

RAYMOND UMC

CHURCH NEWSLETTER UPCOMING EVENTS, REMINDERS AND HAPPENINGS

In just a couple of weeks, my family and I will be saying goodbye and you will be welcoming Pastor Sara and her family into the fold. As this time of transition and change approaches, I want to remind you of the words from Hymn of Promise by Natalie Sleeth,

In the bulb, there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree; In cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free: In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be; Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

God has already been at work putting pieces in place and preparing the road ahead. So, while it is hard to say goodbye, I am eternally grateful for the hospitality, graciousness, passion, leadership, and most of all, the love you have poured out on me, Justin, Hailey and Harper during this season of our lives. We have been blessed to live and serve beside you over the past three years and words do not adequately express our love and appreciation, so may I also offer my prayers. I am holding Raymond UMC and Caldwell Memorial UMC, this community, each of you, Pastor Sara and her family in my prayers. I have had the privilege of spending some time with Pastor Sara over the past few weeks and I know God has prepared her and you for this new chapter of ministry. She will be a blessing to you and you will be a blessing to her.

My family and I will always hold you near to our hearts and I am excited to see all that God has in store for you! Thank you again for walking beside us on this journey of ministry and life.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Brandi



Pastor Sara McSwords has been appointed to serve as Pastor for Raymond and Caldwell Memorial effective June 25, 2017. Pastor Sara recently graduated from Methodist Theological School of Ohio with her Masters in Divinity and she will be Commissioned for Provisional Ordination at Annual Conference this June. She has been a Licensed Local Pastor while studying at seminary full time and has served this past year at Marysville First United Methodist Church and as Associate Pastor at Crossword United Methodist Church in Marion in 2015-2016.

Pastor Sara has a bachelors degree from Otterbein University in Public Relations with a minor in Music/Vocal Performance. She has served in leadership in a variety of children's and adult ministries and is thrilled to be appointed to serve the Raymond and Caldwell church families.

Sara and her husband Joe have been married for almost 22 years and have lived in Marysville for 17 years. Joe is a physical education teacher at Marysville High School, where he has taught for 19 years. They have 4 children, twin daughters Kayla and Shelby are 18 and just graduated from Marysville High School this year. Kayla will attend Bluffton University to study Food Dietetics and Nutrition and Shelby will attend Otterbein University to study Musical Theatre this coming fall. The McSwords also have two sons, Logan age 15 will begin his freshman year at MHS and Brody age 10 will be a 5th grader at Creekview Intermediate this upcoming school year.

Pastor Sara is excited to partner with Raymond and Caldwell Memorial to share the love of Jesus Christ with the community! You are welcome to email her at pastorsaramcswords@gmail.com or call her at 937-594-3717 as she begins to serve here in the coming weeks.

**Letter from
Pastor
Brandi**

**Introduction
of Pastor
Sara**

**Thank you
Virginia
Kling**

**Sunday
School
Classes**

Kids' Club

**Safe
Sanctuary**

VBS 2017

**Faith
Development
Calendar**

**Missions
Schedule**

**Community
& Senior
Lunch**

**Christ's
Pantry**





John and Virginia Kling have had to relocate to California. However, before they left, we presented Virginia with an embroidered apron with "Thank you from RUMC" in our appreciation for all the help she has provided to our church both through baking and using her artistic skills with VBS and many other activities. She and John will be missed in the community and the church and we wish them well.

Sunday School Classes:

The Kids' Class will be using the topics: "Ice Cream" and "Pizza Party" as they learn and participate in a variety of Biblical Stories this summer. Both the kids and Linda continue to be happy with this curriculum from Ministry Deals.

The CSI Class will be studying the book of Revelations using the book; **The Rapture Exposed** by Barbara Russing in mid-June or early July. Please check with Elbert Horsley if you are interested in joining them for this study.

Kids Club Thank You:

We would like to thank the following folks for making Kids Club 2016-2017 such a success: Kitchen and Read Aloud...Kathy McKenzie, Jean Thornton, Lisa Guenther and Karla Wygle; Crafts...Becky Ratliff and Ginny Sparks; Activities... Galen Ash; Our willing substitutes...Helena Anderson, Debbie Myers and Pastor Brandi. **A special thanks to Vickie Ash who was our "on-site leader"** in Linda Paver's absence. We look forward to starting again in October!

Safe Sanctuary and Update:



Thank you to Terry Basinger who presented the draft of our church's Emergency Response Plan to those in attendance at our annual Safe Sanctuary Meeting on May 13. We will be moving toward filling in the gaps later this summer/early fall and as Pastor Sara begins her time with us to make this a complete "working document."

The Faith Development Team will be updating our church's Safe Sanctuary Policy for Covenant Council approval in 2018. This will include the conference updates and a section on social media.

Vacation Bible School:



Our VBS theme this year is **Mighty Fortress: In Jesus the Victory is Won**. The key verse is *1 Corinthians 15:57*.

Lessons are: God's Might Tumbles Jericho's Walls, God Delivers King Hezekiah's Kingdom, God's Word Reforms King Josiah, King Jesus Enters Jerusalem and Jesus Wins the Victory.

Dates: June 19-23, 2017 @ 6:30 pm - 8:35 pm for kids ages preschool-6th grade. Our Closing Celebration will be Sunday June 25.

Registration forms are available on the podium at the back of the sanctuary if you know of some kids who might be interested. You may also download a registration form from our church website simply by clicking on Info Center, then VBS.

Posters are also available there if you know of a place that would be willing to publicize it for us. Thanks to Jean Thornton and others for creating the sign in front of the church.

A VBS staff meeting will held for all workers on June 10 @ 9:00 am.

We will need help decorating the church on Sunday June 18, following Pastor Brandi's going away potluck. More details to follow.

Please contact Becky Ratliff if you are interested in helping with decorating before or on that date.

Please contact Karla Wygle @ kwygle@gmail.com if you are interested in helping prepare craft materials.

Please contact Linda Paver @ paver51linda@yahoo.com for further information.

Faith Development Calendar Dates:

Sunshine Girls: June 12 & July 10 & 24 @ 6:30pm @ home of Helena Anderson.

Men's Share Group: Every Thursday @7pm-8pm @ home of Larry Marshall. Please contact Larry Marshall or Dick Sparks for additional information

VBS: June 19-23 @6:30pm-8:35pm

VBS Closing Celebration: Sunday June 25 @10:45am

Missions Schedule:**June Dates:**

Missions Meeting- Monday June 5th @ 6:00pm
Community & Senior Lunch- Tuesday June 13th @ Noon
Christ's Pantry- Thursday June 15th @ 6:00pm

July Dates:

Missions Meeting- Monday July 3rd @ 6:00pm
Community & Senior Lunch- Tuesday July 11th @ Noon
Christ's Pantry- Thursday July 20th @ 6:00pm

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 6-7pm. We help neighbors by providing food and personal need 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 chicken noodle soup, canned green beans, toilet paper (4 pack) and tissues. If you would like to help out with an upcoming Christ's Pantry, please contact Heather Holland for additional 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

The
Will of God
will never take you
where the
Grace
of God
will not protect you.



