



OAK RIDGE

METHODIST CHURCH

March 2026 Ridgerunner

Dear Oak Ridge Church Family,

Coming back from the Guatemala Mission trip at the end of January and what I would like to call the "whiplash" of February; we now find ourselves in the month of March. As a kid growing up, March seemed to last forever, and I heard this statement over and over again, "March comes in like a lion and out like a lamb, or it will come in like a lamb and out like a lion." I don't know if you have ever heard that, but in Pennsylvania it was really true because it is related to the weather. Almost every year the month would start with bad or good weather and then at the end of the month it would be the complete opposite.

The Lenten journey that Jesus is inviting us on over these 40 days, not counting Sundays, might feel like a long journey. The month of March is going to feel very long compared to February. Well, actually not just feel, but really 3 days longer. Easter Sunday is going to feel like it is never coming. However, my hope is that you accept this journey with Jesus every day and spend time at the altar with Jesus. You don't need to focus on what you need to do or check things on a list. Just be in the presence of God at the altar. Allow God to come into your heart and soul to 'altar' your life to surrender and reset our eyes on Him. There is a transforming power of the Holy Spirit that is life changing, and I hope and pray that you will experience that this month knowing there is a great celebration coming. Please let me know if you would like to receive the Daily Lenten devotion "Altar'd" by Susan Kent. It focuses on scripture, devotion, and questions for you to think about.

The altar is always open, and God is waiting to spend time with you because He loves you. Will you make space and take time to be with God each day during Lent? I hope that you respond with "Yes!"

Take care and God Bless,

Pastor Mike



Mission of the Month

March 2026



SOCKS AND SHOES FOR
ISAIAH'S KIDS



The Journey of a Thousand Miles Begins with One Pair of Shoes

Take a moment to glance at the “shoe graveyard” by your front door—or the rows of footwear in your closet. From gym sneakers and rain boots to polished Sunday shoes, most of us have more pairs than we can count. For us, shoes are a matter of style or convenience.

In Kasungami and Kanyaka, a pair of shoes is a shield.

The Walk to School

Picture the path to a better life. For students of the Child Action Initiative (CAI), that path is both symbolic and real—stretching across rocky ground, blistering pavement, and slippery mud. Without shoes, every step risks cuts, infections, and injury.

For these children, school is a cherished privilege—one many of their parents never knew. In our classrooms, students aren't just learning to read; they're building futures. Young men train in welding, plumbing, and block-making. Young women learn the craft of sewing.

They understand what's at stake. Without education, the options are few: the mines, the streets, or worse. But it's hard to chase a dream when your feet are bleeding from the walk that takes you there.

The Legacy

We continue a beautiful legacy. The joy on a child's face at Amani Children's Home when they receive a simple pair of socks and sturdy shoes is unforgettable—a reminder that even the smallest gift can make a profound difference.

Our Goal: 100 Smiles

This year, we aim to provide new socks and shoes to 100 children. Yet the need is greater—there's a “reserve list” of little ones who come to us with hope in their eyes, praying there might be just one more pair left. We want to reach every single one.

The Cost

Just \$30 supplies a child with a new pair of socks and shoes.

The Impact

You're protecting a student from injury, restoring dignity, and paving the literal road to their future.

Whether you sponsor one child or five, you're answering a prayer. Thank you for being the hands and feet of Christ for the children of Kasungami and Kanyaka.

With heartfelt gratitude and blessings,

Isaiah

Child Action Initiative

2025 Finance Wrap Up

We are pleased to share our condensed statement of activities, reflecting the careful financial management of our church. Through diligent stewardship, we have maintained strong fiscal health.

To our ministries and staff: Thank you for being excellent stewards of the resources entrusted to us. Your dedication has enabled us to set \$25,000 aside for future capital improvements.



Condensed Statement of Activities

Revenue: \$1,121,847 | Budgeted Expenses: \$1,003,693 | Net Surplus: \$118,154

Ministry Programs: \$499,969 | Administrative: \$231,377 | Facilities: \$272,347

These figures demonstrate our commitment to maximizing every dollar for Kingdom impact while maintaining operational excellence.



Debt Reduction

We were able to decrease the Family Life Center loan by over \$536,000 with your generous gifts to the Catch the Vision campaign including a donor match of \$250,000.



Did you know?

**FIRST TIME VISITORS TO OUR CHURCH
MAKE UP THEIR MINDS WITHIN SEVEN
MINUTES WHETHER
THEY'RE GOING TO RETURN**



GUILFORD BACKPACK MINISTRY
 FEEDING STUDENTS IN
 NORTHERN & NORTHWEST AREA SCHOOLS



OUR AUGUST – DECEMBER 2025 IMPACT

350

Average Number of Students Served

39,804 lbs

Food Distributed

53,489

Items Received

During the first half of the school year, Guilford Backpack Ministry provided consistent food support to hundreds of students across Northern and Northwest Guilford County, helping ensure children arrive at school ready to learn.



FOOD DISTRIBUTION SNAPSHOT

47,483

Items Distributed



16,402

Collected by Food Drives



26,782

Donated by Lowe's Foods



CHRISTMAS STORE HIGHLIGHTS

106

Families Served

311

Children Supported

JOY

Delivered!

Families received jackets, sweatshirts, sweaters, pants, gift cards, books, toys, fresh produce, and non-perishable food to help children thrive during winter break.



MONETARY SUPPORT 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR

8

Major Donors

\$53,000

Donations Received July-December '25

11

Schools Our Ministry Serves



OUR PRINCIPAL DONORS

Cone Health \$10,000
 Kontoor Brands \$7,000
 Oak Ridge Methodist Church
 \$6,000

Bank of Oak Ridge \$3,427.98
 Aerosphere Aviation \$2,000 Northern
 Guilford Athletic Booster Club
 \$956

United Way of High Point \$641.52
 Stokesdale UMC \$500

8TH ANNUAL
DAUGHTERS OF THE KING
VALENTINE TEA



Children's Ministry

Celebrating

Parents Night Out



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

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

RAINFOREST FALLS

Exploring the Wonders of God

Vacation Bible School

July 20-23
6:00-8:00 PM



Practicing THE WAY OF Jesus

- LEARNING
- PRAYING
- GATHERING
- RESTING
- CONTRIBUTING



February Recap

February was a great month in the life of The Ridge Student Ministry! Although we were out several times due to winter weather, we still made the most of the month we had! We had an AMAZING Youth Sunday service! We are so proud of our students and the wonderful job they need leading and participating in our services! From leading worship to the Children's Sermon, to reading scripture, Ushering, Greeting, and everything in between, our students served and did a wonderful job! We also were able to help Larrissa and our families by serving at our Parents Night Out! Another highlight from this month our Middle School Family Outing where we were able to not only get our MS Students together but also their Parents!

RIDGE YOUTH LOCK-IN

Drop off Friday, March 13th @ 10pm
 Pick up Saturday, March 14th @ 6am
 Admission: \$35 Register by March 8th 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!



SABBATH SUNDAY

Rest | Practicing the way of Jesus

Lock-In
 Our Ridge Lock-In is just around the corner! Please get signed up ASAP! The cost is \$35, and you can register via the church website! We also need written permission from parents for students who plan to drive themselves home after the Lock-In!

On March 22nd, we will have a Ridge Lunch after the 11am service! This will be a time of fun and fellowship together! Then we will help set up, execute, and tear down for our church Eggstravaganza! So, come ready to help, eat, and have fun!

March 15th

Due to our Lock-In on March 13th - 14th, we will be having a Sabbath Sunday on March 15th. We want to 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

\$405
PER PERSON

TRUETT
Conference Center & Camp

-  Spiritual Investment
-  Top-Notch Recreation
-  White Water Rafting Trip
-  Mission Projects
-  Truett Program Kit
-  Church Group Photo



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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

WE HAVE CAMP DATES!

We will be going to Truett Camp again this year! The dates are **June 21st - 26th**! Sign-ups will be live soon! So please be on the lookout for that! mark your calendars and get ready for an **AMAZING** and spiritually impactful week!

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

SPRING
YOUTH NIGHT

FREE COMMUNITY FAITHFILLED EVENT

Join us for an evening of games, fellowship, food and dessert, a short message, prizes, and worship music!



APRIL 11, 2026
4:00 - 7:00 PM

HOSTED AT: Liberty Wesleyan Church
15303 US HWY 158
Summerfield, NC 27358



FOR QUESTIONS, RSVP, AND HOW YOU CAN HELP MAKE THIS NIGHT A SUCCESS FOR OUR COMMUNITY YOUTH - TEXT 828-467-5213

April
@ THE RIDGE

- 4/5 -Sabbath Sunday NO Youth
- 4/11 - Community Youth Night 4-7pm (This is an offsite event with other Youth Groups)
- 4/17 - High School Outing
- 4/19 - Theme Night @ The Ridge 6-8pm
- 4/26 - Sunday Night @ The Ridge 6-8pm

Welcome!

NEW MEMBERS & BAPTISMS



DANNY AND JUDY LONG
JOINED DECEMBER 7, 2025



STEVE AND BETH JOHNSON
JOINED OCTOBER 19, 2025



MADELINE AND MCKENZIE JORDAN
PARENTS - KEVIN AND KARRIE / BROTHER HAYDEN
BAPTIZED FEBRUARY 22, 2026

SCOUTING FOR FOOD



THIS is what community looks like. Yesterday was a LONG but blessed day- Scouting for Food for the BSA and Cub Scouts in partnership with the Guilford Backpack Ministry at Oak Ridge Methodist Church all day, then the pinewood derby in the evening (see Cub Scout Pack 130 Oak Ridge, NC page for those pics). We are EVER SO THANKFUL for our community partners:

- All the grocery store managers that allowed our Scouts to collect food outside their stores (and especially those that allowed the Scouts to go into the lobby when it felt like 8 degrees with the windchill).
- Guilford Backpack Ministry and their kind volunteers who devoted their day to organizing our haul into their stock as it came in throughout the day.
- Our biggest supporter, Oak Ridge Methodist Church, that is so generous with their facility and grounds.
- The leaders and parents who braved the cold to supervise our scouts.
- ALL THE GREAT PEOPLE in our community who generously donated food and cash to support kids whose parents are having trouble putting food on the table.
- The grocery store owner who shared his Scouting badges with some of our Scouts and their parents, told them about his Scouting experience and how it impacted his life, and donated food to the cause.

In total, the Scouts collected 2,090 food items and \$882.55

GREAT JOB, FOLKS. IT TAKES A VILLAGE and we are glad that all of you are part of ours.



ORUMC Staff

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