



# OAK RIDGE

## METHODIST CHURCH

### February 2026 Ridgerunner

Dear Oak Ridge Church Family,

As we move into the month of February, it seems like we jolted past the first month of the year! Time is flying by with all the wonderful ministries happening already in 2026. One of our main areas of focus for 2026 is growing as a disciple of Jesus. This is our commitment to Jesus as our Lord & Savior. We should all continue to make time to spend with God each day. I believe this is so important for a spiritual foundation and growth as a disciple of Jesus Christ.

February is known as the "Love" month because of Valentine's Day. We get cards, candy, and flowers for the people we love; however, we all know that the ultimate love is the unconditional love of Jesus Christ, expressed on the cross for our sins. This unconditional love from God draws us to Him and enables us to turn away from our sin.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 18. We receive ashes on our foreheads to remind us that we were created from the earth, and our bodies will return to the earth, but for those who believe in Jesus will receive a new body in the resurrection from the dead. Lent is a great opportunity for us to reset our lives spiritually with God and prepare our heart and soul for the Easter celebration with the resurrection of Jesus. Join us for our Ash Wednesday service on February 18 at 6:30pm in the Sanctuary.

The day before Ash Wednesday is Shrove Tuesday, also known as Pancake Day. We will have a pancake meal on Tuesday, February 17 from 5 to 7pm in the Fellowship Hall. Shrove Tuesday is the last day before the Christian fasting season of Lent begins. The tradition is that Christians would use up rich foods like eggs, sugar, and flour to make pancakes. It's a day of celebration and indulgence before Lent.

The Sermon Series for Lent will be "Altar'd" the transforming power of surrender by Susan O. Kent. She writes, "We want change, but at what cost? Altars have always represented change. They are the places where sacred space meets our surrender and leads into authentic spiritual transformation. From the beginning of time, God's people have built altars to mark the places where God spoke, gave direction, or gave His blessing. It is the place where God's people surrendered offerings to Him in obedience. In the New Testament, Jesus became that surrendered offering, but He also became the place - in His person - for those who were hurting, lost, and who longed to encounter God." I look forward to leading you in this powerful Lenten journey over these 40 days before Easter.

Take care and God Bless,

Pastor Mike

# MISSION OF THE MONTH

## MONARCH GROUP HOME



The Mission of the Month in February is Monarch/Group Homes. UMAR is now part of Monarch. Monarch is deeply rooted in compassion, dignity and service for special needs adults. The UMAR organization was started in 1983 by Rev. Dr. Bob Pitzer. He wanted parents of special needs adults to have their children in a home-like atmosphere and not live in an institution. He wanted them to have opportunities to work and to show their artistic abilities. The legacy of UMAR will still continue. Our ministry group visits a men's home in Greensboro and visits two women's homes in Winston-Salem. We visit the homes once a month. We do a craft, play bingo and enjoy fellowship.

This past year we had 2 events at our church – a pizza party in May and an indoor “cookout” in August. The ladies and men really look forward to these events. We also went to the Storybook Farm in Reidsville this past year. The ladies and men really enjoyed seeing all the animals. And they particularly loved holding the bunnies. We hope to go again this year. We would appreciate any amount that you can give to this wonderful ministry. In the memo of the check to ORMC, write Monarch/Group homes - you can also donate online. Some of the money is used to buy crafts and games for our monthly visits, food for the two events at our church, and the event at Storybook Farm. We do write a check to the UMAR Legacy Fund at the end of the year and specify that we want the money to help the group homes in Greensboro and Winston-Salem.

This ministry is so very special to me and to those serving in this ministry. We love the special needs adults. They show such unconditional love and the love of Jesus shines from them. Please let me know if you would like to be part of this ministry. We would love others to go visit the Monarch homes in the area. I guarantee you will be blessed!

Lynne Toth

336-681-5936

[lynnetoth@outlook.com](mailto:lynnetoth@outlook.com)







## A Culture of Generosity: Thank You for Your Support

### 2025 Ministry Celebrations

- Welcomed 57 new members including 16 through confirmation into our church community.
- Baptized 19 individuals, celebrating new life and renewed faith.
- Commissioned 4 new Stephen Ministers bringing our total to 12, helping members through difficult life situations.
- Strengthened our youth and children's ministries, with record participation in camps, service projects, and Sunday programs.
- Renovated key facilities with upgraded equipment, creating more welcoming spaces for worship and ministry.
- Supported mission work globally through Empower Guatemala sending 50 people and over \$186,000 for stoves and water filters extending Christ's love far beyond our walls. Additionally, we supported missionary efforts in the Congo with over \$22,000 of support for children to go to school
- Expanded our outreach with over \$15,000 given locally to our monthly mission partners. Our Guilford Backpack Ministry was able to provide food assistance to over 300 children monthly and a special Christmas store opportunity.



# CHILD ACTION INITIATIVE

302 Guy Kalend Golf, Lubumbashi, Haut-Katanga

Democratic Republic of the Congo

Newsletter / October 2025 - December 2025



**Let us rejoice in the Lord always. Philippians 4:4 (NKJV)**

Season's greetings and Merry Christmas! We hope you had a wonderful Advent season as we celebrated the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. "Isn't it amazing that the very God who created the entire universe chose to be born as baby, to live and experience life among us, to give His life for our sins, and to be raised to life so that we might enjoy fellowship with Him forevermore". We hope and pray that we took time to reflect upon the mystery and miracle of the birth of Jesus. As we come to the end of another year, please join us in thanking the Lord for all that He has done in the past year. We also thank the Lord for your prayers and support.

*Here are some praise and prayer points:*

**SCHOOL NEWS:** We thank the Lord for your financial support. After providing school supplies, pairs of shoes to protect 100 children from injury, and soil-borne diseases; and paying monthly fees for 30 vulnerable children, we covered additional expenses including Division of Primary and Secondary education fees. By paying these fees we are securing enrollment and ensuring access to learning without interruption.



**National exams:** Louis and Daniel, Form-Two students, passed the National exams this year. Their academic achievement opened doors to new secondary admissions of four more six grade students. That is a big, exciting step with new subjects, teachers and meeting new friends. With the Lord's grace and your generous support, we are always able to keep children, particularly girls in school; lead to fewer street kids and fostering better community development.

**VOCATIONAL TRAINING:** Teaches girls and boys market-oriented and employable skills: sewing, welding, construction and mechanics. With new practical skills, these learners are making windows and doors for people that help them get money to meet their needs. Trainees in construction skills, helped to build a building around the solar panels well at Amani Home. The purpose, to protect the materials, pumps, pipes from damage and provide a stable, safe structure of accessing the water and ensuring materials longevity.

**SEWING PROGRAM:** "Martha who gained her Certification, currently is volunteering at the center. She trains other girls; and started her tailoring skills; uniform-making business, supporting her brothers and earning a steady income". Practical skills empower individuals, particularly vulnerable young people to achieve financial independence and build self-esteem. Many young people are unemployed, partly because their qualifications do not often match the labor market - why this program is important and part of the solution.

**AMANI HOME:** life in children's home keeps offering a structured, supportive and a sense of belonging as children can't live with their families. We are filled with gratitude and pride as we keep taking care of these young boys. It is meaningful growth of the service we offer through the Ministry, and the impact we make across our community. Children are building strong relationships and socializing. They are assisting themselves academically so that no one will fail. Each child gets support from his roommates on the things which he didn't understand for better performance and progress.

In November, we were honored to receive two visitors from Lubumbashi civic center. They brought food and interacted with children. These reflect our achievement and recognition for the work we do and highlight the growing need for an accessible girls' home.



**Christmas celebration:** during Christmas, Amani children celebrated this special event at Najoth Protestant Center. They were happy as we took them out. They celebrated with other children, fun activities, games and stories of Jesus's birth. These activities were conducted by the guest teacher from Child Evangelism fellowship in Lubumbashi. Besides that, a meal consisting of rice, chips, soup, meat, cookies, drinks, sausages, meat, and cassava leaves pounding with a mortar was provided to each child. It was so exciting as children could spend all day with joy.



**BEV MEDICAL CENTER:** as part of Bev's dream and initiative, this center is currently providing primary care and preventive services through the local Health Zone. Some volunteers such as licensed professionals (doctors, nurses), students community peer educators helped this year with patient care, health education and vaccines to save lives in bringing an end to the pandemic.

**Materials:** microscope, blood pressure monitor, baby scale, few drugs, de-wormers and mosquito nets were donated by the local health Zone. These materials help to address health issues and prevent children from malaria. Although there is still a lot to do, the impression is so positive and needs supportive efforts as many families are benefiting from this structure.



Materials / Reception



Peer educator and women during vaccines



**FARMING:** Amani Children's Home has two areas of farmland which provide for the children and community: a garden immediately outside the walls of home and one separate farm in Fipango Village. The garden includes a variety of crops, onions, maize, amaranth and some bananas. Fipango Farm: 5 hectares have been donated by the local chief to implement children's subsistence farming to resolve malnutrition. So, we started growing cassava and beans this year. Cassava leaves will be used as vegetables and nutritious food. In the future, some will be sold for local incomes.

**Land issue:** as more still needs to be done, some guardians and family members are using some plots of land for growing crops that help them gain income and also help us to protect it.

**Chicken unity:** we managed to start with 20 layers to produce eggs for Amani children so that they can get something to eat. As this activity keeps moving forward, we will be able to start selling some in the future to generate income. We are happy as the lady who is taking care of the home, keeps supervising and cooking for children when they are busy. Children can eat eggs and enjoy their breakfast.

In closing, we would like to thank you for your prayers and financial support. We are so blessed by your faithful support! Together, the dream can be alive. Thanks once again.

*Isaiah Njimbu Chot, Missionary*



# Hello February!



what's going on at ORMC



Mary Martha Circle  
Wednesday, February 11, 2026  
10am in Rm F-219

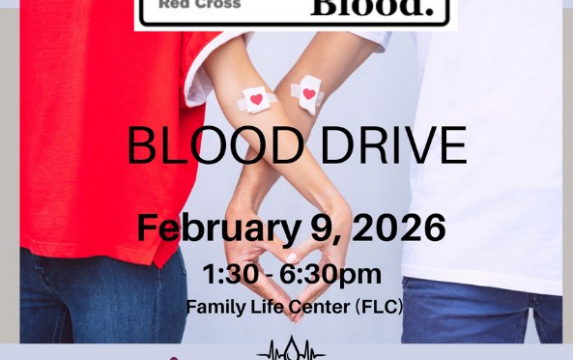


Speaker - Elizabeth Crouch  
Music Director ORMC  
*High Notes and Low Notes*

Please Give Blood.

**BLOOD DRIVE**  
February 9, 2026  
1:30 - 6:30pm  
Family Life Center (FLC)



LOVE

**FELLOWSHIP MEAL**  
**WEDNESDAY,**  
**FEBRUARY 11 @ 6PM**  
**FAMILY LIFE CENTER**

MENU  
Pulled Pork  
Coleslaw / Baked Beans  
Buns  
Desserts

NEWLYWED GAME!

YOU ARE INVITED TO OUR 8<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL

*Daughters of the King*  
*Valentine's Tea*

A SPECIAL GATHERING FOR WOMEN  
AGES 55 AND ABOVE WHO ARE  
SINGLE, WIDOWED, OR CAREGIVING WIVES

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A DELICIOUS BRUNCH,  
FELLOWSHIP, FUN ACTIVITIES, & A SPECIAL GIFT  
JUST FOR YOU!

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13 - 10:00AM-12:00PM

OAK RIDGE METHODIST CHURCH  
FAMILY LIFE CENTER  
(2424 OAK RIDGE RD, OAK RIDGE NC)

RESERVE YOUR SEAT NOW, SPACES ARE LIMITED!

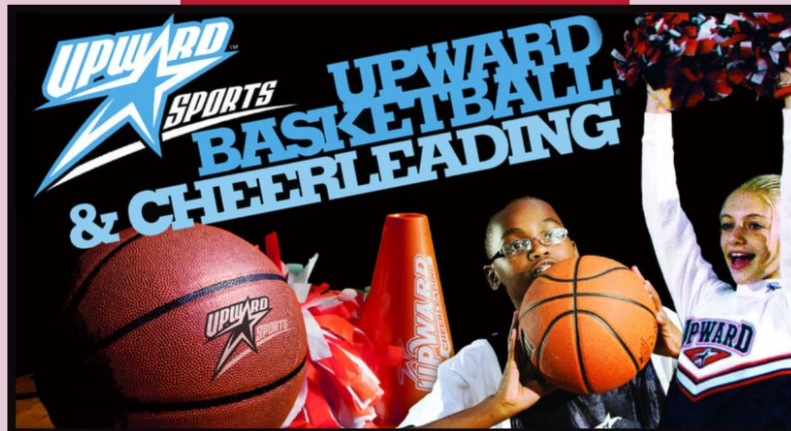
RSVP BY PHONE/TEXT 704-576-8429  
OR EMAIL KJACKSONATHOME@GMAIL.COM

FEEL FREE TO INVITE A FRIEND AND INCLUDE THEM IN YOUR RSVP,  
OR HAVE THEM SUBMIT THEIR OWN RSVP!

*Shrove Tuesday*  
*Pancake Meal*

February 17  
5:00 PM  
Fellowship Hall



**2 basketball leagues (3-4) & (5-6)**

**Practices** - Thursdays (5:45-6:15pm) & Sundays (3 - 3:30pm) or (3:30 to 4pm)

**Games will be held on Saturdays beginning February 14**  
(10am or 11am according to age)

**Cheerleading Practices** - Tuesdays (6 - 7pm)

## Global Methodist Missionary Pastor Moussa Abizar and family



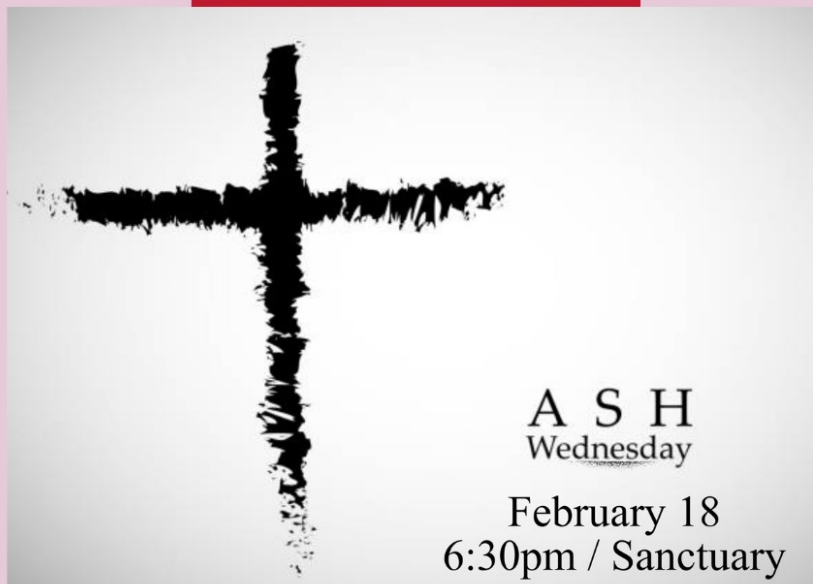
Moussa and wife Christine with their children

Meet a Global Methodist Church Missionary from Algeria. Moussa, and his wife Christine and kids are coming to Mayodan Methodist Church on Sunday, February 15<sup>th</sup> at 5pm.

This will include a potluck meal and special presentation about their amazing ministry. Please let Pastor Mike know if you plan to attend.

We will leave the church at 4:15pm.

There will be a love offering collected.





# Children's Page

## Crafty Afternoon

for 3rd, 4th, 5th Grade

February 11

3:00 PM

Ridge Kids Room



## Parents Night Out

Friday, February 13

6:00 – 8:00 PM



age 3 (and potty trained)–grade 5

← Reservations Required

Oak Ridge Methodist Church

## Easter Eggstravaganza

Sunday, March 22  
2:00 PM

Family Life Center

Easter Stations  
Snacks Egg Hunt  
Candy and more!

## Farm Day at Allen and Larissa Brown's Farm

Free Admission

Saturday, April 25  
10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Free Admission

Transportation available on the  
church bus while spots last!

Trip 1: Leaving the church at 9:00 AM  
Trip 2: Leaving the church at 12:30 PM

2804 Snider Road Yadkinville



## BICYCLE OBSTACLE COURSE

MAY 13

6:30 PM

AFTER WEDNESDAY  
NIGHT MEAL

BACK PARKING LOT

## Save the Date

RAINFEST  
FALLS

Exploring The Nature of God

Vacation Bible School

July 20 - 23

6:00 - 8:00 PM





Practicing  
THE WAY OF  
Jesus

- LEARNING
- PRAYING
- GATHERING
- RESTING
- CONTRIBUTING



## January Recap

January was an amazing month at The Ridge! It also tested our ability to be flexible! Yet, even with the winter weather changing some of our plans, God was faithful in working through our plans and even more faithful in creating His own! Rez Con was the highlight of our month, but this year it looked different! Due to the severe winter weather, we were not able to make the trip to Pigeon Forge, TN for Rez Con, BUT we were able to pivot and have our own Weekend Retreat at the church! With just 48 hours' notice, our leadership team put together an AMAZING weekend retreat for our students, and God showed up in a MIGHTY way! We want to give a special Thank You to our Leadership Team for being the greatest! We cannot to share about this weekend with you on Feb. 8<sup>th</sup> for Youth Sunday!

### Confirmation Schedule

- |               |                |
|---------------|----------------|
| 1. March 1st  | 6. April 19th  |
| 2. March 8th  | 7. April 26th  |
| 3. March 15th | 8. May 3rd     |
| 4. March 22nd | 9. May 10th    |
| 5. April 12th | 10.* May 17th* |
- \*Confirmation Sunday



During both services on February 8th we will have special moments for our students to share and serve. Between services we will host breakfast for students and parents to enjoy and fellowship. Come hungry!



## Confirmation

Believe it or not, it is time for another confirmation class!! It begins March 1<sup>st</sup>! Confirmation Sunday will be on May 17<sup>th</sup>! Visit the church website to sign your student up.

## February 8th

Our youth will be heavily involved in the Sunday morning services. We want to teach them it is still important to set time aside, we encourage our students to take time to spend with family, rest, unplug and reset.



Text @theridgemc to 81010



jon.christ@oakridgemc.org



336-689-5524





**This month on Thursday, 2/19, we have a Middle School Family Outing at Burrito Shak! This is an event for not only our Middle School Students but also their Parents! We want to foster more community for the parents of our Student Ministry! So, please join us for dinner, 6:30pm, at Burrito Shak in Greensboro!**

**tbh.**  
TRUSTED  
BABYSITTING  
HOUSE & PET SITTING

Looking for a babysitter, house or pet sitter?

We have teens and young adults eager to help and earn some extra cash! Text Kristian Christ to arrange services. Interested in becoming a sitter? Text Kristian for next steps. 336-549-0520

## February @ THE RIDGE

- 2/1 - Sunday Night @ The Ridge
- 2/8 - 9am & 11am Youth Sunday Services  
Breakfast @ 10am  
Sabbath Sunday - No Youth
- 2/11 - Community Dinner 6pm
- 2/13 - Parents Night Out Service w/ Children's Min.
- 2/15 - Sunday Night @ The Ridge
- 2/19 - Middle School Family night @ Burrito Shack 6pm  
4016 Battleground Ave
- 2/22 - Sunday Night @ The Ridge

## RIDGE YOUTH LOCK-IN

Drop off Friday, March 13<sup>th</sup> @ 10pm  
Pick up Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup> @ 6am  
Admission: \$35 Register by March 8<sup>th</sup> via Youth Website or Remind Link.  
Come ready to have A LOT of FUN but NO SLEEP!  
\*We will be traveling off site for part of this event!



## march @ THE RIDGE

- 3/1 - Sunday Night @ The Ridge 6-8pm
- 3/8 - Sunday Night @ The Ridge 6-8pm
- 3-11 - Community Dinner 6pm
- 3/13-3/14 - Ridge Lock-in & Theme Night
- 3/15 - Sabbath Sunday NO YOUTH
- 3/22 - Ridge Lunch & Serve @ Easter Eggstravaganza
- 3/29 - Sunday Night @ The Ridge 6-8pm



# Guatemala Mission Trips 2025



## **Contribution Statements**

**Contribution statements have been mailed.  
If you have not received your statement by February 15,  
please contact Monica in the Church office.**

**[monica.bogle@oakridgemc.org](mailto:monica.bogle@oakridgemc.org)  
336.643.4690 ext.218**

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## **ORUMC Staff Church Office / 336-643-4690**

**Senior Pastor**, Rev. Mike Carr, [mike.carr@oakridgemc.org](mailto:mike.carr@oakridgemc.org), 336-643-4690 ext. 205 / cell 704-574-0888

**Pastor of Visitation**, Tony Dowdy, [tony.dowdy@oakridgemc.org](mailto:tony.dowdy@oakridgemc.org)

**Youth Pastor**, Jon Christ, [jon.christ@oakridgemc.org](mailto:jon.christ@oakridgemc.org), ext. 204

**Director, Children & Family Ministries**, Larissa Brown, [larissa.brown@oakridgemc.org](mailto:larissa.brown@oakridgemc.org), ext. 203

**Director, Choir**, Elizabeth Crouch, [elizabeth.crouch@oakridgemc.org](mailto:elizabeth.crouch@oakridgemc.org), ext. 289

**Accompanist**, Lynn Gordon, [lynn.gordon@oakridgemc.org](mailto:lynn.gordon@oakridgemc.org)

**Praise Band Worship Leader**, Jessie Gillie, [jessie.gillie@oakridgemc.org](mailto:jessie.gillie@oakridgemc.org)

**AV and Media Producer**, David Dudley, [david.dudley@oakridgemc.org](mailto:david.dudley@oakridgemc.org)

**Director, Weekday School**, Jamie Hatchell, Director, [jamie.hatchell@oakridgemc.org](mailto:jamie.hatchell@oakridgemc.org) ext. 208

**Director, Congregational Engagement**, Bev Miller, [bev.miller@oakridgemc.org](mailto:bev.miller@oakridgemc.org), ext. 220

**Director, Finance**, Monica Bogle, [monica.bogle@oakridgemc.org](mailto:monica.bogle@oakridgemc.org), ext. 218

**Manager, Facilities**, Jack Polakowski, [jack.polakowski@oakridgemc.org](mailto:jack.polakowski@oakridgemc.org), ext. 219

**Sr. Pastor's Assistant/Scheduling & Membership Coordinator**, Phyllis Rowe, [phyllis.rowe@oakridgemc.org](mailto:phyllis.rowe@oakridgemc.org), ext. 211

**Ministry Support Assistant**, Tara Blake, [tara.blake@oakridgemc.org](mailto:tara.blake@oakridgemc.org), ext. 201