

Raymond UMC

Church Newsletter of Upcoming Events, Reminders and Happenings

Letter from the Pastor –

Beloved Church – What are you asking for? That is usually a question we hear around Christmas, usually aimed at asking children what they hope to find under their tree. What are you searching for? That could be a question we ask someone who is looking for just the right gift for a loved one or a question we ask a person who is wandering around with a lost look in their eyes. However, what if we asked one another these questions with a spiritual perspective throughout the year? What if we examine scriptures expecting to find new hope, insights and revelations for our lives?

Friends - What are you asking God to do in your life? Is what you are asking for focused on worldly agendas or aligned with a Kingdom mindset? Are you searching and seeking and asking God to transform your heart and mind? Will you embrace each opportunity to draw closer to God? How will you make the most of the opportunities God is giving you?

In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus tells listeners ⁷“Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. ⁸For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. ⁹Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for bread, will give a stone? ¹⁰Or if the child asks for a fish, will give a snake? ¹¹If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask him!” Matthew 7:7-11 (NRSV)

Church - Jesus wants us to ask! Jesus wants us to search and find! Jesus wants us to knock and expect an answer! There is so much promise in these verses!

Sometimes our spiritual lives are limited by our willingness to ask and engage. My prayer for the next few months and into Holy Week is that we will ask, seek and knock, knowing that the words of Jesus invite us into restored relationships and unlimited growth with God and one another.

I hope you come to worship, serve, pray and praise God at RUMC often this year. Come Sunday mornings, come to community lunches, to Christ Pantry, come to Choir, and join study groups. Come with questions, come and seek the way of Christ Jesus and be changed. I believe that together we can build, we can plan and we can create beautiful opportunities for growth and outreach. Let's keep asking and searching together, with confidence that God is faithful.

In Christ's Grace and Peace –
Pastor Sara

Upcoming Sunday Scripture and Sermons – Throughout February and March into Lent we will be spending time in the Gospel of Matthew. Join us for worship each week at 10:45 a.m.

February 3 – Matthew 6:7-21 - Prayer and Treasure
February 10 – Matthew 7:1-14, 24-29 - Judging, The Golden Rule
February 17 – Matthew 13:24-43 - Parables
February 24 - Matthew 14:13-33 – Feeding the 5000, Faith, Walking on Water
March 3 – Matthew 16:24-17:8 – Transfiguration
March 6 – Ash Wednesday
March 10 – Matthew 18:15-35 – Forgiveness
March 17 – Matthew 20:1-16 – Last Place Priorities
March 24 – Matthew 22:1-14 – Wedding Drama
March 31 – Matthew 25:1-13 - Keep Awake

In This Issue:

Letter from Pastor

Upcoming Scripture & Sermons

Small Group Study Opportunity

Church Closure Policy

Hospitality

Community Outreach

Faith Development Chairperson

VBS

Calendar Dates

Missions Schedule

Youth Group Change

Men's Group

Small Group Study Opportunity:

Pastor Sara will begin leading a new 7 week Small Group Study on February 19th - We will meet on Tuesdays (with a couple of dates moved for scheduling conflicts) at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m.

The study is called "The God We Can Know - Exploring the I am sayings of Jesus" by Rob Fuquay. Please let Pastor Sara know if you are interested in attending this study so that she can preorder a book for you.

(Books are \$6.99 - donations are accepted to cover the cost of the book, however if cost is a concern please come to the study and let us give the book to you. We want all who are interested to participate!)

Here are the meeting dates and times:

Tues. Feb. 19th - 10 a.m. and 7 p.m.

Tues. Feb 26th - 10 a.m. and 7 p.m.

Tues. March 5th - 10 a.m. / (evening rescheduled due to leadership meeting)

Thurs. March 7th - 7 p.m.

Tues. March 12th - 10 a.m. and 7 p.m.

Tues. March 19th - 10 a.m. and 7 p.m.

Tues. March 26th - 10 a.m. and 7 p.m.

Tues. April 2nd - 10 a.m. - (evening rescheduled due to leadership meeting)

Thurs. April 4th - 7 p.m.

Church Closure Policy:

As the cold weather approaches, let us all be reminded of the Raymond UMC closure policy.

IF the Union County Sheriff / Highway Department declares a Level 2 or 3 Snow / Ice Emergency, then all church activities, including worship, are cancelled.

IF the Marysville School District has cancelled school, then all church activities for that day are also cancelled.

IF there is any question in your mind, stay home!

Check our website <http://www.raymondumc.net> for updates or you may call the church at 937-246-3892 with questions. Be safe.

Hospitality:

Hello everyone, Hope this newsletter finds all of you safe and warm. Hospitality has no definite dates for February and March as of yet. Keep your eyes on the bulletin for Boy Scout Sunday and any other events that may come up. Please take a good look at the clip board when it is passed around as we have had a lot of empty slots recently.

On a personal note, I would like to thank everyone for praying for me and for the cards I received. I'm hoping recent tests will tell us more. Right now I am feeling some better. Thank you again, Sharon

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.

MOBILE FOOD PANTRY: The Hope Center, in conjunction with the Mid Ohio Food Bank, has a mobile food pantry on the first Wednesday of the month in Magnetic Springs. All are welcome; just need an ID and bags. There is always lots of produce and an assortment of other foods, along with personal needs items. If anyone is in need, or knows of someone that can use some help, it is a great resource. I have volunteered each month since they opened in October, and the clientele grows each month. If anyone would like to volunteer, they just need to contact Trish at the Hope Center.



Faith Development Chairperson:

We are beginning to look for a new FD chairperson beginning January 1, 2020. Linda Paver's resignation is effective December 31, 2019. Please see Pastor Sara or Linda Paver if you are interested and/or have questions. The job description is as follows:

The Faith Development Team is responsible for all ministries that help us grow in faith outside of weekly worship, such as Bible studies, Sunday School classes, Kids Club, VBS, share groups, support groups, small groups, prayer teams, youth activities, etc. People of all ages and stages of Faith Development have the opportunity to learn and grow in a faith community as they grow in the grace, knowledge and love of God. The Faith Development team works with the pastor to help develop and implement these programs. This team is also responsible for all areas of Safe Sanctuary.

The job of the Intentional Faith Development Chairperson is:

- A member of the church's Covenant Council: attend all meetings, and report on the work of the Faith Development Team
- To lead the Faith Development Team and conduct monthly meetings as needed
- To oversee, in conjunction with the Faith Development team and the pastor, all children, youth, and adult ministries of the church.
- To work with the Faith Development team and the pastor to secure people from the congregation to lead each of our current Faith Development ministries. **The Faith Development chairperson may be the leader of one or more of these ministries, but that is not a requirement**
- To work with the Faith Development team and the pastor to evaluate all current ministries periodically to be sure they are in line with the church's Mission Statement.
- To work with the Faith Development team and the pastor to add new ministries that help people grow in grace and in the knowledge and love of God for both current members/attendees and the community beyond our church walls.
- Responsible for "everything" Safe Sanctuary: complete knowledge of the current policy; with the Faith Development Team's help, update the current policy and forms on "odd numbered years" to be re-approved by the Covenant Council; conduct yearly Safe Sanctuary trainings for all persons working with children, youth, and vulnerable adults; submit background checks to Shepherd's Watch as needed (anyone 18 years of age or older)

VBS:

MARVELOUS MISSION (An Intergalactic Mission: Jesus Saves the World) will be the theme of this year's VBS. Dates and times: June 17 – 21, 6:30 PM – 8:35 PM with Closing Celebration on Sunday, June 23 @ 10:45 AM. More details will follow beginning in March.

Calendar Dates:

Kids Club: Thursday, February 7; Thursday, March 7 @ 3:30 – 6:15 @ the church

Women's Circle: Monday, February 18 @ 7:00, Monday, March 18 @ 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 MEETINGS ARE PLANNED AT THIS TIME

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

Missions Schedule:**February Dates:**

Missions Meeting – Monday, February 4th @ 6:30 p.m.

Community Lunch – Tuesday, February 12th @ noon

Christ's Pantry – Thursday, February 21st @ 6 p.m.

March Dates:

Missions Meeting – Monday, March 4th @ 6:30 p.m.

Community Lunch – Tuesday, March 12th @ noon

Christ's Pantry – Thursday, March 21st @ 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 tomato soup, canned tuna, and baby wipes. If you would like to help out with an upcoming Christ's Pantry please see Heather Holland for additional information.

**Youth Group Change:**

With reflection on the current numbers for our Youth Group, it has been decided to cancel our February 10th gathering. We will be changing the platform for this to a quarterly gathering of youth and families for an evening of fun. For our first event, we are looking to have a Movie Night or Bowling Night. This event date is still at a "To Be Determined" status. Please watch the church announcements, Facebook and Website for more information as it becomes available. Some other potential events include Game Night, Craft Night and a Nature Hike/Picnic. If you have suggestions for a fun family and youth evening, please talk to Pastor Sara, Karla Wygle, Galen Ash, Brent George or Chris Erich. Please keep this ministry in prayer as we work to best serve our youth, families and community.

MEN'S GROUP MEETINGS:

Come and bring a friend, neighbor or anyone else that might enjoy laughter, and learning. This meeting is held on the 2nd. & 4th. Thursday of each month in the church basement beginning at 7pm....come rain, shine, snow or hail.

February and March Meetings:

February 14

February 28

March 14

March 28

Our Mission Statement:

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