



## A Message from the Moderator

Candy Sprick

I don't know about you, but I am really ready for a New Year! I'm happy to see 2023 in the rear-view mirror. We are beginning anew, with a fresh start and a whole new year of possibilities! More than ever, things are finally looking up for RCC. We are settled in with a Worship Pastor firmly in place now, and our prayers for guidance have been answered as we move into a new direction as a 2-minister church. The Search Team is still working to find us that 2<sup>nd</sup> minister, but knowing Pastor Michael is in the RCC pulpit for the long haul brings a comfort level we haven't felt in a while. What a blessing!

And what the rest of the year might look like? Well, we really don't know yet. Churches look different these days, and we must not focus on the past, but patiently keep our eyes on what might be possible ahead. We can trust that the Holy Spirit is working and moving among us, leading us to open our hearts and minds to new and innovative ways we can serve the Lord. And it is up to all of us to be mindful of what's possible and explore new ideas together. "The Church" is a living, breathing entity, capable of growth and adaptation to its environment, lest it would not have survived for the past thousands of years!

The unknown can be scary, but it can also be very exciting. And since we are all in this together, nothing can stop us! Remember that God WANTS us to succeed, so here we go, hand in hand, marching fearlessly into 2024 knowing that God is with us all the way! Happy New Year!

*Gracious God, Giver of all things; we are humbled and deeply grateful for Thy many blessings this past year and promise to be good stewards of all your gifts. Pour out your blessings to us, O God. We are ready! Send us resources and tools to continue our work in the heart of Raytown to bring others to know you and your Son, Jesus Christ, in whose name we ask these things. Amen.*



## Community Relations

Mindy McDaniel

Community Relations invested some remaining year end funds to update items for Visitor's Welcome Bags and Public Relations giveaways during community events that RCC is participating in.

Larry and Kathleen Stevens sent Christmas cards to all our visitors during 2023. They welcomed everyone back and included a flyer for RCC's Christmas Eve services.

Community Relations doesn't have anything special scheduled for the month of January.

As always, we will be happy to welcome guests visiting our church and will follow those up in the coming week.



## Public Relations

BJ Taylor

Tis the season to be jolly! And I decide to be so, even if the weather has been more like spring and still waiting to show the kids how to make snow angels. Finally, on Jan 9, we wake up to 6" of a heavy white blanket, the greatest for sledding and building icy igloos. 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, and that the community is full of activities to keep us inspired.

### Jan 1 Mon, any time

**City of Raytown** joined 40 other metro cities in the Household Hazardous Waste program of MARC. Now, we can dispose of dangerous chemicals and solids *Free Of Charge*! Right now, we can access two spots in GKC area, and that will expand to ten mobile collections times from Apr to Oct. Check [Raytown.mo.us/newsroom](http://Raytown.mo.us/newsroom) for details.

**Jan 17 Wed, 2-3pm**

**Chamber Podcast: "Talk Raytown"** is the first podcast of 2024. A sponsor will make a presentation, along with discussion of many new events for the year. Join in through RaytownChamber.com or tune into YouTube (@RaytownChamber).

**Jan 16 Tue, 7-9pm**

**Raytown Board of Alderman** meets in regular session at City Hall. For a close-up view of city issues, you are welcome to attend. The next one will be Feb 13.

**Jan 19 Fri, 8am**

**Chamber Govt Relations Committee** will discuss the upcoming Chamber Day at the Missouri State Capitol in Jeff City. Should be interesting, and I will report back.

**Jan 25 Thu, 11-1pm**

**The Chamber General Membership Luncheon** is served at Connection Point Church. Community awards will recognize Small Business, Chamber Person, Non-Profit, and Rising Star of the Year.

**Feb 2 Fri, noon**

**Chamber Tourism Committee** is developing a packet to highlight features of interest to visitors. Any suggestions I will bring to their attention.

**Feb 7 Wed, noon**

**Chamber Membership Services Committee** builds a calendar of local networking events. If your business would like to host a morning coffee or afternoon happy hour, I will schedule you in.

**Feb 10 Sat, 5-9pm**

**Raytown Night at the Comets** will see Kansas City play the Tacoma Stars from Seattle, at our Cable Dahmer Arena. Your ticket of \$20 gives the Chamber a \$4 rebate, so come on and join the action! Order tickets at KcComets.com/raytown.

Have fun, and check the calendar at <[www.RaytownCC.org](http://www.RaytownCC.org)> for more listings of Church activities.



When Raytown Schools close (or choose to go virtual) during inclement weather – our church building is also closed. Most activities are cancelled on these days as well. If you're planning to attend an event at the church during inclement weather, should it be bible study, yoga, meetings, etc. please check with your group leader to see if the event is still happening.

Should there be inclement weather on a Sunday, please check your local news channel or our Facebook page ([facebook.com/RaytownChristian](https://facebook.com/RaytownChristian)) for updates. On Sunday, January 14<sup>th</sup> when we were unable to meet in person, Pastor Michael shared his message with us LIVE on Facebook. Should we be unable to meet in the future due to inclement weather and you have a Facebook, please plan to join us there to receive the Word from Pastor Michael.

