

Raytown

CHRISTIAN CHURCH

RaytownCC.org - office@raytowncc.org

February 2018

Lent 2018

February 14th: Ash Wednesday

5:30pm - Pancake Supper

6:30pm - Ash Wednesday Service

Sunday, March 25th - Palm Sunday

9:00am-9:45am Classic Service

9:45am-10:45am Breakfast with the Bunny

10:45am-11:45am Praise Service

Thursday, March 29th - Maundy Thursday

6:00pm-7:00pm Seder Meal

Friday, March 30th - Good Friday

7:30pm Good Friday Service

Sunday, April 1st - Easter

9:00am - Classic Service

10:30am - Praise Service



Lent 2018

Dr. Bill Tenny-Brittian

It's kind of hard to imagine that the church begins the celebration of "Lent" in just a couple of weeks. (For those not born and raised in the church, Lent is the 40-day fasting season the church observes in preparation of "passion week," the week of Jesus arrest, trial, execution, and resurrection.) This year, Ash Wednesday falls on Valentine's Day and Easter falls on April Fool's Day. We'll have some fun with that!

Traditionally, the season of Lent has been set aside as a time for personal reflection coupled with personal devotion. It wasn't so much a time of beating ourselves up because we weren't what we're supposed to be, but a time spent in God's presence reflecting on where we were, where we are, and where we're going. To make that process more effective, the church called for a "fast" during Lent. Traditionally, the fast meant giving up meat Monday through Saturday (one never fasted on Sundays because each Sunday is a celebration of Jesus' resurrection, and therefore a Feast Day in the church). It has been suggested that the church in Rome added the concession for eating fish on Fridays because of the widespread hardships the fast caused in the fishing industry.

The point of fasting during Lent is twofold. First, it's meant to be a reminder of the suffering Jesus endured. By fasting, we are in a small way "participating" in his suffering. Second, it's meant to provide us some space for intentionally spending additional time in God's presence.

Years ago, giving up something for Lent was pretty common. That was a way of "fasting." Over the years, I've given up a variety of things for Lent: soda, meat, sugar, a particular TV show, etc. But in our fast-paced, over-extended culture, a few have decided to give up different kinds of things. I know of people giving up Facebook, social media in general, YouTube, texting, video games, and television altogether. The time they would have spent on these activities is shifted to Bible reading, prayer, and reflection.

Which brings me to my point.

Our plan is to make Easter 2018 a pivot-point in the life of the Raytown Christian Church. From the Sunday I arrived in 2016, we have been digging a deeper faith foundation with our leaders and our members. That's a process that will never end, because none of us ever truly "arrives" spiritually. However, in 2018 we're beginning the shift from "it's all about the state of our heart" to "it's all about helping people say 'Yes!' to Jesus."

To that end, we plan on relaunching our Praise Service on Easter Sunday, relocating it to the Fellowship Hall. The change of venue will allow us to maximize relationship building, create a more informal culture, and provide more flexibility for the service itself. The relaunch includes more than just a venue change. There will be other changes as well – an expanded band, stage lighting, video projection, and more variety in the service as well.

The relocation and relaunch on Easter Sunday gives us an opportunity to leverage our presence in the community. We already have the best Classic Worship Service in Raytown and we intend to have the best Praise Worship Service as well. To maximize the leverage for Easter Sunday, we will need your help. Yes, we need your help in Word Of Mouth Marketing and Referral Marketing, but to be honest ... marketing only goes so far.

What we really need from you is to join me and the church leaders in a time of prayer and fasting, dedicating the 40-days of Lent beseeching God to send Raytown Christian Church a flood of people eager for His presence and His divine intervention. As I mentioned above, you can give up food, a particular food, or perhaps more relevant for our time, give up something you're devoting time to (social media, internet surfing, YouTube, TV, etc.) and use that time to find your knees and ask God to move in our congregation and our community in mighty ways.

A Guide to Lenten Fasting

1. Fast means giving something up. (Although there is everything to be said about taking up something during, the point of the fast is to voluntarily “suffer” just a bit.)
2. Fast from Ash Wednesday following worship to Easter Sunday.
3. You do not have to (perhaps even shouldn't) fast on Sundays.
4. When giving up food or drink, some traditions fast between sunup and sundown rather than for the whole 24 hours.
5. Spend the time you would have engaged in your fasting activity to ask God to move in our congregation and community in mighty ways.

Save the Date: Abundant Living Seminar

On Thursday evening, March 15th at 6 PM we'll be launching our first Abundant Living Seminar in the Fellowship Hall. Chris Meyers from Crane Brewery will be speaking about turning passion into a successful career. We will be inviting the public to this event to help introduce Raytown Christian Church's Abundant Living Ministry ... and of course, to the rest of the ministries we do here at the church.

The Abundant Living Ministry Seminar will be especially beneficial for men and women who:

- Feel stuck in dead end jobs and dream of getting out;
- Are mid-career and dream of moving up;
- Are looking to turn their dreams into a career.

The event will start with a thirty-minute networking time during which we'll be serving hors d'oeuvres. Chris will lead the seminar starting at 6:30. Please share the news of this event with your friends, neighbors, and acquaintances who are interested in turning their dreams into meaningful, successful, and satisfying careers.

Just in case you're not familiar with Chris Meyers, his Crane's Brewery bio is below.

Chris graduated from The University of Missouri, Kansas City with a Bachelor's of Science in Biology and a minor in Chemistry. He has worked in Veterinary Medicine for almost a decade. Being a lover of craft beer and a homebrewer, he often considered opening a brewery. Having many supportive friends in the industry helped him develop a plan. When he met Michael Crane it became apparent that they enhanced each other's efforts and that they needed to do it together. Chris has enjoyed using his business and laboratory experience in developing the brewery.

Children's Choir Festival

Since September the Junior Choir has been learning 5 anthems to sing with the Greater Kansas City Chorister's Guild Children's Choir Festival this Sunday, January 28, at Southminster Presbyterian Church, 6306 Roe in Prairie Village. After rehearsing all afternoon with a great children's choir clinician, the children will present their music in a worship service at 5:00 p.m. Raytown Christian has always shown wonderful support for our children's and youth choirs in their participation with these events. Suanne Comfort is president of the Greater Kansas City chapter of Chorister's Guild.



Outreach

Carol Frevert, Chair

Completed Outreach Events during January

Food Pantry Totals for December

Families: 83
Adults: 108
Children: 53
Seniors: 57
Total served: 218

Flood Raytown With Winter Warmth, January 21 and 29

In January, we flooded Raytown with 135 sets of gloves, hats, scarves or mittens. What a gift we give others as we share Jesus' love with others through tangible gifts of warmth.

Thank you to everyone who donated the gloves, hats, scarves, and mittens to the CWF mitten tree during the month of December. Special thanks is extended to several who hand-knitted beautiful hats, scarves, and ear/head bands. Your gift of knitting is spreading much joy.



Let's Build a Snowman, January 1-28

Our snowman of toilet paper continues to grow.

Our Food Pantry will benefit from our donations to give out to our food pantry clients. Thank you for your donations and for helping out.



Bless Others with Blankets in February!

See back page for more information



Children's Ministry

Ben King, Director

And 2018 is off and running and a new year for the children's ministry dawns before us. It's been a bumpy six months, but we're making progress toward an exciting and growing children's ministry.

First off, we've asked Kelley Zimmermann and her crew to help us do some interior redecorating of the children's wing to make it more exciting and appealing to the children and their parents.

Second, we've been exploring how to make the children's wing more secure. Today, more than at any other time in history, the security of our children is a key issue. Many single parents have grave concerns about leaving their children in insecure settings where a non-custodial parent or grandparent can have ready access to the children. We have a good system in place right now, but to meet the needs of our neighbors we need to take security to the next level. Plans include limiting access to the wing during children's activities and adding an electronic sign-in system.

Third, we'll soon be rebranding our children's programming. Now that we've adopted a church-wide mission and vision, it's important that our children's ministry supports and matches the congregation's direction. In the near future, we'll be renaming the comprehensive children's ministry RCC Kids saying "Yes!" to Jesus. Along with Kelley's redecorating, beefing up the security, and making adjustments in our programming, we believe we'll be ready to openly receive and disciple the children that will come as our church and our children's ministry grows.

I am blessed and grateful to have so many faithful volunteers supporting the work of the Children's Ministries, both on Wednesday evenings and Sunday mornings. I look forward to a future where our hallways and classrooms are filled to overflowing with the sounds of children worshipping our Lord.

~ Ben



Youth Ministry

Kim Lawhead, Director



The Inspirations meet every Wednesday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM. During February, we will be addressing individuals in the Bible who showed true devotion and love toward others.

We will not meet on February 14th as we hope that everyone will attend the Ash Wednesday service.

Sweets for your Sweetheart

Cakes, pies, and brownies oh my! Cookies and more for your sweetie pie. The Inspirations will be selling baked goods on Sunday, February 11th in between church services. With Valentine's Day just around the corner, give them a tasty treat. All funds raised will go toward the summer mission trip.

RCC Care Ministry Training

Caring for One Another (Mental Health and the Church)

Kim Lawhead, LMSW, will be leading a discussion on how the church can care for and support those who are experiencing the effects of stress, trauma and genetics. This training will include a short introduction to a few of the more common diagnosis, signs that someone may need resources, and the best ways to provide calming care to those in distress. Please join us on February 26th at 7:00 PM.



This Month's Scripture Readings

01	Genesis 06	15	Genesis 18
02	Genesis 07	16	Genesis 19
03	Genesis 08	17	Genesis 20
04	Psalm 28	18	Psalm 29
05	Genesis 09	19	Genesis 21
06	Genesis 10	20	Genesis 22
07	Genesis 11	21	Genesis 23
08	Genesis 12	22	Genesis 24
09	Genesis 13	23	Genesis 25
10	Genesis 14	24	Genesis 26
11	Psalm 28	25	Psalm 30
12	Genesis 15	26	Genesis 27
13	Genesis 16	27	Genesis 28
14	Genesis 17	28	Genesis 29

Get E-Giving and You'll Never Forget (or Get Behind)



You may have noticed the new "bookmarks" in the pew racks. Full color, laminated, attractive, and ready to go bookmarks that remind us about our e-giving initiative.

In today's world, convenience is essential. The days of hand writing checks and carrying large sums of cash are waning. The average adult, not just the average young adult, no longer carries a checkbook and fewer still enjoy the luxury – or the risk – of carrying currency. And so, when the offering plates are passed, churches are missing the greatest opportunity for receiving heartfelt, sacrificial, and meaningful gifts.

The solution in churches across the nation has been to adopt, implement, and encourage e-giving.

At Raytown Christian Church, we've tried to make it as easy and convenient as possible for people to give. We have instituted five options to participate in e-giving (and yes, we still take checks and cash!).

1. Grab a banking debit form from the Information Counter, fill it out, decide how much and how often you'd like to give, and turn it into the office or drop it in the offering plate, and your bank will take care of the rest.
2. Drop by our website, RaytownCC.org and click on the big red Give Now! Button and follow the secure, on-screen instructions to choose how often and how much to give.
3. Use your phone to scan the QR code. Your phone will open a browser and take you to a secure form for setting up your one-time, weekly, bi-weekly, quarterly, or annual giving.



4. Text the amount you'd like to give to 816-326-2133. The first time you do, you'll be taken to a secure form to register and from then on, you'll be able to give-by-text at anytime, including setting up regularly scheduled giving automatically.
5. Download the Vanco Payment Mobile Access App from Google Play or the Apple Store. Same instructions ... you'll be asked to register and then you can use the App to give, to view your giving record, and so on.

E-giving is more than convenient ... it helps your church by ensuring the funds are readily available for us to accomplish the ministries that are helping people say "Yes!" to Jesus. We encourage you to get signed up today!

Thanks,

Larry Schulze
Stewardship Director

February 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 8:00 Men's Breakfast 7:00. Elders Meeting	2 9:00 Church Women United	3
4 Scout Sunday <i>See recurring activities</i>	5 6:00 AA Directions Discipleship 7:00. Alanon Scouts	6	7 1:00 Food Pantry <i>See recurring activities</i>	8 10:00 Four Seasons	9	10
11 <i>See recurring activities</i>	12 6:00 AA 7:00. Alanon Scouts	13 5:00 Staff Meeting	14 Ash Wednesday 10:00 CWF 1:00 Food Pantry 5:30 Pancake Supper 6:30 Ash Wednesday Service	15 8:00 Men's Breakfast	16	17
18 <i>See recurring activities</i>	19 Presidents Day Office Closed	20	21 1:00 Food Pantry <i>See recurring activities</i>	22 10:00 Four Seasons 7:00 General Board	23	24
25 <i>See recurring activities</i>	26 6:00 AA 7:00. Alanon Care Team Training	27	28 1:00 Food Pantry <i>See recurring activities</i>	Recurring Activities: Sundays: 9:00 – Classic Service, Sermon Discussion/10:30 – Praise Service, DOCKids, Adult Sunday School/2:30 – Inspiration Ringers/5:30 – Chalice Bronze Wednesdays: 5:00 – Jr. Choir/5:30 – Supper, Jr. Bells/6:00 – DOCKids, Youth Bible Study, Prayer Summit/7:00 – One Desire, Sanctuary Choir		



Raytown Christian Church
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Bless Others with Blankets during February

Keeping warm when homeless is especially difficult in winter months. We would like to help address this issue by collecting new or gently used blankets, sleeping bags, bedspreads.

These items will be collected in the Lobby and can be placed in marked donation baskets.