

MT. RACHEL STUDENT MINISTRY

Weekly Newsletter

Week of September 14, 2026

THIS WEEK AT #ROC706

We're looking forward to another Wednesday night together!

Remember, **Youth begins at 6:00 PM** each Wednesday. We want students to have time to connect before we move into games, worship, God's Word, and response.

Wednesday Night Schedule

6:00–6:15 PM — Hangout Upstairs

Come early, grab a snack, and spend some time together.

6:15–6:30 PM — Announcements & Game 🎮

We'll officially kick off the night with announcements and a game.

6:30–6:45 PM — Worship

Time together focusing our attention on Jesus through worship.

6:45–7:15 PM — Message

We'll open God's Word together and continue our **BEHOLD** teaching focus.

7:15–7:30 PM — Respond

We'll intentionally leave time for students to respond to God's Word through prayer, reflection, and discussion.

Youth is 6:00–7:30 PM!

Getting students there at **6:00 PM** gives them an important opportunity to connect with one another before we officially begin at 6:15.

This Week's Teaching Focus

WHAT IS FAITH?

Hebrews 11:1

Over the last several weeks, we've continually come back to one challenge:

BEHOLD HIM

But this week, we're going to ask an important question:

What role does FAITH play in all of this?

Hebrews 11:1 tells us:

“Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.” — Hebrews 11:1 ESV

Faith is much more than simply believing that God exists.

Faith is **trusting God because of who He is—even when we cannot see everything He is doing.**

And that connects directly to what we've been learning.

We've talked about **beholding Jesus**.

We've talked about the danger of trusting our own hearts.

We've talked about **repentance and turning toward Jesus**.

We've talked about taking root in Him and then, according to 2 Peter 1, intentionally growing in our faith.

But underneath all of those things is **faith**.

Faith says:

I may not see everything, but I know who Jesus is.

I may not understand everything, but I trust what God has said.

My feelings may tell me one thing, but I choose to believe what God says is true.

THIS WEEK'S BIG QUESTIONS

Wednesday night we're going to spend our time wrestling with three simple questions:

1. WHAT IS FAITH?

Is faith simply believing something we can't prove, or is biblical faith something much deeper?

2. WHY DO WE STRUGGLE WITH FAITH?

What causes us to stop trusting God and begin trusting ourselves, our feelings, or our circumstances?

3. WHAT STRENGTHENS OUR FAITH?

How do Scripture, obedience, remembering God's faithfulness, prayer, community, and continually looking toward Jesus help our faith grow?

Main Challenge

What are you trusting right now?

Your feelings?

Your circumstances?

Your own understanding?

Other people?

Or **Jesus**?

Faith doesn't mean we understand everything.

Faith means we know **WHO we are trusting**.

BEHOLD HIM → TRUST HIM → FOLLOW HIM

NO AFTER-YOUTH HANGOUT THIS WEEK

Wednesday, September 16

Just a reminder that we will NOT have an After-Youth Hangout this Wednesday.

Youth: 6:00–7:30 PM

No Hangout: 7:30–9:00 PM

Please make plans to pick students up at 7:30 PM this week.

Hangouts will be back next Wednesday!

Upcoming After-Youth Schedule

September 16

 NO HANGOUT

Pickup at 7:30 PM

September 23

EVERYONE HANGOUT

Volleyball & Basketball

7:30–9:00 PM

September 30

EVERYONE HANGOUT

7:30–9:00 PM

After-Youth Hangouts are completely optional. They're simply an extra opportunity for students to spend time together, have fun, and continue building relationships.

BEHOLD SHIRTS — ROC SHOP IS OPEN!

Don't forget to order your **BEHOLD Student Ministry shirt!**

Shirts are \$20 each.

Our BEHOLD shirts are connected directly to what we're focusing on together this year:

BEHOLD HIM.

They're a great way for students, parents, and families to represent the theme and hopefully even create opportunities to talk with others about what it means to **Behold Jesus**.



ROC SHOP:

<https://script.google.com/macros/s/AKfycbwvViJNsRvQq1CcSuTLaOFXEBA5AIBeSsLWq-Th6sbxleuqZ8yNN5-Uy9ziOVojfPMjeA/exec>

Be sure to get your order in!

SUNDAY SMALL GROUPS ARE ALMOST HERE!

6:00–8:00 PM

We're getting close to launching our **Sunday Night Small Groups**, and we're really excited about what these can become!

These aren't intended to simply be another church service.

We want to intentionally create a different environment where students have time to develop **deeper relationships** with Jesus, adult leaders, and one another.

Small Groups will give students a place to:

- Spend time together in God's Word
- Ask questions and have real conversations
- Pray for and encourage one another
- Eat together
- Have fun
- Invite friends
- Develop deeper relationships with trusted adult leaders

Our desire is to give students the **time and environment necessary for relationships to go deeper.**

UPDATED SMALL GROUP SCHEDULE

October 11 • 6:00–8:00 PM

October 18 • 6:00–8:00 PM

November 15 • 6:00–8:00 PM

December 6 • 6:00–8:00 PM

December 20 • Christmas Party!

6:00–8:00 PM • At the Church

We'll finish our fall semester together with a **Student Ministry Christmas Party at Mt. Rachel!**

Christmas fun

Games

Food

Fellowship

Time together

More Details Coming Soon!

We are finalizing the **small-group locations, adult leaders, food, transportation/carpool details, and group communication.**

We'll get all of those final details to parents and students soon.

For now, **save these dates!**

FALL FESTIVAL & NIGHT OF WORSHIP

Sunday, November 1

Night of Worship

We're excited to have **Steve Lacey** joining us and leading us in a special night of worship.

Let's come together as a church family and lift our voices in praise!

Fall Festival

After our time of worship, we'll enjoy a fun **Fall Festival** together!

This is a church-wide night, so we want our students and their families to make plans to be part of it.

Crocktober

Bring your favorite **crock pot dinner** to share!

We'll finish the evening with good food and fellowship together.

CANDY NEEDED!

We're also collecting candy in the foyer to help with the Fall Festival.

If you'd like to help, simply bring a bag of candy and drop it off in the collection area in the foyer.

SAVE THE DATE — NOVEMBER 1!

Mark your calendars and make plans to join us for this special night!

Worship • Fall Festival • Crocktober • Fellowship

We can't wait!

Parent Corner

Helping Our Students Learn to Walk by Faith

One of the questions we're asking students this week is:

What strengthens our faith?

That's a great question for us as parents too.

Our students are constantly encountering situations where what they **feel**, what they **see**, and what God's Word **says** don't seem to line up.

Those moments are opportunities to teach them what faith actually looks like.

Biblical faith isn't pretending questions don't exist.

It isn't ignoring difficult circumstances.

And it isn't simply telling ourselves everything will work out exactly the way we want.

Faith is learning to trust the character and promises of God even when we can't see what He's doing.

Our students need to see that kind of faith lived out in us.

They need to hear us talk about God's faithfulness.

They need to watch us turn to Scripture when we're uncertain.

They need to see us pray.

And they need to see us obey God even when obedience isn't easy.

Conversation Starters

- How would you explain faith in your own words?
- What makes it difficult for you to trust God?
- What's something you're having to trust God with right now?
- What's the difference between trusting God and trusting our feelings?
- Can you think of a time when God was faithful even though you didn't understand what He was doing?
- What can we do this week to strengthen our faith?
- How does looking to Jesus help us trust Him?

Family Challenge

Read **Hebrews 11:1–6** together this week.

Then have everyone answer:

What is one area of my life where I need to trust Jesus instead of what I can see or feel?

Pray about those things together.

Then spend a few minutes remembering ways you've already seen God be faithful to your family.

Sometimes one of the best ways to strengthen our faith for what God will do next is to **remember who He is and what He has already done.**

BEHOLD HIM. TRUST HIM. FOLLOW HIM.

This Week at #ROC706

WEDNESDAY: Youth • 6:00–7:30 PM

WEDNESDAY: **✗ NO AFTER-YOUTH HANGOUT** — Pickup at 7:30 PM

SUNDAY: Outlets • 9:00–10:00 AM

OCTOBER 11: Sunday Small Groups Begin • 6:00–8:00 PM

NOVEMBER 1: Fall Festival & Night of Worship

BEHOLD SHIRTS: \$20 •

<https://script.google.com/macros/s/AKfycbwvViJNsRvQq1CcSuTLaOFXEBA5AlBeSsLWq-Th6sbxleuqZ8yNN5-Uy9ziOVofPMjeA/exec>

Thank you for partnering with us as we disciple students to **Behold Jesus, trust Him by faith, be transformed by the Gospel, and help others Behold Him.**

Kraig Givens

Student Pastor

Mt. Rachel Baptist Church

#roc706mrbc

