

City Road UMC  
511 North Road St.  
Elizabeth City, NC 27909

## *City Road United Methodist Church*

Josh Tester, Pastor

511 North Road Street, Elizabeth City, NC 27909

cityroadec.net

crumcec@gmail.com

Office: (252) 335-2658

Pastor's Cell: (336) 460-6291

Sunday Worship: 11:00 a.m.

Sunday School: 10:00 a.m.

Online giving is available through our Give Plus app.

----- Online access information is available on our website -----

SUNDAY WORSHIP at 11:00 a.m. in person and on Facebook

Prayer Chain Requests: Please call one of the people listed below if you have an immediate prayer need.

Josh Tester: (336-460-6291)

Dawn Baker: (252-455-2639)

# The City Road UMC

# Cross and Flame



Serving God and His World Since 1900 – 125 Years

June 2025



**“When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. 2 And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. 3 Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. 4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit” — Acts 2:1-4, NRSVUE**

Each time I write Spark Notes, my prayer is that it ignites something within you—a deeper thought, a renewed commitment, a fresh hunger for God. As we step into the season of Pentecost, we are reminded that the Holy Spirit doesn't merely visit us—it empowers us. The flame that descended in Acts 2:1–21 wasn't symbolic—it was transformational. It sparked a church, a movement, and a mission that continues in us today.

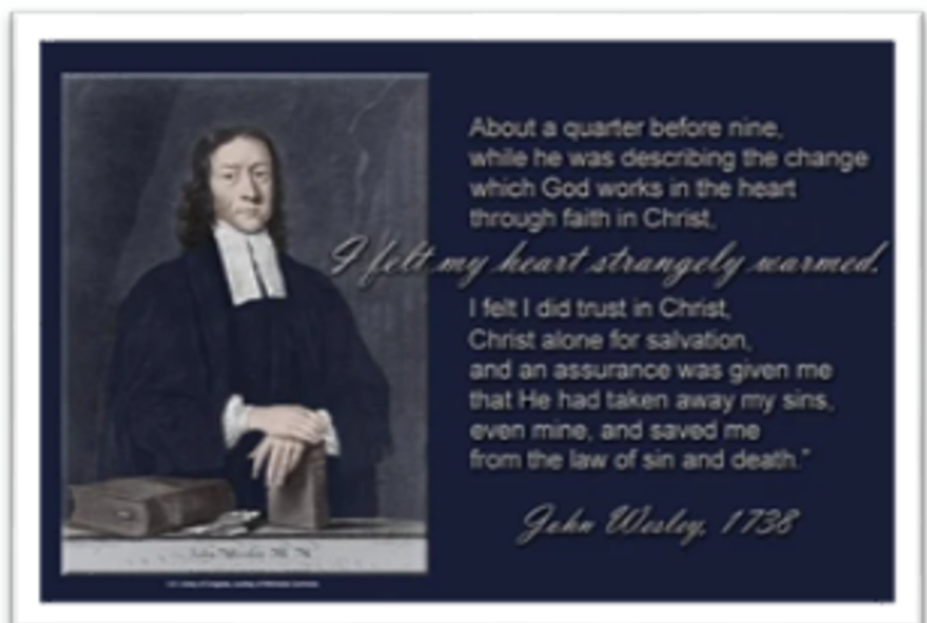
We are called to be pastoral sparks—not only as clergy, but as a community of believers carrying the light of Christ into every corner of our world. Being that spark means drawing from our theological task as United Methodist Disciples: engaging scripture, tradition, reason, and experience as the lenses through which we understand God's movement and respond with faithful discipleship.

**Scripture** reveals God's living Word and anchors us in the Pentecost promise that *“your sons and daughters will prophesy...your young will see visions, and your elders will dream dreams.”*

**Tradition** reminds us that we stand on the shoulders of faithful believers who carried the flame before us.

**Reason** invites us to love God with our minds, asking how best to live out faith in a complex world.

**Experience** is where God meets us personally—just as He did with John Wesley on that unforgettable night at



Aldersgate. It was there Wesley felt his heart “strangely warmed,” and came to fully grasp the depth of God’s grace for him. That spark of assurance changed the course of his life—and through him, the lives of millions.

This theological task doesn’t just shape what we believe—it shapes how we live. It challenges us to be thoughtful, Spirit-led, and courageous in our witness. It calls us to be a spark of the Social Gospel in our community, not for show, but for the sake of love, justice, and transformation.

As we live into this Pentecost season, I invite you to reflect: Where is the Spirit sparking something new in you? How might you ignite faith in someone else?

### **Upcoming Opportunities to Be the Church Together:**

- **Annual Conference** in Greenville, NC – *June 12–14*. Pray for our delegates and conference leaders as we gather to worship, discern, and serve.
- **City Road UMC’s 125th Cornerstone Celebration** – *October 12*. Mark your calendars and prepare to celebrate over a century of faithful witness!

May the fire of Pentecost continue to shape us, stir us, and send us.

In His Grip,



## **Membership**

### Membership Trivia:

One of our still active members has reached a membership milestone of 70.5 years of faithful service to City Road. Who do you think the member is?

There are papers on the communications table to write your answer, and drop them in Dawn’s Box. Get your answers in before the July Newsletter.

### **Membership Search Update**

Submitted by Mary Humphries, Membership Secretary

The final batch of membership search cards has been posted on the board(s) between my office and Josh’s office. Thank you for your on-going efforts to locate and contact our missing members. This search process has not been as successful as I had originally hoped, however, I am now planning another membership update project to coincide with our October 12th celebration. I currently have information to support removal from our membership roll of 7 members by death, 2 by transfer to another church, 3 by request to be withdrawn from our membership, and 58 to be presented at charge conference by “calling of name”. Please do not be discouraged, all is not gloom and doom. I have

currently received 2 requests to remain on our role even though they are unable to attend regularly. I have over 20 contacts that have not responded yet and another 20 to 25 contacts to be made. As you can see, there are still significant opportunities ahead of us.

I have included a generic copy of the letter that Pastor Josh and I created to connect with those you provided contact information for, and share with our Facebook and webpage followers, newsletter subscribers, and online Sunday service attendees. Please keep this membership audit process in your thoughts and prayers.

June 1, 2025

Greetings, Church audits are essential for maintaining transparency and accountability within religious institutions and are specifically required in the United Methodist Church membership manual. A crucial part of these audits requires verifying membership status. A review of our membership records indicates that you have been inactive for an extended period of time. Please complete and return the form below so that we may honor your wishes regarding your City Road UMC membership.

- ☐ I wish to remain on the membership roll of City Road UMC.
- ☐ I wish to be withdrawn from the City Road UMC membership roll.
- ☐ I am now a member of another church and wish my status to be recorded as transferred from the City Road roll. (Please complete the information below.)

Currently a member of: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Church: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please sign and date

Thank you for your participation in this membership audit. Please return your updated information to the attention of the Membership Secretary at the church address listed above.

May the Grace of God be with you,

Mary Humphries, Membership Secretary



# United Women in Faith

At our last meeting, we honored Florence Rodgers. We had a surprise luncheon for her and presented her with a “guardian angel” as a going-away gift. She joined City Road United Methodist Church on March 18, 2007, and soon after joined the United Methodist Women. She has been a devoted member and has served as our Treasurer since 2008, filing her first report on 12/9/2008. We truly appreciate everything Florence has done as a member of the City Road women’s group, and we will certainly miss her. Safe travels, Florence and John. I hope you will have a Cracker Barrel near your new home!

Our next meeting will be June 11th at 1:00 in Edwards Hall. We hope you will plan to join us.

Betty Jo Raby, Secretary of UWF



# Thank you Note

I wanted to reach out and say thank you for all the wonderful Easter candy you guys gave to me! It was greatly appreciated. It was a wonderful "pick me up" to have during the closing of the semester.

Thank you, again!

Gracie

# School Announcements

"School's almost out, and we're ready to celebrate our amazing students! 🎉 Did your child or grandchild earn an award, get recognized, or take part in something awesome this year? We want to hear about it!

Send their achievements to the church office at [crumcec@gmail.com](mailto:crumcec@gmail.com) by Sunday, June 8th, so we can include them in the June 15th bulletin and July newsletter. Let's show our kids just how proud we are!"

# Events happening at the Church





# CMS Mother's Day Blankets:

In Memory:

My Mother - Adelaide Spencer.....Amy Betts

Lois Pippen Jennette

Josephine P. Jones.....Robert & Charlene Pippen

In Honor: Given By:

Muriel Bright.....K.C. & Debbie Beavers

Judy Hughes.....Jackson & Gentry Hughes

Elizabeth Tester.....Maddie & Axl Tester

Caroline Lee.....Audrey Lee

All Mothers in war-torn communities.....Terri Cohen

Debbie Beavers

Roxie Schnieder

Elizabeth Goldberg

Mary Beth Chesson

Phyllis Robertson.....Muriel Bright

## Father's Day Golden Cross

"Golden Cross" is a ministry that reaches out in love to the laity in our Annual Conference who are experiencing financial difficulty due to excessive medical expenses. Through Golden Cross,

United Methodists care for members of our local churches in times of emotional stress and financial need. As in our tradition, we will celebrate this outreach ministry on Father's Day, June 15<sup>th</sup>. Please complete the form below and return it to the church office by June 8th. Gifts

may be made in honor or memory of your loved one.

Donation total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Given by \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

(Please make all checks payable to City Road UMC and mark the memo section on the check as "Golden Cross".)



May 25 :Today's flowers are given to the Glory of God and in Honor of Dawn and John's wedding anniversary, given by Carol Saunders, Josie & Charlotte.

## **American Red Cross Blood Drive**

**hosted by:**

**City Road UMC &  
EC Morning Rotary Club**

**City Road UMC, Edwards Hall  
511 N. Road St  
Elizabeth City, NC 27909**

**Thursday, June 5, 2025**

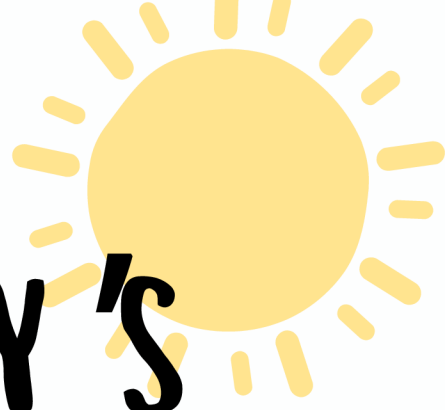
**11:00 am - 3:00 pm**

**Register at [redcross.org](https://redcross.org) - 27909  
City Road United Methodist Church**



JUNE

# BIRTHDAY'S



2 - KARI BELFANZ

5 - FRANK WILLIAMS, SANDY MIDGETT

6 - TERRI COHEN

7 - RED DAVIS

8 - ROXIE SCHNEIDER

9 - CHARLOTTE BAKER

13 - ANDREA MCLAMB

14 - BECKY MOREY

16 - BRIANNE CLESSON

17 - WADE BETTS

18 - JONATHAN SAWYER, CHARLIE RAY

19 - REAGAN BURNS, NATALIE WHITE

20 - ROGER EWELL

21 - MARY BETH CLESSON

23 - GARY MANN

24 - MURIEL BRIGHT

25 - OWEN PIPPEN, LAUREN SAWYER

26 - MOLLY RHODES

28 - LINDSEY CLESSON

29 - JOSH STRATHEARN

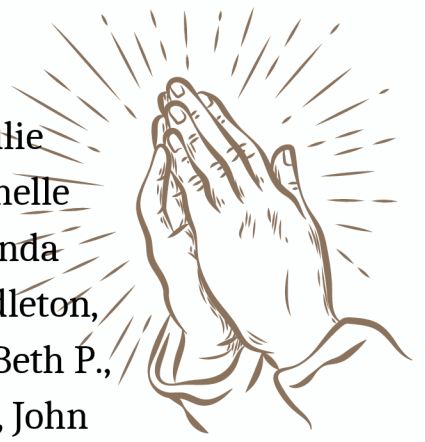
30 - MAKAYLA MIMS





# Prayer List:

Kaye Bean, Debbie Beavers, Gene Bradley, Curtis Brickhouse, Jim & Julie Bridges, Muriel Bright, Annette Carter, Mary Lou Croft, Robert & Michelle Croft, Chris Elsen, Samantha Evans, Shirley Johnson, Cecilia Koch, Brenda Luton, Charles & Judy McKenzie, Darrell McKinley, Rita & Hugh Middleton, Cole Norfleet, Ronnie Pippen, Jim & Wilma Prowell, Susan Pritchard, Beth P., Willard Rhodes, Florence & John Rodgers, Richard Seymour & Family, John Spencer, Donald Sawyer, Michael Sawyer, Joan Talkington, Cathy & Clay Thompson, Judy Venters, Debbie White, Shirley Williams, Sharon & Bud Wright, Diane & Mark, Chuck Woods, Family of Don Marler



# JUNE



| Sunday                                                                   | Monday                | Tuesday                                         | Wednesday                             | Thursday                                                                       | Friday                                          | Saturday                                           |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| 1                                                                        | 2                     | 3<br>Craft Ministries<br>9:00 am                | 4                                     | 5<br>Food Bank<br>Volunteering<br>2 - 4 pm<br>Frank Williams,<br>Sandy Midgett | 6                                               | 7                                                  |
| 8<br>Farewell Lunch<br>for John &<br>Florence Rodgers<br>Roxie Schneider | 9<br>Kari Belfanz     | 10                                              | 11<br>UWF 1:00 pm                     | 12                                                                             | 13<br>Terri Cohen                               | 14<br>Men's<br>Breakfast<br>7:30 am<br>Becky Morey |
| 15<br>HAPPY<br>FATHER'S<br>DAY                                           | 16<br>Brianne Chesson | 17<br>Craft Ministries<br>9:00 am<br>Wade Betts | 18<br>Jonathan Sawyer,<br>Charlie Ray | 19<br>Reaagan Burns,<br>Natalie White                                          | 20<br>Newsletter<br>Articles Due<br>Roger Ewell | 21<br>Mary Beth<br>Chesson                         |
| 22                                                                       | 23<br>Gary Mann       | 24<br>Muriel Bright                             | 25<br>Owen Pippen,<br>Lauren Sawyer   | 26<br>Molly Rhodes                                                             | 27                                              | 28<br>Lindsey Chesson                              |
| 29<br>Josh Strathearn                                                    | 30<br>Makayla Mims    |                                                 |                                       |                                                                                |                                                 | Blue =<br>Birthday                                 |

