



As we enter October, our theme is "Follow Me! The Importance of Influence."

Whether we realize it or not, we are all influencing somebody. Our words, decisions, faith, and the way we handle difficult moments leave an impression on the people around us.

Jesus gave a simple invitation: "Follow Me." He understood that people would not only be changed by what they heard Him say, but also by what they watched Him do.

This past month, our church and community experienced heartbreaking tragedy through the loss of a young life on our church property. We continue to keep his family and everyone affected in our prayers. It reminds us that our presence in this community matters and that there is a generation watching us.

Paul said, "Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ."
1 Corinthians 11:1

That is the responsibility of godly influence. I should be able to tell someone to follow me because I know who I am following.

This month, let's be intentional about the footprints we leave in our families, our church, and our community.

Somebody is following. Let's give them somewhere worth going.

I love you all!

Two years ago, I was elected General Board Moderator. I worried about whether or not I could do the job. I knew that I had experience in running a meeting and working with a board. That wasn't what I worried about, it was about being able to understand the ins and outs of RCC, the special traditions, the various seasons of the church calendar, or all of the changes that were on the horizon for RCC. I know now that God had a plan for me and that he would provide the help, and guidance needed. He guides me with His council and provides many people to stand in unison. He will continue to be there as we move forward.

I have learned a great deal about myself: my strengths and my weaknesses. But I rest a little easier knowing that all of you are with me to walk through the life of RCC. Over the last few weeks many of you have stepped up to support RCC as we supported our community and its children. I know that God is smiling during this time. I know our Heavenly Father is comforted by the idea that RCC fully understands the importance of working towards being there for others in need.

As RCC moves forward, I know that there will be wonderful times for us to share and give God the glory for, but I also know that there will be struggles and we will support each other.

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Always remember, that God has a plan for RCC in this community. He will walk with us as we continue to use the gifts He has given each of us and we constantly feed the light of the Holy Spirit inside of each of us through praying, reading the word, fasting and fellowship.

So let's join together and plan another year of serving God as we work to fulfill the wonderful plans He has for RCC.



I'm usually much more comfortable being the person behind the scenes than the person being celebrated, so September 27 was definitely a little outside my comfort zone! But what an incredible day it was.

I'm still not sure I have the words to adequately express how much your celebration of my 20 years at Raytown Christian Church meant to me. From the beautiful recognition during worship, to being greeted by a congregation full of signs, and then walking into a reception filled with family, friends, church family, memories, laughter, surprises and so much love — I was overwhelmed in the very best possible way.

I'm especially grateful to everyone who had a hand in planning, preparing and pulling off such an incredible celebration. I know there were many conversations, details and acts of kindness happening behind the scenes that I probably will never know about — which makes me appreciate it all the more.

And I have to give a special thank-you to Mary LaPlante for the incredible spread of food. **Mary, you absolutely outdid yourself!** Everything was wonderful, and the time and care you put into it meant so much to me.

And then there was that video.

Seeing and hearing from people who have been part of these twenty years brought home just how much life has happened within these walls. Twenty years is a long time. There have been wonderful seasons and difficult ones, countless changes, lots of laughter, some tears, and more memories than I could ever fit onto these pages.

I spend a lot of my time thinking about what needs to happen next — the next Sunday, the next newsletter, the next event, the next email, the next thing on the never-ending RCC to-do list. September 27 gave me the rare opportunity to stop and look backward for a little while.

And what I saw was twenty years of people.

You.

Thank you for allowing me to be part of your lives and for being such an important part of mine. Thank you for every card, hug, kind word, smile and expression of appreciation. Thank you for making me feel so incredibly loved.

I said after the celebration that I didn't know if I had ever felt so much love and appreciation all at once. A few days later, that's still the best way I know to describe it.

It was a day I will never forget.

My heart is very, very full.

With love and gratitude,
Jenn





Following the tragic loss of a Raytown High School student on September 16, RCC opened its doors the following evening for a Community Prayer Vigil, providing a place for students and others in our community to gather, grieve and support one another.

As church leadership witnessed the pain and confusion students were experiencing, a simple question emerged: **How can we continue to show them that they are seen, cared for and loved?**

In partnership with PowerShift Worship Center, **Caring Wednesdays** began September 23. Tables filled with homemade cookies, snacks, water and Gatorade welcomed students who regularly walk through the RCC property or along the surrounding sidewalks. More importantly, friendly faces were there to listen, talk and simply be present. Pastor Michael was also available to offer conversation, comfort and prayer to anyone who requested it.

Both congregations have decided to continue Caring Wednesdays throughout October — and **we would love the congregation's help!**

Homemade cookies were especially popular with the students, so **RCC bakers, we need you!** Donations of individually packaged snacks, bottled water and Gatorade are also appreciated.

Most importantly, please **pray** for our students, our community and everyone serving during Caring Wednesdays. Pray that through something as simple as a cookie, a conversation or a kind face, these young people experience the love and compassion of Jesus.



Thanksgiving Pies for River of Refuge

RCC will once again provide desserts for River of Refuge's Thanksgiving meal!

Homemade or store-bought pies are welcome and should be brought to RCC by **Sunday, November 22**. Outreach will deliver them to River of Refuge the following day.

Help us add a little sweetness to their Thanksgiving celebration!

Angel Tree Is Coming!

The Prison Fellowship Ministry's **Angel Tree Program** returns to RCC beginning **Sunday, November 29!**

Choose a tag from the Angel Tree and purchase and wrap gifts for a child with an incarcerated parent or parent figure.

November 29 — Angel Tree begins

December 13 — Wrapped gifts due

December 19 — Gifts delivered

Watch for more information in November!



Mini Food Pantry

Our Mini Food Pantry is available to RCC members and regular visitors who could use a little help stocking their shelves.

Sundays • 9:00 a.m.–Noon

Closed during worship, 10:30–11:30 a.m.

Located in the Outreach Office at the bottom of the ramp, across from the elevator.

Take what you need. Give what you can.

Watch Moderator Mary's weekly updates for the pantry's most-needed items.

River of Refuge

Help us continue supporting families at River of Refuge by picking up an extra item or two when you shop!

Current Needs:

- Toilet paper
- Kitchen & large trash bags
- Diaper wipes
- Dish soap
- Ethnic shampoo & conditioner

Donations may be placed in the **blue container** in the church office during regular business hours or brought to the Outreach Office on Sundays.

Have an idea for Outreach?

We'd love to hear it! Share your thoughts with an Outreach team member or leave a note in the Outreach mailbox in the office reception area.

Our first and foremost goal is to help people say "Yes!" to Jesus.



Raytown Has a BLUE BOX! ❤️

Raytown now has a **Blue Box** — a free, anonymous public-health resource vending machine managed by Jackson County Public Health.

No ID. No payment. No personal information required.

The Blue Box is restocked every Monday.

📍 **10110 E. 63rd St., Raytown**

In front of Synergy One Lending

What can you find inside?

Naloxone (Narcan) • fentanyl test strips • medication lock bags • first-aid and wound-care supplies • flu/COVID tests • period products • hygiene kits • condoms • sunscreen & lip balm • socks — and more.



Everything is free and available anonymously.





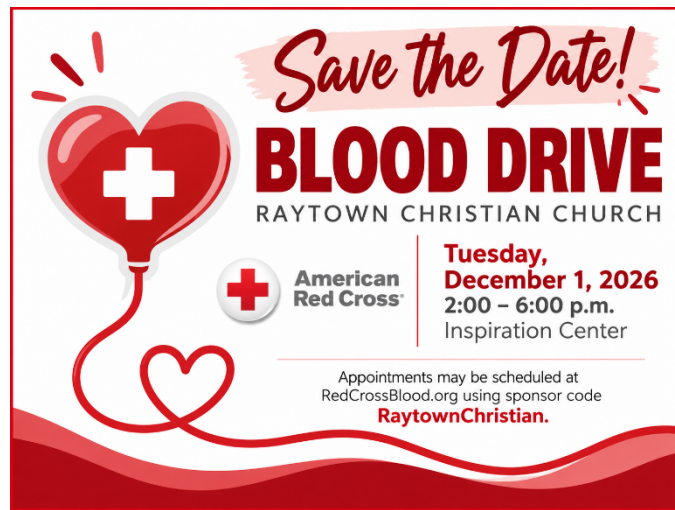
Flu Shot CLINIC

Wednesday, October 22, 2026
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Raytown South High School
8211 E. 75th St., Raytown, MO 64138

Flu shots available for
ages 5 and up.

Get Your Flu Shot!



Save the Date!

BLOOD DRIVE

RAYTOWN CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Tuesday, December 1, 2026
2:00 – 6:00 p.m.
Inspiration Center

American Red Cross

Appointments may be scheduled at
RedCrossBlood.org using sponsor code
RaytownChristian.



Our RCC bus faithfully brings members to worship each Sunday and provides transportation for church groups and activities throughout the year. **Now, it needs a little help to keep those wheels rolling safely!**

We recently replaced the bus's brakes, and our next priority is replacing its six tires, which are 12 years old and showing significant cracking. These are necessary repairs to ensure our bus remains safe and reliable for everyone who depends on this ministry.

Several people have asked how they can help. If you would like to contribute toward the care and maintenance of our bus, donations of any amount are greatly appreciated.

Simply designate your gift to the "Bus Repair Fund" in the memo of your check.

Every gift helps keep our bus safely on the road and serving our RCC family!



Poinsettia

IN HONOR OR MEMORY OF LOVED ONES

Beautiful poinsettias will be displayed in our sanctuary during the Christmas season.

\$20 EACH

PURCHASES WILL BE TAKEN **THIS SUNDAY ONLY.**

Sign up at the Information Center.
Payment may be made later.



What If?

What if we looked beyond today and imagined what still could be?

What if the gifts we already hold — our time, our talents and our resources — could become something more?

What if together we could help shape the next chapter of Raytown Christian Church?

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

What if...
SOMETHING SPECIAL BEGINS
OCTOBER 11.



At Raytown Christian Church, ministry takes many forms. Some preach, some teach, some visit, some pray. And some—like **Mary LaPlante**—feed the church in ways that go far beyond a plate of food.

For years, Mary served as our in-house caterer, preparing meals for the **Four Seasons, Adventures in Learning**, and countless church gatherings. Even after she left catering to pursue nursing school, her ministry never stopped.

Today, Mary continues to cook for special church events such as breakfast on Consecration Sunday, Palm Sunday and other special events. She donates her time, her labor, and even the supplies needed to make these meals happen. Over the years, she has quietly provided kitchen tools and supplies, paper goods, tissues, and even a refrigerator, never asking for recognition, never seeking attention, simply giving because she loves her church.

But Mary's ministry is not a solo act. Her husband Wes, daughter Shawna, and granddaughter Vivienne are always right there beside her setting up, serving, cleaning, laughing, and making every event feel like family. Their presence is a reminder that ministry often begins at home and grows outward into the life of the church.

What Mary offers is more than food. It is hospitality. It is care. It is the kind of love that fills a room before anyone takes a bite. Her ministry teaches us that God uses all kinds of gifts—culinary skill, generosity, creativity, and a servant's heart—to build up the body of Christ.

And perhaps the most powerful part of Mary's ministry is this: she does not want recognition. She simply wants to serve. She embodies the quiet faithfulness Paul describes in 1 Corinthians 12, many gifts, one Spirit, all working together for the good of the church.

When we gather around a table Mary has prepared, we are reminded that ministry is not always loud or public. Sometimes it looks like chopping vegetables, washing dishes, or slipping paper towels into a cabinet before anyone notices they were running low. Sometimes it looks like a family showing up early and staying late because they believe in the mission of their church.

Mary's ministry feeds us—body and soul. And in doing so, she shows us what it means to “do something” for God's people with joy, humility, and love.

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.

Alberta Lea Faust



I was an Okie, born in Enid, Oklahoma, September 11, 1936, to Floy and Albert Griffith. Mom was a country schoolteacher and Dad was a wheat farmer. We lived in Lahoma, Oklahoma. I attended the Christian Church and we shared and alternated Sundays with the Methodist.

We moved to Bolivar, Missouri, because of the flood of 1951. My sister, Shirley, and I helped Dad with Grade A Milking and farming. Because of my farming background I was active in my school's Future Farmers of America club. I graduated from Bolivar high school in 1954, started college in Bolivar and transferred to Southwest Missouri State in Springfield. I was salutatorian of my graduating class and received a scholarship to get me started. I was interested in history, art and Home Economics. I met Ed Faust, my husband to be, in art class.

I graduated in 1959 and accepted a history teacher position in Willard, Missouri. I had 240 students and no helper, but it was a different time.

Ed and I got married on December 28, 1957. We had three daughters, all retired now. Bev was at Channel 9 for a while before going back to college. She worked for Children's Place helping children with physical and mental abuse. Cindy worked for a lawyer and Deb followed me at IRS which is where I worked after teaching. I worked for IRS about 12 years training new hires. I retired from the IRS in 1991.

Just for fun our family names start and go in alphabetical order: Alberta, Bev, Cindy, Deb, Ed, and the list continues with sons-in-law, grandkids, and great grandkids.

After retiring Ed and I volunteered at church and did things like cleaning the windows, carpets, kitchen floors and railings and helped with the yard. We also volunteered at REAP and with Meals on Wheels. Ed sang in the choir and the KC Men's Chorus. Family times were spent hiking, bowling, and in the yard.

Life has been great, I would do it again.