Allen, who has prepared the bags for the items!

We participated in this ministry about a year ago and I (Caryl) learned a lot about collecting items. Last year I ended up with a lot of toothbrushes and toothpaste but none of other items. Yet, each ditty bag we turn in must have all the items listed below. Given that we plan to fill 12 ditty bags maximum, I ask that you select from the list below the items you plan to bring in and let me know – either by email carylgilman@gmail.com or phone 627-5073 or by writing on the list in the back of the church. This list at church will “keep score” of what is planned to come in. Thank you!

DITTY BAG ITEMS

Razors	Travel sized Shave cream/gel	Floss
Toothpaste	Toothbrush (1)	Travel sized Kleenex
Playing cards	Mending kits	Shoelaces
Deodorant	Shampoo (8 oz. size bottle)	Travel-size first aid kit
Nail clippers	Soap/body wash (8 oz. size bottle)	Socks, 2 pair/bag

Maine Seacoast Mission Christmas Wish List – Due December 4th

Following a custom that began more than 100 years ago, when the Mission brought gifts to island residents and lighthouse keepers, **the Mission distributes holiday gifts to children, families, elders, prisoners, and nursing home residents at Christmas time.** Generous donors bring or send new items to the Mission throughout the year to be distributed throughout the communities, and the Elves' Workshop gives families the chance to choose gifts for one another. Gifts are wrapped, as per Mission tradition, in white parchment paper tied with red string.

How can we help? Two ways and both need to be completed by December 4th

1. As an individual, choose from their Amazon Christmas wish list and buy something that will be shipped free to Seacoast Mission. <https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1V3LB3G19X56U>
2. Contribute money to RVCC and label for Seacoast Mission. The Mission team will either buy something from Amazon or buy/send gift cards.

Summary of Monday, October 10, 2022 Coordinating Council/Deacons Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 PM on Monday, October 10, 2022 by Tom Wiley. Present were Tom, Rolf, Brenda, Petra, Nancy, Deb, Caryl, and Judy. Bonnie Wiley, Chair of the Pastoral Relations Committee also joined us.

Judy offered the opening prayer.

Tom reviewed the agenda and set a closing time.

Treasurer: Brenda presented the financial statement for the third quarter. Total income of \$13,267 was under budget by \$5,939 for the quarter. This includes the loss of \$1924 in the American Funds. Total income for the year to date is \$46,158, under budget by \$10,610. This included the loss of \$10,204 in the American Funds. Expenses were under budget by \$1097 year to date. Year to date net expense of \$26,316 is worse than budgeted net expense of \$16,803. Most of our financial losses are due to losses in American Funds.

Reports of the Coordinators:

Clerk: nothing to report

Trustees: Rolf reported that he has taken down the tarp over the patio, now he can pressure wash that side of the building. Our cleaning company will not be able to keep us as a customer, we need to find a new one. He will contact the scouts for outside clean up, raking etc. He has recently gotten oil for the church as well as k-1 for the parsonage.

Missions: Caryl reported that we are finishing up collecting for Neighbors in Need, and are also collecting for hurricane relief. She has started collecting for ditty bag project for Maine Seafarers. Before Christmas we will be collecting for Maine Seacoast Mission Wish List. She is not going to collect and send needed items this year. People can go directly to Amazon and select from their list of wanted items or write a check to the church and Caryl will purchase gift cards. Judy is starting to work with the local schools to donate Hannaford cards to those who need help for Thanksgiving. Before Christmas we will give them Walmart gift cards for those who need help in giving their kids a nice Christmas. We will also give the Raymond Food Pantry gift cards for the director to give to those who he feels need a little more help than what they get from the pantry twice a month.

Christian Education: nothing to report

Stewardship: Rolf reported that Craig would like to meet with us, probably at our next meeting to discuss thoughts about pot roast suppers for next spring/summer. Rolf reported that they have one roast in the freezer left over from this years suppers, Craig would like to put on a meal

this fall to thank all who volunteered for the suppers this year. There was discussion about Stewardship Sunday, it will be November 13. Stewardship letter, written by Brenda, will go out by the end of October. Theme on pledge card will be "Now is the Time".

Deacons: Caryl reported that the Deacons will meet on Tuesday, October 11. On their agenda will be: will we go on line at all this winter, how will we do communion going forward, also plans for advent and Christmas Eve. Christmas Day is on Sunday, this year.

Moderator: Tom brought up question of allowing Rachel to have line dancing, once a week, through the winter months. No one had a problem with this. An antique desk had been left at the church, we will search out antique dealers. Concerning the Security Workshop which Tom had sent out information on, it was agreed that it probably was not applicable to our church, and was not something that we would be able to follow through on even if someone did attend.

Pastor: Petra thanked us all for our support over the past couple of months. She is happy to be back. Caryl announced that the Maine Conference Annual Meeting will be held on the morning of October 15. She will attend via zoom.

Old Business: There was no old business.

New Business:

Halloween: It was agreed to open the church again this year for Halloween. Judy and Deb agreed to run the event. Judy will get out the word that we need candy, if we don't get enough, Missions will buy more. Rolf will check on road closure times with the town.

Covid: Currently numbers seem to be trending up, although Cumberland County is still considered low. We will continue to have masks available for those who feel they need to wear one. There is room to spread out. Decisions on worship other than in person, would be made by the Deacons.

Congregational Meetings: There was discussion on the group discussion that Rev. Jonna led after worship on October 2. We need to be able to do more planning for our future, and we need outside leadership for this.

Moving on to **Change in Pastoral Hours/Units**, there was discussion on whether we can reduce Petra's hours to give her the time she needs to settle her parents estate, as well as free up funds for outside leadership. Caryl Gilman made a motion that at this time, we remove 2 units from Petra's workload with the opportunity to add it back. The motion was seconded by Rolf, and passed.

Continued next page . . .

Worship Updates

November is a full month ending with the beginning of Advent

- All Saints' Sunday on November 6th will be communion Sunday and will include a Stewardship moment.
- November 13th is Stewardship Sunday when pledge cards are received and blessed. We will help Chan celebrate 50 years of ministry/stewardship
- November 20th is Thanksgiving Sunday. We all have much for which to be thankful.
- November 27th is the First Sunday in Advent and Hanging of the Greens

Looking into December, there will be a Christmas Eve worship service at 5:30pm on Saturday 12/24. No worship services will be held on Sunday 12/25 or Sunday 1/1.

Note: Our storm policy this year will be to “change to Zoom” rather than cancel worship. The two TV stations that allow the option of reporting something like “change to remote” are WCSH and WGME.

KNITTING & CROCHETING GROUP

The knitting & crocheting group has been making squares for the past few months and now we are switching gears to hats and mittens. These are easy and fast and a good way to use some of those odd remnants. We have yarn and some patterns. You are welcome to join us for our group meetings if you would like some instruction or assistance.

We are meeting inside in the Sunday School room next to the furnace room but we will meet outside as the weather permits. For those of you who are comfortable in doing so, please join us on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month. Please let me know if you need anything or would like to help. Thanks! Brenda (bolsen001@maine.rr.com) or 207-838-0123.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

We wish everyone with a November birthday a very Happy Birthday!

November 2	Kay Roach
November 3	Lynn Gagne
November 15	Molly Keane-Dreyer
November 17	Bill Dreyer
November 24	Dick Day

LINE DANCING UPDATE:

The Thursday class will end for the season on Oct. 27th. The Friday, Beginner/Low Impact class, will continue through the winter at the same time, 10:00 - 11:30.
FMI: Contact Rachel Knights, rachelscountryhearts@yahoo.com or cell phone **207-232-1172**.

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

All Saints!

On Sunday, November 6th we will celebrate All Saints Day. Please be in touch with Petra by Nov.1st with the names of any loved ones you'd like to have remembered. petra@maine.rr.com

COVID

As the seasons change, we begin to have discussions about inside worship and the latest COVID variants. Currently Cumberland County is rated low. As we proceed into autumn and ultimately winter the council has decided the following will be our COVID policy until reviewed again.

As is the case now and if the level changes, we will continue to provide sanitizers and masks for those who may not have one. But we have decided as the RVCC council that we will NOT be requiring masks. Folks who would like to wear masks are certainly encouraged to do so on their own.

From the Pastor, continued . . .

Tom will call the conference office to try and find a facilitator. Petra will also work through her pastor network to do the same. This person would meet with the council/deacons and other small groups.

Pre-Budget Planning: We need congregational meeting on the budget and on financial projections into the future. We will have such a meeting on October 30, led by Brenda and Bonnie. Our next meeting will be November 8, 2022, at 5:PM via zoom. The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 PM. Respectfully submitted, Judith Munson, Clerk



Raymond Village Community Church

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

2022 Maine Conference Annual Meeting – the 91st!

Theme: “Where the River flows, Life will Flourish”

The Maine Conference Annual Meeting was Saturday October 15 via Zoom. The business agenda was embedded in the worship. The key business elements can be found in the [order of worship](#) :

- [2023 Conference Budget/Vote](#),
- [Resolution of support for Tribal Sovereignty in Maine](#),
- vote on new members to the Maine Conference Board of Directors.

The words, prayers, sounds (flowing water), music, pictures - (streams, Pilgrim Lodge, and many speakers whose message was pre-recorded outside) - all were uplifting! It was a pleasure to attend as a voting member from RVCC! Here are a few of the things I learned during the meeting:

- At least 2/3 of our congregations are served by part-time ministry.
- One church in Waterville had to choose building or program. After much discussion they chose mission over maintenance. They sold their building and now focus on helping others directly or providing funds to other organizations. Their most recent project is Stone Soup café.
- Winthrop UCC is a small yet vital church. They are smaller since the pandemic – down 53 to 35. They are tired with “aching joints” At the same time they have been talking about what it means to live out their calling. They have hosted 2 MESOM interns and have done joint Zoom worship services with other churches. They have 4 people who handle the technology. When the music leader is absent, congregants lead music. They are in talks with another church who is selling their building and could come rent space at Winthrop UCC
- Another church with 2 part-time pastors, who alternate Sundays, tried an experiment during one pastor’s sabbatical. They held an open pulpit, inviting congregants to share their “good news”. Now that the pastor is back, they will continue this practice as all found it fulfilling.
- Osihkiyol (Zeke) Crofton-Macdonald, provided a history of the Wabanaki and the journey propose a resolution, agreed to by the churches at Annual Meeting. A resolution is a tool to remind us of what we agreed upon with the purpose of supporting restorative justice= tribal sovereignty. Zeke is of the Wolastoqey Nation, Tribal Ambassador for the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians and Maine Indian Tribal State Commission, Tribal Co-Commissioner, The recording can be found here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZU_3D2AeMjU

If you have questions, please contact Caryl at 627-5073