

Raymond UMC

Church Newsletter of Upcoming Events, Reminders and Happenings

We are only two weeks into the New Year and we've already been blasted with snow, ice, rain and wind (not to mention temperatures ranging from 5 to 60 degrees)! It just goes to show that we never quite know what we may face from one day to the next. Some days we wake up with joy overflowing and some days we encounter grief and heartache that threaten to break us. In the midst of such uncertainty I was reminded of the words from the prophet Isaiah that deliver this promise...

But now thus says the Lord,
he who created you, O Jacob,
he who formed you, O Israel:
Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name, you are mine.
When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
and the flame shall not consume you.
For I am the Lord your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.
I give Egypt as your ransom,
Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.
Because you are precious in my sight,
and honored, and I love you,
I give people in return for you,
nations in exchange for your life.
Do not fear, for I am with you. (Isaiah 43: 1-5a)

So, as we continue our journey into 2017 may we embrace the promise that the God who created us and redeemed us, is holding onto us through thick and thin. And may we find peace and joy in knowing that no matter what tomorrow holds, God is always by our side.

In His Service,
Pastor Brandi

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



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Sundays
10:45-11:45 am

Sunday School
9:15 am

LETTER OF APPRECIATION

To Our Church Family

We would like to express our full appreciation to all of you for your many prayers, kindness and concern to both of us during Larry's illness and recovery.

We both felt the prayers, daily, as we prepared for each day and what it would bring. The roads were clear for me as I drove, I got the sleep I needed to keep going and the doctors and medical staff was there with the answers to bringing Larry back to a healthier version.

Your cards were a comfort and brought some badly needed chuckles. Your gas cards, meal cards, and cash helped us with our expenses.

The group that spent that October Saturday with me to prepare our property for winter took a load off of mind knowing that things were ready and I would not worry.

The Men's Group, we thank so much, your offers, prayers and concern were greatly appreciated.

Our yard was mowed and support bars were installed for Larry before he got home, communion was brought to the nursing home, which gave us a link to all of you and the Sundays we were missing worshipping with you.

Brandi's visits, phone calls and text came at just the right time and we know that we were in her prayers and even little Hailey had Larry on her prayer list.

I know that the ministries we helped with were in good hands as people stepped up.

We felt personally the power of prayer. It is so strong and all encompassing.

Your friendship and love is invaluable to both of us.

It is a new experience for us to be on the receiving end for so long, it is humbling to know and feel God's love through all of you. You were always faithful, just as God intends us to be.

I wish we could better express how much you all mean to us.

Please accept our thanks with love that overflows for all of you, life would not be the same without our church family

Larry and Pam Marshall

THE RIBBON TREE

Every year at Christmas time we enjoy the Ribbon Tree. I want to thank all who participated this year. It provides us a way to include those whom we love into our Church Christmas celebration. The Ribbon Tree has graced our Sanctuary during Advent and into the Christmas season for many years.

White Ribbons are placed on the tree in Memory of loved ones who have passed away. Gold Ribbons are a way for us to show Honor to people in our lives who are special to us. Red Ribbons remind us to give thanks for blessings received and Blue Ribbons are to celebrate Family Events.

This beautiful and simple tree allows us to pause for a moment and remember loved ones and be thankful for our many blessings during the Christmas Season. The proceeds from the Ribbon Tree goes to missions. This year we honored and memorialized 176 persons. Therefore giving that amount to Missions.

THANK YOU CONGREGATION HELPERS

I want to thank all in the congregation who have donated pies, cakes, brownies, cookies and side dishes over the past year for Lions Club dinners, Kid's Club dinners and Ice Cream Socials. We couldn't make any of these happen with out the help and support of our congregation.

We are looking at dates in June and August 2017 as possible upcoming times for Ice Cream Socials. That means we'll be bugging you again for support.

We thank the Northwestern Lions Club for allowing us to be involved in the support of their organization. They are dedicated to providing vision assistance to folks throughout the community.

Thanks so much, J Thornton, G Sparks, K McKenzie, L Guenther, V Ash and others from the congregation who donated.

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.

HOSPITALITY

Hello from Hospitality and welcome to the new year. We started the new year off right by having a chili cook off the last Sunday in January. We have gotten a good response to this new idea so we are hoping it all goes well as we explore more ideas through the year.

February 26th will be Scouts Sunday and hospitality will be planning a special fellowship for after church that day in their honor. If you would like to help in any way please let me know.

We also have a number of small things that we take care of and some not so small ones, but if you are interested in helping in even the smallest way or are interested in joining our group please let me know.

We have no events in March that I am aware of but keep your eyes on the bulletin and announcements in church as we sometimes have things that pop up. Thank You, Sharon Parker

MISSION SCHEDULE

February Dates:

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

Community & Senior Lunch – Tuesday, February 14th @ noon

Christ's Pantry – Thursday, February 16th@ 6 p.m.

March Dates:

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

Community & Senior Lunch – Tuesday, March 14th @ noon

Christ's Pantry – Thursday, March 16th@ 6 p.m.

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, peanut butter, laundry detergent, and shampoo. If you would like to help out with an upcoming Christ's Closet please see Heather Holland for additional information.

FEBRUARY/MARCH MISSION PROJECTS

Below are two projects our church will be supporting for the months of February and March. Any items you are able to donate will help those in need in our community. Please have items to the church by Sunday, February 26th for February items and Sunday, March 26th for March items. 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 would otherwise might go hungry.

February Items:

Oatmeal (10 pack)

Raisins (6 packs)

March Items:

Pudding (non-refrigerated 4 pack SnackPack or equivalent)

Fruit & grain bars (multi packs)

Teacher Supplies Restock:

As teachers and students at Raymond Elementary start the second half of the school year many teachers are running low on supplies and need to reach into their personal pockets to restock supplies. RUMC would like to help by restocking a few items for the months of February and March. See items below.

February Items:

Hand sanitizer

Glue sticks

March Items:

Clorox wipe

Dry erase markers

