

**Riverside  
UMC**

# Youth News

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**Fun times at this year's Sr High Retreat!**

## Transitions... By April Blaine

In the few months before you make a major life transition, there are lots of "last things." This final year at RUMC has been filled with lots of those for me. The last time I go to Lakeside, ASP, retreats, etc. With a baby coming soon, I'm also experiencing my last few weeks of life before motherhood and my last few weeks of marriage that are just focused on Martin and I.

As I was working on the Newsletter this afternoon, I realized that this is the last one I will be putting together and sending out to all of you before I leave. Mark Reed will be taking over for me when I go on Maternity Leave (any day now) and will be responsible for sending out the next one while I'm at home.

A huge part of me is excited about the new things that are in store and all that is to come.

Life will change forever when our son arrives this month. I have been thinking and praying about being a mother for many years now and it is almost here. At the same time, it is the end of a particular part of my life that has been pretty great. Mixed with that joy is some sadness.

I feel the same way about starting a new job. In July, I will be appointed as the Senior Pastor of

another United Methodist Church somewhere in Ohio. We are hoping that church will be somewhere near Columbus, but that is yet to be determined. I have felt God calling me into this new role for some time and it is exciting! At the same time, it is the end of a particular part of my life that has been pretty great—being the youth pastor at this incredible church.

When I came here 7 years ago, I had no idea what God would do in my life or in the life of this congregation. I never dreamed I was starting a career that would lead me to seminary, I did not expect to find my calling, and I could not have known how very much each of you would impact my life and write a special place on my heart.

There have been difficult times during those years, but overall the relationships I have built with the youth and their families and others in this congregation have changed my life. I have felt so encouraged and supported by this community and have been incredibly blessed to watch a number of the youth grow up over the years into some incredible young people.

I think some of this came

home to me while I was on the Sr High retreat this year. It was one of the best retreats I can remember during my seven years at Riverside. I watched youth create a beautiful loving community among one another. I saw them treating each other with love and respect. I saw them asking incredibly difficult and hard questions and I saw them longing and seeking for God and God's presence and truth.

It's hard to desire much more than that for the youth of this church.

As the search committee started the search for a replacement for me, David ran across my original letter and resume from when I applied for this job in 2003. I had written that what I hoped more than anything is that young people would come to know God in a real way, in a way that would bring them life and set them free. Knowing that this has been true for many of you brings me great joy and reminds me that God has incredible things in store for all of you and for me in these coming transitions.

Thank you for being such an important part of my life and blessings for the next part of the journey!

## Going on ASP?? 2nd Meeting— Sunday, April 25th @ 4:30 pm

We will continue the preparations for our RUMC Group Mission Trip with ASP this summer.

If you missed the first meeting and are still considering coming, there are a small # of spots still available.

Remember that all youth and adults attending are required to attend 2 of the 3 meetings!

Dates for ASP are July 11-18

**Contact John Monaghan for more details.**

You can reach John @

[jmonaghan070808@jmonaghanassociates.com](mailto:jmonaghan070808@jmonaghanassociates.com)



Please bring your address book with you to this meeting, we will be mailing out fundraising letters to your family and friends. Everyone is required to send out at least 4 letters.

## Spring Service Day—April 25th 2-4pm Youth and Adults welcome



All youth going on the ASP trip or to Lakeside should participate in this service opportunity .

We will go to area homes and do yard work and odd jobs for cash. Donations help cover expenses for Lakeside. This will also count as a service for ASP.

Youth should come dressed for yard work and odd jobs. Bring rakes and work gloves.

Bring water bottles and a snack if you like.

## ASP Flower Sale Begins on March 14th

For those of you headed to ASP, you will need to pick up ASP Flower Sale forms on Sunday, March 14th and start distributing those to your neighbors, family, and friends!

Also, be sure and sign up to work the Flower Sale Table on March 14, 21, 28 or April 11th.

Or come help on May 7th with delivery day



## Don't Miss Youth Fellowship this month!!

That's right- it's that time of the year when we begin preparing videos to show at the Hail & Farewell Banquet. The Sr High Video is a fun-way that we welcome this year's 8th graders into Senior High and the Jr High video will welcome the 5th graders into Jr High.

It's also a fun time to reflect on this year and how things have gone—fun memories, etc. So, I hope you will be at YF to help out with the fun preparations! Check your e-mail for specific dates!

See you there!



## ATTENDING LAKESIDE? Fundraisers are Underway!

Lakeside is a 7-day camp for Sr High Youth and a 5-day camp for Jr High youth. There will be speakers, concerts, worship, free time, excellent teaching, interest groups, devotions, volleyball and basketball tournaments, and a candlelight walk on the last night.

*This could be one of your highlights of the year!*

DATES:

June 19-26 - Sr High

June 28-July 2 - Jr High

The cost per person is

\$450 for Sr High and

\$220 for Jr High

Fundraisers are a great way to reduce your costs. Scholarships are available

### Upcoming fundraisers

**Babysitting—Mondays/Thursdays**

**Spring Service Day—April 25**

**Pancake Breakfast -  
June 13**

**Registration Forms were due on March 1st. If you haven't turned yours in, along with your \$50 deposit, do so today!**

