



Christmas Issue #4 December 2024

Red Oak's Newsletter

The Official Newsletter of Red Oak United
Methodist Church

*¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is
the Messiah, the Lord. Luke 2:11 NIV*



Red Oak United Methodist Church

Rev. Dr. LK Pendleton, Pastor

*Red Oak's Theme for 2024 PURSUING GOD!
3894 Walt Stephens Road, Stockbridge, GA 30281*

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Pastor's Corner

~Thought for the Month~

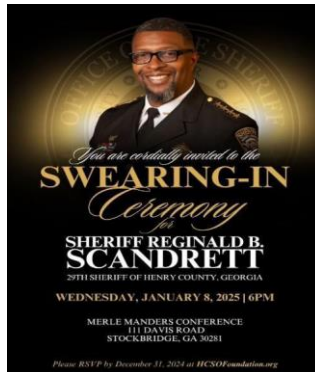
"A prison cell, in which one waits, hopes - and is completely dependent on the fact that the door of freedom has to be opened from the outside, is not a bad picture of Advent." - Dietrich Bonhoeffer.

Join us for a New Year's Eve Worship Service December 31, 2024 – 7:00 P.M.

Bishop Robin Dease, who serves as the Episcopal leader of the North Georgia Annual Conference, will preach at our 10:00 AM Worship Service on Sunday 01.12.2025.

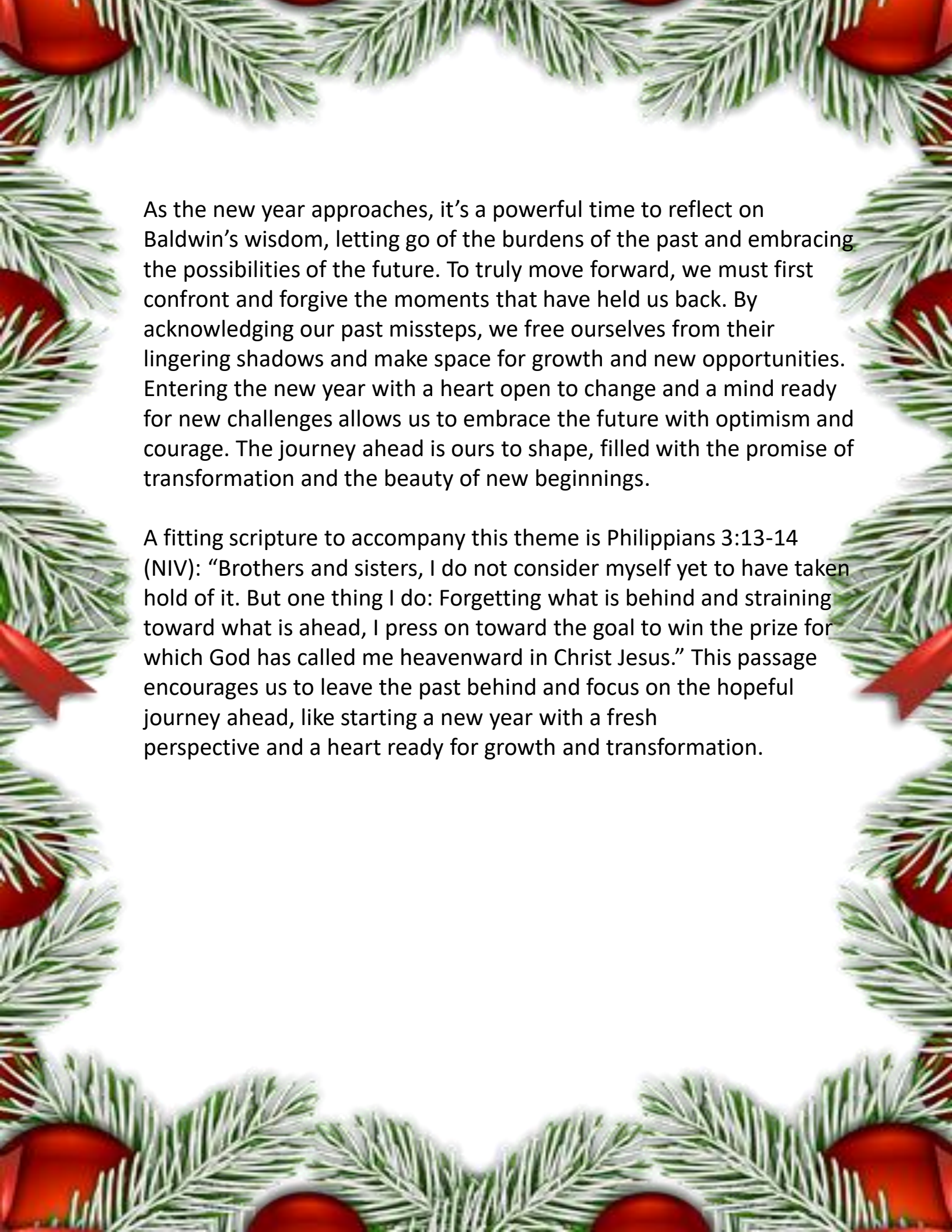


You are invited to attend the swearing-in ceremony of Sheriff Reginald Scandrett on Wednesday, January 8, 2025, at 6:00 PM at Merle Manders Conference Center. RSVP by December 31, 2025, at HCSOFoundation.org



Reflections of Pastor K

"Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced." - James Baldwin



As the new year approaches, it's a powerful time to reflect on Baldwin's wisdom, letting go of the burdens of the past and embracing the possibilities of the future. To truly move forward, we must first confront and forgive the moments that have held us back. By acknowledging our past missteps, we free ourselves from their lingering shadows and make space for growth and new opportunities. Entering the new year with a heart open to change and a mind ready for new challenges allows us to embrace the future with optimism and courage. The journey ahead is ours to shape, filled with the promise of transformation and the beauty of new beginnings.

A fitting scripture to accompany this theme is Philippians 3:13-14 (NIV): "Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus." This passage encourages us to leave the past behind and focus on the hopeful journey ahead, like starting a new year with a fresh perspective and a heart ready for growth and transformation.

As we embrace this new beginning, let us also extend forgiveness to those who have hurt us out of personal gain and those we have tried to hurt and discredit because of personal pursuits rather than godly directives. In doing so, we lift the weight of resentment from our hearts and open ourselves to the grace and peace that come with true forgiveness. We cannot change what happened to us in the past, but we can decide how to move forward. Letting go of past grievances allows us to move forward with clarity and compassion, fostering a spirit of reconciliation and renewal in the year ahead.

I am hopeful that as a faith community dedicated to doing God's will, we will focus on our calling as disciples of Christ Jesus. Let us strive to work together in harmony, moving in the same direction and avoiding divisions caused by power struggles and jealousy. By keeping our eyes on our divine mission, we can build a united and loving community that truly reflects God's heart. Let us be found doing well in 2025.

I love you more than you know!
-Pastor K



GET INVOLVED!!

*Please send committee updates
and prayer request to the
Newsletter Team @
redoaknewscrew@gmail.com*





Red Oak UMC

Rev. Dr. LK Pendleton, Pastor

Prayers for Restoration and Healing

How precious is Your loving kindness, O God! Therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of Your wings.

Psalm 36:7

Cora Anderson

Frankie Arnold

Lillie Butler

Iris Daniel

Christine Davis

Martha Dudley

Vidal Godwin

David Graham

Eloise Gresham

Roserlyn Hutchison

Berta Lemon

Mary & Charles Lloyd

Timothy McClendon II

Janene Oliviere

Cynthia Quick

Terry Quick

Joan Robinson

Nichelle Ross

Estella Rowe

Charlie Scrandrett

Mary Sue Norwood Scrandrett

Virginia Scandrett

Ophelia Shambly

Joseph Simmons

Rufus Weems

Michelle White

Rehabilitation Centers/Nursing Care Facilities

Garth Rennis



Red Oak UMC
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Condolences

We Extend Our Sincere Condolences to:

**Florence Bailey and her family in the passing of her brother,
Rev. Carle Bailey of Florida.**

**Mrs. Nettie Gleaton and her family in the passing of her
brother, Issac Slaughter.**

**Paul Frugé and his family in the passing of his wife and our
dear member Renella Frugé.**

GOD'S PROMISE

**God never promised a life without pain,
Laughter without tears or sun without rain.**

**But He did promise strength for the day,
Comfort for the tears and the light for the way,
And for all who believe In His Heaven above
He rewards their faith In His everlasting love.**



RED OAK UMC

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Recent Visitors From Africa



"We recently had our first visit to the U.S., staying in Georgia and attending Red Oak Church. We were deeply touched by the experience, especially enjoying the engaging Sunday School classes, the inspiring Faith & Blue event, and the incredible hospitality and love shown by the Red Oak Church community. Your warm welcome made our time unforgettable. Thank you all for such a heartfelt experience—we will surely visit again. God bless you all!

Regards,

Pastor Elianshikira Ndossi, Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania



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Recent Visitors From Africa



This past September, I had the privilege of visiting the US, specifically in the state of Georgia, with the goal of experiencing the local culture and the wonderful people. During my stay, two things impressed me the most: the love displayed within the church I attended and the fellowship enjoyed around the tables during our meals. Dinner and lunch were lively, filled with stories and laughter. The church experience was enveloped in warmth and kindness, unlike anything I have encountered in other countries. The stories of Southern hospitality truly came to life when I arrived everybody says hi during our walks in the park. The people from Red Oak Church in Clayton County were exceptional; they made my stay feel like a place I would love to return to time and again. I believe there is still much more to discover in Georgia and within the community at Red Oak Church. My journey concluded after a month, but it was truly an amazing trip.

Pastor Dennis Dhaje. Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania



ROUMC
RISE YOUTH & CHILDREN'S MINISTRY
Rev. *Keean* Sutton, Youth Pastor



Polar Express
Saturday December 14th 2024
4pm-7pm

ALL ABOARD THE POLAR EXPRESS!!

Get ready for a holiday party.

Wear your PJs

Crafts, dinner and a movie 15.00 per ticket

Only 30 tickets available (open to the community)

Sponsored by:

The Rise Youth Ministry and the UMWIF

Please see Sherryl Bright for tickets, to sponsor a child or to donate to this event.

404-574-9891



RED OAK UMC

Rev. Dr. LK Pendleton, Pastor

New Noonday Bible Study



I'm extending an invitation to the
entire congregation to join me for my
quarterly noonday Bible Study
beginning
Wednesday October 30th 2024. 12:PM
The subject for the first session is
"Forgiveness."

RED OAK UMC



Rev. Dr. LK Pendleton, Pastor

Christian Education Department:
Join us in December to study Advent

Please See:

Rev. Renea Slater or Rev. Wilmer Brown for more information

This December, we are excited to invite everyone to a special month-long Advent study, as **all four of our Sunday School classes** at Red Oak UMC come together to explore the meaning and significance of the Advent season. Advent, which means "The Coming of the Lord," is a time of reflection, anticipation, and preparation as we await the celebration of Christ's birth and the fulfillment of God's promises.

Each Sunday in December, we will gather in the **Fellowship Hall at 8:45 AM** for a combined Sunday School class. During this time, we will dive into a rich study of Christian history and the traditions of Advent. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn more about the Advent season, its biblical roots, and its importance in our journey of faith.

In addition to the study, we will also enjoy a **continental breakfast** together, allowing us to connect, fellowship, and build relationships as a church family. Whether you are a long-time Sunday School member or someone looking to get involved, we warmly invite you to join us for this special time of learning and community.

We hope this Advent study will not only deepen our understanding of Christ's coming but also strengthen the bonds within our congregation. It's a perfect time to get involved, meet new friends, and be encouraged as we prepare our hearts for the Christmas season.

Mark your calendars for **Sundays in December at 8:45 AM**—we can't wait to see you there!



Celebrate the Christmas Season with the Annual Christmas Cantata

The Christmas season is a time of reflection, joy, and celebration of the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. At our church, we mark this sacred season with a special tradition that brings the true meaning of Christmas to life—our **Annual Christmas Cantata**.

This year, we invite you to join us on **Sunday, December 15, 2024, at 10:00 AM** for a powerful and uplifting morning of worship. Under the direction of our talented **Music Ministry**, led by **Brother Alfred Arnold**, and accompanied by our dedicated **Worship Team**, the cantata will feature a collection of beautiful, soul-stirring music that highlights the story of Christ's birth.

The cantata is not just a musical performance—it is an expression of the gospel message through song. Each piece of music is carefully chosen to reflect the themes of hope, peace, joy, and love that resonate throughout the Christmas season. Through harmonies and lyrics, we are reminded of God's greatest gift to humanity, wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger. It is a time to come together in worship and celebrate the profound impact of Christ's birth on the world.

The cantata is also an opportunity for our church family to come together in community. Whether you are a long-time member or a visitor, we welcome you to be a part of this joyful occasion. It's a perfect way to begin your holiday season, remembering the reason we celebrate Christmas, while experiencing the talents and dedication of our music ministry.

We encourage everyone to invite friends, family, and neighbors to this special worship service. Come early to find your seat, as the sanctuary will be filled with the beautiful sounds of the season and the warmth of fellowship.

We look forward to celebrating with you and giving thanks for the greatest gift we've ever received—Jesus Christ.

Mark your calendars, and don't miss this wonderful time of worship and celebration!

- **Date:** Sunday, December 15, 2024
- **Time:** 10:00 AM



Welcome to the Music Ministry: Meet Our New Bass Player, Rodravius Hamlin!



- We are thrilled to announce a fantastic addition to the Red Oak United Methodist Church Music Ministry team! Please join us in welcoming Rodravius Hamlin, our new bass player, to our musical family. Rodravius brings a wealth of talent and passion to our ministry, and we are excited to see how his gifts will enrich our worship experience.
- In the picture, you'll see Charlie Bates, our gifted saxophonist, and Lindsey Mitchell, our skilled drummer, both of whom have long been key contributors to our music ministry. You'll also see Brother Arnold, our Director of Music, whose leadership and vision continue to inspire the growth of our ministry. Although Anthon Brock, our talented keyboardist, is not pictured, he too plays a vital role in creating the beautiful, unified sound we enjoy.
- At Red Oak UMC, we are blessed with an incredible group of musicians whose diverse talents come together to create something truly special. Our music ministry not only enhances our worship services but also provides a vibrant and welcoming space for all who come to participate, whether through music or in the congregation.



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Witness Ministry

A huge thank you to our Red Oak family and friend from the Witness team for donating the coats and shoes for our give-away on October 19th 2024,. Many people received items needed and everything remaining was donated to Hope House for Domestic Violence for Women, Children and Men. The event was very successful!

***Lurleen Gourdine,
Witness Chair***



Red Oak UMC
Rev. Dr. LK Pendleton, Pastor
Health & Wellness Ministry

**Navigating Depression in the Black
Community During the Holidays**



The holiday season, often associated with joy and celebration, can be a challenging time for many, especially within the Black community. While family gatherings and traditions can bring comfort, they can also magnify stressors like financial strain, grief, and feelings of isolation.

Cultural stigma around mental health remains a significant barrier. Phrases like “pray about it” or expectations of unwavering strength can discourage individuals from seeking help. This stigma, coupled with systemic inequalities, can make navigating holiday pressures even harder.

Unique challenges such as financial burdens, the loss of loved ones, and experiences of exclusion during holiday events can exacerbate feelings of depression. These struggles often go unspoken, leaving many feeling alone in their pain.



Strategies for Coping During the Holidays

1. **Prioritize Mental Wellness**

It's essential to recognize and honor your feelings. Seek professional help if you feel overwhelmed. Therapists who specialize in culturally responsive care can provide support tailored to the unique experiences of Black individuals.

2. **Set Boundaries**

Declining an invitation or opting out of gift exchanges to focus on your mental health is valid. Setting financial and emotional boundaries can alleviate unnecessary stress.

3. **Create New Traditions**

If traditional holiday activities trigger sadness or anxiety, consider creating new, meaningful rituals that better align with your current needs and emotional state.

4. **Lean on Support Networks**

Trusted friends, family members, or support groups can provide understanding and encouragement. Virtual or in-person gatherings with loved ones who validate your feelings can help reduce feelings of isolation.

Looking Ahead

The holiday season can be a challenging time, but it also presents an opportunity to prioritize mental health and cultivate deeper connections. By breaking the silence around depression and fostering open conversations, the Black community can move toward healing and resilience. Recognizing the intersection of systemic barriers, cultural expectations, and individual needs is crucial in creating a supportive environment for mental wellness.

Wishing you all a Happy and Healthy holiday season,

Sherryl Bright MSN, BSN, RN



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Rev. Dr. LK Pendleton, Pastor

REMINDER

NO FOOD OR



DRINK

IN THE



SANCTUARY

THANK YOU !!



Red Oak UMC

Rev. Dr. LK Pendleton, Pastor

No eating nor drinking in the pews of the sanctuary please ...

It has come to our attention that some of our members have picked up the habit of eating and drinking in the sanctuary during worship and practice sessions.

Please please please refrain from consuming food and drinks within the designated worship area of the church.

Your adherence to this request will help us to maintain cleanliness, while respecting the solemnity of the service, and avoiding distractions for others attending the worship session.

Your compliance is greatly appreciated!



Red Oak UMC
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The SPRC will have their monthly meeting on the 11th of Dec at 6pm.

Committee members are strongly encouraged to attend.



Red Oak UMC
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Annual Christmas Angel Tree



We are asking everyone to participate in the Annual Angel Christmas Tree Giveaway for kids in the community. Additional information TBA soon.

DECEMBER, 2024
Conference Call #1-602-610-2084,
*access code – 653507** (unless otherwise noted)*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1. 8:15am - 9:45am Adult Sunday School FLC "Advent Study" Light Breakfast 10:00am Worship Service 10:00am Children & Youth Church – FLC	2. 6:30am Corporate Prayer (via Conference Call)	3.	4. 6:00pm-6:30pm Fasting & Prayer Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:00pm-8:00pm (both via Conference Call)	5. Thanksgiving Thursday Chat Session at 12:12pm (via Conference Call)	6.	7. 1:00pm – 5:00pm Facility Rental – FLC (Private Birthday Party)
8. 8:15am - 9:45am Adult Sunday School FLC "Advent Study" Light Breakfast 10:00am Worship Service 10:00am Children & Youth Church – FLC	9. 6:30am Corporate Prayer (via Conference Call)	10. 11:00am Jonesboro Nursing & Rehab Center in Jonesboro Devotion **All are invited** 6:00pm NLD Meeting (via conference call) 7:00pm – 9:00pm Monarch Village HOA Meeting (FLC)	11. 6:00pm-6:30pm Fasting & Prayer Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:00pm-8:00pm (both via Conference Call)	12. Thanksgiving Thursday Chat Session at 12:12pm (via Conference Call)	13.	14. 9:00am UMM Meeting 10:00am UWIF Meeting 10:00am Trustee Meeting Youth Event "Polar Express" 4:00pm – 10:00pm
15. 8:15am - 9:45am Adult Sunday School FLC "Advent Study" Light Breakfast 10:00am Worship Service "Christmas Cantata"	16. 6:30am Corporate Prayer (via Conference Call)	17.	18. 6:00pm-6:30pm Fasting & Prayer Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:00pm-8:00pm (both via Conference Call)	19. Thanksgiving Thursday Chat Session at 12:12pm (via Conference Call)	20.	21.
22. 8:15am - 9:45am Adult Sunday School FLC "Advent Study" Light Breakfast 10:00am Worship Service	23. 6:30am Corporate Prayer (via Conference Call)	24. Christmas Eve (Church Office Closed)	25. Merry Christmas (Church Office Closed)	26. Thanksgiving Thursday Chat Session at 12:12pm (via Conference Call)	27.	28.
29. 8:45am - 9:45am Adult Sunday School FLC 10:00am Worship Service	30. 6:30am Corporate Prayer (via Conference Call)	31. New Year's Eve Service (Church Office Closed)				



*ROUMC
CLASSIFIED ADS*

Cherish All God's Children, Inc.

Therapeutic Foster/Respite Care Program

Joetta Jones, CEO 404-996-8187 - joettajones@cherishallgodschildren.net

Dianne Brocks, COO 678-508-3575 -
diannebrocks@cherishallgodschildren.net

Nicole Banks, Executive Director 678-499-5543 -
nicolebanks@cherishallgodschildren.net

Website: cherishallgodschildren.info





ROUMC CLASSIFIED ADS



Orterisa All God's Children, Inc.

Therapeutic Foster/Respite Care Program

Joetta Jones, CEO 404-990-8167 - joetta@careofcherishallgodschilidren.net

Dianne Brooks, COO 678-308-0873 - diannebrooks@careofcherishallgodschilidren.net

Nicole Banks, Executive Director 678-299-5540 - nicolebanks@careofcherishallgodschilidren.net

Website: careofcherishallgodschilidren.info



Are you ready for your next Par-Tay?!?!?
Book **Chunky Monkey Productions**
for a 360 photo booth, tons of fun for all ages!

Contact Lizzy for pricing and details (215 880 6226)



ROUMC CLASSIFIED ADS



Tae-Kwon-Do Classes instructed by James Hagan are offered here at Red Oak every

Thursday from 7:00pm - 7:45pm in the Family Life Center.

Contact James Hagan for more information at 678-548-7594

***Free notary services offered, please contact:
Shawni @ 267 600 1461 or Lizzy @ 215 880 6226***



**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 UMC

Rev. Dr. LK Pendleton, Pastor

LOCATION

3894 Walt Stephens Road Stockbridge, GA 30281

OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday 9am - 3pm **PHONE** 770-474-8863

Email: redoak@redoakumcstockbridge.org

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."*

Ministerial Staff

*Rev. Dr. L.K. Pendleton, Senior Pastor
Pastor Wilmer Brown
Pastor Renea D. Slater
Pastor Kean Sutton
Elder David Graham
Rev. Maestro Evans
Min. Larry Brock
Min. Michael Brock*



RED OAK UMC

Rev. Dr. LK Pendleton, Pastor

WORSHIP SERVICE

Sundays 10:am

**Sunday School: Sunday 9:am - 9:45 am*

**Prayer: Monday 6:30 PM – 7:30 PM*

**Bible Study: Wednesday 7 pm - 8 pm*

**Available by Zoom or Teleconference.*

602-610-2084

Conference access code: 653507