

The Red Oak Christian

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

Last week, the season of Lent began with Ash Wednesday. During the season of Lent, which will lead us up to Easter, our focus as the church is that of reflecting on where we are in our commitment to Christ, where we want to be in that commitment, and what we need to do in order to get there. In light of that theme, many of us do one of two things during Lent. Some people give things up, things that might be getting in the way of a deeper commitment to Christ. Others take things on, things that will help them be a better Christian. Examples of this might be reading your Bible on a daily basis, being more consistent in church attendance, having a morning quiet time, or spending more time using the gifts that God has given you.

Regardless of how you choose to spend the Lenten season, there are some good reasons for us to observe Lent. We will talk more about these over the next several weeks, but let me briefly share with you four. First, Lent reminds us of the reality of life. We learn from Jesus' experience on the cross that life is not always easy. Bad things happen to good people. Secondly, the season of Lent teaches us about the certainty of death. Death is a reality that all of us will have to face one day. Third, Lent teaches us that there is a redemptive nature to suffering. In other words, as we struggle and suffer with the difficulties of life, we learn important lessons. Finally, we learn from our experience of Lent that God will never abandon us. No matter what, God is always there.

I hope you will take advantage of the opportunities that Lent offers us to think about our relationship with Jesus and to reflect on how we can become more committed to him. In the early church, Lent was a time for those who were planning on being baptized on Easter Sunday to make sure that was what they wanted to do. It was a time for reflection and commitment. The same is true for us today.

Grace and peace, Reece

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

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY Gospel of Mark - 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 8th, following worship
Congregational Meeting – December 6th, following worship

Newsletter Information – Please submit any information you would like included in the April Newsletter to Lisa Belue via church email – redoakchristianchurch@yahoo.com or in writing to the office by Friday, March 27th. Thank you!

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.

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: March 25th

Don't forget "Stuff the Truck" for Injoy Thrift Store scheduled for Sunday, March 1st. Bring all your donation items, and let's fill their truck!

Next Mission Team meeting will be held in the church library on March 11th @ 6:00. Everyone is invited to attend.

A meal will be provided to the Community Crossroads Shelter on March 25th. Carla Smith is the team leader. If interested in helping with meal preparation and/or delivery please let her know.

Team leaders for meal purchase/preparation for the Community Crossroads Shelter are still needed for May, June, July, November and December. Please let Sandy Smith know if you are interested in assisting with any of these months.

The Mission Team is spotlighting Hope of Glory Ministries this month by making a \$200.00 donation.

Hope of Glory Ministries is a non-profit organization located at 103 E. Arlington Blvd. Greenville, NC 27858 (252 321-6857). They operate a thrift store, The Community Outlet open Monday-Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. This store offers families another alternative for purchasing their basic necessities. They depend upon donated items, which will be processed and sold at a low cost. Clothing, household items, and furniture are among the many items available to the local community. Each purchase made at the Community Outlet will provide supplemental funds to buy much-needed food for their pantry, start life skills classes, expand their discipleship ministries and support other ministry operations. As the local need for clothing and food grows they continue to provide for those in need through the Resource Center and the donated goods they receive. As they transition and seek the Lord for His faithful discernment to minister to the whole person, they believe that the addition of the Community Outlet provides a well-rounded opportunity to equip individuals with a "hand up" rather than a "hand out."

Their mission is sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ relieving food cost burdens and empowering families toward a lasting change.

Please consider supporting their mission by shopping at the Community Outlet, donating items for resale and/or volunteering your time.

Sandy Smith, Co-chairman, Mission Team



Camp Caroline Retreats and Camps 2026

Chi-Rho Retreat (for 6th – 8th grades) – March 13-15, 2026; \$95

Camp Work Day – March 14, 2026 (volunteers needed for clean-up, maintenance)

2026 Summer Camps

(registration now open through March 31; rates increase after March 31)

- UNO (K-2nd grades with parents) – June 12-14; \$395
- CYF (9th-12th grades) – June 14-19; \$585
- Created to Be Me (8th grade) – June 21-27; \$655
- JYF (2nd – 5th grades) – July 5-10; \$585
- Chi Rho (6th – 7th grades) – July 12-17; \$585
- Family (all ages) – July 23-26

To learn more about these retreats and to register go to <https://www.campcaroline.org> and click on the Camp and Retreats tab

!!!WE NEED A NEW SIGN!!!

Do you “see” our sign? Does our sign welcome you or anyone else to join us for church? Does our sign bring life to our church? The history booklet of our church identifies Red Oak Christian Church as, “A Church for Today.” Does our sign reflect that designation?

Because it is in very poor repair, the Board has approved the Property Team’s request to begin a one-year fund-raising campaign to replace the sign. The questions above are what we want the congregation to consider during the next few months as we raise money and make decisions on new signage for our church.

Some preliminary inquiries show that we need to raise at least \$20,000.00 for the project. Consequently, keep your eyes, ears, (and wallets) open for fund-raising meals, projects and events to accomplish our mission.

Thank you for your support.

Ethan Carter, Leader
ROCC Property Team

Hello Everyone,

I'm pleased to tell you that I am now fully funded for my mission trip to Madrid, Spain. Thanks to your support, I will be able to share the gospel to students in Spain. Thank you for giving me this opportunity. If you would like to commit to being a prayer warrior for this trip, I would love to add you to a [group](#) where we will send out prayer requests and updates in real time while on the trip!

Sincerely,

Grant Worthington

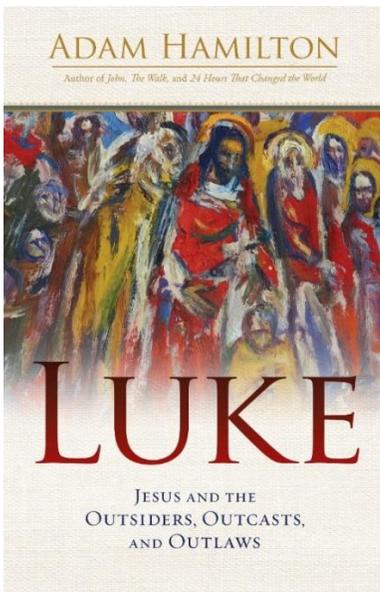


Ladies of the Church — You're Invited!

Join us for a fun evening of fellowship at our **Bingo Dirty Elephant Night** — a chance to strengthen old bonds, rekindle friendships, and make new ones.

- When: **Thursday, March 19 • 6:00 PM**
- Where: **Red Oak Christian Church**
- What to bring: **One wrapped "Dirty Elephant" gift (\$5)** - the funnier the better - and your lovely self!
- Supper: **Pick-me-up supper provided** — please sign up in the **Narthex** so we know how much to prepare.

Come ready to laugh, play, and enjoy good company. Hope to see you there!



Lenten Book Study

This Lenten season we will be offering a Lent Book Study. We will be using Luke: Jesus and the Outsiders, Outcasts, and Outlaws by Adam Hamilton. If you would like to attend, you will need to purchase your copy through retailers such as – Amazon, Thriftbooks, Christianbook.com, Barnes and Noble, and others. Some online retailers offer used copies at a reduced price as well. There are also eBook purchase options available if you have an e-reader or tablet. Meeting dates and times are listed below. We hope to see you there! Please see Lisa in the office if you have any questions.

- Lesson 2 – Tuesday, March 3rd, 1 pm
- Lesson 3 – Tuesday, March 10th, 1 pm
- Lesson 4 – Tuesday, March 17th, 1 pm
- Lesson 5 – Tuesday, March 24th, 1 pm
- Lesson 6 – Tuesday, March 31st, 1 pm

We will meet in the Fellowship Hall at Red Oak Christian Church.
(Each Lesson should be around 1 hour)

Mr. & Mrs. Marshal Blazer
and Boy Scout Troop 25
cordially invite you to attend the
Eagle Scout Court of Honor for

Robert Blazer

Saturday, March 7, 2026
1:00 pm

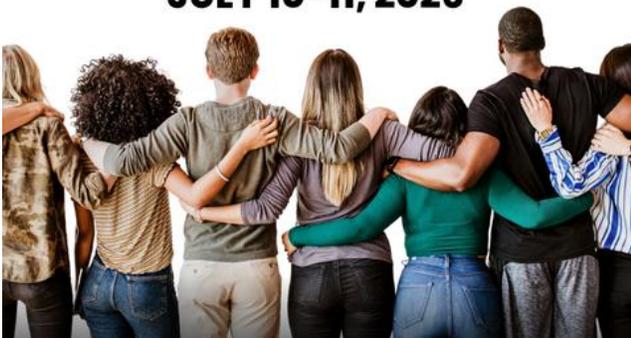
Red Oak Christian Church
Reception following ceremony



— SAVE THE DATES —

2026 GENERAL ASSEMBLY
BEYOND:
LOVE SURPASSING
EPHESIANS 3:14-21

JULY 10-11, 2026



Save the dates for the 2026 General Assembly **online**: July 10–11! The theme, “BEYOND: Love Surpassing” (based on Ephesians 3:14–21), builds on the work that God began last year and marks the first General Assembly of the new triennium. Mark your calendar now and plan to participate as we are further “rooted and established in love” that surpasses knowledge.

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

PRAYER CONCERNS: Cliff Whitehurst, Michael Stroud, Charlene Savage, Kristen Skalak, Sandy Hazelton, Gina Vimari, Gary Everett, Phyllis Spain, Nathan Wainwright, Richard Sutton, Mary Allen Stephens, Gary Riggs, 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:



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 February 2026 ..	\$ 13,946.01
Year to Date	\$ 28,767.11



The Zelle QR Code is available for electronic donations.
See Melissa with any questions about Zelle.

Elders For March 2026: Carla Smith (Worship Leader) & Tod Williams

Deacons for Communion: Kathy Parker - March 1
 Emilee Lancaster – March 8
 Clara Faye Whitley – March 15
 Worth Williams – March 22
 Kathy Parker - March 29