

# February 2026 Edition of *The Christian Pilot*



Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the season of Lent in the Christian calendar, a time of reflection, repentance, and preparation for Easter. On this day, many Christians attend worship services where ashes are placed on their foreheads in the shape of a cross. The ashes symbolize human mortality and repentance, reminding believers to turn back to God with humble hearts.

Raytown Christian Church will observe Ash Wednesday with a special service at 5:30 PM, February 18th. All are welcome to join in this meaningful tradition as we begin the journey toward Easter together.

## A Message from Pastor Michael



Hello my Raytown Family!

There are so many blessings in Christ that we are partakers of, and I feel that the greatest blessing that we have is His love. Scripture lets us know that God is Love and with that truth in mind, there is no possible way to know God and not know His love. That love endures all things and that is why this month's theme is entitled "Love Wins!". I believe that God is looking for vessels to show His love through, and to show this current generation that God can make the difference by the revelation of His love. This month, that Love is going to win.

I love you all!

*love  
wins.*

## A Message from Moderator Mary



**May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you.**

**- 1 Thessalonians 3:12**

Pauls' prayer was asking the Lord to keep increasing our love to the point that it would overflow. He wanted to see our love increase not only for believers but also for everyone else.

**Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.- 1 John 4:7**

John mentions "Love" and God" three times in this verse:

1) "love one another" - from the commandments

2)" because love is from God"- the ability to act lovingly towards one another comes from our close relationship with God.

3)" been born of God and knows God"- one cannot love God without being born again nor can a person truly love others apart from God's love.

February is the month of Love. These verses demonstrate the importance of Love. The easiest way for each of us to Love everyone is to nurture our close relationship with God. We can do this in many ways through our daily prayers and worship, but most of all by accepting the plan that God has laid out for us with open hearts and minds believing that His Love is unconditional and that His desire is that we will share it with others.

Happy Valentine's Day to each of you. ❤



We'd like to share a quick, simple explanation of praise music, especially why it repeats more than traditional hymns.

Praise music is designed to be easy to sing, easy to remember, and easy to join in. The repetition isn't there to fill space; it's actually intentional. When a line repeats, it gives people a chance to slow down, breathe, and let the words sink in. Instead of juggling lots of verses, the heart gets to focus on one clear message.

And this idea isn't new at all. It's actually very biblical. The Psalms repeat all the time. For example, **Psalm 136** repeats the line "*His steadfast love endures forever*" in every single verse. That repetition was meant to help worshipers remember God's character, speak truth out loud, and let it settle deeply into their spirits. Praise music today is doing the same thing just in a modern style.

It's kind of like saying a short prayer a few times in a row, not because you forgot it, but because each time you say it, it goes a little deeper.

Hope that helps explain the heart behind it.

- The Worship Team

## Outreach Corner with Mindy



Outreach held its first planning meeting for 2026 on Thursday, January 15<sup>th</sup>. We decided to carry onward with an event that we held last year...and that was to recognize all members on the Sunday prior to Valentine's Day! We want every member to know that God loves them, and that they are very special in God's eyes, (and ours too!).

The RCC Mini Food Pantry will open its door on Feb. 1<sup>st</sup>. Located in the Outreach office at the bottom of the ramp by the Main Office. Hours are Sundays. 9-12pm. Members are encouraged to check it out, and if there's ever a need, please feel free to take what you need. And if you're fortunate enough to have extras, please drop perishables on Sundays in the pantry on the table inside the door. *"Take what you need – leave what you can".*

Raytown Christian Church is filled with amazing people who share with those in need, following Jesus' command *to love one another*.

### Looking forward:

Outreach will prepare Easter baskets for the children at The River of Refuge Transitional Housing apartments. This always blesses us because we are reaching out to children in need, with the Gospel of Jesus, along with goodies.

During these difficult times, we lift our leaders and country in prayer. Many people are struggling, hungry & ill. Please pray for those in need.

*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.**