



Raymond Village Community Church, Inc. UCC
P.O. Box 285, 27 Main Street, Raymond, Maine 04071
(207) 655-7749 <http://rvccme.org/>

Raymond is a small town, primarily a bedroom community, with 4,436 year-round residents located in the [Sebago Lake Region](#). There are 2 lakes and 5 ponds within Raymond's borders providing 64 miles of waterfront. This abundance of waterfront property means there are multiple, varied recreational opportunities (e.g. boating, fishing, swimming, hiking, golf) and a seasonal increase in population to 12,000. Raymond has excellent schools, a thriving [library](#), and many volunteers that make Raymond [community](#) programs and [events](#) possible. There are 5 hospitals within 25 mi radius and local doctor's offices in Windham. Raymond is the boyhood home of Nathaniel Hawthorne.



Erected in 1879, recently re-sided

In 1867 a determined group of women met to form a society to raise money toward erecting a meeting house. They would become the Ladies Mite Society and in the 11 years that followed, they met their goal – church completed in 1879. Raymond Village Community Church was chartered in 1928 and affiliated with the Congregational society.. At that time, it was part of a multi-church Presumpscot Union Parish. Vestry added in 1960. Later built an addition with classrooms and office space. By 1986, the Presumpscot Union Parish dissolved and the Raymond Village Community Church was ready to be on its own with a full-time pastor. The church purchased a parsonage next door, replaced the Weathervane on the steeple and renovated the sanctuary including restoration of the Trompe L'oeil painting (raising over \$100,000 for the restoration). Most recently, in 2019, the church was completely re-sided with vinyl siding, as depicted to the left.

Raymond Village Community Church U.C.C, also known as RVCC, is a community church that draws its members from a variety of spiritual backgrounds and a wide spectrum of theological perspectives. For many years we also had diversity in ages, however, recently we find that children and their parents are not finding what they need here or have other priorities on Sunday. A large portion of our current congregation is retired and wishes that we had more “young people”.



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*Sanctuary Trompe L'oeil
painting restored in early 1990s*

Sunday worship is at 10 AM and the first Sunday of the month is communion. Special services occur on Ash Wednesday, Maunday Thursday and Christmas eve.

For many years, RVCC has been blessed with active music directors and choir. More recently, when the choir is not available, we have had guest musicians.

The RVCC building has been and continues to be open to the community hosting Boy Scout/Cub Scout groups (for which we are the chartering organization), AA, Quijong, writer's group, and knitting group. In January 2018, we started actively partnering with the Raymond Arts Alliance which brings a variety of artists to Raymond either at the library or performing in our sanctuary.

According to the church's bylaws, the governing body is the membership. The church council contains leadership led by the Moderator with the Treasurer, Clerk, Trustee Coordinator, Deacons Coordinator, Missions Coordinator, Stewardship Coordinator and Christian Education Coordinator. The church council meets monthly.



Sweetheart Brunch servers

RVCC has a missions budget and fund separate from the general fund which is for church operating expenses. In addition to the 5 special UCC offerings, RVCC has annual mission projects, such the Christmas wish list for Maine Seacoast Mission, and new missions each year such as Project L.O.V.E. in 2019 to benefit Ronald McDonald house.

The two ongoing fund raising and fellowship projects are the sweetheart brunch just before Valentine's Day and pot roast suppers on the 3rd Saturday, May thru October.



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The best thing and the hardest thing about having a long term pastor (14+ years), is that we have had time to get to know each other, become comfortable, do many things together and evolve in our lives together. Rev Nancy Foran will be sorely missed. This presents the first task and challenge for the next pastor: help the congregation transition from Rev Nancy to a future without her. When discussing the future with the congregation at the January 26, 2020 annual meeting, they would like the next pastor to help us live into our vision developed in 2019: *We will maintain a building that is accessible to all, welcome all people, encourage the arts, feed the hungry, enhance communication and programming among the community groups and support the aging and elderly. We will worship God.*

RVCC Council believes we need the next pastor to help guide and “push” us to look at the future realistically (vs. the way we wish things would be). All in addition to the traditional pastoral work of leading worship, pastoral care, work with Council and congregation and, as needed, weddings/funerals.

We are seeking a pastor who is a person of faith with the following skills:

- Effectively helped churches in transition
- Experience leading churches through self-assessment
- Experience leading churches to look at the viability of the future vision based on the learnings from self-assessment
- Effective in planning and leading worship
- Effective preacher / speaker

Raymond Village Community Church
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