

Raymond UMC

Church Newsletter of Upcoming Events, Reminders and Happenings

Beloved Church family –

Christmas is coming – and there is much to pray about, to reflect on, and to prepare for as we wait together this Advent. It is so easy to get wrapped up in the busy-ness of the season – but we have the opportunity to unwrap gifts of peace, wisdom, hope and joy all throughout Advent. Before we celebrate the arrival of Christ – we can experience and acknowledge the love of God reaching out to restore us. Before Christmas, we are called to reach out and love our neighbors as God loves us and reaches out to us.



God invites us into a season of listening, preparing, waiting and anticipating all that is coming and we can share that invitation with all people. Our preparations can involve times of being still and times of active listening. We will gather to share our hopes, our joys and our concerns. While we wait, we have the privilege to pray, spend time together in scripture and proclaim the Good News that there is enough love, there is

hope for our world, the Prince of Peace is coming.

Join me in preparing, waiting and listening for God's work among us and within us this Advent. I have included a list of our lectionary scripture passages for the Sundays in Advent. Our worship time together will involve many of these verses. I encourage you to read these passages and discover the gifts God has waiting for you in the Word. Some of the words that captured my attention in these texts include Listen, Restore, Wait, Prepare, Life, Shine, Presence, Meet, Gather, Grace, Peace, Reveal, Faithful, Fellowship, Comfort and Love.

I am so excited to share this season with you! I hope that you lovingly invite your friends and family to join us – Advent is the perfect time to come and listen and worship together in community.

There is much to discover as we wait together! Christmas is coming, Advent is here, let's be present together and ask God to Bless this season in our church and in our community. The New Year is right around the corner and I believe that the Best Is Yet to Come and each of us is called to participate in the work God is doing among us.

You are so very loved!

In the Peace and Love of Jesus of Christ –

Pastor Sara McSwords

Lectionary Texts for Advent:

December 3rd: Isaiah 64:1-9, Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19, 1 Corinthians 1:3-9, Mark 13:24-37

December 10th: Isaiah 40:1-11, Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13, 2 Peter 3:8-15a, Mark 1:1-8

December 17th: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11, Psalm 126, 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24, John 1:6-8, 19-28

December 24th: Morning Worship: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16, Luke 1:47-55, Romans 16:25-27, Luke 1:26-38

December 24th, Christmas Eve Service: Isaiah 9:2-7, Psalm 96, Titus 2:11-14, Luke 2:1-20

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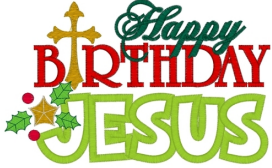
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Hospitality:

Hospitality would first like to say " Thank You" to all who donated to our paper pantry collection. We received enough help that I believe the articles will take us well into our new year. Blessings to you all! We would also like to thank those who helped with the items needed for our community Thanksgiving service. Please note that the Sunday after Thanksgiving, and the Sunday after Christmas there will be no fellowship after church.

On December 24th, we will be having a short fellowship after morning service as we will be doing a Jesus' Birthday Party . This will be during and after the AM service only. Not the evening candlelight service.



December meeting for Hospitality is cancelled.

January meeting for hospitality will be on the 16th of January at 7:00. Location will be announced as we get closer.

We will be discussing upcoming events (if any) and ideas for the New Year.

January 29th will be the first fifth Sunday of the year, we will be having an old-fashioned pot luck that day as many requested. A Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all and many blessings from Hospitality.

Thank You, Sharon Parker

The Ribbon Tree:

The Ribbon Tree will be decorated on Sunday, December 3rd for the Advent Season. If you would like to have ribbons on our tree please obtain a form from church on Sunday. The cost per ribbon is \$1.00. It is a way of including special people in our lives into our sanctuary and our worship as well as beautifying our Ribbon Tree.

White: in Memory of your family members/friends deceased

Gold: In Honor of special people in your life

Red: For blessings received

Blue: To celebrate special family events

Thanks for your participation,
Jean T.

2018 Commitment Cards:

Many 2018 Commitment Cards were submitted in November - Thank You! We need all families to prayerfully submit these commitment cards if possible so that we can best plan for 2018. Please put a commitment card in the large Cross Box on the counter near the sanctuary entrance counter. Your participation in our Church community matters!

Community Outreach:

KROGER REWARDS: To help our Church, if you shop at Kroger and have one of the Kroger Reward cards that gives you a discount on grocery items and gas, you can go on-line and designate that you would like Kroger to donate to Raymond United Methodist Church. It is easy to sign up at Kroger.com and select Community Rewards. At this time our Church receives a check from Kroger every 3 months. The more people that do this, the more free money to help our Church.

BOX TOP FOR EDUCATION: To help Raymond Elementary School, you can save the Box Top coupons that appear on a lot of grocery items. Just cut them off the box, bring them in, put them in the container that is on the table at the back of the Church (beside the basket that holds the Daily Bread devotionals). The rewards from this allows the school to purchase some really nice useful items.

Building Up Our Youth: Hope Center mentoring ministry, Building Up Our Youth (BUOY), needs more mentors. If interested please talk with Pastor Sara for more information.



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

Go to: www.raymondumc.net or Sign up via email or text



Faith Development

A NEW YOUTH GROUP FOR KIDS GRADES 5-12 IS COMING TO RAYMOND UMC SPRING 2018!!!

The Faith Development Team is pleased to announce this new adventure/program for the youth of our congregation and community. This new group will meet once a month...day and time TBD. The first meeting will be a board game/food night and the second meeting will be a movie/food night! Both of these meetings will give the kids a chance to organize and get to know each other. Input from them will be very important as they create this group and move forward. Each potential member will receive a special invitation to come and be a part of this group. (FYI...we are looking @ possibly 15 kids as of this writing) **WE NEED A MINIMUM OF TWO ADULT LEADERS (21 or older)... ONE WOMAN AND ONE MAN (not from the same household)...TO MAKE THIS HAPPEN!!! OUR HOPES AND PRAYERS ARE THAT THERE WILL BE SEVERAL ADULTS WHO WILL BE WILLING TO SHARE THEIR GIFTS AND TALENTS AND LEAD THIS GROUP OF SPECIAL KIDS!!!** If you or someone you know is interested in leading this new youth group, please see Pastor Sara or anyone on the FD Team...Elbert Horsley, Galen Ash, Vickie Ash, Kathy McKenzie, Lisa Guenther, Karla Wygle, or Linda Paver. **THE FD TEAM ASKS ALL CHURCH FOLKS AND OTHERS READING THIS NEWSLETTER TO JOIN US IN PRAYING FOR THIS NEW MINISTRY!!!**

CHRISTMAS AROUND THE DEEP BLUE WORLD

All Kids Club and church kids will be receiving this activity book for Christmas. This book celebrates the different ways Christmas is celebrated around the world as we all unite in the celebration of the birth of the Christ Child.

NEW WOMEN'S GROUP

The new Women's Group now has a regular meeting date...the 3rd Monday of every month @ 7:00 PM. The next two meetings are: December 18 & January 15. All women of the church, their families, their friends, and community women are invited to attend. Each meeting includes a Bible Study (currently women of the Bible), food, fellowship, and a monthly service project. Plans for our December meeting include choosing a name and deciding our service projects for 2018. Our 1st service project will

be serving dinner @ Christ's Pantry in January. **LADIES PLEASE JOIN US!!! YOU WON'T BE DISAPPOINTED!!! YOU'LL BE BLESSED!!!** See Vickie Ash, Pam Marshall, Ginny Sparks, or Linda Paver if you need more information.

Calendar Dates:

Kids Club: Thursday, December 7; Thursday, January 11(note date change) @ 3:30 – 6:15 @ the church

New Women's Group: Monday, December 18 @ 7:00, Monday, January 15 @ the church

Sunshine Girls: meet the 2nd & 4th Mondays of each month @ 6:30 @ Helena Anderson's

Men's Share Group: alternate Thursdays @ 7:00 @ the church

Faith Development Team: NO MEETING IN DECEMBER; Tuesday, January 2 @ 7:00 @ the church.

Our Mission Statement:

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



Missions Schedule

December Dates:

Missions Meeting – Winter break (no meeting in December)

Community & Senior Lunch – Tuesday, December 12th @ noon

Christ's Pantry – Thursday, December 14th @ 6 p.m. – ***please note December's Christ's Pantry has been moved to December 14th (week prior to regularly scheduled date)***

January Dates:

Missions Meeting – Winter break (no meeting in January)

Community & Senior Lunch – Tuesday, January 9th @ noon

Christ's Pantry – Thursday, January 18th @ 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 along with serving 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. If you would like to help out with an upcoming Christ's Closet please see Heather Holland for additional information.

January Mission Projects:

Below are several mission projects our church will be supporting this month. Any items you are able to donate will help those in need in our community.

Teacher Restock:

- Clorox wipes
- Tissues

*Blessings In A Backpack:

- Oatmeal instant single-serving packets (multi-packs)
- Lance sandwich crackers with cheese or equivalent brand (multi-packs, no peanut butter)

**Blessings In A Backpack is a national program working in the Marysville School District to provide food on the weekends to elementary children on free and reduced school meals who otherwise might go hungry.

Christ's Pantry:

- Canned green beans
- Canned tuna
- Toothpaste
- Baby wipes

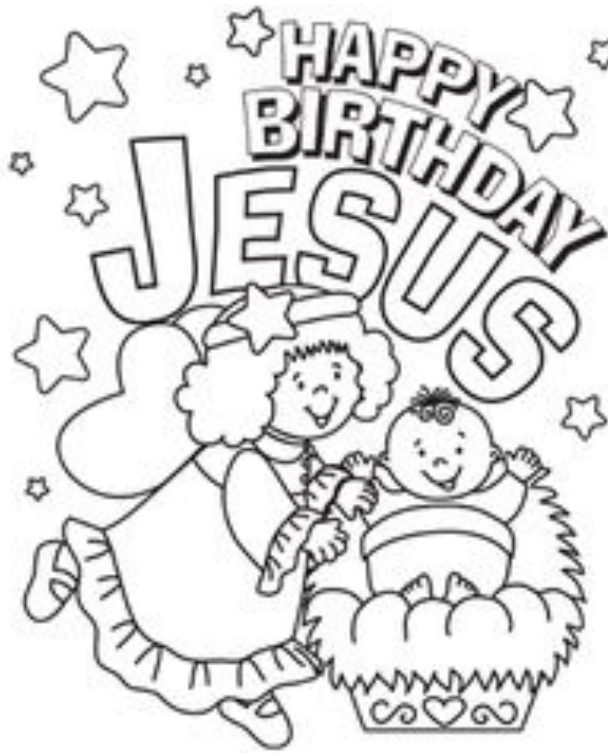
All items need to be returned to the church Sunday, January 28th.

Thank you for your support of the mission and ministry of Raymond UMC in our community.



Kid's Corner

Color Baby
Jesus



Christmas

Help the 3 Wise Men get to
the North Star!

