



A Message from the Moderator

Candy Sprick

Do you believe in miracles? Of course you do! From His Birth to His Resurrection, our Lord is one great big Miracle!! For Christians, Jesus is THE Miracle, but small miracles happen all the time. Seemingly impossible things become possible with the faith of Christ. "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." Phillipians 4:13

Situations in our modern world seem impossible right now. And many of us feel like we need a miracle to survive. But as faithful believers, know that we can be the miracle for others. We can stand strong against negative forces and be a pillar of strength for the timid. We have power beyond measure because we have the power of Jesus Christ behind us. He wants us to succeed. He wants us to be the miracle our world needs. He wants us to draw in others to know THE Miracle!

Raytown Christian Church is somewhat of a small miracle in our community. As the last standing original church closest to the very heart of Raytown, we have survived generations of change, stubbornly refusing to give way to a different identity. We are called to be a beacon of light and hope for our community and our world. Many other churches have closed their doors under the pressures of modern society, but RCC remains steadfast to the mission assigned us. Together we stand firm and resolute, determined to fulfill God's plan for us.

May this season of celebration be a blessing to you and yours. May we find joy in small miracles. And may we find peace in The Miracle of Jesus Christ.



A Message from Pastor Michael

Psalm 118:23 says, "This is the Lords doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.". There is no better scripture to attach to this moment! Raytown Christian Church, I believe that we are right in the middle of a God-moment. Who would have thought that as our paths have crossed, that God would have begun to intertwine our purposes together for His purpose! I am excited to announce my accepting of the call of Worship Pastor for Raytown Christian Church! Our future looks bright together and there is so much work to do for His Kingdom sake! It has always been my desire to reach as many souls for Jesus as he graces me to, and in that reach, to preach the Gospel to every man, woman, boy, girl, regardless of social or economic status, regardless of race or any other man made barrier. Our God is a big God and my prayer for our church is that we will continue to reach our community with the love that God has blessed this church to wear as our hallmark. I am looking forward to serving with you and helping you, through the word of God, develop into the disciples that God is calling for us to be. Here's to our journey together!





Have you ever stopped to think of how much effort and how many people are involved to make Sunday worship services work? Let me tell you, it's a lot. First, during the week, Pastor Michael prepares his sermon, Suanne chooses hymns and any special music for the classic service, while Dallas selects music for the praise service. Lynn and BJ decide the responsive reading and the scripture for the classic service and set up slides for the computer for both services. Jenn makes the announcement video and Sandy prepares communion for both services. Then on Sunday, Suanne picks up Frank and Donna around 7:15 and arrives at church to open up. Frank and Donna start making the coffee and setting up the table, with volunteers bringing in treats later. One of our four bus drivers, me, Terry, Tracy or Robert, arrives around 8:00 to pick up our passengers. Tech people, Susan, BJ or Dave Sprick, arrive around 8:15 to check that the lights, mics, camera, computer and projector are working. Between 8:15 and 8:30, two greeters, either Clarence, David Alonge, Karen, Sue, Madelyn, Tommy, Terry, Larry, Kathleen or Candy, and head usher David Burton arrive. During Advent, I arrive to turn on our Christmas decorations. Worship leaders, Beth, Susan, myself or BJ, arrive to check that the scripture and responsive reading they have, match with what's on the computer screen and to find out what the hymns are. Hannah arrives to prepare for being song leader. All of this, and we haven't even started the service.

During the Classic Service, the worship leader begins with a call to worship, and later will lead the responsive reading, say an invocation and read scripture. Suanne plays the piano, Hannah sings, one of our classic service elders, BJ, Janelle, Joyce, me or Susan, introduces communion and offering at the table, and Sandy gets three of our classic service deacons, Anita, Clarence, David, Gale, Larry, Sandy, Sue or Tommy to serve. And then, we are all blessed when Pastor Michael shares his message.

For the Praise Service, tech people, Lynn, Stan, Martha, Carol, Wayne or BJ arrive around 9:30 as do Dallas and family for some pre-worship practice. When the service starts, Dallas opens as worship leader and song leader and then Pastor Michael delivers his meaningful message. At the end of the service, one of the praise elders, Bo, Lynn, Tim or Tracy, introduce communion and two of our praise deacons, Clarence Swathwood, Elaine Bailey, Elaine Starr, Eric, Hannah, Mindy or Robert, assist.

So you can see that a lot goes into having Sunday worship services. How fortunate we all are to have so many people involved in so many ways. As Paul reminds us in 1st Corinthians 12: "There is one body, but it has many parts." and in verse 18: "But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be." Praise God for He is in charge.



RCC's Lynn Brown ministered to the Raytown Success Academy by providing encouragement to teachers and administration staff. She finds small items and creates gift bags to remind them that RCC values their dedication to children.

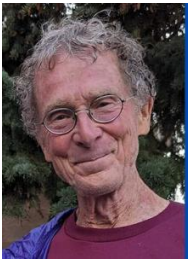
Cheri Pennington coordinated with the River of Refuge staff to minister to their annual Thanksgiving dinner for families. RCC provided desserts for 31 adults and 9 children.

RCC joined with Power Shift's "Spread the Warmth" campaign. Donna Zeller crocheted beautiful warm hats and scarves, and these were given to Pastor Michael to add to his donations.

Angels for the Prison Ministry's Angel Tree have all been distributed and gifts were returned Sunday, 12/10. We are ministering to 46 children, providing 2 gifts per child. Presents will be sorted and delivered Saturday, 12/16.

The Triple A Foundation's (non-profit) "Happybottoms" program, requested permission to use shelving space located in the Outreach office's storage room. The shelving will be used to store the diapers it distributes to single family households in need. Outreach agreed to let "Happybottoms" not only use the Baby Closet shelves but distribute the small number of items already located there to mothers needing baby clothing. The Triple A Foundation is associated with the Sisters-In-Christ.

Most importantly, Outreach wants to thank you ALL for the love and support you've shown our community during this busy season. Raytown Christian Church makes a difference sharing God's love through Jesus Christ's living through us. We are Disciples in Christ!



Public Relations

BJ Taylor

Tis the season to be jolly! And I decide to be so, even if the weather is more like spring and still waiting to show the kids how to make snow angels. In a world that often seems hopeless, RCC is a comforting place to gather and enjoy the company of fellow Christians. As I peruse the events of our town, it seems obvious that we have so many groups and meetings and occasions to thank for our growing wholeness, that the community is full of activities to improve our mindset.

All Month

See the <Raytown.mo.us> to find out about winter preparedness. Use valuable checklist for attending to necessary treatment for your auto and for your house.

Dec 14 Thu 6-7pm

Gather in Poems, an on-line evening of readings by Academy Chancellors and beloved poets in the community, hosted in the spirit of gratitude and a shared hope for the upcoming year. Register at <Poets.org>.

Dec 15 Fri 7pm

Blue Ridge Presbyterian Church is please to host **IMMANUEL**, a live concert of original songs that tells the Christmas story in the first person. The concert walks through the biblical Christmas narrative.

Dec 17 Sun 12-3pm

Morgana's Gluten Free Bakery (9711 E. 63) is a site where **Santa will stop** to hear what you want for Christmas. Mrs. Clause will come, too, and invite us for cookies, more goodies and the most Christmas cheer.

Jan 3 Wed 11-4pm

Come to 8201 Raytown Road for the Merry and Bright Holiday Fair. Vendors offering everything from handmade crafts to delicious treats.

And check the calendar at <www.RaytownCC.org> for more listings of Church activities.



Poinsettia

In memory or honor of a loved one

\$12

Sign up at the Information Center



The holidays can be a very stressful time for a variety of reasons. Stephen Ministers are available.

Contact Robin Smith or Lynn Brown