



November Edition of The Christian Pilot



A Message from Pastor Michael



Hey Raytown Family!

As we step into November, a season of gratitude & reflection, I'm reminded of the incredible power of praise. Praise has a way of lifting our hearts, transforming our outlook, and drawing us closer not only to God but to one another. When we choose to praise, even in the midst of challenges, we declare that God's goodness is greater than our circumstances.

This month, I want to encourage all of us to be intentional about bringing praise and positivity into our homes, our workplaces, and our community. A kind word, a thankful spirit, or a simple act of encouragement can shine Christ's light more brightly than we realize. Let's be people who remind others that there is always something to thank God for, and that His love is still at work in the world around us.

So, let's fill Raytown with gratitude, hope, and joy this November. Let our worship echo beyond our church walls, and may our lives become living testimonies of God's unshakable faithfulness.

I love you all!

A Message from Moderator Mary



"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing. Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

- Thessalonians 5:16-18

As Thanksgiving approaches, we think about all the things we are grateful for: families, friends, home, church and many other things that help to fill our lives with joy. But as Paul wrote his letters to the Thessalonians, he reminded them that there are times we must be willing to rejoice and pray when the circumstances in our lives are not perfect.

Sometimes as we reflect on what is happening in our life, our city, our state, our country and the world, we may wonder what we have to be thankful for. Why are we going through such troubled times? Why can't people show respect for each other? Do people really understand the value of a precious life? These are the times we must reach deep into our souls, find the fire of the Holy Spirit within us and pray to our Father giving thanks for the part of our life that gives us joy. For some of us it might be that they awoke today, were able to get out of bed and spend the day with loved ones.

For others it might be that they were able to spend one more day enjoying the beauty God has placed on this earth. For another it might be the peace in knowing that one day they will be in heaven with their Father.

When we learn to find small ways to rejoice about our lives under any circumstance and praise God every day we will truly find peace. We will be comforted knowing that God is walking with and guiding us to be disciples that reach out to others that have not yet learned the peace and calmness of inviting Jesus to be a part of their life.

Have a blessed Thanksgiving!



As the days grow shorter and the nights stretch longer, we enter the sacred season of Advent—a time of waiting, watching, and preparing our hearts for the coming of Christ. In a world that often feels shadowed by uncertainty, division, and weariness, Advent reminds us that we are not alone in the dark. A light is coming. And we are called to carry that light forward.

The prophet Isaiah proclaimed, “The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light” (Isaiah 9:2). That light is Christ—Emmanuel, God with us—who breaks into our world not with fanfare, but with the quiet cry of a newborn in a manger. His light does not blind or boast. It beckons. It heals. It reveals the path of peace.

This Advent, our theme is simple yet powerful: **Be the Light.**

- Be the light that welcomes the stranger with warmth and dignity.
- Be the light that listens with compassion and speaks with kindness.
- Be the light that gives generously, forgives freely, and hopes fiercely.
- Be the light that reflects Christ’s love in every corner of your life.

In our worship, we will light candles each week—not just to mark time, but to mark transformation. Each flame is a testimony: that even the smallest light can pierce the deepest darkness. As we light the candles of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love, may we also rekindle these gifts within ourselves and our community.

Let us journey together through this season with open hearts and expectant spirits. Let us prepare room—not just in our sanctuaries, but in our homes, our schedules, and our souls—for the One who is Light of the World.

And as we await the birth of Christ once more, may we shine with the quiet courage of those who believe that love still wins, that grace still flows, and that light still shines in the darkness—and the darkness has not overcome it.

Blessings on your Advent journey,

RCC Worship Ministry





It's November, and Raytown Christian Church members have opportunities to share God's love with so many people, and especially children, this Holiday Season!

Our first opportunity is **Sunday, November 23**, when our wonderful bakers bring desserts to the church for the River of Refuge's Transitional Housing community. Those desserts will be delivered the following Monday for their annual Thanksgiving dinner. Thanks to all of you who bake (or buy) desserts for this special event for the families living there!



That same Sunday is the beginning of the Prison Fellowship Ministry's Christmas Angel Tree program. The Angel Tree will be filled with Angel Tree gift tags that can be taken from the tree by one of God's "angels," who purchase a present for the child represented on the tag. I haven't bought a child's gift for my child in many, many years (she's now 42!) and it's so much fun shopping for the "littles!" Caregivers will have been called and Christmas presents suggested, so that takes some of the guess work out of shopping. This special program ensures that presents from an incarcerated parent or family figure will reach their children, along with a personal note from that parent. (RCC becomes God's angels for shopping, wrapping and delivering these gifts to the kids.)

By Sunday, December 7, Angel Tree gifts will have been bought, wrapped, and returned to Outreach. RCC's "Angels" will sort and deliver the presents to the children's caregivers on Saturday, December 13, with caregivers handing out presents to children from their incarcerated parent or family figure member!

Jesus was God's gift to the world, and we honor that gift by giving our gifts of love to others.

During these difficult times of government shutdowns and budget cuts, we lift our leaders and country in prayer. Many people are struggling, hungry and ill. Please keep praying for those in need.

The Outreach Team has included a Food Resource list at the end of this month's Christian Pilot.

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.



A couple of months ago, Susan Bizorik presented the challenge of reading the New Testament in 30 days and provided bookmarks indicating how to do that. Did you accept the challenge? I know several people did and met the challenge. Congratulations to all of them! We now have a few more challenges. If you have already completed the 30-day challenge, the

next vital step is Studying through the New Testament in 90 days. It is longer because the daily readings are shorter and the pamphlet offers suggestions of how to study. The other challenge is actually four 30-day challenges of reading the Old Testament.

The challenges are:

- 1 - The Books of Moses (the first 5 books)
- 2 - Champions & Kings (Joseph through 2nd Chronicles)
- 3 - The Books of Wisdom (Ezra through Song of Solomon)
- 4 - The Prophets of God (Isaiah through Malachi)



You can do one or all four and in any order you like. Bookmarks and pamphlets are available in the office and on the Information Center in the Narthex. Will you accept the challenge?

Partnering with someone will help keep you on track and give you someone to talk to about what you've read. Robin and I, and my sisters, did the New Testament challenge together. It was a great experience!



**RED CROSS
BLOOD DRIVE**

Tuesday, December 2nd - 2-6pm
Register at www.redcrossblood.org

Raytown Community Choir Concert

Saturday, December 6th - 3pm
RCC Sanctuary



Cookie Reception to follow

We need helpers - to donate cookies and/or help set up & clean up.

Sign up at the Information Center if you can help!



Get Ready to Flaunt Your Festive Flair!



It's time to dig deep into your closet (or your wildest imagination) for the *Ugly Sweater Contest*! Join the fun on **December 7th**—whether your sweater jingles, sparkles, or just makes people giggle, we want to see it!



Winners will be announced at the December 7th Potluck, so come hungry for both food and fashion. Let's celebrate the season with laughter, warmth, and a little friendly competition!



Poinsettia will soon be for sale in memory or honor of a loved one!

Watch for the sign up sheet at the Information Center.



The church office will be closed Thursday, November 27th so that our staff can enjoy Thanksgiving with their loved ones.

Food Resources

Information provided by the RCC Outreach Team

Hope Network

10500 E State Route 350 (in Connection Point Church)
Phone number: 816.778.1147
Food pantry Tuesdays at 5:00, Wednesdays at 3:00, Thursdays at 6:00 and the 4th Saturday of the month at 10:00

REAP

9300 E 75th St Raytown, MO
<https://raytownreap.org/how-we-help/>
Free grocery Fridays from 9:30-10:30 (event will not be held 10/31/25).
You can also make an appointment for their food pantry.

Woods Chapel Raytown-Grace Place Clothing Closet and Food Pantry

5413 Blue Ridge Cutoff Raytown, MO
Wednesdays: November 5th, 12th, and 19th-Food pantry at 4:30 followed by a meal
Thanksgiving giveaway Saturday, November 22 from 10:00 am until noon

Sisters in Christ Mobile Food Pantry

November 15th from 8:00 am until 11:00 am at the RSECC Building-10750 E State Route 350 Raytown, MO

Life Connection Church

3883 Blue Ridge Blvd Independence, MO
816.353.4445
They offer a clothing and food pantry (typically the 1st Saturday but call to confirm)

Koinonia Bible Church

7020 Richmond Ave KCMO 64138
<https://kbckc.churchcenter.com/home>
Food pantry first and third Sunday from 1:00-3:00
For more info, email ssaldana@kbckc.org or call the church at (816) 313-9130.

Community Services League

<https://form.jotform.com/233116891859063>
404 N Noland Rd Independence, MO
Drive-up pantry Monday, Wednesday, Friday 10-12:00.
Sign-up using their form.

One Spirit United Methodist Church

7900 Blue Ridge Blvd KCMO 64138
816.353.0890
They typically offer a food distribution event on Thursdays-call to confirm!

Journey Impact Church

463 W Ward Rd Lee's Summit, MO
<https://takethejourney.cc/connect/journey-cares/>
You can make an appointment on the website. Their hours are 10:00-2:00 Tuesday, 5:00-7:00 Wednesday, 10:00-2:00 Thursday, 10:00-12:00 Saturday
You can also apply for delivery of a Thanksgiving box if you live within 15 miles of the church.

Memorial Church International

11424 Hickman Mills Dr KCMO
816.363.7939
Food and clothing the 2nd and 4th Wednesday from 2:00-5:00

Serve and Lift Center

8001 Longview Rd KCMO
<https://catholiccharities-kcsj.org/market/>
816.929.1498
Appointments are available for a client-choice food pantry on the website.

Evangel Church

1414 E 103rd St KCMO
<https://www.evangel.church/food-pantry>
Food pantry Wednesdays 4:00-6:00 and Sundays 12:00-12:30
Harvesters mobile food pantry 2nd Saturday of the month at 7:00 am

Longview Baptist Church

1300 SW Longview Rd Lee's Summit, MO
816.524.3341
Drive-thru food pantry 1st and 3rd Sunday from 12:30-3:30

Macedonia Baptist Church Mountaintop Inc. Food Pantry

1700 E Linwood Blvd KCMO
macedoniakc.org
Food pantry Wednesdays 1:30-5:00

Pantry Connection

<https://urbancommunityconnections.org/recurring-connections>
Check the website for locations. They are at The Temple at 7900 Westridge Rd Raytown, MO every 4th Saturday from 1:00-3:00 but have other locations in the metro, as well.

december

@ RCC

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 2-6pm Blood Drive	3 Noon - Midweek Manna 4pm- General Board	4	5	6 3pm - Community Choir Concert
7 Angel Tree Gifts Due 11:30am - December Potluck & Ugly Sweater Contest!	8	9	10 Noon - Midweek Manna	11	12	13 Noon - Sunday School Christmas Lunch
14 Congregational Meeting following worship	15	16	17 Noon - Midweek Manna	18	19	20
21 11:30am - Don Burns Annual Pie Birthday Celebration	22	23	24 Christmas Eve	25 Merry Christmas!	26	27
28	29	30	31 New Years Eve!			
	Church Office Closed					

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Notes

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