



OAK RIDGE

METHODIST CHURCH

2026 Ridgerunner

HELLO
June

Dear Oak Ridge Church Family,

As the month of June arrives, we can hear summer knocking on the door! School is coming to an end and we are planning to celebrate our high school & college graduates on the first Sunday of June at both services. We will also be celebrating Holy Communion. We are praying for all the students and teachers to have a great end of school year!

This month we have several Holy Baptisms and a Blessing of a Child. We all know that Holy Baptism is a sacrament just like Holy Communion. We emphasize the importance for baptizing babies as a sign of God's prevenient grace and God's love for us before we even knew God or understood love. Some parents choose to delay having their child baptized until the child is older and makes the decision to be baptized. So, in addition to Holy Baptism, we will have a Blessing of a Child with anointing oil and laying on of hands. I am grateful that we as a church family can come together and commit to love and nurture each child here at Oak Ridge Methodist Church!

Also, this month is our North Carolina Annual Conference of the Global Methodist Church that will be at the Benton Convention Center in Winston-Salem June 17-20. The theme for the Annual Conference is SENT = Called, Equipped, Commissioned - John 20:21. There are several speakers and breakout sessions on Thursday and Friday. Everyone is welcome to attend. Billy Gardner is our Lay Delegate to represent our church. Thursday night worship at 7pm, Bishop Carolyn Moore is preaching. Friday night worship at 7pm, Rev. Dr. Tom Mabry is preaching. Saturday morning worship at 10am Bishop Jeff Greenway is preaching and ordaining the new pastors. Check out the schedule and more information by going to this website: <https://ncglobalmethodist.org/2026-nc-annual-conference/>

There are a lot of exciting things happening here at the church over the summer. Please check out all the information in this newsletter and the Weekly Runner to find ways to get involved and connect with others here at our church.

Take care and God Bless,

Pastor Mike



MISSION OF THE MONTH

CHILD ACTION INITIATIVE



Mission of the Month: Empowering Futures Through Child Action Initiative

This June, our church is shining a spotlight on Child Action Initiative (CAI), an inspiring ministry led by Isaiah Njimbu Chot that provides a lifeline to students in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Our goal is bold and beautiful: to raise enough support to assist 30 children, ensuring that financial barriers do not stand in the way of their education or their future.

Bridging the Gap to Education

For many families, the obstacle to education isn't a lack of desire — it's a lack of resources. Tuition fees, essential supplies and uniforms are simply out of reach. A gift of **\$300** provides these basic requirements that a child needs to attend school for the entire year.

A Foundation for Adulthood

The impact of this ministry reaches far beyond the classroom. Education is one of the strongest paths out of poverty, opening doors to future employment, stability, and dignity.

CAI also equips students with **vocational training** while they are in high school, helping them develop practical skills in areas such as trades and technical work. These hands-on opportunities prepare young people to step into adulthood as confident, capable contributors to their communities.

How You Can Support This Mission

Photos of our 30 students will be available during Sunday morning worship throughout June. If you fully or partially support a student, please feel free to take a picture.

We are dreaming big. Reaching our goal of **30 scholarships** means changing the trajectory of 30 lives — and, by extension, their families and communities.

We invite you to prayerfully consider how you can help us reach this goal:

- **Fund a Student's Year** — A gift of \$300 covers tuition fees, supplies and uniforms for one child.
- **Collaborate to Give** — Any amount moves us closer to supporting all 30 children.
- **Designate Your Gift** — Whether giving online or in person, mark your donation for CAI school children.

Together, we can provide the essentials these students need to stay in school, grow in their skills, and step confidently into the future God has prepared for them.

GENEROSITY IN ACTION

Oak Ridge Methodist Church Family Life Center Journey

It is hard for most of our current members to think about Oak Ridge Methodist Church without the Family Life Center.

For 13 years, our Family Life Center has been a cornerstone of our church, a place where faith, fellowship, and service intertwine.

MAJOR MILESTONE AHEAD!

THE FAMILY LIFE CENTER LOAN WILL BE REDUCED TO UNDER \$1 MILLION

The dream of a dedicated space for community outreach and enrichment began in 2010. We were rapidly running out of space with 1494 members and 494 average Sunday attendance. Space was desperately needed for Sunday School classrooms and a center for families and youth to meet for worship, sports, large gatherings, entertainment and community missions like the Guilford Backpack Ministry.

Through tireless dedication, prayer, and strong leadership by Rev Michael Kurtz, the first Capital Stewardship Campaign called “Growing to Serve” kicked off in 2010 with a goal of \$1.2 million over three years to begin construction of the new building. The Family Life Center was opened in 2014 at a cost of \$4.35 million. It took a great leap of faith by dedicated and generous members to make such an investment. Steady giving under the theme, “Not an equal share, but an equal sacrifice.”, has lowered our loan balance to where we are today.

The Spirit of Generosity Continues

Today, the Oak Ridge Methodist Church Family Life Center stands as a proud legacy of generosity and faithful stewardship. Our most recent three-year capital campaign “Catch the Vision” and the “Matching Gift” campaign of the past year have been a success that reflects the spirit of generosity and dedication to the mission and growth of our church.

Oak Ridge Methodist Church began 2022 with a FLC loan balance of \$2.4 million, and through April of this year, we hold \$1.2 million in debt on this loan. Our church members are committed through the “Catch the Vision” campaign to give another \$267,665 by the end of 2026. **YOUR COMMITMENTS WILL BRING OUR LOAN BALANCE TO UNDER \$1 MILLION DOLLARS BY THE END OF THIS YEAR!**

WOULDN'T IT BE GREAT IF WE COULD ACCELERATE OUR 2026 CATCH THE VISION GIVING TO HAVE THE MILLION DOLLAR MARK BROKEN BY HOMECOMING ON SEPTEMBER 27, 2026?

This church has a history of doing big things and all things are possible with God.

Looking Ahead

As we reflect on our journey, we also look forward with excitement to the retirement of this loan. We hope to celebrate the \$1 million dollar milestone at Homecoming this year. The Family Life Center is poised to continue its mission of service, expanding its reach and deepening its impact. We thank and are grateful for all the leaders, volunteers, and donors who have allowed us to reach this million dollar milestone. We are also thankful for future giving to eliminate this debt. Our operating budget does not contain funds for capital projects. We ask for your prayers and will be announcing further ways to showcase our generosity in action to see this campaign through to the end and beyond. Visionary leaders of ORMC are already thinking about current needs and future growth of our facilities to meet the expected growth of our congregation. We owe so much to the former members who made the commitment to build the Family Life Center years ago and those of us who have benefited from their vision.







The Goal

Can you Imagine the future?
Pray-this is the first and most important step in preparing your heart to respond to God's call to action. Ask Him what He would have you give to help others realize God's miracle. Listen to what He says.

Consider the sacrifice-Trust God to provide what He impresses you to give, even if the amount is greater than the resources you can readily identify. Our vision for reaching and teaching is God-given and we cannot out-give God! Our own sacrificial giving is honoring to God in light of the ultimate sacrifice of His Son.

Pledge-Write down what God calls you to give. Then have anyone making the decision with you to separately do the same. Then join hands, pray, and share what God has put in your hearts to give.


*"Lord,
 What do YOU want to
 through me?"*

Imagine the Future

The Problem

- Limited Small Group/ Sunday School meeting space
- Inadequate Fellowship space
- No indoor recreation area to host community outreach, youth ministries or family activities
- Current debt/Interest Payments

The Solution

- Increase number of classrooms
- Construct Family Life Building to create new ministries to reach out to the community and make disciples
- Include family activities in plan
- 3 Year Stewardship journey to raise \$1,500,000 to pay off existing debt and begin next phase of 20 year plan.

My Potential Giving		
WEEKLY	MONTHLY	3-YEAR TOTAL
\$50.00	\$216.67	\$78,000.00
\$450.00	\$1,950.00	\$70,200.00
\$400.00	\$1,733.33	\$62,400.00
\$350.00	\$1,516.67	\$54,600.00
\$300.00	\$1,200.00	\$46,800.00
\$250.00	\$1,083.33	\$39,000.00
\$225.00	\$975.00	\$35,100.00
\$200.00	\$866.67	\$31,200.00
\$175.00	\$758.33	\$27,300.00
\$150.00	\$650.00	\$23,400.00
\$125.00	\$541.67	\$19,500.00
\$100.00	\$433.33	\$15,600.00
\$90.00	\$390.00	\$14,040.00
\$75.00	\$325.00	\$11,700.00
\$50.00	\$216.67	\$7,800.00
\$35.00	\$151.67	\$5,460.00
\$25.00	\$108.33	\$3,900.00
\$15.00	\$65.00	\$2,340.00
\$10.00	\$43.33	\$1,560.00

"I will sacrifice a freewill offering to you, I will praise your name, O Lord, For it is good."
 Psalm 54:6

*...Our Vision
 ~ His Miracle*

Did you know?

THE FAMILY LIFE CENTER COST 4.1 MILLION DOLLARS IN 2014. IT WOULD COST 8.2 MILLION TODAY.



Children's Ministry

Celebrating Bike Day



Save the Date

**RAINFOREST
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



May Recap

May was a wonderful month full of celebration! We were honored to be able to have 3 of our students be Confirmed (Jason Bull, Chelsey Robert and Emery Gabalda), and 1 student (Emery Gabalda) be baptized! We also were able to honor our 2 High School senior graduates (Sarah Allen and Jacob Sumner) who mean more to this student ministry than they could ever know! We were also blessed with the opportunity to serve Glenwood Together by cleaning and organizing in their building, while also cleaning up outside the building and at their local park! Thank You to all who came to help us serve this amazing community and wonderful ministry!



Family Funday Sunday

June 14
2:00 PM

Tickets \$25 (1st 50 people)
\$34 after first 50 people

(Includes all-you-can eat buffet and seat)

You MUST pre-register for this event by June 5th to join! Please scan the QR code to make a profile, register, and pay! Hope to see you at the game!



SABBATH SUNDAY

Rest | Practicing the way of Jesus

THE RIDGE GOES TO
CAROWINDS

JUNE 24TH, 8AM - 9PM. (TIME HOME IS FLEXIBLE)

PURCHASE TICKETS ON THE CAROWINDS WEBSITE. SIGN-UP BY JUNE 23RD, AND LET ME KNOW WHEN YOU REGISTER FOR TRANSPORTATION PURPOSES. SEND STUDENTS WITH EXTRA MONEY FOR FOOD IF YOU DO NOT PURCHASE A FOOD AND BEVERAGE PACKAGE.



You MUST purchase your ticket by the 23rd, and let me know you are coming for transportation purposes! They are running a special right now for tickets and food on the Carowinds Website!

6/21

On Father's Day we will have a Sabbath Sunday. We want to encourage our students to take time to spend with their Fathers and Father figures!



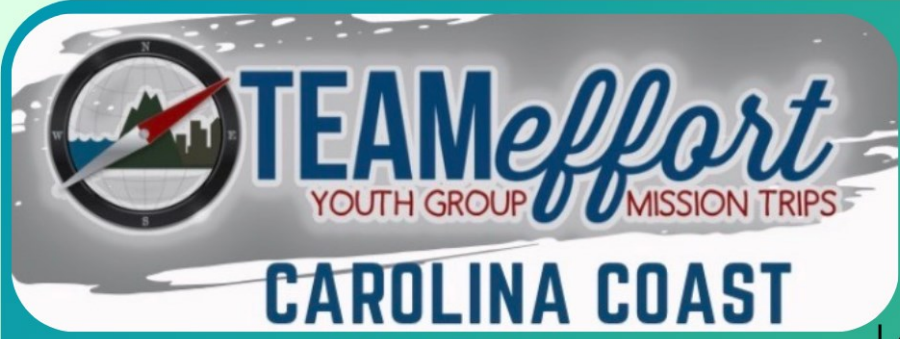
Text @theridgemc to 81010



jon.christ@oakridgemc.org



336-689-5524



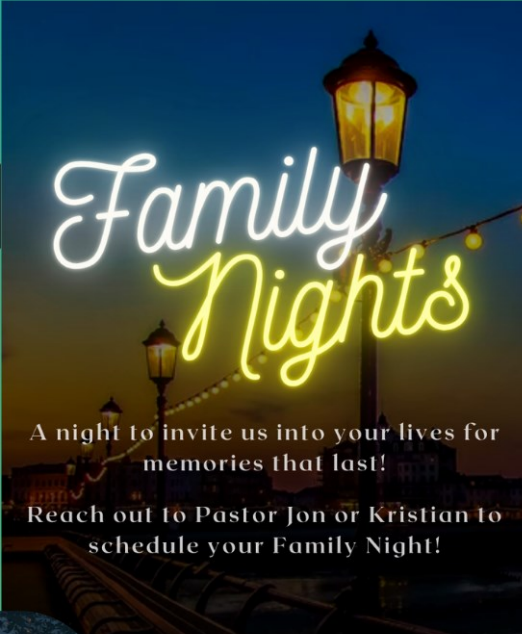
CAMP DATES

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!

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



THE RIDGE SUMMER SCHEDULE

TEXT @THERIDGEMC TO 81010 FOR UPDATES

JUNE		JULY	
07	Summer Kick-Off PAINT WAR	05	Sabbath Sunday
14	Grasshoppers Game	12	Ridge Youth Night
21	Sabbath Sunday	13	Field Day @ Glenwood
24	Carowinds	19	Community Youth Night
28	Water Day	26	Leave for Camp (Sabbath Sunday)
AUGUST			
02	Sabbath Sunday	21	NW Football Tailgate
09	Hoover Pool Party	23	Sabbath Sunday
16	Family Kickball or Wiffleball	30	6 th graders first Ridge Youth Night



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 27310
Come join us and invite a friend! We hope to see you there!



WHAT JESUS MEANS TO ME

“Jesus means love and a guide for life so I can live it right and he also keeps me full of his love so I’m not full of sin” Jason Bull



“To me, Jesus is someone to believe in when I feel lost or hopeless. Jesus is someone I can talk to when I feel lonely. Jesus isn’t just someone to pray to, Jesus is my friend, a friend who’s always here for me and always will be here for me through the highs and lows.” Emery Galbalda



“Jesus, to me, is the Light in the dark, the Blood in our veins, and the Sculptor of the clay. Through this journey of Confirmation, He has been sculpting and molding me to be more like Him! When I was in the darkest cave, He has been the lantern to lead me through. If He had not helped me through the cave, I would still be in it!” Chelsey Robert