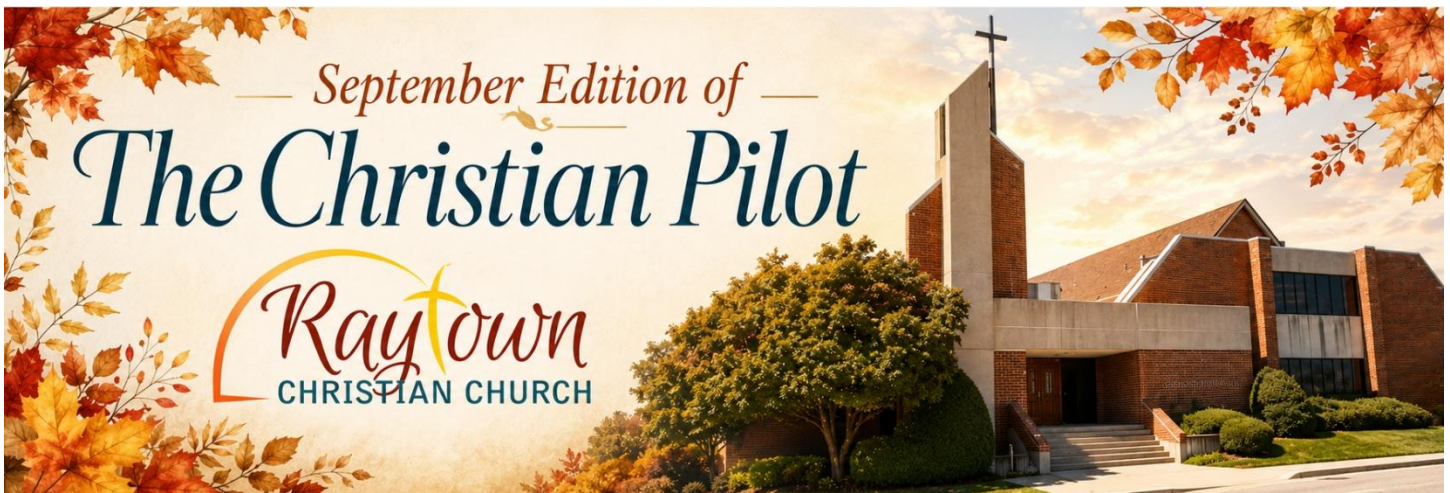


Hello Raytown Family!

September is Vision Month, and I believe God is calling us to see beyond where we are and recognize what He is doing among us.

We have been blessed with strong attendance, new visitors, and new members, and we thank God for every person He has added to our family. But I believe what we are seeing is only a glimpse of what God has ahead.

Vision requires us to look beyond what is and believe God for what can be.

This month, I want us to lift our eyes and ask, "God, what are You showing me?" What are you calling us to become? What are you asking us to build? And what part do each of us play in what you're doing in this house?

We cannot embrace a greater future with a limited vision. God is calling us to see bigger, believe deeper, and prepare for more.

There is more to see. There is more to become. There is more to do.

Raytown Family, let's see it, believe it, and build it!

Happy Vision Month!

I love you all!

In August, we talked about the gifts God has given us and how to develop and share them all the while giving God glory every day. He challenges us to carry out the plan He has set for each of us.

Today, I was straightening up around the house and saw the June/July AARP magazine. (I'm sure many of you subscribe to this publication.) Anyway, I looked at the cover and thought, I read this but sat down and looked through it one more time. Low and behold I saw an article I didn't remember reading. The title was ***Fit for Life: Choose joy. Here's why.*** (author: Barbara Hannah Gruffman) As many of us are, the article was for those over 70.

I think God pointed me to this particular article and wants me to choose joy as I work towards the plan He has for me to best share my Gifts. The article included the ideas of Kerry Burnight, author of [Joyspan: The Art and Science of Thriving in Life's Second Half](#) to help make small daily choices to find our "joyspan".

Choose joy every day. Before leaving your bed, remind yourself that you have a choice in how you meet the day.

Grow. Stay curious. Keep learning. Growth is a lifelong human need.

Connect. "Connection can't be on autopilot." Reach out. Be the initiator.

Continued on page 2 →

Adapt. Life changes. Reassess, adjust and keep using tools that help you cope.

Give. “You always have something to give of yourself” Your wisdom, experience, kindness, time, and presence still matter.

Reading and reflecting on this list, I know there are areas where I am doing pretty well, some I’m doing OK, and at least one I definitely need to work on. But I must remember that God is always walking beside me guiding and supporting me to share with joy the gifts He has given me and I will give Him the glory for everything.

I hope each of you finds your “joyspan”.



The Raytown Summer Lunch Ministry, which began on Tuesday, June 2, ended on August 11. This amazing ministry reaches out when school isn’t in session with one of our most vulnerable populations, food insecure children. Raytown Christian Church will honor the Raytown Summer Lunch Program leaders and volunteers during our monthly

Potluck Lunch on Sunday, September 6. What a great way to say “thanks” to this wonderful ministry!



The RCC Mini Food Pantry continues to offer nutritious staples for RCC members and our regular visitors in need. It’s located in the Outreach office at the bottom of the ramp (across from the elevator). Hours are

Sundays, from 9am – 12pm but will be unavailable during the church service. The Food Pantry needs are growing as more are using it. We are blessed to provide this assistance to those members who need a little help putting basics on their shelves! Moderator Mary’s weekly updates will continue to list items the Food Pantry needs. As always, our generous congregation continues to meet these needs! RCC members are encouraged to check it out, and please feel free to take what you need and give what you can.



The ROR School Supply Drive was a big success! We received all the items requested for back-to-school children at ROR. Pamela Seymour, ROR’s Director, sends a huge thank you to RCC for their continued support of ROR and its mission!



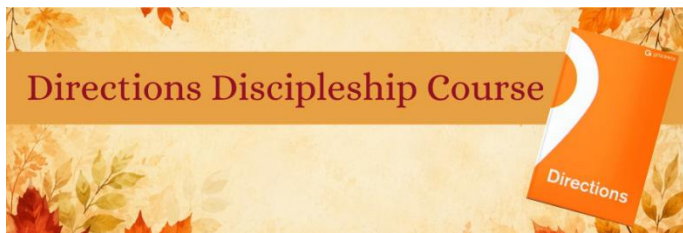
RCC’s Outreach Ministry continues to support the River of Refuge’s goal of bringing transitional housing to under-employed families. During the time at ROR, the families are brought back to wholeness with both training, mentoring and support. During their stay at ROR, family leaders are taught the basics of budgeting and finance to achieve the goal of independence of a home of their own. While working towards financial stability, the ROR supplies families with several necessities to help with their essential (and costly) needs. This is an expense that the ROR provides out of donations and their own budget. Ongoing family needs at the ROR are:

- *Toilet paper
- *Trash bags (both kitchen and large sizes)
- *Diaper wipes
- *Dish soap
- *Ethnic shampoo and conditioner

Please keep these items in mind when you’re out shopping. If you find an item at a good price or on sale, consider buying it for the ROR families. They are on very tight budgets, and these extras make a big difference in maintaining their apartments at the ROR. Donations may be dropped off in the blue container in the church office during regular business hours, or in the Outreach Office on Sundays.

Raytown Christian Church is filled with amazing people who share with those in need, following Jesus’ command to love one another.

Jesus, we lift our leaders and country in prayer. Many people are struggling, hungry and ill, and we pray for those in need.



Are you ready for an adventure? Are you ready to experience spiritual growth? Then you need to sign up for the Directions Discipleship program. The Christian walk is a life-long process and this interactive Bible study of 18 lessons, in a one-to-one setting, is designed to give you the essential tools you need to grow and develop as a disciple of Jesus Christ. If you are a new disciple, this is a good place to begin your spiritual growth. If you're a long-time believer, you will find confirmation and affirmation of your relationship with God and continue your spiritual growth. You can personalize this study to fit your needs, your schedule and your ability. Your mentor, whom you can choose, and you will determine when and where to meet, and how often. Take the challenge and start the adventure! Call Steve Smith at 816-868-0657 or the church office at 816-353-1708.



A big welcome back to the Thrive Family Co-Op. We are happy to have them with us on Mondays. In order to ensure the security of the building during this time, we are implementing a simple precaution. On Mondays when you enter the building through the main entrance, the inside doors will be locked from approximately 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Please enter the building through the office. Thank you for understanding this new procedure.



What's Happening AROUND RAYTOWN?

RAYTOWN Live 2026
Summer Family Concert Series

May 9th Sass Monkey
June 13th Flashback 90C
July 11th Canteloupe City
August 8th The Vincents
September 12th Platinum Express

Green Space - Downtown Raytown
10009 E. 62nd St, Raytown, MO 64133
7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

[www.RaytownLive](http://www.RaytownLive.com)



THE LOCAL DELI

You are invited to
The LOCAL Deli!

SOUPS • AND • SALADS

 **Raytown Area**
COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Great Food • Local Flavor • Community Connection

 The LOCAL Deli
6245 Blue Ridge Blvd
Raytown, MO 64133

 SOUPS • AND • SALADS

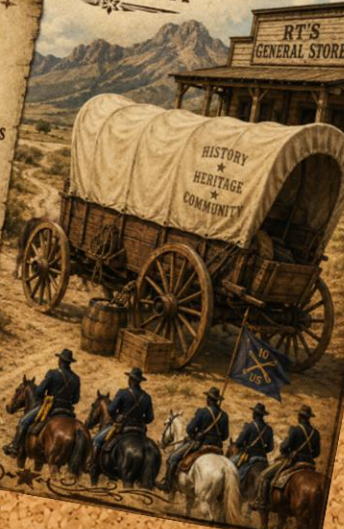
THE FESTIVAL OF TRAILS
AT THE RICE-TREMONTI

SATURDAY,
SEPTEMBER 12, 2026
10AM - 5PM

★ ACTIVITIES: ★

- ★ RT'S GENERAL STORE
- ★ CRAFT FAIR
- ★ KIDS CRAFTS
- ★ FOOD TRUCKS
- ★ HISTORICAL HOME TOURS
- ★ BUFFALO SOLDIERS
- ★ WINDY HOLLOW BAND
- ★ HISTORICAL TRADES DEMONSTRATIONS
- ★ HISTORICAL RE-ENACTMENTS

HONORING THE PAST
CELEBRATING THE PRESENT
BUILDING THE FUTURE



RT'S GENERAL STORE

HISTORY
HERITAGE
COMMUNITY

A Thought Worth Sharing

Every so often, we come across words that invite us to reflect on what it really means to be part of a church family. Church is one of the few places where people of different ages, backgrounds, experiences, opinions, and preferences come together with a shared purpose—and that means it won't always look or feel exactly the way each of us might choose.

But perhaps that's part of the gift.

The following reflection from Pastor James Bell offers an interesting distinction between **being a consumer of church and being a disciple within the church**. Rather than reading it as a critique of anyone else, we invite each of us to read it as a question for ourselves: *What does it look like for me to belong, serve, grow, love, and follow Jesus within this community?*

Here's the reflection that got us thinking:

The longer I Pastor the more I am convinced that one of the great mistakes of modern Christianity is that we keep arguing about traditional church versus contemporary church. That is not the deepest divide. The deeper divide is discipleship versus consumerism. You can build a consumer church with a worship band, stage lights, coffee, and skinny jeans. You can also build one with hymnals, pews, choirs, suits, and a King James Bible. Consumerism is not an aesthetic. It is a posture of the heart.

Consumerism asks:

- Do I like the music?
- Do I like the preaching?
- Are there programs for my children?
- Do people dress the way I think they should?
- Does this church share my politics?
- Does this church make me comfortable?
- And when the answer becomes no, we start looking somewhere else.

Discipleship asks an entirely different set of questions:

- Where can I serve?
- Who can I love?
- Where do I need to grow?
- What preferences do I need to surrender?
- How can I help carry the burdens of this community?
- Where is Jesus asking me to die to myself?

The problem was never primarily organs versus guitars.

The problem is that we have spent decades teaching Christians to evaluate churches as consumers rather than belong to them as disciples.

**Notice of Congregational Meeting September 20, 2026
Immediately Following Service**

Agenda Items

Bylaws change:

Section VIII Board of Elders, Board of Deacons, Board of Trustees, and Board of Endowment Trustees

Amend Section B (1)

Current Wording The qualifications for Elders, Deacons, Trustees and Endowment Trustees shall be the same as described for Officers of the Congregation in Sec I B(1) of these Bylaws.	Proposed Change Insert after Bylaws except Deacons must be members of Raytown Christian Church. <i>(Proviso: will take effect immediately following vote of congregation)</i>	New Wording The qualifications for Elders, Deacons, Trustees and Endowment Trustees shall be the same as described for Officers of the Congregation in Section I. B(1) of these bylaws, except Deacons who must be members of Raytown Christian Church. <i>(Proviso: will take effect immediately following the vote of the congregation.)</i>
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Information: Wording of Section I B(1) : "Officers of the General Board must be members of the congregation of Raytown Christian Church for at least one (1) year prior to nomination.

Rationale: Deacons tend to be the starting point for service. This change would make it easier for members to begin serving.

Nominating Committee Report:

Board Moderator	Mary Oyler	Vice Moderator	Susan Bizorik
Secretary	Malanie Wackley	Trustee	David Sprick (1 year term)

Elder nominees for a term of three years:

Steve Smith	Janelle Dyer	JoAnn Hudson
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Deacon Nominees for a term of two years:

David Alonge	Merlyn Boege	Darren Bozich
Karen Curtis	Carla Hamilton	Pat Hamilton
Bob Hudson	Robert Koerner	Clarence Lyons
Brenda Maloney	Mindy McDaniel	Heather Monaco
Tom Monaco	Mary Oyler	Mike Revels
Candy Sprick	Melanie Wackley	

Nominating Committee – David Alonge, Robin Smith and Jo Ann Hudson

MY STORY

In church, we often know people through the roles they fill today — the pew they sit in, the ministry they support, the smile they offer on Sunday morning. But behind each familiar face is a rich and beautiful journey shaped by family, work, faith, challenges, joys, and unexpected turns. These stories deserve to be celebrated while their storytellers are still here to share them.

Elva Mae Miller

“Mae”



I was born February 15, 1935 to Orville D. and Amanda D (Crockett) Blackley in Weston, Missouri. I had two sisters, Mary Lou (now deceased) and Helen, one brother Orville Jr. (Buster). We grew up on the farm with a loving family where we worked hard and played, making up games.

My life was shaped by attending one room school, grades 1-8, Weston High School, St Luke's Hospital School for Nursing. After graduating I worked in Orthopedics, Newborn Nursery ICU, Supervisor of the entire hospital on nights, and finished my career as Assistant Director of Nursing, Nights after 25 years.

On September 2, 1961 I married Tommy E. Miller and we were blessed with fantastic children, Theresa Dee and Thomas Edward. Theresa married Paul Kirkpatrick and instantly became a step-mother to Jessie, David, Briana, and Daniel. Tom married Janis (Salts) and we were blessed with two beautiful grandchildren, Sarah LeAnn and Jacob Edward. We had the privilege of babysitting, taking and picking up from school, following their school activities of marching band, orchestra, honor roll presentations, Sarah's dance lessons and recitals, volleyball games. Jacob's basketball, T-ball to Little League highlighted by a trip to Cooperstown, NY to play in a tournament where he hit two home runs (talk about proud!).

My faith journey began at an early age when my Dad would read to us from a big, Old Family Bible, attending Sunday school and church. I was baptized at the age of nine at the Weston Christian Church and attended Salem Christian Church. We became members of Raytown Christian Church when we moved to Raytown in 1964. I have had the privilege of being a deacon, elder, and served on the Gifts & Endowments, Worship and Search committees. I keep the paraments on the Chancel current.

People that have helped me along in life is my parents, family, youth leader, Inez Alexander, ministers and Sunday school teachers, including JoAnn Hudson & Steve Smith currently teaching, my dear friend and mentor at work, Ruth Ronfeldt. A highlight in my faith walk was a trip to the Holy Land.

As a hobby I like to sew, work jigsaw and crossword puzzles.

A favorite scripture of mine is Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. — Hebrews 13:8
One of my favorite songs: He Touched Me