

# RAYMOND UMC

CHURCH NEWSLETTER OF UPCOMING EVENTS, REMINDER AND HAPPENINGS

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ –

As the summer slips away and a new school year starts it is fitting to be aware of current and new stages of growth in our lives and in the life of our church. As I shared in meetings and sermons in July, our awareness for spiritual growth matters. Spiritual growth in Jesus Christ is part of our mission as individual Christians and as a faith community.

The mission statement for our church states that we are people focused on: *Helping our neighbors meet Christ. Renewing our passion for Christ. Reaching beyond our walls in the name of Christ.* There are so many great action words in that statement directly related to growing in Christ. When we are helping others to meet Christ, we are growing. When we are renewing our passion for Christ, we reflect on where we have been, where we are at and how we long to grow towards spiritual renewal. The idea of reaching beyond our walls in the name of Christ brings to my mind growing fruitfulness to impact the wider community with the love of God. To be people focused on this shared mission we can share our stories, study scriptures and pray big prayers.

In my first covenant council meeting with RUMC leadership I shared a brief devotional about praying big prayers, as we know nothing is impossible with God. We can pray to ask God to guide each one of our ministries and for this to become the most fruitful time of our ministry. We pray for fruitfulness because the love of Jesus Christ is the Good News to be shared with all people. When we pray to be the most fruitful we have ever been in our lives and in the life of this church, we are doing so while growing together in understanding and increasing our capacity to love God and all others.

Raymond UMC is doing many wonderful things and I am excited to continue to learn about each opportunity to serve this community for Christ together. I hope you will all join me in prayer as we continue to get to know one another and ask God to help us be people on a mission, people praying for fruitfulness beyond our wildest imaginations. I am blessed to be serving alongside you all as we seek to Help, Renew, and Reach others with the love of Jesus Christ.

In Christ's love,

Pastor Sara

Please know you can email me at

[PastorSaraMcSwords@gmail.com](mailto:PastorSaraMcSwords@gmail.com) or call or text me at (937)

246-3892 with any questions, concerns, prayers or dreams for ministries as we share the faith journey together.

**Missions Schedule****August Dates:**

Missions Meeting – summer break (no meeting in August)

Community & Senior Lunch – Tuesday, August 8<sup>th</sup> @ noon

Christ's Pantry – Thursday, August 17<sup>th</sup> @ 6 p.m.

**September Dates:**

Missions Meeting – Tuesday, September 5<sup>th</sup> @ 6 p.m.

Community & Senior Lunch – Tuesday, September 12<sup>th</sup> @ noon

Christ's Pantry – Thursday, September 21<sup>st</sup> @ 6 p.m.

***Community & Senior Lunch***

Come join us for our Community & Senior Lunch. We meet on the second Tuesday of each month at noon for lunch, fellowship, and entertainment. Bring a friend and as always there is no charge.

***Christ's Pantry***

Christ's Pantry is the third Thursday of each month from 6 – 7 p.m. We help neighbors by providing food and personal needs items and also serve a hot meal. Thank you to all that donate your time and/or items to Christ's Pantry it is very much appreciated. We gratefully accept food and personal needs donations. Here are a few items we are most in need of: canned chicken noodle, canned green beans, toilet paper (4 pack), and tissues. If you would like to help out with an upcoming Christ's Pantry please see Heather Holland for additional information.

**September Mission Project**

Below is a project our church will be supporting for the month of September. Any items you are able to donate will help those in need in our community. Please have items to the church by Sunday, September 24<sup>th</sup>. If you have any questions please see Heather Holland or someone from the Mission's Team.

***Blessings in a Backpack***

Blessings in a Backpack is a national program working in the Marysville School District to provide food on the weekends to elementary school children who otherwise might go hungry.

## Needed Items:

Oatmeal (10 pack)

Pudding (non-refrigerated 4 pack SnackPack or equivalent)

Fruit & grain bars (multi packs)

**Hospitality:**

I want to start by saying "Hello to all you, and may you be enjoying all that summer has to offer." Hospitality as you know has been quite busy since the beginning of the year. We will be taking a break for the month of August- No meeting scheduled. We will meet next on September 18th at 7: 00pm. to prepare for Trunk or Treat.

Before we do break, we hope that everyone will enjoy the upcoming "Welcome for Pastor Sara and Family" on July 30th. This is also our BBQ challenge Sunday. We are all looking forward to it, so we hope you will join in that day. Keep yourself in the loop, the next 5th Sunday event happens the end of October. As always, **Thank You** to all who occasionally help our committee.

God Bless,  
Sharon Parker

**Our Mission Statement:**

***Helping our neighbors meet Christ. Renewing our passion for Christ. Reaching beyond our walls in the name of Christ.***



**Sign up:** To receive announcements, the newsletter in full color or reminders about church calendar items.

Go to: [www.raymondumc.net](http://www.raymondumc.net) or Sign up via email or text



**Men's Prayer Group Change:**

In order to allow for continued help in various areas of community missions, we are changing our meeting times to help accommodate those areas. Instead of weekly meetings, we will now meet on the 2nd and 4th Thursday's of each month beginning at 7 pm in the church basement. All are welcome to join! Any questions, please see Larry Marshall or Dick Sparks.

**Ice Cream Social:**

All are welcome to come join us in fellowship at our RUMC Ice Cream Social

Mark your calendar for:

August 18th from 5 pm - 7 pm

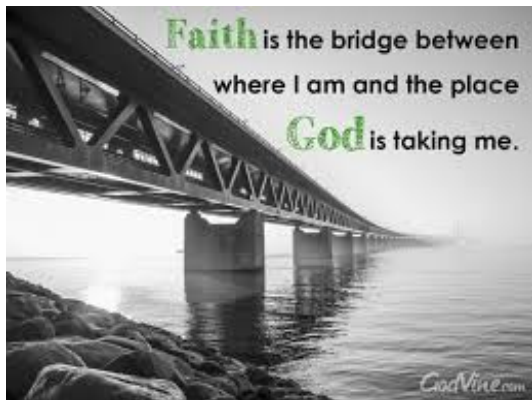
Food for a complete meal, plus YUMMY homemade ice cream, pie and brownies

**Faith Development:****Vacation Bible School**

Thanks again to all of those who made this year's VBS such a success. Because our numbers were significantly higher this year, VBS 2018 will be held the 3<sup>rd</sup> week in June from 6:30 pm - 8:35 pm

**Kids Club**

It's hard to believe, but our 6th year of First Thursday Kids Club will begin Thursday, October 5. Kids will be picked up from Raymond School each month and a family dinner will be provided for all families following each month's KC. This year's theme will be "Bible Heroes." Please contact Linda Paver if you need further information or you would like to help. Thanks in advance for your prayers and support for this continuing ministry.

**Calendar of Events:**

Ice Cream Social:

August 18th 5 pm - 7 pm

Sunshine Girls:

6:30 pm at Helena Anderson's

August 14th & 28th

September 11th & 25th

Men's Share Group:

2nd & 4th Thursday's 7 pm in Church Basement

August 10th & 24th

September 14th & 28th

Hospitality:

7 pm in Church Fellowship Hall

August- No Meeting

September 18th