

# MARCH NEWSLETTER

Church family,

There's something about March that feels like a quiet turning point. The air begins to soften. The days stretch just a little longer. Buds appear where only weeks before everything looked bare and lifeless. Spring doesn't arrive all at once. It unfolds slowly, gently, almost unnoticed at first.

And isn't that how God often works?

Before we ever reach Easter morning, we walk through changing seasons. We feel the tension between what has been and what is coming. March invites us to pay attention to that space, the in-between, where hope is forming beneath the surface.

Easter carries powerful emotions. Joy. Gratitude. Awe. Relief. Victory. But it also holds sorrow, reflection, and deep honesty about suffering and loss. The cross reminds us that resurrection doesn't bypass pain. It redeems it. The empty tomb tells us that nothing is beyond God's power to restore.

As we move through this month, allow yourself to feel it all. If you're carrying heaviness, bring it. If you're experiencing renewal, celebrate it. If you're somewhere in between, that's holy ground too. God is not intimidated by your questions, your doubts, or your longings. In fact, He often meets us most powerfully in the places where we are most honest.

Spring is a visible reminder that what appears dormant is often just waiting. Seeds buried in the soil are not dead. They are preparing. In the same way, the Lord may be cultivating something new in your heart right now. It may not be obvious yet. It may feel fragile. But it is real.

As we draw closer to Easter, I invite you to open your heart to the full story, from sacrifice to resurrection, from sorrow to joy, from winter to spring. God is still bringing life out of what feels barren. He is still rolling stones away.

And as we continue stepping forward together, let's remember new life isn't just something we celebrate once a year. It's something we live into daily.

The season is changing. Hope is rising. Resurrection is coming.

And through it all, God's love remains steady, faithful, and alive among us.

Grace and peace,

*Pastor Chad*

**"See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?"  
– Isaiah 43:19 (NIV)**



## Tex Mex Corn Chowder

Submitted by:  
Sharon Murphy

- 1 15oz can whole kernel corn, drained
- 1 14.75oz can cream-style corn
- 1 14.5oz can diced tomatoes with garlic and onion
- 1 15oz can black or red kidney beans, rinsed and drained
- 1/2 cup chicken broth

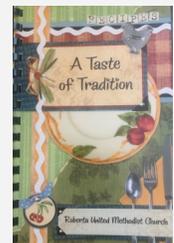
Combine all ingredients plus 1/2 cup of water in medium saucepan.

Bring to a boil; reduce heat.

Simmer, covered 5 minutes.

Sprinkle each serving with shredded cheese or chopped peppers. Serves 4.

Recipe Books can be purchased through any Lydia member for \$12.00 each.





SUSAN FERGUSON	3/1	KIRBY HATTAWAY EUDY	3/15
JOYCE B. HARDISTER	3/1	MELISSA LITTLE	3/16
MADISON STIREWALT	3/3	ASHLEY COLEMAN	3/17
WAYNE FURR	3/6	PHYLLIS HAMMETT	3/18
KEVIN HANSON	3/7	BEVERLY WASSON	3/19
BRENDA PHILLIPS	3/8	CHAD IRONS	3/21
COLTEN MARBLE	3/8	JULIE CONNELLY	3/22
CAMIE HOOKS	3/9	MIKE BENTON	3/22
JOHN HORKEY	3/10	RONNIE CLINE	3/25
KATE DUNCAN	3/12	LARRY TAYLOR	3/26
CONNIE MOSS	3/14	SUE RIDENHOUR	3/27
GARY RIDENHOUR	3/14	DODY FAHLMANN	3/28
		IAN SHEPARD	3/30



LORA & JASON MILLER	3/13
GARY & BOBBIE SUE TROUTMAN	3/20
MITCHELL & CRYSTAL MOOR	3/31



## Church Fund Balances — January 31, 2026

<b>General Fund Operating Budget</b>	
Checking Acct.	\$93,098.44
General Fund Checking	\$50.00
General Fund CD	\$104,996.58
<b>Total General Fund</b>	<b>\$198,145.02</b>
Capital Fund / General Fund	\$11,041.83
Capital Fund / Music - Children / Youth	\$2,602.45
Capital Fund / Multi - Media	\$1,210.68
Capital Fund / Adult Choir - Hand bells	\$1,689.26
Capital Fund / Disaffiliation	\$6,387.98
<b>Total Capital Fund</b>	<b>\$22,932.20</b>
Building Fund Checking Account	\$7,711.68
Building Fund Money Market	\$9,285.05
<b>Total Building Fund</b>	<b>\$16,996.73</b>
Community Missions	\$1,104.85
<b>Missions Community Outreach Fund</b>	<b>\$1,104.85</b>
Cemetery Fund Checking	\$955.44
Cemetery Fund CD- 1	\$22,231.57
Cemetery Fund CD- 2	\$32,537.20
<b>Total Cemetery Fund</b>	<b>\$55,724.21</b>
Educational Fund CD	83,276.57
<b>Year to Date: 1/1/2026 thru 1/31/2026</b>	
<b>General Fund Income:</b>	\$15,118.00
<b>Expenses:</b>	\$28,917.01
<b>Current Budget Shortfall:</b>	<b>(\$13,799.02)</b>



Please remember to support our "Can in Each Hand" campaign on the last Sunday of each month. Proceeds go toward repaying the building fund used for the ReFresh Project. Due to weather-related cancellations, we had **no collections** in **January**. We encourage everyone to participate in 2026 — you may be surprised how quickly small amounts add up! If the last Sunday is not convenient, you may turn in coins or checks at any time. Please write "Cans" in the memo line so funds are directed appropriately. (Adding your name to your can ensures your contribution is credited.)





## – Fran Brown

As we continue our Lenten Journey in March, the Worship Team invites you to reflect on God's gracious call to return to Him with sincere hearts, echoing the prophet's words. "Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me". May this season draw us into deeper repentance, worship and preparation as we look toward the Joy of Easter!

On **March 8th at 5:30 PM** Roberta will be hosting the Cabarrus Circle Global Methodists Lenten Service. Our speaker for the evening will be Kari Howard, Associate Conference Superintendent NCGMA. Dinner will be served afterwards with fellowship. Please plan to come and support Roberta and our GMA community!

### Other Lenten and Easter things you don't want to miss are:

- **March 22nd** - Easter Cantata and Student Led Worship Service by Holy Motion.
- **April 2nd** - A Seder Meal at 6:30 PM in the Fellowship Building please RSVP to Diane Ezzell: reddbe.de@gmail.com or (704)572-6800
- **April 3rd** - Stations of the Cross Performance at 6:30 PM
- **April 5th** - Sunrise Service, Methodist Men's Breakfast and Resurrection Worship Service. Times TBD

Thank You to everyone who serves, prays and worships with us.

May God bless you with peace and a deeper sense of His presence during Lent and Easter this year!!!



## –Music – Sharon Wooten

Exciting events are planned for our Lenten season. We began with Ash Wednesday, turning our thoughts toward Jesus' journey to the cross. Lent is not only about looking forward to Easter and the joy of that day — it is also a time to remember the sacrifice Jesus made for us. In the coming weeks, you will hear powerful and meaningful music designed to help center our hearts and minds on His love and redemption. And when Easter arrives, we will joyfully proclaim, "*Hallelujah, He is risen!*"

The **Roberta Ringers** will share their music on **March 8th** during the **10:00 AM worship service**.

Also on **March 8th**, Roberta Church will host the **Global Methodist District Lenten Service** at **5:30 PM**. The Roberta Ringers, along with the Adult Choir, will provide music for this special evening of worship.

Our Good Friday service, "**Stations of the Cross**," will be held on **Friday, April 3rd, at 6:30 PM**. This outdoor worship experience will guide participants through twelve stations representing Jesus' final hours before the crucifixion. As you move through the stations, you will encounter Jesus and the biblical characters who walked with Him on the road to the cross. This deeply moving service offers a powerful opportunity for reflection and worship.

To ensure accessibility for all, golf carts will be available for those with mobility challenges. There are **nine seats available**, and we kindly ask that these be reserved for individuals who truly need assistance.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.





## The Director's Chair

Dear Parents,

Lent is a time of getting ready for Easter. Its color is purple. Purple reminds us that even though Jesus is King of the whole world he still chose to die for each of us. To help remember what Jesus did, we should spend time fasting, praying, and giving. Then we will be ready to celebrate the good news that Jesus rose from the dead and so will we! Please share with your children this important message and talk together about the Lenten practices below.

***"He himself bore our sins" in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; "by his wounds you have been healed."***

*(1 Peter 2:24)*

**Fasting** means giving something up. Is there something in your life that you want to stop, give up, or walk away from to help make more room in your life for Jesus? Giving these things up reminds us that Jesus is the only thing we really need.

**Giving:** Can you name all the things that God has given you? The biggest gift we've received is Jesus dying to save us. That's why in Lent we pray and ask the Holy Spirit to help us to be generous with the things God has given us. Can you think of something you could give on Easter Sunday to celebrate God's gifts to you?

**Prayer:** During Lent, we are encouraged to spend more time in prayer. There are many different ways we can pray and talk with God. Here are a few:  
*Prayer Walk* - As you walk, say thanks for the beauty and goodness you see and pray for places where God's help is needed.

*Prayer Art* - Create some art while you talk to God.

*Prayer Writing* - Write your prayer down as a letter to God or as a poem.

*Listening Prayer* - Read a Bible verse and then ask God what God would like to say to you about it. Wait quietly. What would you like to say to God?

## Join Our Team!

### LOOKING FOR WAYS TO SERVE THIS MINISTRY?

- Teach and lead in the classrooms
- Assist and help in the classrooms
- Deliver 'Children's Moment' messages
- Chaperone retreats and volunteer at events
- Preschool and Nursery caregiver

There is a strong need for adults and families to serve in these areas. This ministry is designed to help nurture and lead the children and youth into discipleship and building their relationship with Jesus.

**Contact Mari to get connected and join our team!**

## Upcoming Dates:

- 3/1 Afternoon Clubs & Holy Motion**  
(3:30pm - 5:00pm)
- 3/15 Afternoon Clubs & Holy Motion**  
(3:30pm - 5:00pm)
- 3/22 Easter Cantata & Student-Led Worship**  
(10:00am Worship)  
*Led by ALL students*
- 3/28 Spring Fling & Easter Egg Hunt**  
(10:00am - 12:00pm)  
*Grab a flyer for details*
- 3/29 Afternoon Clubs: Kids & Youth**  
(3:30pm - 5:00pm)

**Save the Date!**

**Vacation Bible School**

**June 22-25, 2026**

(6:00 - 8:00pm)

Open for students in grades K-5th

**CONTACT US**

**Mari Brooks**

*Director of Children & Youth*

[Mbrooks5825@gmail.com](mailto:Mbrooks5825@gmail.com)

Cell: (301) 399-7274





– Colby Cochran

As the March winds blow, the daffodils begin to bloom, and the cold days of winter begin to fade, we welcome a season of renewal and new growth. What better way to serve our Lord than by volunteering with one of our church’s outreach missions? Please take time to review the Service Opportunities booklet Pastor Chad introduced on February 22nd. We would love for you to become part of the Missions/Outreach Team.

We currently have Team Leader vacancies for two important missions: Operation Christmas Child (the Shoebox Project) and the Church of God Children’s Home. We hope to fill these roles as soon as possible to ensure these ministries remain strong and successful in 2026. If you feel called to serve, please complete a volunteer form, and someone will contact you.

This year, we are renewing our focus on “A Can in Each Hand”, a joint project of Missions/Outreach and Forward in Faith. On the fourth Sunday of each month, we invite you to bring a “can of change” (coins, cash, or check) and a can of food.

Please mark your calendars for our spring collection Sundays:

- March 22
- April 26
- May 24

We are always grateful for donations of non-perishable food items, which support several of our outreach efforts. Donation bins are located in the first-floor elevator foyer for your convenience.

Looking ahead, Wings of Eagles Ranch has requested assistance for an upcoming summer camp project. Please begin saving your empty regular 15-ounce food cans. We will share additional details soon regarding when the washed and emptied cans can be brought to the church.

Thank you for your continued generosity and heart for service.



– Susan Ferguson

The Evangelism Team is excited to share several new outreach opportunities happening this spring — and we invite everyone to be part of what God is growing through these efforts.

Our **Invitation Ministry** officially launches on **Sunday, March 1st**. Pastor has invited 25 families to join this year-long outreach commitment. Each participating family will hand out just one invitation card per week for 52 weeks. This steady, intentional approach allows us to continually place invitations into our community and create natural opportunities for connection, conversation, and encouragement throughout the year.

In addition, the Evangelism Team is preparing to launch a **Hospital Snack Basket Ministry**. These baskets will provide comfort and encouragement to those spending time in the hospital. Volunteers are needed to help label snack items with the church logo and inspirational scriptures. This simple task plays an important role in sharing care and kindness with others.

Looking ahead, beginning later in March, we will introduce a **Seed Packet Ministry**. The congregation will be invited to take seed packets to share with friends, neighbors, and others in the community. Preparation of the packets will involve attaching a business card with ribbon, allowing the seeds to be easily distributed or displayed. Assembly is expected to begin after the 15th, with more details coming soon. Volunteers will be needed to prepare the seed packets, as well as distribute them.

As always, these ministries are built on small acts of faithfulness that God can use in powerful ways. Whether through consistent invitation, simple preparation work, or prayerful participation, every contribution helps extend the church’s presence beyond our walls.

If you would like to help with any of these efforts, the Evangelism Team would love to connect with you.





## Roberta Fellowship Group Camie Hooks & Barbara Anderson

March is a wonderful season of new beginnings. As we look forward to spring, celebrate St. Patrick's Day, and journey through Lent in anticipation of our Savior's resurrection, it's also a perfect time to begin something new — like joining the Roberta Fellowship Group!

*"See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?" — Isaiah 43:19*

We meet twice each month — lunch on the **second Thursday** and breakfast on the **third Tuesday** — to enjoy good food, warm fellowship, laughter, and prayer. Our group is relaxed, friendly, and welcoming, and we would love to grow our circle of friends.

### March Meeting Schedule:

**Lunch:** Thursday, March 12th at 12:30 PM at Chil's – Highway 29, Concord

**Breakfast:** Tuesday, March 17th at 9:00 AM at Parkway House – Highway 29, Concord

Everyone is welcome — whether you are new to Roberta Church or have been here for years. If you have questions or would like more information, please feel free to reach out. We would love to see some new faces this year!



## – Cathy Thompson & Sharon Wooten

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our Soup-er Bowl Lunch on February 8th. We raised a little over **\$500**, which will help us continue being the hands and feet of Jesus as we minister to those in need.

Lydia will be providing homemade desserts for the meal following the **Global District Lenten Service** hosted by Roberta on **March 8th at 5:30 PM**. We look forward to serving our church family and guests during this special evening.

Lydia is always seeking to grow our membership. If you are not currently involved, we warmly invite you to visit a meeting and see what we are all about. We are a mission-minded group dedicated to raising funds to support various organizations and families in need of financial assistance.

Our next meeting will be held on **Tuesday, March 10th at 6:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall**. We would love to see you there!

## AMERICA 250! CEMETERY RESEARCH – Corinne Smith

This year marks the 250th anniversary of the founding of our nation — a time to remember the men and women whose courage and sacrifice helped shape our country. Have you ever wondered if you might be related to one of these Patriots?

In fact, if your family lines connect to names such as **Blackwelder, Cochran, Hudson, Furr, or Little**, there is a good chance you share a historical connection. **Lawson Blackwelder** and his son **Jacob Blackwelder**, who generously donated the land on which our church was founded, are both laid to rest in Roberta Cemetery.

In recognition of this important milestone, the Cemetery Team is committed to carefully and accurately documenting our cemetery. Our goal is to create an updated and reliable map of burial locations that will serve both present and future generations seeking to locate and honor their ancestors.

If you would like to be part of this meaningful project, we invite you to join us for a planning meeting on **March 14th at 10 AM** in the **church conference room**. Volunteers of all ages are welcome. Assistance will be needed with computer data entry as well as walking the cemetery grounds to record GPS locations.

And who knows — you may even discover that you are a descendant of a Revolutionary War Patriot!



Acolyte	
3/1	Mitch Kanady
3/8	Aurora Cochran
3/15	Maddie Hudson
3/22	Maddie Pacious
3/29	Taylor Darnell
Ushers	
3/1	Dale Furr & George Brown
3/8	Mike Kanady & Paul Pacious
3/15	Doug Conner & Ronnie Hinson
3/22	STUDENTS
3/29	Darrell Ridenhour & Josh Brooks
Greeters	
3/1	Doris Burris & Brenda Koerner
3/8	Camie Hooks & Larry Taylor
3/15	Tammy Weddington & Kevin Dunham
3/22	Eddie Taylor (Welcome Center)
3/29	Ed Anderson & Susan Rosinski
Children's Moment	
3/1	Mari Brooks
3/8	Colby Cochran
3/15	Pastor Chad Irons
3/22	No Children's Moment
3/29	No Children's Moment
Children's Church	
3/1	Corinne Smith
3/8	Doris Burris
3/15	Robin Kanady
3/22	Student-Led Worship
3/29	Lisa Linker
Nursery	
3/1	Jewel Williamson & Annemarie Irons
3/8	Kelly Pacious & Kelly Almond
3/15	Kari Thompson & Paul Pacious
3/22	Shawn Marble & Annemarie Irons
3/29	Kari Thompson & Kelly Almond
Multi-Media	
3/1	Soundboard: Regina Hinson Computer: Loren Koerner Camera: Alex Hattaway
3/8	Soundboard: Don Smith Computer: Jim Killian Camera: Alex Hattaway
3/15	Soundboard: Jim Killian Computer: Sue Ridenhour Camera: Susan Ferguson
3/22	Soundboard: Michael Kanady Computer: Regina Hinson Camera: Jim Killian
3/29	Soundboard: Regina Hinson Computer: Jewel Williamson Camera: Don Smith
Opening/Closing Church - March Ed Anderson	



## - Dale & Sharon Wooten

Please remember our ongoing efforts to repay the building fund from which we borrowed to finance the ReFresh project. There are several ways you can help support this effort:

### Can-In-Each-Hand (Ongoing)

If you need a can for loose coins, please see Sharon or Dale Wooten.

### Nativity Scene Fundraiser (Ongoing)

Debbie Cochran is creating nativity scenes from scrap wood salvaged during the sanctuary demolition. This is a meaningful way to own a small piece of Roberta's history. **Suggested donation: \$15 minimum**

Please make checks payable to Roberta Church and note "Nativity Scene Fundraiser" in the memo line. See Debbie if you would like to purchase one. Sales will continue while supplies last.

### Hot Dog Sale - April

We will need volunteers to help with purchasing supplies, cooking, serving, and providing homemade desserts. More details coming soon.

### Combined Bake Sale & Walk-A-Thon - Saturday, May 16th

We are asking for baked goods to be brought to the Fellowship Hall by 9:45 AM.

The walk-a-thon, titled "*Walking Forward in Faith*," will begin at 10:00 AM around the church parking lot.

- 6 laps = 1 mile
- 9 laps = 1.5 miles

Participants will collect sponsorship donations payable to Roberta Church (memo: Walk-A-Thon).

There are many ways to participate — walk, sponsor a walker, provide baked goods, or purchase items at the bake sale. Checks for baked goods should be made payable to Roberta Church (memo: Bake Sale).

Any baked goods not sold on Saturday will be available in the Welcome Center following worship on Sunday, May 17th.

This event has great potential for fellowship and fun for all ages. We hope everyone will find a way to be involved!



# MINISTRY NEWS

March Calendar			
Date	Event	Location	Time
<b>Sunday, March 1, 2026</b>	Connections: Sunday School	Various	9:00 AM
	Worship & Communion Service	Sanctuary	10:00 AM
	Roberta Ringers Practice	Bell Room	11:00 AM
	Stations of the Cross Meeting	Fellowship Hall	3:00 PM
	Afternoon Clubs / Holy Motion	2B / Sanctuary	3:30 - 5:00 PM
	Global Methodist Lenten Service	Mt. Pleasant GMC	5:30 PM
	No Great Awakening		
<b>Monday, March 2, 2026</b>	Comfort Blessings Meeting	1st Floor Conf Room	3:00 PM
<b>Tuesday, March 3, 2026</b>	Living Word Circle	1st Floor Conf Room	11:00 AM
<b>Wednesday, March 4, 2026</b>	Faith Forward	Facebook Live	12:00 PM
	Bible Study	1st Floor Conf. Room	6:00 PM
	Choir Practice	Choir Room	7:00 PM
<b>Thursday, March 5, 2026</b>	Missions Meeting	1st Floor Conf. Room	5:30 PM
<b>Sunday, March 8, 2026</b>	Connections: Sunday School	Various	9:00 AM
	Worship Service	Sanctuary	10:00 AM
	Stations of the Cross Meeting	Fellowship Hall	3:00 PM
	No Great Awakening		
	Lenten Service at Roberta w/meal following	Sanctuary & Fellowship Hall	5:30 - 7:30 PM
<b>Tuesday, March 10, 2026</b>	Living Word Circle	1st Floor Conf Room	11:00 AM
	Lydia Meeting	Fellowship Hall	6:30 PM
<b>Wednesday, March 11, 2026</b>	Faith Forward	Facebook Live	12:00 PM
	Bible Study	1st Floor Conf. Room	6:00 PM
	Choir Practice	Choir Room	7:00 PM
<b>Thursday, March 12, 2026</b>	Roberta Fellowship Group Lunch	Chili's Hwy 29	12:30 PM
<b>Saturday, March 14, 2026</b>	Cemetery Meeting	1st Floor Conf. Rm	10:00 AM
<b>Sunday, March 15, 2026</b>	Connections: Sunday School	Various	9:00 AM
	Worship Service	Sanctuary	10:00 AM
	Roberta Ringers Practice	Bell Room	11:00 AM
	Afternoon Clubs / Holy Motion	2B / Sanctuary	3:30 - 5:00 PM
	Global Methodist Lenten Service	Crossroads	5:30 PM
	No Great Awakening		
<b>Monday, March 16, 2026</b>	Men's Mtg	Fellowship Hall	6:30 PM
<b>Tuesday, March 17, 2026</b>	Roberta Fellowship Group Breakfast	Parkway House, Hwy 29	9:00 AM
	Living Word Circle	1st Floor Conf Room	11:00 AM
<b>Wednesday, March 18, 2026</b>	Faith Forward	Facebook Live	12:00 PM
	Bible Study	1st Floor Conf. Room	6:00 PM
	Choir Practice	Choir Room	7:00 PM
	Easter Cantata & Student-Led Worship		
<b>Friday, March 20, 2026</b>	Dress Rehearsal	Sanctuary	6:00 - 7:30 PM
<b>Sunday, March 22, 2026</b>	Connections: Sunday School	Various	9:00 AM
	Easter Cantata & Student-led Worship (Holy Motion)	Sanctuary	10:00 AM
	Roberta Ringers Practice	Bell Room	11:00 AM
	Global Methodist Lenten Service	Cold Springs GMC	5:30 PM
	No Great Awakening		
<b>Tuesday, March 24, 2026</b>	Living Word Circle	1st Floor Conf Room	11:00 AM
<b>Wednesday, March 25, 2026</b>	Faith Forward	Facebook Live	12:00 PM
	Bible Study	1st Floor Conf. Room	6:00 PM
	Choir Practice	Choir Room	7:00 PM
<b>Saturday, March 28, 2026</b>	Community Easter Egg Hunt!	Fellowship Hall & Grounds	10AM - 12PM
<b>Sunday, March 29, 2026</b>	Connections: Sunday School	Various	9:00 AM
	Worship Service	Sanctuary	10:00 AM
	Roberta Ringers Practice	Bell Room	11:00 AM
	Stations of the Cross Meeting	Fellowship Hall	3:00 PM
	Afternoon Clubs / Holy Motion (5th Sunday Exception)	2B / Welcome Center	3:30 - 5:00 PM
	Global Methodist Lenten Service	Grace GMC	5:30 PM
	No Great Awakening		
<b>Tuesday, March 31, 2026</b>	Living Word Circle	1st Floor Conf Room	11:00 AM

