



OAK RIDGE

METHODIST CHURCH

July 2026 Ridgerunner

Dear Oak Ridge Church Family,

The summertime fun is in full swing! So far, we've had our church-wide kickball game and Worship in the Park. We attended the NC Annual Conference of the Global Methodist Church. The theme of the conference was "Sent: Called, Equipped, and Commissioned." We will have our General Conference in September this year in South Africa with 24 delegates, 12 laity and 12 clergy, from our conference attend. Please continue to pray for the Global Methodist Church.

Coming up in July, we have even more things happening at the church! On Sunday, July 12 we will have our Annual Ice Cream Social at 3pm in the Family Life Center. Please sign up to make homemade ice cream or bring some already made. After we eat ice cream, we invite everyone to join us behind the church to play a fun game of wiffleball. It will be a lot of fun and fellowship!

Always a big event at Oak Ridge Methodist Church is our Community Vacation Bible School, July 20-23 from 6-8pm! We want to have as many children as possible to come and learn about Jesus, so we need many hands! We need more people to sign up to help, and Larissa would love to have you. The theme is Exploring the nature of God. "Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! His faithful love endures forever" Psalm 136:1. I just love this theme so much. It speaks to me and I hope that it speaks to you. Take care and God Bless,

Pastor Mike

North Carolina Global Methodist Annual Conference

June 17 - 20, 2026

Pastor Mike and I attended the North Carolina 2026 Annual Conference in Winston-Salem. The theme for this year was "Sent." We are all sent to make disciples for Jesus Christ.

"God saves us by grace; God sends us with grace."

First, let me say the worship services were amazing, inspiring, and truly worshipful. The music and speakers were outstanding. The excitement in the audience/congregation was contagious. Of course, business was conducted. Most votes had to do with clarifying some of the wording in our Book of Discipline. All the motions passed unanimously.

Two things to note happening in our conference:

- 1-Bishop Greenway is retiring this year. The General Conference is in Johannesburg, South Africa August 30 - September 5 this year and will elect the new bishop for North Carolina.
- 2-Rev. David Banks is stepping down as Superintendent of the North Carolina conference and Rev. Kari Howard will be our new Superintendent starting July 1.

A few interesting facts:

Currently there are 402 Global Methodist Churches in North Carolina. The goal is to grow 3% a year; ie: start 12 to 13 new churches each year in North Carolina. Worldwide we are over 7,600 Global Methodist Churches and growing. We are in Africa, Asia, Europe, Eurasia, Latin America, and USA.

The conference was very worshipful, inspiring, uplifting, and "sent" to make disciples for Jesus Christ. I close with the Global Methodist Church Mission Statement: The Global Methodist Church exists to make disciples of Jesus Christ and spread scriptural holiness across the globe."

Billy Gardner, Lay Delegate, Church Representative

Mission of the Month

Mission of the Month: The ORMC Africa University Scholarship

The goal of the Africa University Scholarship mission is simple yet profound: to empower students to attend and graduate from Africa University, equipping them with the education and leadership skills needed to build a better life for their communities.

Meeting Our Student: Celine Diseng

The ORMC Africa University Scholarship mission is currently supporting Celine Diseng, an inspiring student who has just completed her recent semester and is now entering her final year.

Celine is studying **Health Services Management** with a deep interest in epidemiology. Her field of study focuses on the determinants, occurrence, and distribution of health and disease within defined populations—critical work for the future of public health in Africa. Through her training, she aims to organize community education programs so people can learn to identify, understand, and avoid conditions that cause disease.

Beyond the classroom, Africa University provides Celine with a rich cultural experience, allowing her to live and study alongside classmates and roommates from diverse national and cultural backgrounds. Celine extends her heartfelt thanks to all of her donors. She hopes to repay this generosity by using her education to directly uplift and serve her countrymen when she returns home to the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

Changing Lives, One Student at a Time

The students supported by this mission have no other means of obtaining a college degree. The financial support ORMC provides does more than pay for classes; it enables students to build sustainable careers, support themselves, and lift up their families.

We have seen amazing fruit produced by the graduates we have supported in the past. While there are countless brilliant potential students who need support—far more than we can fund at once—we know that by providing a scholarship to one student at a time, many lives are forever changed.

Our Goal: Helping Celine Cross the Finish Line

We are fully committed to helping Celine earn her degree by covering her final tuition and expenses.

- **The Cost:** Tuition, room, board, and miscellaneous fees total approximately **\$3,200 per semester**.
- **Additional Needs:** Funding also covers essential travel between the DRC and Zimbabwe, alongside minor academic expenses.
- **Our Target:** Factoring in the current balance in our Africa University account, we have set a fundraising goal of **\$5,000.00**. This amount will fully secure the remainder of Celine's education.

How You Can Help

Please join us in serving God in Africa by investing in Celine's future. Your generosity directly empowers a future healthcare leader.

To Donate: Please write "**AU Fund**" in the memo line of your check or digital donation designation.



Celine Diseng



Generosity in Action

Stewardship 2026

The Hands and Hearts Behind Our Ministry

When people think about church ministry, they often think of pastors, sermons, and Sunday worship. But every week at Oak Ridge Methodist Church, dozens of faithful servants quietly make ministry happen.

They greet visitors, assist with service, teach children, mentor youth, prepare meals, sing in the choir, operate technology, build ramps, visit those in need, care for our campus, lead mission projects, and pray faithfully for our congregation.

Their service is a powerful example of Generosity in Action.



Our Volunteers:

- ♥ Welcome guests and members
- 📖 Teach children, youth, and adults
- 🎵 Share musical gifts in worship
- 🎥 Run sound, video, and livestream ministries
- 🙏 Pray for our church and community
- 🤝 Serve through missions and outreach
- 🏠 Care for our buildings and grounds
- ☕ Provide hospitality and fellowship opportunities
- 👥 Lead committees and ministry teams



Shoes & Socks *Update!*



- Total pairs distributed 160
- Total beneficiaries reached 160

DISTRIBUTION BREAKDOWN

- Location of distribution: Kasungami, and Kanyaka
- Target audience: students from primary and secondary school (vulnerable children)
- Shoe types distributed: new shoes

FINANCIAL DETAILS

Value received: \$ 4800

- Cost per pair including sock: \$ 30
- Cost (value) for 160 pairs: $160 \times \$ 30 = \$ 4800$
- Total expenses: \$ 4800

Comments:

- It required shoes to be delivered and schedule according to children's school programs
- We are thankful and proud of this big number. The pairs distributed represent so many of these children's stories.

Health benefits

- Keeps reducing incidence of foot infections, jiggers, and injuries

Education impact

- The distribution keeps increasing school attendance especially during the rainy season, improving self-esteem, and social acceptance

Thank you so much. Children have expressed their thanks to the donors and all of you. God bless you.

By Isaiah



Welcome!

NEW MEMBERS & BAPTISMS



KAIDEN LEIGH KREIDLER
BAPTIZED JUNE 21, 2026
PARENTS - BRIAN & KAYLEIGH



PHILLIP, LAUREN & ALLIE DIXON
JOINED APRIL 19, 2026



HOLY BAPTISM
JACK HOLSTON CAMPBELL
PARENTS - MATT & MEGAN
SISTER - ELLIOT
JUNE 28, 2026



TRACY & CHARLOTTE MATHENA
JOINED APRIL 26, 2026



HOLY BAPTISM
CHARLOTTE SMITH
PARENTS - AARON AND MANDY
APRIL 19, 2026



KIMBERLI & BRIAN BULLARD
JOINED MAY 31, 2026



HOLY BAPTISM
JACKSON CHARLES MARTIN
PARENTS - MATT & RACHEL
MAY 31, 2026

Men's Event at Spinder Farm



ORMC Men's Fellowship Event at Jim Spinder's Place in Madison.
This event was attended 33 men, shooters and non-shooters. These events are a great place to be mentors, be mentored and teach us all to be "fishers of men", in our everyday lives. I've learned that being a follower is a blessing to be enjoyed all the time, not just on Sunday. -Karl Hassler

Worship In the Park



Jed Hampton, one of our college graduates has received a calling from God to serve in ministry with Young Life outside Richmond, Virginia. Please keep him in your prayers.



Congratulations!
Thank you to everyone that makes our Weekday School the best.
Recently awarded the NC Five-Star Center License

Children's Ministry

Celebrating Weekday School VBS



Coming
Soon....



**Vacation
Bible
School
July 20-23
6:00-8:00 PM**



Practicing
THE WAY OF
Jesus

- LEARNING
- PRAYING
- GATHERING
- RESTING
- CONTRIBUTING



June was another wonderful month in the life of The Ridge Student Ministry, and our NEW Young Adult Ministry, The Gathering! We kicked off the summer with a great Graduation Sunday recognition and followed it up with our signature Summer Kick-Off Paint War! We continued our fun-filled June with our church-wide Grasshoppers baseball game, as well as our annual Ridge Carowinds trip! We look forward to many more opportunities for fun this summer! We also started our Young Adult Ministry, The Gathering, at our new home on Thursday evenings! We have developed a great group of young adults and have already enjoyed great discussions together!

Community YOUTH NIGHT

JULY 19, 5-8PM



*Come ready for a great night filled with Food,
Worship, The Word, and Water Games!
(Make sure to bring clothes you can get wet in!)*

Oak Ridge Methodist Church
2424 Oak Ridge Rd.

CONTRIBUTING



PRACTICING THE
WAY OF JESUS

We are sponsoring Field day on
July 13th for Glenwood
Together! We will meet at the
church at 11:30am and will
return at 3pm! Let Pastor Jon
know you are coming!



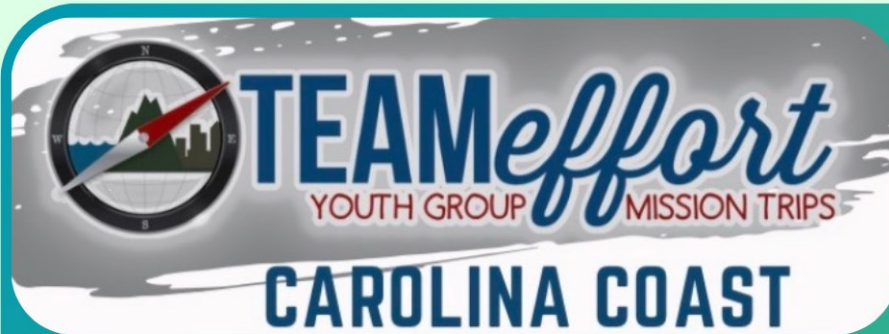
Text @theridgemc to 81010



jon.christ@oakridgemc.org



336-689-5524



CAMP DATES

We will be joining TeamEffort this year for a Costal Carolina Mission Trip/Camp! The dates are **July 26th - 31st**! Sign-ups ARE LIVE on Realm! We have limited spots, so get registered ASAP & get ready for an AMAZING and spiritually impactful week!



SABBATH SUNDAY

Rest | Practicing the way of Jesus

On July 5th we will have a Sabbath Sunday. We want to encourage our students to take time to spend with their families and to rest!

SUMMER Bible Study

THE RIDGE

Let's grow together!

WEDNESDAY'S 10:30am

June 17th - August 19th
in the Youth Room

Family Nights

A night to invite us into your lives for memories that last!

Reach out to Pastor Jon or Kristian to schedule your Family Night!



SUMMER SCHEDULE

TEXT @THERIDGEMC TO 81010 FOR UPDATES

JUNE

- 07** Summer Kick-Off PAINT WAR
- 14** Grasshoppers Game
- 21** Sabbath Sunday
- 24** Carowinds
- 28** Water Day

JULY

- 05** Sabbath Sunday
- 12** Ridge Youth Night
- 13** Field Day @ Glenwood
- 19** Community Youth Night
- 26** Leave for Camp (Sabbath Sunday)

AUGUST

- 02** Sabbath Sunday
- 09** Hoover Pool Party
- 16** Family Kickball or Wiffleball
- 21** NW Football Tailgate
- 23** Sabbath Sunday
- 30** 6th graders first Ridge Youth Night

The Gathering



A Young Adult Gathering for the purpose of Connecting, Growing and Living!

We are starting a Young Adult Gathering!
Who: 18-25 year olds
When: Thursday Nights
@ 7pm Starting June 4th

Where: 3335 Mill Spring Ct. Greensboro, NC 27410

Come join us and invite a friend! We hope to see you there!



Methodist Women District Meeting



Did you know?

**THE CHURCH IS NOT BUILT BY A FEW
PEOPLE DOING EVERYTHING. IT IS
BUILT BY MANY PEOPLE DOING
SOMETHING.**