

# Raymond UMC

Church Newsletter of Upcoming Events, Reminders and Happenings

## Letter from the Pastor

One of my favorite stories from the Old Testament is found in 1 Samuel 3. It was the focus of the sermon for Sunday January 14<sup>th</sup>. There is so much in that story about a young boy, Samuel, hearing God speak to him for the first time. Initially there was some confusion, but ultimately the miracle in this story involves the divine speaking and humanity willing to listen. Not only was Samuel listening, but he responded with the vulnerable words "Speak, for your servant is listening." As we transition from the time of Advent into the season of Lent, I hope we are listening for God in our lives. As we pray for healing, as we plan for new study groups, new opportunities and a new youth group, we must take the time to listen for God. We must be willing to listen to whatever God is telling us in whatever ways God is speaking through scripture, through relationships, through community events and we must respond – "Here we are God, Speak, for your servants are listening."

In the coming weeks please join me in praying to hear God's directions and joyfully responding in faith and action. Listening is a challenge in the chaos of a loud, busy, fast paced society. Listening to one another and listening for God empowers new vision, growth, renewal, and restoration. In James 1:19 (NRSV) the author shares these words of direction "19 You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger;" – listening is a spiritual discipline or "sacred rhythm" that can empower us to love one another and to love God more fully. How can you listen for God more intentionally? Can listening be an aspect of your Lenten preparation? I hope that you choose to include listening for God in your Lenten endeavors. I hope you consider joining a Sunday school, or small group study – we can help one another hear more clearly when we share our stories. I hope you invite others into conversation and listen to their stories. Friends, know that you are so very loved, and that God hears you every day; every prayer is heard, every cry of your heart is known to our creator.

In the peace of Christ Jesus –  
Pastor Sara

## THANK YOU NOTE from the Pastor

*Dear Gracious and Loving Church Family – Thank you for your generous Christmas gift! I am grateful for your support, your encouragement and your prayers. I am blessed beyond measure to serve alongside you all as we grow to be disciples of Jesus Christ. Your generous consideration and care continues to be a blessing! I am excited to see what God will do next at RUMC! I thank God for all of you! In Jesus' love, Pastor Sara and family* Philippians 1:3-6

## SAVE THE DATE:

**Ash Wednesday Service** will be held on February 14<sup>th</sup> at Raymond UMC beginning at 7 p.m.

**Maundy Thursday/Holy Thursday** service will be at RUMC on Thursday March 29<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.

**Good Friday Services** will be on March 30<sup>th</sup> at Caldwell Memorial UMC in Irwin at 7 p.m. and a **Marysville Community Good Friday Service** will also be held at the Presbyterian Church in Marysville, 210 W. 5th St. beginning at Noon on March 30<sup>th</sup>. (Pastor Sara will be preaching/leading that service as a member of the HOPE Center Marysville Area Ministerial Association Board)

## Lenten Study Opportunity

We will be starting a new Lenten Study based on a short book by Margrey R. deVega called "Embracing the Uncertain: A Lenten Study for Unsteady Times". Please let Pastor Sara know if you would like her to order a book for you for this study. Meeting times are to be determined.

## New Membership Classes

If you are considering becoming a member of RUMC, please fill out the brief Member Interest Survey available at the back counter of the sanctuary and return to Pastor Sara. We hope to find a few times to gather, pray, study and celebrate your call to membership at this church.

## IN THIS ISSUE:

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**FAITH DEVELOPMENT****NEW YOUTH GROUP:**

**OUR NEW YOUTH GROUP WILL HOLD ITS FIRST MEETING ON SUNDAY APRIL 15, FROM 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM AT THE CHURCH. Pizza and pop will be provided for dinner.** Meetings will be held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month...same time...same menu. Galen Ash, Chris Eirich, Pastor Sara, and Karla Wygle will be leading the group, but additional help will always be welcome. Flyers will be given to those invited youth on Easter Sunday, April 1 or mailed if not present. Each youth will be given 2 additional flyers to share with friends. **PLEASE PRAY FOR THE LEADERS, THE KIDS, AND ALL ASPECTS OF THIS NEW MINISTRY.**

**VBS:**

SPLASH MOUNTAIN will be the theme of this year's VBS. Dates and times: June 18 – 22, 6:30 PM – 8:35 PM with Closing Celebration on Sunday, June 24 @ 10:45 AM. More details will follow beginning in March.

**LENTEN STUDY:**

Pastor Sara will be leading a Lenten Study both a morning and evening during Lent. Watch the bulletin or contact her for further details.

**FRIDAY FAITH, FOOD, AND FELLOWSHIP NIGHT????**

Would you be interested in a quarterly Friday night of Faith, Food, and Fellowship? The FD team has begun to look at this possibility. Watch the newsletter, web page, Facebook, and bulletin for more details in upcoming months

**Calendar Dates:**

**Kids Club:** Thursday, February 1; Thursday, March 1 @ 3:30 – 6:15 at the church

**Women's Circle:** Monday, February 19 and Monday, March 19 @ 7:00 pm at the church

**Sunshine Girls:** meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays of each month @ 6:30 at Helena Anderson's

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

**Faith Development Team:** NO MEETING IN FEBRUARY; Tuesday, March 6 @ 7:00 at the church.

**HOSPITALITY**

February 11th we will be welcoming our scout troop to our services with a time of fellowship to follow. March believe it or not you need to watch for announcements in the bulletin concerning the Easter egg hunt, Easter services, and Easter breakfast. Easter is April 1st. Hospitality will be changing their meeting date. As soon as we decide, we will let you know. We are always ready for anyone interested to join us. If you have questions, please feel free to ask.

Thank you and may God bless you all,  
Sharon

**THE RIBBON TREE MISSIONS**

Advent and Christmas have come and gone. Our Ribbon Tree helped us to celebrate Christmas with ribbons in 4 colors on the tree which was a beautiful and simple way to let us celebrate Christmas in a personal way. White ribbons represented remembering loved ones who have passed away. Gold ribbons helped us to honor special people in our lives. Red ribbons were to celebrate blessings received and blue ribbons to celebrate special family events. With the ribbons costing \$1.00 each, we raised a total of \$234 which was given to missions to help people who might need a helping hand, especially at Christmas time.

Thanks to all who participated in the Ribbon Tree mission,  
Jean Thornton

The  
Season  
of  
Lent



**MISSIONS****Schedule:****February Dates:**

Missions Meeting – Monday, February 5<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00 p.m.  
 Community & Senior Lunch – Tuesday, February 13<sup>th</sup> @ noon  
 Christ's Pantry – Thursday, February 15<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00 p.m.

**March Dates:**

Missions Meeting – Monday, March 5<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00 p.m.  
 Community & Senior Lunch – Tuesday, March 13<sup>th</sup> @ noon  
 Christ's Pantry – Thursday, March, 15<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00 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. If you would like to help out with an upcoming Christ's Pantry please see Heather Holland for additional information.

**February & March Mission Projects:**

Below are several mission projects our church will be supporting over the next two months. Any items you are able to donate will help those in need in our community. February items need to be returned to the church by Sunday, February 25<sup>th</sup>. March items need to be returned to the church by Sunday, March 25<sup>th</sup>.

**February Teacher Supply Restock:**

- Glue Sticks
- Kid Scissors

**February "Blessings In A Backpack":**

- Pop Tarts (or equivalent)
- Macaroni and cheese (boxed)

**February Christ's Pantry:**

- Dish soap
- Body lotion
- Tissues

**March Teacher Supply Restock:**

- Baby Wipes
- Big Erasers

**March "Blessings In A Backpack":**

- Juice boxes
- Chef Boyardee (or equivalent)

**March Christ's Pantry:**

- Shampoo
- Conditioner
- Deodorant

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

"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.

**Our Mission Statement:**

***Helping our neighbors meet Christ.  
 Renewing our passion for Christ. Loving  
 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***

