

June Edition
of

The Christian Pilot



A MESSAGE FROM
Pastor Michael

Hello to my Raytown family!

I pray that all is well with you! As we step into the month of June, our theme is "Destined to Finish," and I believe this message is one we all need in this season. So many people start with passion, excitement, and vision, but somewhere along the journey, discouragement, distractions, and difficulties try to convince us to stop. Yet God has not called us just to start, He has called us to finish.

Scripture reminds us that He who began a good work in us is faithful to complete it. That means the assignment, purpose, and promise over your life are not dependent on your feelings or circumstances, but on the faithfulness of God. There will be moments when the road feels long and the process feels heavy, but we must remember that endurance produces strength, maturity, and growth in us.

Throughout this month, we will be challenged to stay committed, remain focused, and trust God through every step of the journey. Finishing requires discipline, faith, and perseverance. It means continuing even when progress feels slow and choosing obedience even when it is uncomfortable. God is looking for people who will not give up when things get difficult, but who will keep moving forward with confidence in Him.

My prayer is that during this series, we all renew our determination to finish what God has placed before

us. Whether it's healing, growth, purpose, ministry, family, or personal goals, may we trust that God will give us the strength to endure and the grace to complete the race set before us. We are destined to finish.

I love you all!



MESSAGE FROM
Moderator Mary

Reflecting on Pastor Michael's sermon on Sunday about the Holy Spirit and praying through until we reach our "Suddenly" and Paul's letters to the Philippians as he emphasized that we must have unity of mind, find joy in our hardships and work through our common goals. I look at this, and believe Raytown Christian Church, as Disciples in Christ, are thoroughly prepared for a Marathon of Faith.

Because of this mindset, we are able to provide meaningful opportunities to worship, outreach in our community and caring fellowship to all we encounter. Are there obstacles, of course there are. Will God always walk beside us as we work through these obstacles, of course He will. Will God be there to pick us up and carry us if needed, of course He will.

Raytown Christian Church has never let an obstacle stop them from being a leader of Discipleship in Raytown. Our members truly care about the success

of Our Vision: “We believe everyone is invited to experience a full Abundant Life in Jesus Christ ... and that kind of life is available to everyone, no exceptions.” Thank you for supporting each other and the Church as a whole. No one ever realizes how their prayers and small acts affect the larger picture but know that each of you brings special joy to our church community.

Through thoughtful Pentecostal contributions that each of you held in prayer and shared so graciously, we are better equipped to manage our mortgage – an obstacle that often feels ever-present. As we remain steadfast in our unity of mind and common goals, I know we will complete this Marathon of Faith with great strength.

Blessings to each of you.



Pentecost has always been a day when the Holy Spirit surprises God’s people, fills them with courage, and sends the Church into a new future. This year, we witnessed that same Spirit at work right here at Raytown Christian Church.

Our Pentecost Special Offering was an **extraordinary success**. **Thirty-one members gave a combined total of \$27,915**, and we expect even more gifts to come in. Every dollar of this offering goes directly toward paying down the **principal** on our building loan – and that makes a tremendous difference.

As of May 1, our loan balance was **\$508,963.67**. Because of your generosity, that balance immediately drops to **\$481,048.67**. Even more importantly, paying this principal now will save the church **over \$15,000 in interest** over the remaining seven years of the loan. That is money we will no longer send to the bank – money that can now support ministry, outreach, worship, and the work God is calling us to do.

★ What This Means for Raytown Christian Church

Your generosity has a real, measurable impact on our future:

- **We save more than \$15,000 in interest** over the next seven years – funds that stay here for ministry instead of going to the lender.
- **Our loan balance drops immediately**, strengthening our long-term financial health.
- **Each monthly payment now pays down more principal**, accelerating the payoff of the loan.
- **We gain more freedom** to invest in worship, outreach, discipleship, and the mission God is calling us to pursue.
- **We take a bold step of faith together**, trusting that the Spirit is building something meaningful and lasting in this congregation.

This offering was more than a financial moment. It was a sign of faith. A sign of unity. A sign that the Spirit is alive and moving in this congregation – stirring hearts, inspiring generosity, and calling us into a hopeful future.

Thank you for your generosity, your prayers, and your trust in what God is doing among us. May the same Spirit who moved at Pentecost continue to guide and empower Raytown Christian Church in the days ahead.





Introducing a New Monthly Feature: "Every Member Has a Story"

Recently, as we mourned the loss of one of our longtime members, many of us found ourselves reading her obituary with a mixture of surprise and admiration. There were chapters of her life we never knew – accomplishments, adventures, talents, and work life. It was a reminder that every person who sits beside us in worship carries a lifetime of stories, experiences, and wisdom that we may never fully see.

In church, we often know people through the roles they fill today – the pew they sit in, the ministry they support, the smile they offer on Sunday morning. But behind each familiar face is a rich and beautiful journey shaped by family, work, faith, challenges, joys, and unexpected turns. These stories deserve to be celebrated while their storytellers are still here to share them.

Beginning next month, we will launch a new newsletter feature called **"Every Member Has a Story."** Each month, we'll highlight one member of our congregation and invite them to share a bit about their life – where they've come from, what shaped them, what they've learned along the way, and what brings them joy today. Our hope is that this becomes a way to deepen our connections, strengthen our sense of community, and remind us that God has been at work in each of our lives long before we met one another.

If you would like to be featured – or if you'd like to nominate someone whose story you think would bless the congregation – please let Jenn (office@raytowncc.org) know.

We look forward to discovering more about the remarkable people God has gathered here at Raytown Christian Church.

Because truly... **every member has a story.**



Raytown Summer Lunch Ministry officially begins Tuesday and will continue through August 11. This incredible ministry helps provide meals for children in our community throughout the summer months, and we're grateful to once again be a part of supporting that work. During this time, the refrigerators and freezers and the Chapel will be reserved for Summer Lunch Ministry use.

Also, on Tuesday evenings from 4:30-6:30pm the parking lot will be used for food distribution. If you need to be at church during distribution, please park in the back parking lot.

If you would like to help support this ministry financially, donations are always appreciated. Checks may be made payable to "Raytown Summer Lunch Ministry" or to Raytown Christian Church with "RSLM" written in the memo line and either dropped in the offering plate or by the church office during office hours. Thank you for helping us care for children and families in our community this summer.



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 can minister to the world-wide soccer fans coming into our community.

The Raytown Faith Community feels it is important to minister to our First Responders, both the Fire and Police. Because of her volunteer activities at the Raytown Police Department, Mindy McDaniel has been coordinating volunteers to clean the break room at the Police Department the day after each of the six games. Many first responders have to drop everything at a moment's notice when summoned to an emergency, and with an expected 650,00 people attending events in our area, the officers will be extremely busy. This means that their breakroom will most likely be messy the next morning after a game. Ideally, the teams would have 3-4 volunteers and should be able to finish up in 1-2 hours. This request will be entered into a volunteer database, so hopefully we'll have volunteers from other churches as well. Please call or text Mindy if you can help with this necessary, and much needed ministry opportunity to show our love and Jesus' servant spirit to these hard-working men and women! Mindy's telephone number is (816) 699-0601 or email her at missmac911@hotmail.com.



Date and Time: Saturday Jun 6, 2026
8:00 AM - 12:00 PM CDT

Location
Raytown Chamber Office / Trailhead Station
5909 Raytown Trafficway

Fees/Admission
Join us at the Raytown Chamber's Trailhead for a celebration of the Rock Island Trail on National Trails Day!

Refreshments, giveaways, music, a raffle prize, and vendors will be out front from 8a-12p.

CAN YOU HELP WITH THIS MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY!

★ SHIFTS THAT NEED TO BE FILLED ★

PLEASE CALL OR TEXT **MINDY McDANIEL:**
(816) 699-0601 / missmac911@hotmail.com

★ THANK YOU FOR HELPING MAKE THIS EVENT A SUCCESS! ★

WED	WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17	8:00 AM
SUN	SUNDAY, JUNE 21*	8:00 AM
<small>Start time can be pushed back until 12:30 PM</small>		
FRI	FRIDAY, JUNE 26	8:00 AM
SUN	SUNDAY, JUNE 28*	8:00 AM
<small>Start time can be pushed back until 12:30 PM</small>		
SAT	SATURDAY, JULY 4	8:00 AM
SUN	SUNDAY, JULY 12*	8:00 AM
<small>Start time can be pushed back until 12:30 PM</small>		

SUNDAYS:
START TIME CAN BE PUSHED BACK UNTIL **12:30 PM**



Here come the FIFA Games!

All matches will be held at Kansas City Stadium (GEHA)

Kansas City is slated to host four matches during the month of June:

- Tuesday, June 16 | Argentina vs. Algeria, 8 p.m.
- Saturday, June 20 | Ecuador vs. Curaçao, 7 p.m.
- Thursday, June 25 | Tunisia vs. Netherlands, 6 p.m.
- Saturday, June 27 | Algeria vs. Austria, 9 p.m.

Traffic patterns around the Stadium will change.....Northbound traffic on Blue Ridge Cutoff will close at Raytown Road two hours before the start of each match, then reopen during the first half, then close again at halftime to prepare for traffic leaving the stadium. Neighborhoods directly east of the stadium will only be able to be accessed with a permit for residents.

Best advice-- avoid the area around the Stadium on the evenings of a game!

Why do other countries call Soccer "Football"? It is different from our U.S. Football.

The global term "football" is used because the sport was developed in 19th-century England to describe any game played on foot, rather than on horseback. It was officially codified as "Association Football". The name "soccer" itself is an invention of British university students who shortened "Association" to "socca" and added the slang suffix "-er".

The English originally used both terms, but regions like the United States, Canada, and Australia adopted "soccer" to differentiate the global game from their own unique, homegrown versions of football. Meanwhile, the rest of the world kept "football" as the primary name.

Mother's Day 2026 at RCC

