

# January 2026 Edition of *The Christian Pilot*



## A Message from Pastor Michael



Hey Raytown Family!

We're stepping into a powerful new season as we begin our sermon series, **"I See Glory!"** This is a reminder that God's glory isn't distant or hidden – it's all around us, showing up in the ordinary, the unexpected, and even the challenging moments of life. When we open our eyes of faith, we begin to see that God is constantly moving, revealing his goodness, His power, and His presence in ways we may have missed before.

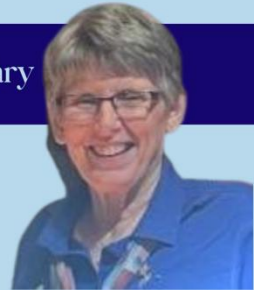
So, let's walk forward with renewed vision and expectant hearts. Let's look for God's glory in our worship, in our community, and in one another.

Let's live like people who truly believe God is at work right here, right now. Raytown, the world needs people who can see His glory – and we get to be those people!

I'm believing God is going to open our eyes and transform our hearts through this series. Let's worship, serve, and live with confidence, faith, and expectancy.

I love you all!

## A Message from Moderator Mary



**As we begin 2026, let's take a look back at 2025:**

- We are now into the first full year of our new service. There were definitely growing pains as we worked out the details. But we never lost sight of the reason why we join together each week to worship - our love for Jesus and the special time to celebrate his glory together.
- Pastor Michael and our Worship and Technology teams work tirelessly to provide meaningful services including the moving Tenebrae Service and the beautiful Christmas Candlelight Service.
- Every Wednesday, Pastor Michael brings members together for Midweek Manna Bible Study.
- We continue to welcome visitors and pray that they will find a church home at RCC.
- Our Care Team and Stephen Ministry continue their work.
- We have joined together in fellowship with our Sunday Fellowship, Sunday Potlucks, our Celebration breakfast, the Bye-Week Tailgate, the Game Night, and the Sunday Schools various dinners, breakfasts and other activities.

- RCC continues to be a gathering place for the Raytown Community: Community Choir Concerts; Raytown Summer Lunch Ministry Program; Four Seasons; Adventures in Learning; AA Meetings; Girl Scouts; Boy Scouts; Yoga; and various P.E.O. groups; sponsoring an American Red Cross Blood Drive, Chamber of Commerce Luncheon, Kairos Outside Meeting & Lunch
- RCC leases space to other organizations: Sister In Christ - offices and meeting space - Mayor's Prayer Breakfast; Thrive Family Co-Op Homeschool Group (over 100 children); PowerShift Congregation - Services and various programs
- Our Outreach Team is continually planning and working in the community: gathering school supplies, making Easter baskets and providing Thanksgiving desserts for the River of Refuge; sponsoring the Angel Tree at Christmas; providing support for Kairos Outdoor; collecting snacks for the Middle School Pantry; candy for Main Street EggStravaganza; non-perishable food items for REAP; and mittens and scarves for the community.
- Because of your generous donations for the "Fixin' Up Our Fathers House" campaign, we have been able to recarpet the Inspiration Center and the Sanctuary, and continue updating our lighting, as well as numerous other projects and updates to help cut expenses.

*(If I have forgotten anything, I apologize - just know that everything we did made a difference in this world and God knows what His plan for RCC was and how we did.)*

In 2026, RCC will continue to be a religious leader in the Raytown Community because of your love and belief in the power Jesus shares with us each and every day. So, let's get ready for another banner year at RCC!



As we begin the new year, we'd like to give a big thank you to everyone who has made their financial pledge for 2026. Your commitment is a wonderful expression of faith and a vital part of our church family. If you haven't had a chance to make your pledge yet, don't worry — we will still happily accept your pledge card!

Why is pledging important? It's more than just numbers; it's a step in Christian maturity. Tithing or pledging reflects our trust in God's provision and our dedication to supporting the mission of the church. Being part of Raytown Christian Church means we all share in the responsibility of financially supporting the community that nurtures our faith.

Your pledge, big or small, helps us plan and grow, ensuring we can continue our mission of Helping people say Yes to Jesus through worship, outreach, education, and service.

Thank you for being a vital part of this journey with us. Together, we can make 2026 a year of growth, faith, and impact!

With gratitude and blessings,

Elaine Schulze Stewardship Chair

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### **"I See Glory When..."**

You might have noticed our new bulletin boards by the water fountain, inspired by the powerful doxology in **Jude 1:24–25**.

On the **left board**, you'll find the full scripture—a reminder that God is able to keep us from stumbling and present us with joy. Surrounding the verse are words that shine with meaning: **Glory, Majesty, Power, Authority**. These are not just ancient truths—they are alive in our lives today.

On the **right board**, we invite you to **participate!**

The prompt says:  
**"I See Glory When..."**

This is your space to reflect, respond, and share. When do you see God's glory? In nature? In kindness? In healing?

Write your thoughts on one of the cards provided and add it to the board. Let's fill this space with real-life glimpses of God's glory—together.

Whether you're just passing by or pausing to reflect, we hope these boards lift your spirit and remind you: **God's glory is not distant—it's here, now, and forever.**



January 4, 2026, was the last Sunday to donate clothing items to the Mitten Tree. Our beautiful tree was decorated with mittens, gloves, hats and scarves. Our prayer is that these items will bring comfort to those in need of some warmth during the upcoming Winter months.

Outreach held its first planning meeting for 2026 on Thursday, January 15<sup>th</sup>. We discussed ideas for reaching out and serving our community this year.

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

*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.**



When we begin a new year, many of us think about how we could be more active and healthy. Here are a couple of options that can help us do just that!

### **The Raytown Schools Wellness Center**

If you live within the Raytown School District boundaries, you may use the Center. The Raytown Wellness Center is equipped with a variety of cardiovascular machines, strength training machines and training tools to provide a full-body workout for those at all levels. It also has a lap pool and zero entrance warm pool that are available to all facility users.

It also offers high-energy, motivating, instructor-led group exercise classes designed to help you reach your fitness goals in fun new ways. The Center offers a variety of aerobic and anaerobic classes for all skill levels.

Raytown Wellness Center is located at 10301 E State Rte 350 in Raytown, Missouri 64138. Monthly pricing ranges between \$35 and \$55 per month. Raytown Schools Wellness Center can be contacted via phone at 816-268-7190 for pricing, hours and directions.

### **Yoga Classes at RCC**

In the basement of RCC, Gwen Hull leads a group ranging in age from 31 to 104 in Yoga. Gwen has been a yoga instructor for about 20 years in the East Kansas City Area. Many of those years she taught yoga at Fit For Life. That's where Gwen met our own Don Burns. She has been his yoga instructor for 18 years. Also, Mary Meier has participated in yoga classes with Gwen for about 12 years.

Gwen is a Christian lady who brings her faith to yoga. She is a wonderfully kind and compassionate person. She encourages people to do what they can, without hurting.

Classes are on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:15-12:00. The cost of a class is \$5. or a month for \$40. You are welcome to come and see how it fits with you before you pay.

Benefits of yoga as identified by John Hopkin's are listed below:

- Yoga improves strength, balance and flexibility. (Slow movements and deep breathing increase blood flow and warm up muscles, while holding a pose can build strength.)
- Yoga helps with back pain relief. (Yoga is good basic stretching for easing pain and improving mobility in people with lower back pain. The American College of Physicians recommends yoga as a first-line treatment for chronic low back pain.)
- Yoga can ease arthritis symptoms.
- Yoga benefits heart health. (Regular yoga practice may reduce levels of stress and body-wide inflammation, contributing to healthier hearts.)
- Yoga relaxes you, to help you sleep better.
- Yoga can mean more energy and brighter moods.
- Yoga helps you manage stress.
- Yoga promotes better self-care.

According to the National Institutes of Health, scientific evidence shows that yoga supports stress management, mental health, mindfulness, healthy eating, weight loss and quality sleep.

### **Free cup of "joe" for our G.I. Joe's from Doughboys Donuts**



On the 22nd of every month (when open), US military veterans are invited to come in for a free cup of "joe" and get information that is related directly to them - services that are available for veterans and

help finding those services. About 22 veterans a day commit suicide. Doughboys Donuts wants to bring awareness to the public of that fact (which is alarming and shocking).

Doughboys wants veterans know that we see them and they are appreciated and honored for their service. Doughboys Donut shop is a place for veterans to come to fellowship, swap stories, have a refillable cup of coffee, and where they can find resources to help themselves or another loved one. Doughboys calls it 22-a-Day, and Veterans Suicide Awareness Day. Veterans and Active Duty members, Doughboys asks that you show your DD 214, or active or inactive military card, and enjoy your FREE refillable cup of joe. Thank you for your service!

### **Be a part of Raytown Quality Schools Team!**



If you or someone you know is looking for employment, there are many positions both full-time and part-time available across the Raytown Quality Schools. Some are Certified positions (Teaching Degree needed) and some are Non-Certified (Teaching Degree is not needed). To find out what positions are available and how to apply, visit the District's Webpage.

District's webpage: [www.raytownschooldistrict.org](http://www.raytownschooldistrict.org)

Then, scroll down to the picture that says: "We're hiring". That is a direct link to the District's Human Resources Department.