

# The Red Oak Christian

PUBLISHED BY RED OAK CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)  
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## April 2026

I hope everyone has been intentional about Lent this year. We have spent time together thinking and talking about how Lent can come alive for us if we take it seriously. I hope you have been considerate in the way you have thought about things in your life that are hindering your faith, as well as those things that you should be doing in order to experience Lent and the Christian life in general, in a meaningful and purposeful way.

This past Sunday was Palm Sunday. As we approach the end of the Lenten season, we were presented with an opportunity to reflect on how the people of Jerusalem welcomed Jesus in with joy and excitement at the beginning of the week, but then by the end of the week, were calling for his death. Something happened that completely changed their opinions and desires. At its heart, this change was a spiritual problem.

You see, these people were more interested in tradition and the way things had always been done than they were in true spiritual revelation and growth. They had in their minds a picture of who the Messiah was supposed to be and when Jesus challenged this perception, they turned on him. I hope to see you Sunday as we think about the dangers of getting mired down in the way we think things are supposed to be because that is the way they have always been.

After Palm Sunday comes Holy Week. I want to encourage you to take advantage of the things going on as we make our way to Easter. We will have a Maundy Thursday service, as well as the 24-hour prayer vigil. Make sure you are involved in whatever ways you can be as we approach Easter Sunday.

Grace and peace, Reece

**DAILY DEVOTIONS ON FACEBOOK** with Rev. Reece Jones –  
Ayden/Red Oak Christian Churches Shared Ministry

**WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY** Galatians - 7 PM - with Rev Jones

**SUNDAY MORNING SHARED FELLOWSHIP TIME**

Coffee in the Fellowship Hall before worship - 10:30-11:10.



Choir News

**Choir Rehearsals Wednesday Night – 6 pm – all are welcome.**

The choir will be advertising soon for a new choir director. If anyone is interested, please reach out to Sandie Worthington.

If anyone is interested in having fun and singing, please join us at our Wednesday choir practices.

Church Board News

**BOARD MEETINGS SCHEDULE 2026**

April 9      July 9      October 8      November 8<sup>th</sup>, following worship  
Congregational Meeting – December 6<sup>th</sup>, following worship

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Newsletter Information – Please submit any information you would like included in the May Newsletter to Lisa Belue via church email – [redoakchristianchurch@yahoo.com](mailto:redoakchristianchurch@yahoo.com) or in writing to the office by Monday, April 27<sup>th</sup>. Thank you!

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**Children’s Church**

We are now having Children’s Church each Sunday for children 4-7 years old. Please have children stay in the sanctuary until after the Children’s Moment each Sunday.

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**Children’s Moment** – Volunteers are needed for Children’s Moment for 2026. Please sign sheet in Narthex for a date. Thank you in advance for helping to inspire our youth!

## Mission News

### FEEDING THE HOMELESS: April 22<sup>nd</sup>

Easter Offering will be collected on April 5, 2026. It is used to support general ministries of the Christian Church.

A meal will be served to the Community Crossroads Shelter on Wednesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>. Sarah Pittman is the team leader for April. If you are interested in helping, please contact Sarah.

As co-chairman of the mission team, I'm having a hard time this year finding volunteers to lead a team that prepares a meal for the Community Cross Roads Shelter on a monthly basis. The team leader is responsible for creating the menu for approximately 90 residents and purchasing the necessary items. As a result of this situation, I am working with Carla Smith to create several economical menus, including purchase quantities and preparation instructions. With this information, I am willing to lead for these months because I feel I can find shoppers and support staff for preparation and delivery, however, I am seeking funds to cover the costs. Estimating approximately \$150.00 is needed each month and right now I have the following months open: May 27<sup>th</sup>, June 24<sup>th</sup>, July 22<sup>nd</sup>, November 25<sup>th</sup> and December 23<sup>rd</sup>. If you can take the lead for one of the following months, please let me know or if you can assist with funds covering a month or any portion of it, please write a check to the church and earmark it "homeless shelter." This is a ministry our church has participated with for over 40 years and it saddens me to think we may have to discontinue it if we don't have the appropriate support. Please keep this ministry in your prayers and step up to help in any way you can.

Emmaus Fall Walks have been scheduled.

Men's Walk - September 17-20, Women's Walk-October 1-4

Deadline for applications is April 25<sup>th</sup>. Information is in the Narthex. Please contact Sandy Smith if you have any questions or wish to submit an application to attend. Remember: there is no charge to you to attend this all inspiring, life changing, amazing weekend. Transportation, food and housing are all provided free.

Sandy Smith, Co-chairman, Mission Team

### **April Mission Spotlight**

The Center for Family Violence Prevention has worked to stop domestic violence and help survivors rebuild their lives here in Greenville since 1983. Through crisis help, shelter, counseling, legal support, and education, they support safety, healing, and independence. In 2024–2025, they served 616 individuals across Pitt, Martin, and Washington Counties—ensuring survivors are never alone and always supported on their path to hope and stability.

Their New Directions safe house offers a safe place for survivors of domestic violence and their children. It provides short-term shelter (up to 60 days) for up to 22 people, along with counseling, case management, support groups, food, clothing,

advocacy, and connections to helpful community resources. Last year alone the Safe House hosted 117 survivors and children under their care.

For the month of April, the Missions Team will collect items from the list below. These items will be made available to those they are able to place in new homes, to help give them a bit of relief, as many run from their situations with little to nothing. We appreciate your donation of any items that are included in the Home Starter Kits. Thank you in advance for your support.

Ashlee Lancaster, Mission Team

# HOME Starter Kit

Collect & assemble items for a home starter kit that will greet survivors as they move out of the safe house and into their new, safe and stable housing



Breaking Cycles Building Lives



*Each Home Starter Kit contains:*

- All purpose cleaner
- Bath towels
- Mop
- Dishwasher detergent
- Dish towels
- Disinfectant wipes
- Air freshener
- 13 gallon trash bags
- Hand towels
- Home first-aid kit
- Household cleaning gloves
- Laundry detergent
- Laundry basket
- No- scratch sponges
- Paper towels
- Toilet paper
- Toilet bowl cleaner
- Utensil sets
- Wash cloths

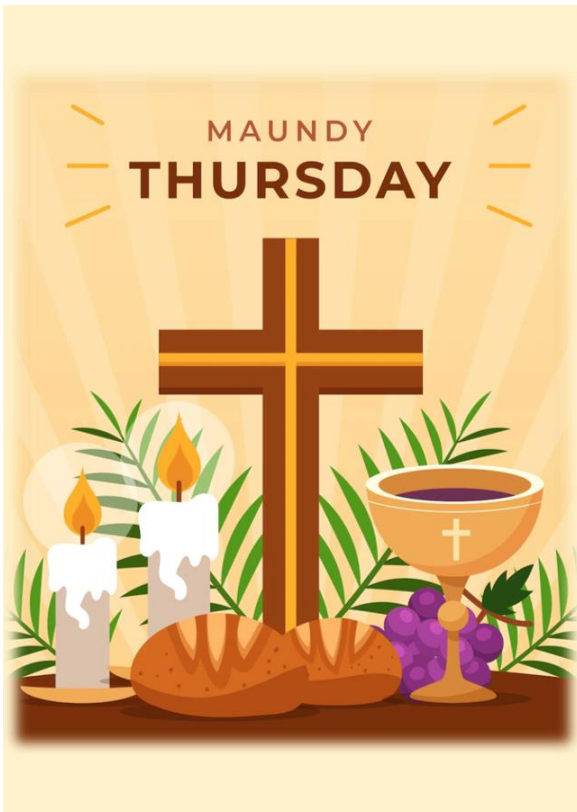


Center for Family Violence Prevention  
 1000 W. 10th Street, Suite 200  
 Grand Rapids, MI 49503-1000  
 Phone: 616.278.5858



Remember to bring your flowers for the cross on Easter Sunday!





Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>

Meal

5:00 pm – 5:45 pm

Service - 6 pm



The annual Easter Egg Hunt will be at 10am on April 4<sup>th</sup>. We will have games, the Easter Egg Hunt, and a snack. Church members are asked to take the empty eggs provided in the Narthex, fill them up, and return to the church by Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>. Please reach out to Donna Williams if you can help.





**Join Us!**

We have planned a trip for the Hookerton District Union to the Museum of The Bible in Washington DC to see the Dead Sea Scrolls Exhibition.

When: Tuesday, April 21<sup>st</sup>

Time: leaving 6:30 am from Red Oak Christian Church

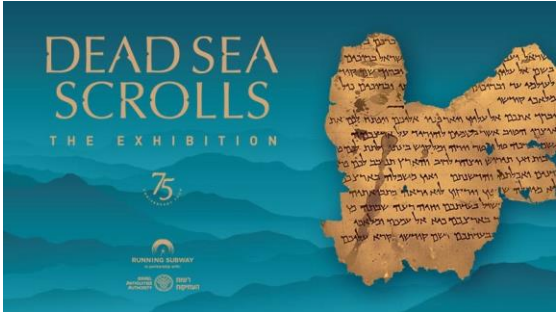
Will leave museum at 5 pm – returning to church around 10 pm

Cost: \$130.00 – includes – bus, box lunch upon arrival, admission ticket to museum and exhibition

*(Not Included – cash tip for driver, supper on the way back)*

See Lisa in the office to register.

**SPOTS STILL AVAILABLE!**



## Prayer Concerns (Please hold our brothers and sisters in prayer)

**PRAYER CONCERNS:** Cliff Whitehurst, Michael Stroud, Charlene Savage, Kristen Skalak, Sandy Hazelton, Gino Vimari, Gary Everett, Phyllis Spain, Nathan Wainwright, Richard Sutton, Mary Allen Stephens, Brenda Allen, Nick Masterton, Baby Marley, Lynette Wyller, Gene Hathaway, Willard Kinsaul, Claudia Manning, Linda Umphlett, and Vernon Powers.

Let these words from the scriptures guide you as you consider your financial gifts to the church in support of our programs and ministries:



Don't Forget  
Your Tithe

*For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also Matthew 6:21.*

*For you know the generous act of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich. (II Corinthians 8:9)*

TOTAL BUDGET FUNDS NEEDED FOR 2026 .....	\$173,738.44
Offerings Received Month of March 2026 .....	\$ 15,542.10
Year to Date .....	\$ 43,309.21



**The Zelle QR Code is available for electronic donations.**

**See Melissa with any questions about Zelle.**

**Elders For April 2026: Sandie Worthington (Worship Leader) & Mike Worthington**

Deacons for Communion: Allen Carter - April 5  
Ethan Carter - April 12  
Sarah Pittman - April 19  
Davis Pittman - April 26