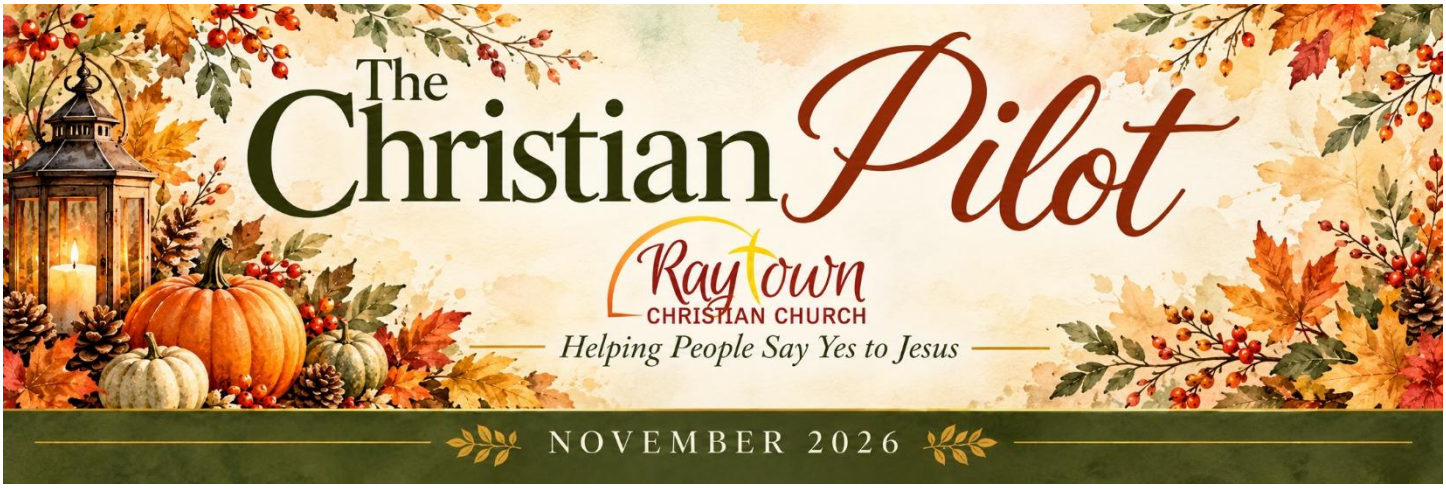




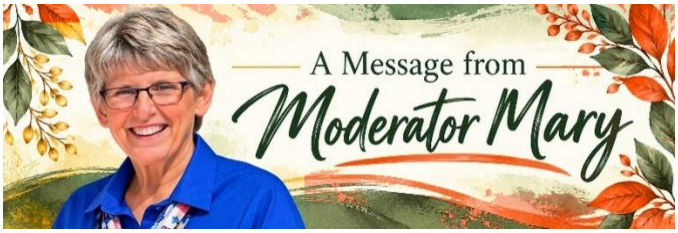
Hey Raytown Family!

Gratitude is one of the greatest expressions of our faith in God. It reminds us that even when life doesn't go according to our plans, God's goodness and faithfulness remain unchanged. As believers, we must learn to give thanks not only for what God has done, but also for who He is! As we approach the Thanksgiving season, I want to encourage our Raytown family to remember that Thanksgiving is more than a day on the calendar. It is a posture of the heart that should be reflected in our everyday lives. This year has brought its share of victories, challenges, and unexpected moments. Yet through it all, God has continued to sustain us! Don't allow what you're waiting on to overshadow what God has already done.

As we enter this month, let's be intentional about expressing our gratitude to God and appreciation for one another. We may not have everything we desire, but we certainly have a reason to say, “Lord, I thank You!”

I love you all!
Pastor Michael





A few weeks ago, I purchased God Thinks You’re Wonderful by Max Lucado. As I read through it, I discovered many little things God provides for each of us every day that we continually take for granted. He sends us the beauty and fragrance of flowers in the spring, sunrise with a splash of orange and a touch of blue every morning along with the “majesty of thunder” and the song of the birds. Not only does He provide all the wonders of nature; He also continues to sit back and wonder at all we are able to accomplish through Him. Win or lose, He cheers us on through all of our races - “He cares about you” (1Peter 5:7).

There are times when we wonder how He can care about me when the world is in turmoil. There are wars, sickness, homelessness and the list goes on and on. But we must remember His promise. We are his children and He loves us deeply even when we make a mistake or stray, He will always provide a way back home.

As November begins, be sure to set aside time to talk to Our Father thanking Him for providing a universe where we enjoy all of the beauty He creates, all the wonderful people He places in our lives and all of the opportunities we have to share the Glory of His beauty and love with the others.

A Blessed Thanksgiving to the entire RCC family - Thank You for always being ready to serve.





As we look toward **Consecration Sunday on November 8**, we'll bring our pledge cards forward as an act of gratitude, hope, and shared commitment to the mission of Raytown Christian Church. When you give, you're not just supporting a budget. You're investing in ministry, hospitality, worship, and the everyday work that helps people grow in faith.

To help everyone see how generosity fuels our mission, here's a snapshot of how the major portion of our current 2026 budget of $375,168 is allocated. These numbers serve as an example of how giving supports the life of our church. The 2027 budget will be shaped by next year's needs, costs, and ministry goals, so the exact amounts may shift, but the purpose behind each area remains the same.

Human Resources – $113,402

People are at the heart of ministry. These funds support our pastor and administrative staff who guide worship, care for our congregation, and help our ministries flourish.

Administration – $99,848

This includes essential operations that keep our church running smoothly. A major portion, $97,848, goes toward our mortgage, ensuring we have a safe, welcoming space for worship, fellowship, outreach, and community events.

Property – $90,159

These funds care for our building and grounds: utilities, maintenance, repairs, and everything needed to keep our church safe and ready for ministry.

Trustees – $40,649

This is where our property and liability insurance is budgeted. Insurance costs have fluctuated in recent years, and this line ensures we maintain responsible coverage for our building, ministries, and the people who use our space.

Worship – $17,750

This includes our musicians and worship leader, along with the resources that make Sunday mornings meaningful and spiritually rich.

Technology – $10,620

This supports the digital tools that help us communicate, live stream, manage worship slides, maintain our website, and keep our office systems running. Technology is now a core part of how we reach people both inside and outside our building.

As we bring our pledge cards forward on **November 8**, we're invited to imagine:

What If my gift helps someone hear the Gospel?

What If my generosity strengthens our future?

What If God uses my commitment to change a life?

Thank you for giving faithfully, joyfully, and boldly. Your generosity makes ministry possible, and your pledges help us plan wisely for 2027 and beyond.







Raytown Christian Church and Power Shift joined to minister to Raytown High School students on early release Wednesdays during the month of October. Homemade cookies, treats, snacks and water were offered to students, along with smiles and support. Pastor Michael was especially effective in reaching out to the students. Many kids stopped by and our prayer is that seeds of Christ's love were planted.



RCC will provide desserts for a Thanksgiving meal for the current residents of the River of Refuge Transitional Housing Apartments. Outreach will provide a signup sheet on November 15th for our members to pledge their baked goods! Please consider baking or buying a pie for dessert, as part of our ministry for this caring and successful organization. **Desserts are due on Sunday, November 22nd**. We will deliver these goodies to ROR the next day.

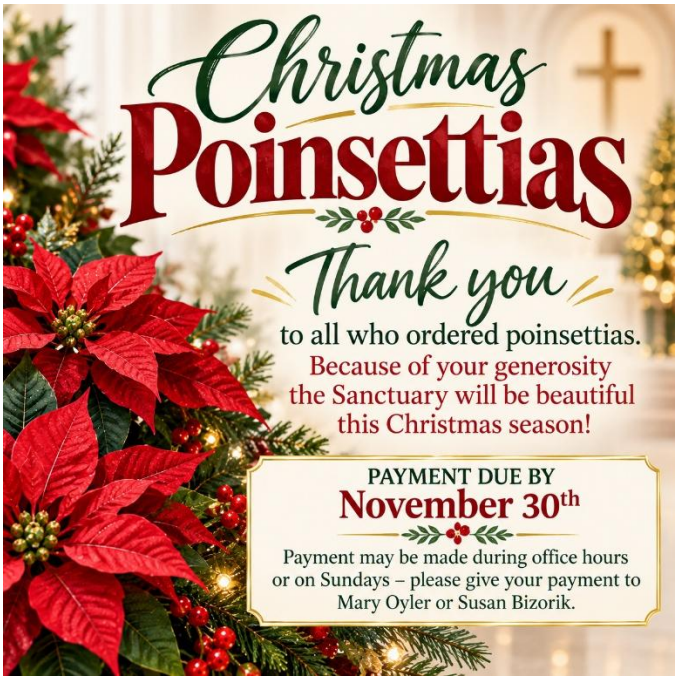


The Prison Fellowship Ministry's Angel Tree Program will be in full swing starting Sunday, November 29th! The Angel Tree will be decorated with tags with gift suggestions/requests for children of incarcerated parents or family figures. This is the Sunday that RCC members (and other organizations) take these tags and become "angels," purchasing and wrapping gifts for the children. This special program ensures presents from an incarcerated parent/parent figure will reach their children, along with a personal note from that parent, and strengthen their bond. **By Sunday, December 13th, Angel Tree gifts will have been bought, wrapped, and returned to Outreach for sorting and delivery on Saturday, December 19th .**



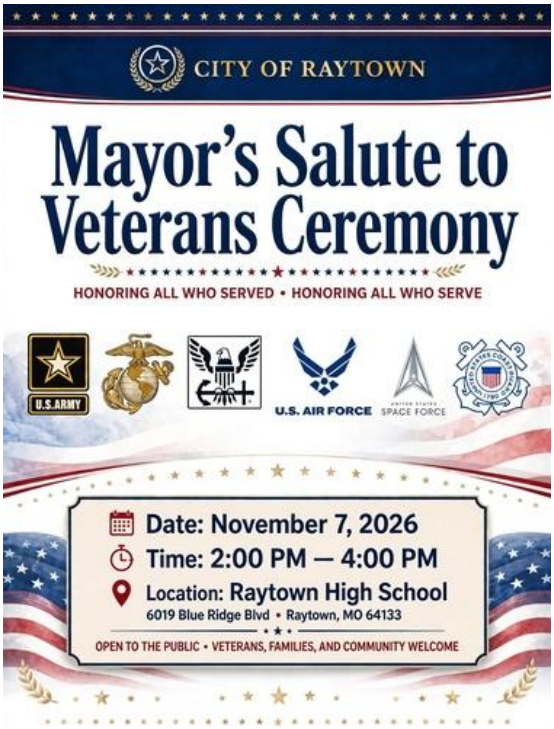






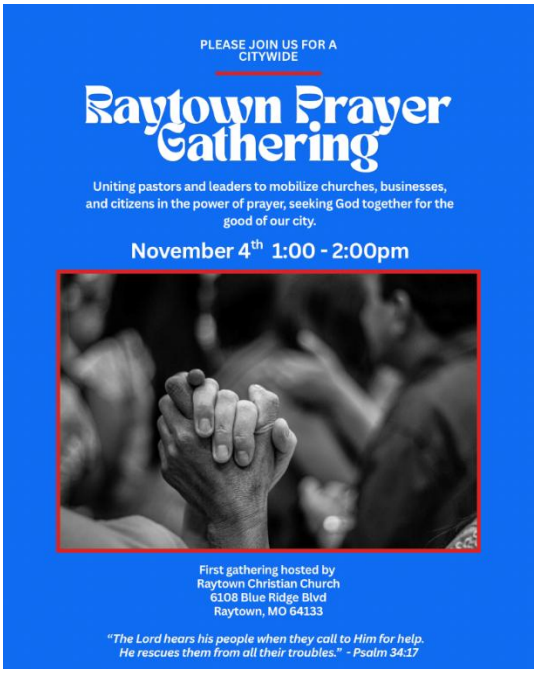




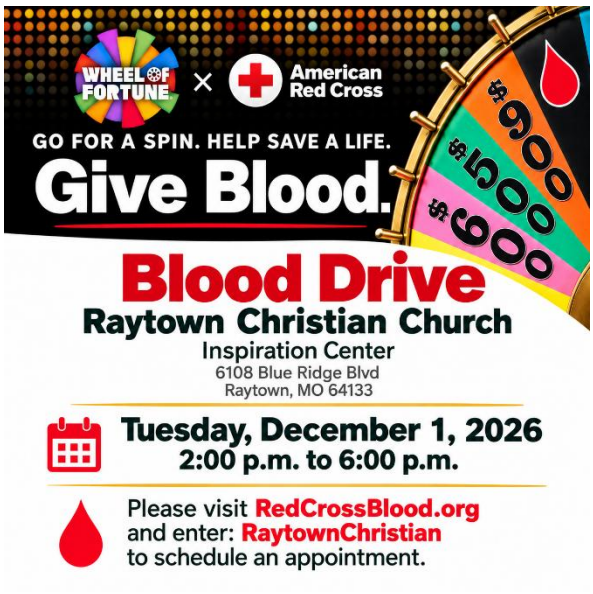


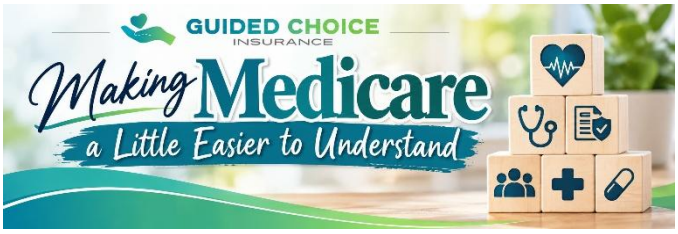






*Note the time change of this event!





Medicare can be confusing, especially with all the information and changes that come around each year.

With Annual Enrollment underway, now is a great time to take another look at your coverage and make sure you understand your options for the upcoming year.

Alea Kelley with Guided Choice Insurance will be joining us on **November 11 at 1:30 PM in Room 119** (Adult Ed Wing) for a free Medicare educational session. She'll be discussing Medicare basics, Annual Enrollment, and some of the things to consider when reviewing your current coverage.

Whether you've been on Medicare for years or are just getting started, this is an opportunity to learn, ask questions, and get helpful information.

For anyone needing individual assistance, Alea also offers complimentary Medicare coverage reviews by appointment.

Questions? Contact Alea at 816-313-8339 or visit www.guidedchoiceinsurance.com.

The group session is educational only. No plan-specific sales presentations or enrollments will take place during the session.



Holidays can be a joyous time, but they can also be difficult, particularly as we remember our loved ones who have passed on. Holidays often magnify feelings of loss. It is important and natural to experience the sadness that comes. To block such feelings can be unhealthy. Hold on to your precious memories and be gentle with yourselves. Personally, I often find that the anticipation of holidays or special days are so much worse than the actual day.

It helps to talk and share concerns with a loved one or someone you trust. It may be helpful to have a Stephen Minister during the holidays. Please reach out to me. A Stephen Minister can visit with you “one on one” in a confidential relationship.

Hopefully, those of you who have received our grief books have found them to be helpful. One suggestion for this holiday season – as you send out Christmas cards or wish others a “Merry Christmas”; mention their loved one who has passed. While you might think this would bring pain to the individual or family, there is more pain when it appears as if their loved one has been forgotten.

I want to thank Tim and Mary Meier for their invaluable service as Stephen Ministers over the past several years and have blessed many in the congregation through this ministry. They have recently concluded their Stephen Ministry.

Blessings and happy holidays,
Robin Smith, Stephen Ministry Chair



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.



Virginia Ruth Wescoat

Born on July 27, 1926, in Osgood, Missouri, Virginia grew up in a home filled with love, resilience, and determination. She was only two years old when her father died, leaving her mother to raise five children during the Great Depression. Neighbors offered to take in some of the children, but her mother refused, she would keep her family together. Working as the town's switchboard operator from their home, she created a sense of security and warmth despite the hardships around them. Those early years shaped a close-knit family who respected one another and learned the value of helping their mother however they could.

One of her earliest memories still brings a smile: at just five years old, she was the bride in a Tom Thumb Wedding at her church. Her friend Bill played the groom, though he needed a bit of encouragement to complete the traditional kiss. Their outfits, a crepe-paper dress and suit, remain a cherished reminder of childhood joy.

School was a lively and happy time. She graduated from Galt High School in 1943, where she played basketball, served as Drum Major, sang in Glee Club, and loved English class. Her band even marched in the American Royal Parade in Kansas City. During a visit to her cousin's school a few towns over, she met Max, the young man who would become her husband, on the bus. After graduation, she moved to Kansas City and worked for Aetna Casualty and Surety Company during the war years while Max served in the Navy.

Max returned home after his discharge, and the two were married on February 5, 1946. Their first home was humble, a small house on a hill with no electricity, running water, or indoor bathroom. She heated water on the stove and cared for two babies born just eighteen months apart. Those early years were hard, but they were filled with love, grit, and the beginnings of a beautiful family.

Life changed when they moved to the farm, where they raised their daughters: Pamela Rae, Marcia Ann, Mary Elizabeth, and Jennifer Lynn. Farm life brought its own adventures. Her husband once bought 300 chicks for her to raise, and she sold eggs in town on Saturdays, using that money to buy groceries. She also poured herself into church and community life, serving proudly as Worthy Matron of the local chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star.

Her daughters remember her creativity and fun, including the year she and the neighbor ladies transformed an abandoned farmhouse into a full haunted house complete with sheets, spooky decorations, and even a coffin. Jennifer still calls it "the ultimate haunted house."

Faith has been a steady thread throughout her life. From childhood, church was central, teaching her the promises of God and grounding her through every season. Two spiritual anchors have carried her through the years: the scripture *"I will never leave you or forsake you"* and the hymn *"It Is Well With My Soul."*

Today, she enjoys reading, crossword puzzles, and jigsaw puzzles, quiet joys that match her gentle spirit. And now, having recently celebrated her 100th birthday, she reflects with gratitude on the blessings of her long life: her family, her daughters' unwavering encouragement, and her church home at Raytown Christian Church.

Her story is one of perseverance, faith, humor, and deep love — a reminder of the remarkable lives lived within our congregation. We are honored to share her story, and grateful for the century of wisdom she brings to our church family.

The Holidays at RCC

Raytown Christian Church • 2026

November

WED • NOV 4
Praying for Raytown
1–2 p.m.

SUN • NOV 8
Celebration Sunday
Breakfast at 9:30 a.m.
Don't forget your pledge card!

SUN • NOV 22
River of Refuge
Desserts due back

SAT • NOV 28
Hanging of the Greens
9 a.m.

NOV 29 – DEC 13
Angel Tree Tags
Choose a tag. Share Christmas joy.

December

TUE • DEC 1
Blood Drive
2–6 p.m.

SUN • DEC 13
Hot Chocolate Bar
10 a.m.

THU • DEC 24
Christmas Eve
5 p.m.

Light Grows Here