

# May Edition of The Christian Pilot



## *A Note from Pastor Michael*



Hello and happy May to my Raytown family!

This month we're stepping into a new series: The Marathon – a journey into the lessons of discipleship. Discipleship is not a sprint. It's not about how fast we move, but how faithfully we follow. It's about pace, endurance, and staying close to Jesus mile after mile.

I want to remind you that God is not just concerned with our start, but with how we finish. And the beautiful truth is this: we don't run alone. The Holy Spirit runs with us guiding, strengthening, and encouraging us when the road gets hard (and it will!).

There will be moments when we feel like giving up, but discipleship teaches us to press on. Just like a marathon runner trains consistently, so must we grow daily in prayer, in the Word as we said last Sunday, and in love for one another.

This month let's commit to the long game. Let's walk together, run together, grow together. And let's remember: "The race is not given to the swift... - Ecclesiastes 9:11 Therefore you must, as my grandmother would sing, "Run, and see what the end is going to be!"

I love you all. Keep running your race!

## *A Message from the Moderator*

*Mary Oyler*



As I started to write this month's article, I thought about the importance of feeling joy in all we do- whether it is a job, volunteering, time with our family or our time of worship. I found this passage and thought it was appropriate 1Peter 1:8, "Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory..."

May is a time of new growth. The trees are sharing all the brilliant shades of green; the flowers are bursting through the earth, the beautiful songs of the birds greet us throughout the day. Wouldn't this be a wonderful time for us to share the new beginning we experience in our Christian faith with others and help them find the joy and love we have in our belief in Jesus?

As each of us goes through our daily lives we must continue to look for all of the joy that surrounds us. Through this small change in the way we look at the world it makes it possible for us to continue to help others and find special meaning in all we do. When we find those things that truly give us Joy, the work becomes easier, the load lighter and the giving of our time becomes less burdensome.

Please spend some time thinking about what you might add in your life journey that would give you Joy. Share it with others, they may want to join you on this journey.

May this season bless you and bring you joy.





The Mother's Day "Happy Bottoms" baby shower was enjoyed by all. Cake is always a reason for smiling! Final donations will be accepted until Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup>. We are happy to support mothers in their need for diapers and wipes for their little ones. Dry babies are happy babies!



The Raytown Summer Lunch Ministry will be in full swing during this summer's vacation from school. Parents and caregivers will pick up bags of groceries at Raytown Christian Church. Our church supports this worthy program by offering space for storing and packing individual grocery sacks of food, and managing the traffic as the food is distributed. We offer ourselves in service to these children to support and pray for their needs! Our loving and giving members also support this wonderful program financially. No child should go hungry because school lunch isn't available in the summer.

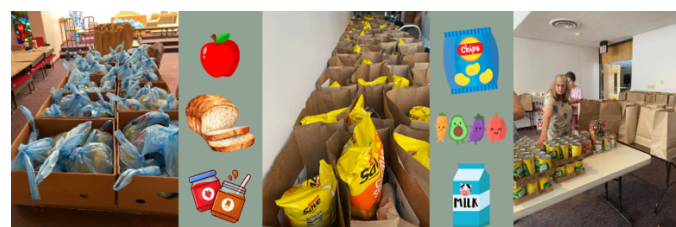
Thank you to all who have already donated to this wonderful ministry. The RSLM provides on average 150 bags of groceries per week for 11 weeks. As you know groceries are expensive so they could use all they help they can get. If you're able to help with this very important ministry, please make your check payable to Raytown Summer Lunch Ministry OR to Raytown Christian Church with RSLM in the memo. You can drop your donation in the offering plate on Sunday or you can mail your check to or drop your donation off at the church office Monday – Thursday 9am – noon. The need is great but so is the generosity of RCC members!



Pictured: Susan Bizerik & Tracy Colin

*Outreach is always interested in our congregation's thoughts and ideas on how to reach out to our community! Please feel free to find an Outreach team member and share your thoughts or drop a note in the Outreach mailbox located in the reception area of the office.*

**Our first and foremost goal is to help the unchurched say "Yes!" to Jesus.**





As of May 12, 2025, at 4:00PM there were 394 Days, 8 Hours and 57 minutes until the big event.

The World Cup will be held in 3 Countries Canada, Mexico and United States

The games will begin on June 11, 2026, through the final on July 19, 2026.

There will be 48 teams from all over the world participating in the World Cup.

The soccer teams will be playing their games in 16 stadiums including 6 games at the Chiefs Stadium. (June 16<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> as well as July 3<sup>rd</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>.)



The Raytown Chamber of Commerce has begun planning for the 2026 World Cup Games. They are inviting faith leaders to join in the planning. The invitation is below.

Dear Raytown Faith Leaders,

You are warmly invited to an important meeting on Wednesday, May 21st, 2025, at 10:00 AM at the Raytown Chamber Office (5909 Raytown Trafficway) to discuss the upcoming 2026 World Cup and how this global event will directly impact our local churches and communities.

With an anticipated 650,000+ visitors coming to our area, local faith communities will play a vital role in providing hospitality, support, and services. Even if your church does not plan to host special events, this influx will affect

traffic, parking, safety, and outreach opportunities across Raytown.

We'll cover topics such as:

- Welcoming international visitors & language resources
- Service opportunities for congregations
- A Raytown Religious Services Guide for the Chamber's website
- Website visibility and keywords
- Issues related to security and parking

Please contact the Raytown Chamber of Commerce to register for free. A Zoom option will also be available for those unable to join in person.

As this is our first 'Religious Services' planning meeting, we encourage you to share this invitation with anyone in Raytown's faith community. Your participation and insight are valuable to preparing our community for this once-in-a-generation event.



Stephen Ministry has started training for Stephen Ministers. I am happy to say that Linda Hunsucker and Janelle Dyer are currently taking the course. Carolyn Bohne and Gail Markley are taking it as a refresher course. This course is 50 hours and requires a great deal of reading and preparation for each class. Appreciate everyone's prayers. – Robin Smith





Join fellow Greater Kansas City Disciples at The K for **Faith Day**, featuring a postgame concert from Grammy Award winning Christian worship collective Maverick City Music.

On Saturday, May 31, bring your family, friends, and congregations as we gather for Royals vs. Tigers at 3:10 pm, followed by a celebration of faith and concert.

Jam out after the game from your seat, you may move from your seat down closer to the field, or purchase a Field Pass to receive exclusive access to experience the concert from down on the diamond. If you would like to purchase a Field Pass (\$25), please reach out to Ron Lewis from our GKC Region who will be happy to assist you, his email is: [rlewis775@gmail.com](mailto:rlewis775@gmail.com)

Go to the link below to buy discounted tickets in our GKC Region section. As the event date approaches, ticket prices may increase, so purchase them as soon as possible! To receive your assigned tickets, you will need to download the MLB Ballpark app on your mobile device with the same email you used to purchase the tickets. It is very easy!

<https://www.gofevo.com/event/Greaterkansas8>