

April 2026 Edition of

The Christian Pilot



A Message from Pastor Michael



Hello to my Raytown family!

I pray that all is well with you! Our theme for April is “Road to Redemption”, and what a powerful journey it is for each of us. Redemption is not just a destination, it’s the path we walk as God restores, renews, and calls us back to Himself. Throughout Scripture, we see that no matter how far we may wander, God is always working to bring us back with purpose and grace.

As we reflect on this season, we are reminded of what Jesus has done for us through His sacrifice and victory. Resurrection Sunday is the ultimate picture of redemption. How what seemed to be lost was restored, what looked like defeat became victory, and what was broken was made whole. That empty tomb is our reminder that redemption is possible, and it is available to each of us today.

The road to redemption may not always be easy, but it is always worth it. It’s a road marked by grace, forgiveness, and new beginnings. Wherever you find yourself on that journey, know that God is walking with you every step of the way. My prayer is that this month strengthens your faith, renews your hope, and reminds you that your story is never finished.

A Message from Moderator Mary



As we close Lenten Season and celebrate the resurrection of Jesus, let us continue to show our gratitude and love for our Holy Savior. He showed us the ultimate sacrifice by willingly suffering and giving His life, following His Father’s will, to forgive all of our sins. Without this unselfish sacrifice, none of us would know the joy of one day joining Our Lord and Savior in Heaven.

Each of us at Raytown Christian Church knows we have a responsibility to live a life of love and forgiveness and to share the message of God with all we encounter . God knew that we would stray from this perfect life but through Jesus' sacrifice we are given a second, third and numerous other opportunities to redeem ourselves. With Jesus walking beside us, we know that when we ask for His forgiveness and continue our journey in His likeness we will be saved.

At the end of this month, Sisters in Christ will be leaving Raytown Christian Church. They have reached their dream of having their own building for administrative offices. We are happy for their success and wish them well. Even though they will not be with us physically on a daily basis, they will be in our hearts and prayers as they continue the mission of supporting the underserved in our community.

Thrive Family Co-Op is continuing their partnership with RCC for the next school year. Over the past year, this has been a good relationship and we are happy that it is continuing. As a matter of fact they are planning to increase enrollment for the upcoming school year.

Thrive Family Co-Op is having an end of the year showcase on April 24th from 6 to 8 p.m. RCC is invited to attend as they share their accomplishments of this school year. The Showcase will start in the sanctuary at 6 for a program and then move to the second floor of the education wing for an open house to admire the student's work. If you are able to join them for their celebration that would be wonderful.

Hopefully, Spring will soon settle in and our expectations of beautiful flowers and warm days will be answered. Just as we move from the crucifixion, to the resurrection and then onward to Pentecost, our expectations of being filled with the Holy Spirit will also be answered.



THRIVE FAMILY CO-OP
"Planted in faith, Rooted in love, Growing in knowledge"

End of the Year Showcase -
April 24th from 6 to 8 p.m.

The Showcase will start in the sanctuary at 6 for a program and then move to the second floor of the education wing for an open house to admire the student's work.



Did you know we have a Care Team Ministry? We tend to fly under the radar and often go unnoticed, but we do exist. RCC established the Care Team Ministry several years ago to fill the need of not having full time pastoral care. It has four components: Critical Care, Bereavement Ministry, Extended Care and the Stephen Ministry, which has been in existence for a long time. The Critical Care Ministry is for those admitted to the hospital or transitioning from the hospital to rehab or an extended care facility, while the Bereavement Ministry acts as a liaison between the grieving family and RCC. Steve Smith is the lead for both. These ministries only happen when these situations occur, and only if the church is notified. Too often we are not. We can only perform if we are informed. The other two ministries, the Extended Care Ministry and the Stephen Ministry are ongoing. The Extended Care Ministry has been quite busy the last few months maintaining contact with many homebound members. Sometimes the ministry is in person, and other times it is by phone or email. If it is in person, we usually share communion with members. Our main purpose is to make sure the person(s) know that despite no longer being able to attend church, they are still a part of our church family and that we are here for them. Truly a blessing for them and for us. Currently, we serve thirteen people. The extended care team consists of Steve and Robin Smith, Joyce and Terry Harwood, and Jo Ann Hudson. The Stephen Ministry, led by Robin Smith, provides longer-term on-going care for members dealing with particular issues. Currently, the Stephen Ministry serves about twelve people.

If you, or anyone you know, would benefit from either of these ministries, please call Steve Smith at 816-868-0657, Robin Smith at 816-868-1431 or the church office at 816-353-1708.



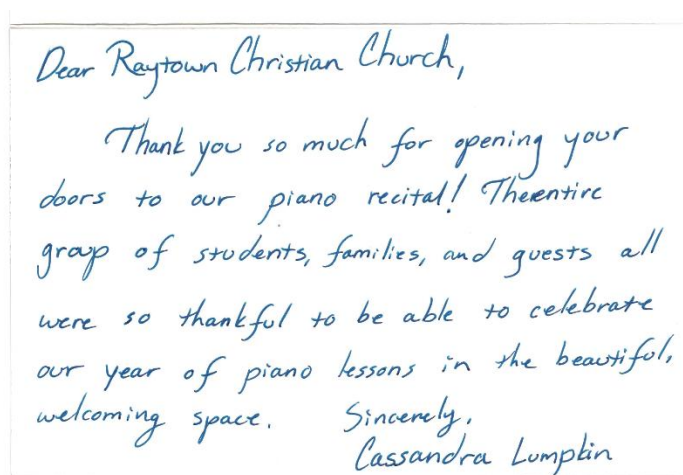
Are you ready for an adventure? Are you ready to experience spiritual growth? Then you need to sign up for the Directions Discipleship program. RCC began this program in 2017 thanks to the leadership of Elaine Schulze. Over 20 people were in that first class, taught jointly by Dr. Bill and Steve Smith. Upon completion of the course, those 20 became mentors for others. Each of those 20 was paired with someone else who wanted to experience the growth the program provides through its 18 interactive lessons. That's still how it works today. Over 50% of our current membership has completed this course.

The Christian walk is a life-long process and this interactive Bible study is designed to give you the essential tools you need to grow and develop as a disciple of Jesus Christ. If you are a new disciple of Jesus Christ, this is a good place to begin your spiritual growth. If you're a long-time believer, you will find confirmation and affirmation of your relationship with God, and continue your spiritual growth. You can personalize this study to fit your needs, your schedule and your ability. Your mentor, whom you can choose, and you will determine when and where to meet, and how often. Take the challenge and start the adventure! Call Steve Smith at 816-868-0657 or the church office at 816-353-1708.



Big music from small hands filled our Sanctuary recently 🎹 Cassandra and her Piano with Cassandra students from Thrive Co-op brought their recital to RCC—and it was as sweet as its sounds.

Cassandra shared this heartfelt note with us following the recital...



Outreach Corner with Mindy



Easter Sunday is a little brighter this year for the children at the River of Refuge Transitional Housing apartments. Seventeen children will receive Easter baskets, which include the Gospel of Jesus Christ, along with treats and candy. Pastor Michael and the congregation prayed over the Easter baskets for the children and their families to receive the miracle of Jesus and his Resurrection!



Raytown Christian Church will provide a warm welcome to Raytown's Easter Parade volunteers, with a place to prepare for the parade and its festivities. RCC will provide close and safe parking for their use. We will also open the church for these volunteers to receive coffee and donuts before parade time!

The FIFA World Cup is coming! Kansas City will host 6 soccer events in June and July at Arrowhead Stadium. This is a 26-day window for outreach, prayer, hospitality, and evangelism. Raytown Christian Church is involved with the Raytown Faith Community planning meetings to discuss how we will minister to the world-wide soccer fans coming into our community.

The RCC Mini Food Pantry is open! It's in the Outreach office at the bottom of the ramp (across from the elevator). Hours are Sundays, from 9am – 12pm. Members are encouraged to check it out, and please feel free to take what you need.

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

Jesus, we lift our leaders and country in prayer. Many people are struggling, hungry and ill, and we pray for those in need.

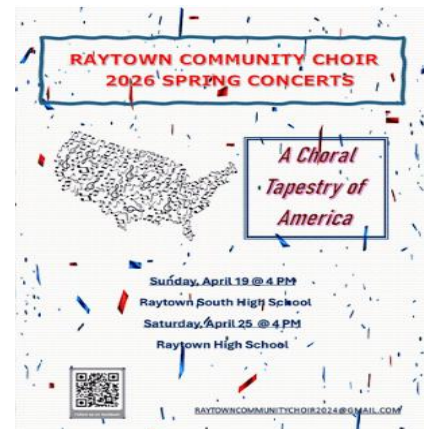
Outreach is always interested in our congregation's thoughts and ideas on how to reach out to our community! Please feel free to find an Outreach team member and share your thoughts or drop a note in the Outreach mailbox located in the reception area of the office.

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

What's Happening Around Raytown with Susan



The Raytown Community Choir is holding their Spring Concerts at Raytown High Schools. The concert at Raytown High School will be held on Saturday, April 25th at 4:00.





Who doesn't love flowers in bloom? Find some beautiful flowers at the L.I.F.E University Fundraiser. Plant them in a planter or in your yard. Beautiful flowers remind us of God's Glory!

City of Raytown Elections

There are two only two questions on the April 7th Raytown Ballot. Those questions are listed below.

ELECTION & BALLOT



General Municipal Election

SAMPLE BALLOT

Question 1

Shall the City of Raytown, Missouri continue to impose an existing sales tax of three-eighths cent (3/8¢) for capital improvements for a term of ten (10) years, which may include the retirement of debt under previously authorized bonded indebtedness?

Question 2

Shall the City of Raytown, Missouri continue to impose an existing sales tax of one-half cent (1/2¢) for transportation purposes for a term of ten (10) years?

