

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

February & March 2026



SPARK NOTES

So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!”

— 2 Corinthians 5:17

Greetings in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ,

As we move into this new season together, City Road UMC finds itself standing at a meaningful threshold. The church calendar may call this “ordinary time,” but spiritually, we are entering what the Church has long called a Kairos season—a holy moment when God invites us to pause, pay attention, and respond.

Kairos time is different from clock time. It is not about deadlines or schedules, but about discernment and direction. It is the kind of season where God asks us not simply to keep doing what we have always done, but to dream, listen, repent, and reimagine who we are being called to become. As we enter a season of visioning and shared dreaming, we trust that the Spirit is already at work—calling us beyond what we can see and into God’s preferred future for the beloved community.

At the heart of this journey are the most basic and transformative practices of our faith: communion and baptism.

When we gather at the table, we do more than remember the past. We participate in a sacred act that reaches across time—uniting us with saints who have gone before us and with those yet to come. This “little heaven below” nourishes us, reshapes us, and commits us to God’s future. At the table, we are reminded that grace is not passive—it forms us into one body and sends us out changed.

In baptism, we remember the covenant we have made—or that was made on our behalf—to accept the freedom and power God gives us to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves. Baptism is not a moment we outgrow; it is a promise we grow into. It marks us as people who live differently, love boldly, and act faithfully in the world.

As we move into the season of Lent, this call becomes even clearer. Lent is a time of repentance, yes—but

repentance is more than feeling sorry. It is a turning. A decision. A willingness to let God reshape our hearts, our priorities, and our practices. Lent asks us hard and holy questions: What needs to be released? What needs to be healed? What needs to change?

The days we are living in offer us profound opportunities to live out our faith in real, accountable ways—ways that speak truth, seek justice, and hold leadership at every level accountable for decisions that impact the most vulnerable among us. Following Jesus means paying attention to where harm is being done and courageously choosing love, mercy, and justice instead. It means believing that our faith has something to say—and something to do—in the world as it is.

As United Methodists, our mission remains clear: to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. That transformation begins again and again at the table and the font, but it does not end there. It continues as we listen deeply, dream boldly, repent faithfully, and step forward together into what God is calling us to be.

May this Kairos season be one where we live beyond fear, beyond complacency, and beyond what feels familiar—trusting that God is making all things new, beginning with us.

Grace and Peace until we meet again,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Pastor Josh". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Finance Committee

Finance Update and Words of Thanks

As we reflect on the year 2025, I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to our church family for your faithful generosity and continued support. Because of your contributions, along with the rental income generated from the Parsonage, we were able to pay our full 2025 apportionment. This is an important accomplishment and a true reflection of what we can achieve together.

I am also pleased to share that the Administrative Board has approved the church budget. Through careful

planning and responsible stewardship, we were able to reduce the budget by a few thousand dollars while continuing to support the ministries and mission of our church.

Based on the approved budget, the weekly contribution needed to meet our financial commitments is \$2,721.00. Your continued faithfulness in giving whether weekly or monthly ensures that our church remains financially strong and able to serve both our congregation and the wider community.

On behalf of the Finance Committee, thank you for your generosity, trust, and commitment to the work of the church.

With gratitude,
Robert Pippen

City Road Helping Hands

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2026 from City Road Helping Hands

The City Road United Methodist Women in Faith have voted to disassociate from the formal United Methodist women's organization and focus more directly on meeting the needs of our local community.

Our group held its first organizational meeting on January 14 at 1:00 p.m. in Edwards Hall. During this initial meeting, we recognized our new officers. Judy Hughes will continue to serve as our leader. Cecilia Koch will oversee Spiritual Growth and provide a devotion at each meeting. JoAnn Herring will serve as treasurer, Jonita Broel will be sending cards, and Betty Jo Raby will serve as secretary. Please let Jonita know if you are aware of anyone in our church family who could benefit from receiving a card.

City Road Helping Hands is an informal group focused on fellowship, service, and fun. We plan to enjoy time together—perhaps wearing City Road T-shirts and going out to eat as a group, or even playing a game of Bible trivia. Marvina Mann will continue serving as our program leader, and our first programs will focus on studying the “Women of the Bible.”

We hope all the ladies of the church will become involved with the City Road Helping Hands so that we may have many hands to help many. The group will continue to meet on the second Wednesday of each month at

1:00 p.m. in Edwards Hall. Due to a scheduling conflict, our February meeting will be held on the first Wednesday, February 4, at 1:00 p.m. in Edwards Hall.

Everyone is welcome, and we look forward to a busy and rewarding 2026 filled with service, fellowship, and fun.

Submitted by,
Betty Jo Raby

Cheryl Davis Scholarship

Beginning on March 3, 2026, we will be opening the application process for the Cheryl Davis scholarship. Cheryl Davis served in various medical-related positions during her career, and through the generosity of her family, funds have been dedicated to assist candidates who are committed to pursuing a non-administrative medical profession. Please contact Mary Humphries, Scholarship Chair, for additional information or by emailing your request to her at maryhumphries38@yahoo.com. An application will be sent to you with the guidelines for completing your scholarship package.

The annual scholarship is awarded based on merit as measured by the required responses on the application. The applicant's intended field of study is considered in the evaluation process. Candidates to be considered are high school applicants who will be entering their first year of college, post-high school or career change applicants, and renewal applicants. Additional scoring points are given to those candidates who are active members of City Road UMC. Non-members applying for the scholarship are required to have a currently active member of City Road as a sponsor. The annual scholarship(s) and/or renewal amount(s) will be determined by the scholarship committee and are based on the current earnings from the original scholarship endowment.

Late applications will not be considered. Completed applications should be mailed to Mary Humphries, Scholarship Chair, 13 Tanglewood Drive, Elizabeth City, NC 27909. The award notification will be made by June 30, 2026. Scholarship awardees are invited to receive their award during a Sunday worship service in July. The scholarship will be paid directly to the candidate; however, evidence of enrollment in an accredited institution is required. High school student candidates will receive first consideration. Part-time studies and renewal candidates will be given secondary consideration. When all specified criteria have been met, scholarships will be awarded without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, or physical handicap.

Submitted by,
Cheryl Davis Scholarship Committee



Bishop's Office

North Carolina Conference

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



I am writing with an update to important information pertaining to the scheduled 2026 Leadership Gathering of the Council of Bishops and its preparation.

A Denomination-Wide Survey

First, I ask for your active leadership in participating in and sharing a denomination-wide survey authorized by the Council of Bishops and designed to listen to United Methodists across our connection about the present and future of The United Methodist Church. The insights gathered will directly inform the 2026 Leadership Gathering as we seek to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit in this Kairos season. The survey will be open from January 15 – February 15, 2026, and accessible on ResourceUMC.org.

Denomination-Wide Webinars

Second, at the request of the Council of Bishops, United Methodist Communications (UMCOM) will host three churchwide webinars in order to help us discern our Wesleyan identity and new vision:

- January 24, 2026: Wesleyan Theology, “Love Boldly”
- February 21, 2026, 10 am - 11:30 am Eastern: Wesleyan Mission, “Serve Joyfully”
- March 21, 2026, 10 am - 11:30 am Eastern: Wesleyan Leadership, “Lead Courageously”

More information, including registration links, will be available on ResourceUMC.org. Those registered will have an opportunity to submit questions beforehand. All webinars will be recorded and available for later viewing.

These are important opportunities for clergy and laity alike to speak faithfully and prayerfully into the life of and future of our beloved Church. Our connection and mission is strengthened when we listen widely, discern together, and remain rooted in our Wesleyan identity.

Thank you for your leadership, your faithfulness, and your partnership in this shared work. Please hold this process in prayer, as I continue to hold you and your ministries in mine.

With hope and gratitude,

Bishop Connie Mitchell Shelton

North Carolina Conference

Love Boldly
Serve Joyfully
Lead Courageously

Easter Lilies

Easter Lilies will be \$15.00 this year. Please complete the form below and return it to the office by March 22, 2026. Please print and ensure your wording is precise for the bulletin.

Total # of lilies ordered _____

Given by _____

In Memory of

In Honor of

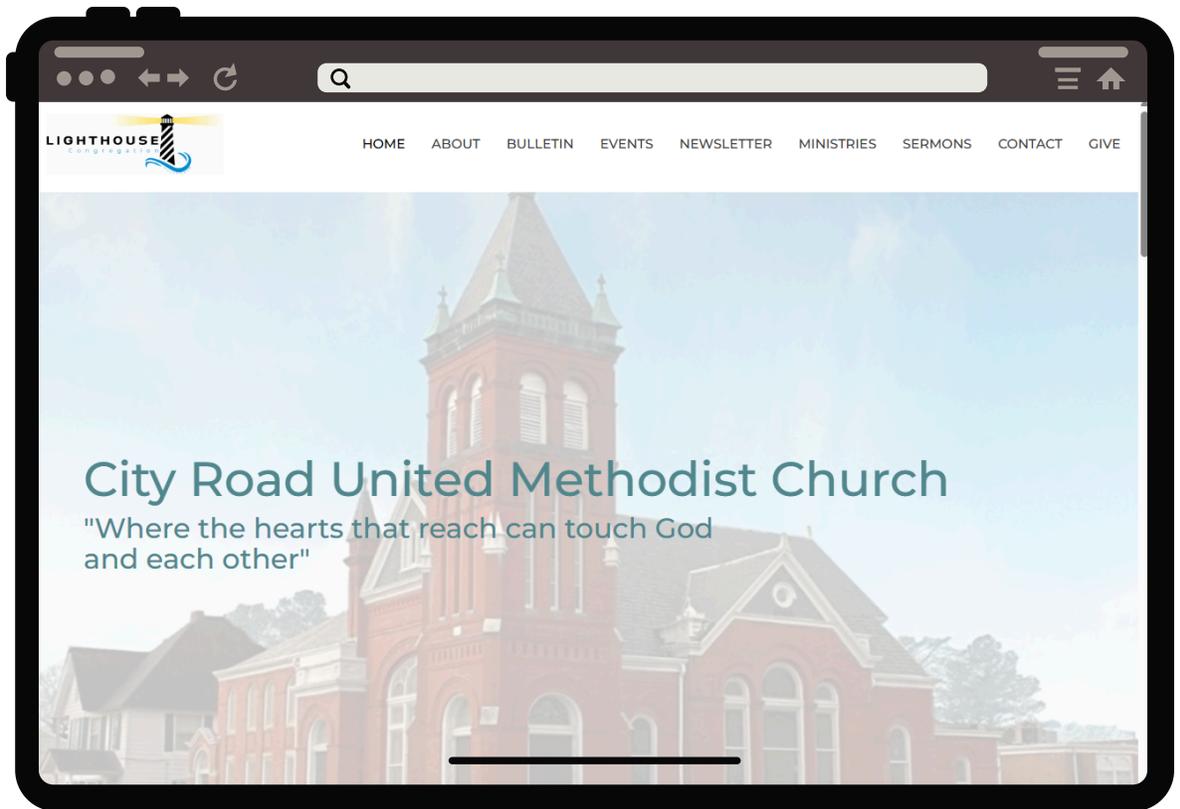
(Please make checks payable to City Road UMC, note Easter Lilies on the memo line)



Prayer List:

Kaye Bean, Debbie Beavers, Gene Bradley, Curtis Brickhouse, Jim Bridges, Muriel Bright, Mary Lou Croft, Robert Croft & Family, Chris Elsen, Samantha Evans, Lewis Hughes, Shirley Johnson, Cecilia Koch, Brenda Luton, Charles & Judy McKenzie, Rita & Hugh Middleton, Cole Norfleet, Ronnie Phippen, Jim & Wilma Prowell, Michael & Susan Pritchard, Beth P., Florence Rodgers & Family, Richard Seymour & Family, John Spencer, Donald Sawyer, Michael Sawyer, Joan Talkington, Judy Venters, Debbie White, Shirley Williams, Bud Wright & Family, Chuck Woods, Lea Robinson, John Cullen, Richard Koch & Family, Bill & Paula Webb, Pearl Spear, Lea Robinson, Mike Stokley, Betty Dowdy, Alicia Perry

The new website is live and ready for exploration. Take a look! cityroadec.net



Ash Wednesday Service

Wednesday, February 18, 2026



African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church
Edenton & Elizabeth City District

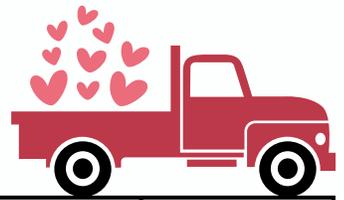


United Methodist Church
Beacon District



Mt. Lebanon AME Zion Church
320 Culpepper St.
Elizabeth City, NC 27909

FEBRUARY



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Girl Scouts	2	3	4 City Road Helping Hands 1:00pm Betty Jo Raby, Matt Brabble	5 Food Bank Volunteering 2:00 - 4:00 Melanie Carter, Andrew Rhodes	6	7 Annette Luther
8 Board Meeting after worship service	9	10	11	12	13	14 Men's Breakfast 7:30 am Andrew Sawyer, Mark Morgan
15 Girl Scouts	16 President's Day Mervin Raby	17 Judy Hughes	18	19 Judy McKenzie	20	21
22	23	24 Morgan Luton, Michelle Meads	25 Jaden Pippins	26	27 H.P. Williams, Jr.	28 Eddie Lewis

MARCH

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Girl Scouts	2 Ginny Rankin	3	4 Brandon Herron	5 Food Bank Volunteering 2:00 - 4:00 Joe Robertson, Savannah Blake Wright	6	7
8 Board Meeting after worship service Day light Savings	9 Paisley Strickland, Michael Sawyer	10	11 City Road Helping Hands 1:00pm Deborah Moncla, Cason Neil Lackey	12 Adriana Cordova	13 Adam White	14 Men's Breakfast 7:30 am
15 Girl Scouts Kashyn Wayne Chesson	16 K. C. Beavers, Charles McKenzie, Reid Lewis	17 ST. PATRICK'S DAY Avery Otts	18 Eron Murphy	19 Alex Lewis	20 1st Day of Spring Frances Gass	21 Dwight Lewis
22	23 Gene Bradley, Eric Burns	24	25 Oona Lewis	26	27 Elizabeth (Ed) Tester	28
29 Girl Scouts Robbie Jones	30	31				

Blue Text is Birthdays

