



NOVEMBER
2025

RED OAK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

DECEMBER
2025

For unto us
a  child
is born,
to us
a son is given

RED OAK UMC
Rev. Dr. LK Pendleton,
Pastor



Location

3894 Walt Stephens Road, Stockbridge, Ga 30281

Office Hours

Monday – Friday; 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Phone

770-474-8863

Email: redoak@redoakumcstockbridge.org

Ministerial Staff

Rev. Dr. L.K. Pendleton, Senior Pastor

Rev. Wilmer Brown

Rev. Renea D. Slater

Rev. Kean Sutton

Elder David Graham

Rev. Maestro Evans

Rev. Marshall Williams

Min. Larry Brock

Min. Michael Brock

Our Vision

"The vision of Red Oak Church is to embrace the community
and share God's love to all through
Word, Worship, and Witness."



Pastor's Corner



**Rev. Dr. LK Pendleton,
Pastor**

- ▶ In this season of shutdown and uncertainty, churches must rise as sanctuaries of compassion, not spectators of crisis. The mission of the church is not to wait for government solutions—it is to embody Christ's call to care for the poor, the hungry, and the forgotten.
- ▶ The wilderness is never easy. It's dry, uncertain, and often frightening. The Israelites knew this well. After escaping Egypt's oppression, they found themselves furloughed from Pharaoh's economy—no wages, no homes, no food. They panicked. They grumbled. They feared they had been forgotten. But God had not forgotten them. In Exodus 16, the people cried out in hunger, and God responded with provision: "I will rain down bread from heaven for you." Manna appeared each morning. Water flowed from rocks. Leadership was raised up. God made a way where there was none.
- ▶ Today, we are witnessing a modern wilderness. The government shutdown has left millions in limbo. Federal employees are working without pay. SNAP benefits are suspended. Healthcare access is disrupted. And while the President tests long-range nuclear missiles, families are testing their limits just to survive. The rich grow richer, the poor grow sicker, and the marginalized slip deeper into the margins.
- ▶ It's hard to understand hunger when you've never had to wonder where your next meal is coming from. But for 1.6 million Georgians, that question is no longer theoretical—it's urgent. And while food banks scramble to fill the gap, Governor Brian Kemp has rejected calls to use Georgia's \$14.6 billion surplus to fund SNAP, stating, "We're not going to bail the federal government out. We don't have enough contingency funds to be able to do that."



Pastor's Corner



**Rev. Dr. LK Pendleton,
Pastor**

- ▶ This moment reveals something deeper: the government was never meant to carry the full weight of caring for the poor. That mantle belongs to the church. Jesus didn't say, "Let Caesar feed the hungry." He said, "You give them something to eat." The mission of the church is not to outsource compassion—it is to live it. And in this season, churches must position themselves to serve. Some of the ways include:
 - ▶ **Designate a portion of monthly giving** to help families with utilities, rent, and mortgage payments.
 - ▶ **Increase canned goods** and staples in food pantries.
 - ▶ **Donate coats, socks, hats, and gloves** to local schools.
 - ▶ **Collect grocery gift cards** to distribute to those in need.
 - ▶ **Provide warm meals** to those experiencing food insecurity.
 - ▶ **Commit to advocacy and presence**, not just charity.
- ▶ But this call goes beyond in-reach. We must be just as intentional about *outreach*. The church cannot afford to operate with an "us" and "them" mentality. We are not a gated community of the blessed—we are a mobilized body of believers called to be a blessing. We must embrace the spirit of "*I am my brother's keeper*." That means seeing the pain of others as our own, and responding not with pity, but with partnership.
- ▶ Politics may polarize, but the gospel unites. While leaders debate, the church must deliver. We are called to be the hands and feet of Christ—not just in worship, but in action. So let us not panic. Let us pray. And let us position ourselves—not for comfort, but for compassion. Because in every wilderness, God still makes a way. And often, *we are that way*.

Blessings! - Pastor K

Pastor's Corner



*Rev. Dr. LK Pendleton,
Pastor*

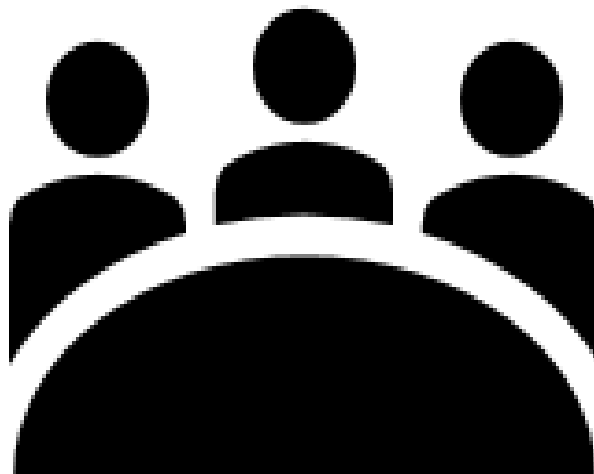
Believer's Baptism Opportunity

- ▶ Are you a believer in Jesus Christ and ready to take the next step in your faith journey? We invite you to participate in our upcoming **Believer's Baptism**—a sacred and joyful expression of your commitment to follow Christ. Baptism is a public declaration of your faith and a powerful symbol of new life in Him. If you are interested in being baptized, please don't hesitate to contact the church office at **770.474.8863**. We would be honored to walk with you through this meaningful step of spiritual growth. Let's celebrate what God is doing in your life!



Staff Parish Relations Comm ittee (SPRC)

The SPRC's bi-monthly meeting will be held in the FLC @ 6pm on 12/10. All committee members are highly encouraged to attend.



New Leadership Development (NLD)

A Heartfelt Thank You from the New Leadership Development and Membership Teams!

To our amazing new and current members—
Thank you for making our recent **Paint & Sip** event a joyful success! With over 30 attendees, the room was filled with creativity, laughter, and vibrant energy as everyone designed colorful masterpieces while sipping punch and ginger ale and enjoying delicious hors d'œuvres.

It was more than just an art session—it was a celebration of fellowship, fun, and community spirit. Smiles were abundant, conversations flowed, and new connections were made.

A special thank-you to the **New Leadership Development and Membership Team members** for organizing such a delightful experience. Your dedication and teamwork helped create a warm, welcoming atmosphere. We look forward to more opportunities to grow, connect, and serve together. Stay tuned for upcoming events—and again, thank you for being part of something beautiful!

With appreciation,

Shawnique Felder, Vice Chair
The New Leadership Development Team

New Leadership Development (NLD)

Join Us in Serving at The Oak!

We continue to seek passionate, committed servants to strengthen The Oak's ministry. There are several opportunities to get involved and make a meaningful impact:

- **Trustees** – Steward the resources and facilities of our church.
- **Outreach Ministry** – Extend love and support to our community.
- **Communications** – Help share our message and mission with clarity and creativity.
- **Food and Backpack Ministry** – Provide nourishment and essentials to those in need.

Your gifts, time, and heart can help us enrich the lives of others and mature the ministry of The Oak. Let's move beyond membership into meaningful ministry—because *serving is how we grow, and growing is how we serve*. If you feel called to serve or want to learn more, please reach out to the church office or any ministry leader. Together, we can build something beautiful.

2026 Annual Church-Wide Leadership Training (TBA)



Trustees

The **Father/Daughter Dance** held in September was a tremendous success! The **Board of Trustees** raised over **\$20,000**, and we're so grateful for everyone's support. In addition, the trustees have been hosting **volleyball games**, which have been a lot of fun and have drawn an excellent turnout. Lastly, the trustees are currently working on **purchasing a new marquee for the church**, which will be a wonderful addition to our community.

Youth Ministry

ATTENTION
YOUTH GRADES
PRE K - 5TH



THE



ELF



PARTY



DEC 20

SATURDAY



6 PM - 9 PM

**PLEASE CONTACT PASTOR SUTTON
FOR MORE INFORMATION**

VOTE TUESDAY NOVEMBER 4, 2025



Please take the time to exercise your right to vote this Tuesday, November 4th. Polls are open from 7:00am to 7:00pm. Red Oak will be open as a voting poll location for those of you who are designated to vote here. *Please do not take your voting privilege for granted. It's our civil duty to vote.*

RED OAK'S VETERANS DAY PROGRAM

November 9, 2025 @ 10 a.m.

Honoring Our Veterans

On November 9, 2025, we pay tribute to all veterans who served unselfishly to protect our country and freedom. Our guest speaker is none other than our own veteran, Brother Paul Frugé. We thank God for the courage and bravery our men and women demonstrated to keep us safe. Please join us as we celebrate and thank our veterans for their service. A breakfast/brunch will be served in the Family Life Center immediately following the service.



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SMITH-BARNES ELEMENTARY SHOOOL

BACKPACK MINISTRY

We are excited to announce that the Smith Barnes Backpack Ministry with Smith Barnes Elementary School has officially launched. We need volunteers to stock, pack and deliver the backpacks every third Friday in the month. If you are interested in serving on the SBB (Smith Barnes Backpack) dynamic team, please contact :

Coordinators:

Lurleen Gourdine @ 404-312-5980 or llegalnurse@att.net

Latoscha Battiste @ 404-554-6554 or latoschabrown123@gmail.com



Also, we're asking for your help in providing the food items listed below. We will fill backpacks with these food items. Again, monetary donations are welcomed.

FOOD ITEMS

2 Breakfasts: cereal boxes, oatmeal packets

2 Lunches: Mac & Cheese, Canned Ravioli, Ramen Noodles

2 Fruit Cups: Fruit in juice, Applesauce

Snacks: Crackers, Cookies, Jell-o, Puddings

Drinks: Juice boxes, OJ. Apple Juice, Shelf Stable Milk

Packaged Chicken or Tuna, Vienna Sausages

NOTE: Please purchase individual size food items. Also, due to peanut allergies, please avoid purchasing any food item containing nuts!!

What is Advent?

The season of Advent, which comes from the Latin word *adventus* meaning "coming" or "visit," begins four Sundays before Christmas and ends on Christmas Eve. Advent is the beginning of the church year for Christians.

During Advent, we prepare for and anticipate the coming of Christ. We remember the longing of Jews for a Messiah and our own longing for and need of forgiveness, salvation and a new beginning. Even as we look back and celebrate the birth of Jesus in a humble stable in Bethlehem, we also look forward anticipating the second coming of Christ as the fulfillment of all that was promised by his first coming.

Although we are accustomed to celebrating Christmas on a single day, in both Christian tradition and on the church calendar, the Christmas season lasts from sundown on Dec. 24 (Christmas Eve) through Epiphany of the Lord (Jan. 6). This is sometimes referred to as "the 12 days of Christmas."

Advent begins with the fourth Sunday before Christmas Day. *This year Advent will begin on **Sunday, November 30th** and last four full weeks.*

The color for Advent has traditionally been purple, although some churches have adopted blue. In practice, however, as churches increasingly incorporate the symbols and decorations of Christmas during Advent, more and more red, green and gold are appearing. *The United Methodist Book of Worship* upholds the traditional color of purple for Advent, signifying penitence and royalty, but also allows blue, the color of hope."

****Join us for Sunday School as we begin a four-week study on Advent beginning November 30th from 8:45am to 9:45am in the Family Life Center.***

PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR

CHRISTMAS CANTATA



The Cantata aims to honor the rich cultural heritage, influence, reflection, and celebration focusing on justice, redemption, and the Unbreakable Love of The Savior.

Sunday, December 21, 2025
at our 10:00am service.



Our prayer is that you have a safe and Happy Thanksgiving. The church office will be closed November 27th and 28th in observance of the Thanksgiving holidays.



We pray that you have a safe and blessed Christmas season.

The church office will be closed December 24th, 25th, 26th and 29th in observance of the Christmas 3holidays.

We will also be closed on December 1 and January 1, 2026.

REMINDER: Please send your announcement requests directly to our Communications Team at redoakumcteam@gmail.com no later than the Thursday before the Sunday it is to be announced. Thank you!

Red Oak UMC

WATCH NIGHT SERVICE

Wednesday, December 31, 2025

6:30 p.m.

Red Oak UMC Sanctuary

Let's close out the year together!

Join us for a heartfelt Watch Night Service as we gather in worship, thanksgiving, and praise. We'll celebrate God's blessings of 2025 and look forward to the promise and hope of a brand-new year!

Let's begin the New Year in faith, fellowship, and joy—together!



☐ Volleyball Nights at Red Oak!

Greetings Red Oak Family and Friends,

Get ready for some friendly competition and fellowship!
The **Red Oak** Trustees invite everyone to join us for
Volleyball Nights in the Family Life Center on:

- ☐ November 7th, November 21st, December Date TBA
- ☐ Games begin at 6:30 p.m.

We'll have **two exciting teams**—our energetic **Youth Team (ages 14 and up)** and our spirited **Adult Team**—bumping, setting, and spiking their way to victory!

Not a player? No problem! Come cheer from the sidelines, enjoy great company, and grab a bite from the **concession stand**, featuring chips, drinks, hot dogs, and **Linda Hayes' famous hamburgers!** ☐

All proceeds go toward **paying off the church mortgage. Therefore**, every point scored and every burger sold helps us move closer to our goal.

Come for the fun, stay for the fellowship—let's fill the gym with laughter, teamwork, and Red Oak pride!



The Hanging of the Greens

At Red Oak UMC

Saturday, November 29, 2025, at 1 p.m.

As we prepare our hearts and church for Advent season, Red Oak United Methodist Church Worship Team invites everyone to join us for our annual *Hanging of the Greens* service on **Saturday, November 29th at 1:00 p.m.**

The Hanging of the Greens is a cherished tradition where we come together to decorate our sanctuary with greenery, wreaths, candles, and symbols that remind us of the coming of Christ. Each decoration carries special meaning—evergreens for eternal life, holly for the crown of thorns, and candles for the light of Christ entering our world.

This service marks the joyful beginning of the Advent season as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus. It's a time of fellowship, reflection, and beauty as we transform our worship space together.

We are looking for **volunteers** to help decorate, read scripture, and participate in the service. All ages are welcome—families, friends, and members of the community are encouraged to join in this meaningful tradition.

Come be a part of this special time of preparation and celebration as we begin our journey toward Christmas, rejoicing in the hope and promise of Christ's coming.

Prayers for Restoration and Healing

Psalm 147:3 (NIV)

He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.

Exodus 15:26

Cora Anderson
Vidal Godwin
Eloise Gresham
Birda Lemon
Timothy
McClendon II
Janene Oliviere
Joan Robinson
Charlie Scrandrett
Mary Sue Norwood
Scrandrett
Virginia Scandrett
Joseph Simmons
Rufus Weems
Michelle White
Louise Gleaton

Rehabilitation Centers/Nursing Care Facilities

Garth Rennis

Condolences

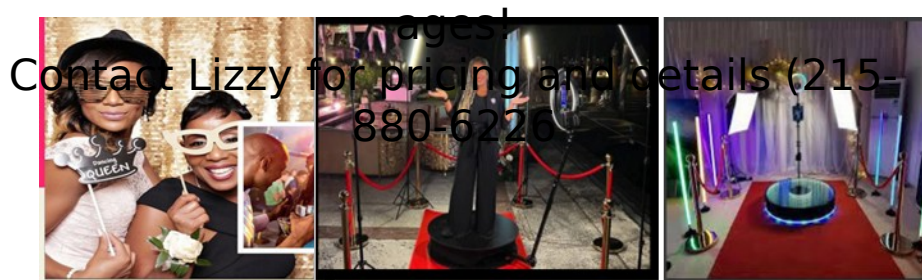


Red Oak Classified Ads

Are you ready for your next Par-
Tay????

Book **Chunky Monkey Productions**

For a 360-photo booth. Lots of fun for all



Digital (Mobile) Photographer and Videographer
available for your next event!



*Proms photoshoot
Wedding photoshoot
Professional Headshots
Brand Photoshoot
Real Estate Photography
Birthday Celebrations*



Contact ElijahJohn * IG: @ejmwphotos * 267 438 1020

Red Oak Classified Ads



Tae-Kwon-Do Classes

Red Oak UMC Family Life
Center

3894 Walt Stephens Rd.
Stockbridge Ga. 30281

**Thursday 7:00pm-
7:45pm**

**Instructor James
Hagan**

**For Additional
Information**

Contact James Hagan

Cherish All God's Children, Inc.

Therapeutic Foster/Res pite Program

1590 Adamson Parkway, S# 270
Morrow, Ga. 30260 Office: 770-703-
1947

Website: cherishallgodschildren.info



Joetta Jones, MBA.,BSBM

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Executive Director

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Administrator

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****NOVEMBER*2025*Conference Call #1-602-610-2084, access code – 653507*(unless otherwise advised)***

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1.
2. 8:45am - 9:45am Adult Sunday School FLC 10:00am Children & Youth Church – FLC 10:00am Worship Service	3. 6:30am Corporate Prayer (via Conference Call)	4. ELECTION DAY	5. 6:00pm-6:30pm Fasting & Prayer Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:00pm-8:00pm (both via Conference Call)	6. Thanksgiving Thursday Chat Session at 12:12pm (via Conference Call)	7. 6:30pm Volleyball (FLC)	8. 9:00am UMM Meeting 10:00am Trustee Meeting Alford Arnold's Recital (Sanctuary)
9. 8:45am - 9:45am Adult Sunday School FLC 10:00am Children & Youth Church – FLC 10:00am Veterans Day Worship Service	10. 6:30am Corporate Prayer (via Conference Call)	11. 11:00am Jonesboro Nursing & Rehab Center in Jonesboro Devotion **All are invited** *VETERANS DAY*	12. 6:00pm-6:30pm Fasting & Prayer Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:00pm-8:00pm (both via Conference Call)	13. Thanksgiving Thursday Chat Session at 12:12pm (via Conference Call)	14.	15. 12:30-2:30pm Thornton Family Memorial Service (sanctuary) 2:30-6:00pm Repass (FLC)
16. 8:45am - 9:45am Adult Sunday School FLC 10:00am Worship Service	17. 6:30am Corporate Prayer (via Conference Call)	18.	19. 6:00pm-6:30pm Fasting & Prayer Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:00pm-8:00pm (both via Conference Call)	20. Thanksgiving Thursday Chat Session at 12:12pm (via Conference Call)	21. 6:30pm Volleyball (FLC)	22.
23. 8:45am - 9:45am Adult Sunday School FLC 10:00am Worship Service	24. 6:30am Corporate Prayer (via Conference Call)	25.	26.	27.  (Church office closed)	28. (Church office closed)	29
30. 8:45am - 9:45am Adult Sunday School FLC 10:00am Worship Service *First Day of Advent*						



***DECEMBER*2025*Conference Call #1-602-610-2084, access code – 653507*(unless otherwise advised)**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1.	2.	3.	4. Thanksgiving Thursday Chat Session at 12:12pm (via Conference Call)	5.	6. 3:00pm – 6:00pm Usher Meeting
7. 8:45am - 9:45am Adult Sunday School FLC 10:00am Children & Youth Church – FLC 10:00am Worship Service	8. 6:30am Corporate Prayer (via Conference Call)	9. 11:00am Jonesboro Nursing & Rehab Center in Jonesboro Devotion **All are invited** 7:00pm Monarch Village HOA Meeting	10. 6:00pm-6:30pm Fasting & Prayer Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:00pm-8:00pm (both via Conference Call)	11. Thanksgiving Thursday Chat Session at 12:12pm (via Conference Call)	12.	13. 9:00am UMM Meeting 10:00am-4:00pm UWIF Breakfast Luncheon 10:00am Trustee Meeting
14. 8:45am - 9:45am Adult Sunday School FLC 10:00am Children & Youth Church – FLC 10:00am Worship Service	15. 6:30am Corporate Prayer (via Conference Call)	16.	17. 6:00pm-6:30pm Fasting & Prayer Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:00pm-8:00pm (both via Conference Call)	18. Thanksgiving Thursday Chat Session at 12:12pm (via Conference Call)	19.	20. 8:00am-12:00pm Councilman Alexander's Christmas Toy Give Away FLC
21. 8:45am - 9:45am Adult Sunday School FLC 10:00am Worship Service ***Christmas Cantata***	22. 6:30am Corporate Prayer (via Conference Call)	23.	24. 6:00pm-6:30pm Fasting & Prayer Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:00pm-8:00pm (both via Conference Call)	25.  (Church off closed)	26. (Church off closed)	27.
28. 8:45am - 9:45am Adult Sunday School FLC 10:00am Worship Service	29. 6:30am Corporate Prayer (via Conference Call) (Church off closed)	30. (Church off closed)	31. 6:30pm WATCHNIGHT SERVICE			

