

Raymond UMC

Church Newsletter of Upcoming Events, Reminders and Happenings

Beloved Church family –

Do you take a lot of photos around Christmas time? Do you have precious photos from past Christmases? What photos do you want to make sure to take together this year? Family and memories are important this time of year. It is important to consider where we have been and who helped us get to where we are now. It is vital to be reminded that all good gifts come from God, God is the source for all seasons.

So how does God fit into your Christmas picture? Are you busy buying and planning and stressing about holiday trimmings? Will you make time to be still, to pray, to be grateful, and read the story of our loving God humbly coming to earth through Jesus Christ?

I encourage you to be mindful about keeping Jesus in the picture throughout Advent and into 2019. Let's find ways to be kinder, more generous, more loving and more peaceful this Christmas and New Year.

As you prepare for Christmas Celebrations, I hope we all prepare for new and renewed ways of making Jesus the focal point of all our future plans. Plan to join a study group, plan to join the choir, plan to volunteer, plan to pray and to read Scriptures. Plan to be present with God more and then do that.

Know that you are loved. Know that God is at work in your life and in our church, be grateful and let's keep planning together.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

In Christ's Grace and Peace –

Pastor Sara



Preaching Series for Advent:

December 2nd: The Gospel of Mark – Mark 1:1-8 / Holy Communion

December 9th: The Gospel of Matthew – Matthew 1:1-2:18

December 16th: The Gospel of Luke – Luke 1:5 - 2:20

December 23rd: The Gospel of John – John 1:1-18

December 24th, Christmas Eve Service at 7 p.m.: Holy Communion

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Hospitality:

Hello to all our brothers and sisters in Christ. I would first like to Thank everyone who joined us and the missions crew to make our Trunk or treat night a great success. This is one of Hospitalities slower times of the year so we are not having scheduled meetings. We do have an event scheduled for December 16. We will be celebrating the birth of Jesus just a little early. Thank you in advance to Becky Ratcliff who will be helping hospitality with refreshments. May you all have a wonderful Christmas and a happy and safe New Year. Sharon Parker

The Ribbon Tree:

The Ribbon Tree will be decorated on Sunday, December 2nd 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.



You are Cordially Invited:

Larry and Pam Marshall invite you to their annual Christmas party on Saturday December 8th. We will be ready for guest at 6 p.m.

If you would like to bring a covered dish or snack to share that would be great. We plan to laugh, eat, sing and have a great time!

You are all special to us and we would like to celebrate this blessed season with you.

Our address is 24575 State Route 739 Raymond and our home phone is 937-246-0291.

Hope to see you and oh yes children are welcome!

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.

Thank You:

A huge THANK YOU to those that helped to stain the church ramp. It is a much appreciated improvement!



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:**KIDS CLUB:**

We are in the midst of our biggest and best Kids Club yet. As of this writing, we have 46 kids enrolled and are feeding approximately 50 folks for dinner after each meeting. **Of those 46 kids enrolled, 42 of those have no connection to our church! WOW!!!** God has truly blessed us with this community ministry.

We have received the following positive feedback from parents through emails and conversations:

Thank you so much for all you do for the kids and families!!

Thank you for putting this on. She really enjoys it.

I wanted to thank the church for giving our boys a Bible. That is a wonderful gift that you are giving to the children, and something to keep and grow with them in their knowledge and faith.

Several parents commented that their kids were happy to come to Kids' Club.

UPPER ROOM DAILY DEVOTIONALS

There are still a few November/December available in the basket at the back of the church. January/February will be available soon.

Calendar Dates:

Women's Circle: Tuesday, December 18 @ Vickie Ash's house @ 7:00 PM, Monday, January 21 @ 7:00 @ the church

Men's Share Group: 2nd and 4th Thursdays @ 7:00 @ the church

Kids Club: Thursday, December 6, 3:40-5:30, 5:30-6:15 family dinner; Thursday, January 10, 3:40-5:30, 5:30-6:15 family dinner

Youth Group:

Our Youth Group is still meeting the 2nd Sunday of each month through May 2019. We invite all 5th grade through 12th grade to come join the fun activities. We meet in the church basement from 5-7pm. Food is provided. Next gathering is Sunday Dec. 9th, we will be decorating Christmas cookies!

**Our Mission Statement:**

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

Missions

Missions Schedule

December Dates:

Missions Meeting – no meeting in December
 Community Lunch – Tuesday, December 11th @ noon
 Christ's Pantry – Thursday, December 20th @ 6 p.m.

January Dates:

Missions Meeting – no meeting in January
 Community Lunch – Tuesday, January 8th @ noon
 Christ's Pantry – Thursday, January 17th @ 6 p.m.



Community Lunch

Come join us for our Community 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 chili, spaghetti sauce, shampoo, and conditioner. If you would like to help out with an upcoming Christ's Pantry please see Heather Holland for additional information.

Thank you from Missions

We would like to personally thank everyone that has made a donation, cooked all or a portion of a pantry dinner or community lunch, helped serve lunch/dinner, cleaned up after lunch/dinner, bought extra groceries, checked people in and prayed with them, filled orders, just listened and/or visited with a neighbor, made goodie bags for Trunk or Treat or Easter, provided entertainment for our Community lunch, shared your musical talents during Christ's Pantry, volunteered your time. The list goes on and on. It is amazing to think about all RUMC does to help our community and our neighbors and spread God's love. An example would be at November Christ's Pantry we gave each family extra groceries for Thanksgiving thanks to your help. Everyone was very grateful and appreciative. One woman even shouted with excitement "are all those groceries mine" as we brought her order to her. You would have thought she won the lottery she was so excited. I wish everyone could have experienced the surprise and appreciation from your donation of a bag of groceries.

Thank you for making all of this possible.
 Heather and the Missions Team

Christmas Share

We have four families we will be helping this year for Christmas. Each have young school aged children. We will have more details available on how to participate following Thanksgiving. If you would like to help contact Heather Holland.