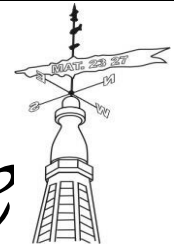


The Weathervane



RAYMOND VILLAGE COMMUNITY CHURCH, United Church of Christ Newsletter

June, 2024

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From the Pastor . . .

"For all of us must appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may receive due recompense for actions done in the body, whether good or evil."

- 2 Corinthians 5:10 (NRSVUE)

Changing World, or is it?

My years of University and Seminary provided an interesting reality check into the world. One which is not so easily understood for most people as we do not all have this opportunity to engage in these places in our forties. And it was not because of academics or schools, per say. It was because of the communities. The peers I studied with revealed so much about the way our world has changed. I mention this truth as one of the most rudimentary questions I thought would ever be asked was: "at what age are we considered adults in the United States."

For me, the question seemed simple, eighteen as that is the year we are responsible for ourselves. Oddly enough, that was not the answer many of the students provided. They said everything from 21 to 35, though I never did get that last one. In general, the feeling was that you could not define an age when everyone had to be classified as an adult because we are all different. Although I agree that we are all different and I personally am not a big fan of classifications, I must think that we need a societal norm stating when people are truly adults. When are people responsible for themselves and their choices in life? When were you responsible for your choices; for what you did to the Body of Christ; for finding the community which encouraged your faith?

I always thought it was odd that in the Roman Catholic faith, youth at around the age of thirteen were considered adults upon completion of their Confirmation. I thought it was odd until – well, until I had that encounter with a group of students from the younger generation. At the same time as I was introduced to this adulthood question, I was engaged with other individuals who came to church on Sunday; but other than that, took no responsibility for engaging in their own faith. They did not come to Bible study, or prayer group, or Mission projects. Rather they just flowed along in

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 . . .

- June 2, 2024- 11:00 a.m. – Worship and Communion with Rev. Brian Donovan
- June 3, 2024- 5:00 p.m. – Deacon’s meeting in person
- June 8, 2024- 5:00 p.m. – Take Out Pot Roast Supper
- June 9, 2024 **No worship at RVCC.** Please attend worship at either First Congregational Church of Gray (9:00 a.m.) OR Casco Village Church (10:00 a.m.)
- June 10, 2024 5:00 p.m. – Council Meeting in person.
- June 16, 2024- 11:00 a.m. – Worship with Rev. Brian Donovan.
- June 23, 2024- 11:00 a.m. – Worship with Rev. Brian Donovan
12:00 p.m. – Congregational meeting with Lunch.
- June 30, 2024- 11:00 a.m. – Worship with Rev. Brian Donovan

Worship videos will be available on the RVCC YouTube channel:

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

Please join us for Coffee Hour after Worship!

Alzheimer’s Support Group will meet on June 2 and June 16, 2024 at 2:00 p.m.

The Knitting Group will meet on June 11 and June 25, 2024 from 2:00 – 3:30 p.m.

Line Dancing – will be every Friday at 10:00 a.m.

Scouts, BSA Troop 800 meets every Monday at 6:30

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

We wish a very happy birthday to these individuals who have birthdays in June:

- | | |
|---------|-----------------|
| June 18 | Kyle Sullivan |
| June 22 | Andy Morrison |
| June 22 | Anita Holmquist |
| June 24 | Chan Roach |
| June 28 | Sarah Allen |
| June 29 | Tucker Olsen |

From the Pastor, continued . . .

their habit but no real ownership of their faith. It was a very interesting dichotomy. Or was it?

The truth of the matter that I learned from this time is that very few people wish to take responsibility, especially for things such as faith. It takes work to be engaged, to share your thoughts, to define your future. It takes work – good faithful work, but work, none the less. And some of us are just tired.

Tired from pulling the stone of the church uphill (both ways – through the snow – no sarcasm included) by such a small group of people. Oof, why would you not be tired? Our church structures were built with 40 or 50 active people all taking turns in mind, not ten who are doing everything.

The reality is that a merger is a good solution to our current problem; but it is still only a short-term solution. For the long term, we in the Christian faith are going to have to take responsibility for our faith. Find the ways that engage us personally. Develop our own Spiritual Gifts and yes change with the times. For, people today whether we are 13 or 93 do not find as much encouragement in the meetings and Bible Studies, generally speaking. There are vast exceptions. People today want to engage their faith. Yes, even we here are engaging our faith in Pot Roast dinners, in knitting groups, in coffee hour discussions about our personal lives. These are the ways we show up in community along with worship.

So maybe, we need to take personal responsibility for our faith and create something new based on who we are individually rather than just keep trying to engage in a structure of faith which has not changed in the last fifty years. Maybe we need to recognize the world is changing and we need to change with it as well.

Prayer: God in this season of Pentecost, re-create us as we truly are – your faithful community of worship. Faithfully and responsibly loving You. *Amen.*

Knitting & Crocheting Group

The knitting & crocheting group meets the 2nd & 4th Tuesday of the month at 2:00 p.m. in the classroom at the top of the stairs. Everyone is welcome whether you knit or crochet, or want to learn. We are usually working on projects for donations and we have plenty of yarn. Please join us and share your favorite project or a donation that you would like to be involved in. Whether you join us or not you are always welcome to make donations. Please let me know if you have any questions. Thanks! Brenda (bolsen001@maine.rr.com) or 207-838-0123



Please keep the following people in your prayers:

Amanda, Angela's family & friends, The Beach Family, Kathleen Bent, Michael Cadotte, Louise Doyle, Polly Dyer, Christine Eldridge, Linda Eldridge, Rick Emery, Cassi Gordan, Scott Gordan, Liz Kenaly, Shannon Lurvey, Ron Maker, Deb Rand, and for the people of Israel, Palestine, Ukraine, and Maine.

Michael Bostock joined Bangor Symphony Orchestra in concert on May 13

On February 10, Michael attended the annual concerto competition in Bangor hosted by the Bangor Symphony Orchestra. He won first place! The prize was to play a solo at one of their concerts. Monday, May 13, Michael was the soloist on piano playing Shostakivich Piano Concerto No.2. in F Major at Bangor Symphony's annual young people's concert. Michael's family and a few friends, along with thousands of school students, watched and listened to Michael play.

Two quotes from interviews by Sierra Whaley WAIB/5: Luis Richman, conductor and music director of BSO "Our winner of the Bangor Symphony's annual concerto competition, Michael Bostock is playing part of his piano concerto, and it's amazing," and Michael "I have fun when I'm playing stuff, and it's a way to connect with people as well," said Bostock. "I get to connect with people in orchestras and different ensembles, things like that."

Bob and Nancy Yates and Caryl Gilman were among the attendees and were so proud to see Michael play.

Line Dancing News!

Line dancing is continuing to be offered on Friday mornings at 10:00 am with Maggie Holnaiser as our instructor. This class is a beginner low impact class. If you have any questions, you may continue to contact Rachel at 232-1172. Although Rachel may not be able to dance, she will continue to be involved in these classes!!

JUNE LECTIONARY LESSONS

June 2, 2024 – Second Sunday after Pentecost

1 Samuel 3:1-10, (11-20)
Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
Deuteronomy 5:12-15
Psalm 81:1-10
2 Corinthians 4:5-12
Mark 2:23-3:6

June 9, 2024 – Third Sunday after Pentecost

1 Samuel 8:4-11, (12-15), 16-20, (11:14-15)
Psalm 138
Genesis 3:8-15
Psalm 130
2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1
Mark 3:20-35

June 16, 2024 – Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

1 Samuel 15:34 - 16:13
Psalm 20
Ezekiel 17:22-24
Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15
2 Corinthians 5:6-10, (11-13), 14-17
Mark 4:26-34

June 23, 2024 – Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

1 Samuel 17:(1a, 4-11, 19-23), 32-49
Psalm 9:9-20 *or* 1 Samuel 17:57-18:5, 18:10-16
Psalm 133
Job 38:1-11
Psalm 107:1-3, 23-32
2 Corinthians 6:1-13
Mark 4:35-41

June 30, 2024 – Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27
Psalm 130
Wisdom of Solomon 1:13-15, 2:23-24 *or* Lamentations 3:22-33
Psalm 30
2 Corinthians 8:7-15
Mark 5:21-43

Women's Food and Fellowship Pot Luck Supper

The First Congregational Church of Gray women's group is inviting all RVCC women and friends to a potluck supper on Wednesday June 12 at 6:00, main dish, side dish, dessert. Suggest 2 people go together on a dish (main, side or dessert). The supper will be held in the Parish Hall. If you plan to attend, please contact Carol West by June 1 at carolwest68@aol.com or call her at 650-9093

**Summary of Tuesday, May 14, 2024
Council/Deacons Meeting**

Tom called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM on Tuesday, May 14, 2024, in person. Present were Tom, Brenda, Rolf, Caryl, Judy, Deb, and Brian

Tom offered the opening prayer "Times of Transition". The agenda was reviewed.

Treasurer's Report: Brenda reported that Financial Statement continues to look good. Brenda and Caryl reported that we are giving scholarships for Pilgrim Lodge to two young people.

Pastor: Brian reported that the family of Betty Shively would like to do a memorial service for her at RVCC. Brian will be joined by Rev. Amelia Nugent-Edson from the Falmouth church in leading the service. No date has been set.

Clerk: nothing to report

Deacons: Deacons will purchase geraniums for Pentecost. People are encouraged to wear red. Since we were not together at RVCC on Mothers Day, we will celebrate all parents on Fathers Day.

Missions: Judy reported that we are in the process of collecting for Strengthen the Church. She also reported that as a congregation we put together 21 Hygiene Kits and 12 School Kits. Thanks to all who contributed to these.

Stewardship: Brenda reported that she is working on the Stewardship Letter, it will go out next week.

Trustees: Rolf reported that with help from the Lions, our driveway has been leveled out, and our gardens in the front of the church have been weeded. The Boy Scouts have also been doing some clean up outside the building. He is still trying to schedule the repair on the steeple. The canopy over the patio will go up, after he spray washes that side of the building.

Old Business: Plans for the first pot roast supper were reviewed. Brenda will do publicity. The Deacons will host a send off for Michael at the end of the summer.

New Business: Brian asked for feedback from those who attended either Gray or Casco churches on May 12. The number attending each church on that Sunday from RVCC was fairly equal. Judy, Deb, and Tom provided feedback on accessibility for Polly at the Gray church. Other feedback on each church was also provided. Both churches had a lay lead service on that day. Brian brought up a concern of his that our church may be split on which church to merge with. He is feeling that we may be looking at a dissolution of our church, rather than a

merger. After much discussion, it was agreed that we need to have another conversational meeting with our congregation about this issue. It was agreed to hold the meeting after church on June 23. Lunch will be served. It was agreed that this will be an informal meeting, there does not need to be a warrant. In the meantime, the merger processes will continue.

Council members were informed about the Memory Project. Brian, Alice Oldfords, Judy, Deb, Craig, and Caryl are working on this. Photos of church events, both old and new are being gathered, starting May 26th, these will be displayed at coffee hour, and committee members will be available to record feedback from people as they look at the photos. Goal is to put together scrapbook of the history of our church to be available for everyone.

The June Weathervane will be printed on May 28, deadline will be May 23.

Next council meeting will be Monday, June 10.

Respectfully submitted, Judith Munson, Clerk

WORSHIP UPDATES – JUNE & JULY

June 2 - Rev. Brian Donovan will lead worship with communion, with the message: "Believing through Living."

June 9 - Worship will be at the First Congregational Church of Gray (11 Yarmouth Rd. Gray) or the Casco Village Church (941 Meadow Rd. Casco). We will be having shuttles from RVCC to our merger partners so, we may discuss the benefits and drawbacks of the community - together. Please watch the ACE for times in the weeks before.

June 16 – Rev. Brian Donovan will lead worship with the message: "Celebrating our Parents."

June 23 - Rev. Brian Donovan will lead worship.

June 30 - Rev. Brian Donovan will lead worship.

July 7 - Rev. Brian Donovan will lead worship with communion at First Congregational Church of Gray, 9 AM. All RVCC members and friends are invited to worship in Gray.

July 14 - Minister TBD. Worship will be at Raymond Village Community Church, 11 AM.

July 21 - Rev. Brian Donovan will lead worship at Raymond Village Community Church, 11 AM. We will be welcoming members and friends from First Congregational Church of Gray

July 28 - Rev. Brian Donovan will lead worship at First Congregational Church of Gray, 9 AM. All RVCC members and friends are invited to worship in Gray.



"TAKE OUT" POT ROAST SUPPERS ARE RETURNING!!

SAVE THE DATES:

June 8th

July 13th

August 10th

September 14th

Pot roast and gravy, potatoes, green beans, carrots, a roll, and a brownie for \$15.

New this year – order in advance for all 4 suppers for discounted cost of \$55.

(Cash or checks only. No credit cards.)

Meals are primarily takeout. We will have LIMITED outdoor seating available.

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!

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.

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 with the information.



Raymond Village Community Church

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

**IMPORTANT CONGREGATIONAL
DISCUSSION – JUNE 23, 2024**

At the last council meeting it was decided to hold an informal meeting/discussion to review where we are in the merger process and to get additional feedback on how the council should be proceeding, including any additional options we should pursue. The meeting will take place immediately after the service on June 23, 2024. Lunch will be provided.

Please join us. Everyone's input is very important!

Congratulations Meghan Messinger!

Meghan recently graduated from the SMCC nursing program. This picture of Meghan with her parents was taken at her pinning ceremony. The pinning ceremony is a unique and special ceremony for the nursing community. Congratulations Meghan!!



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