



OAK RIDGE

METHODIST CHURCH



Dear Oak Ridge Church Family,

It is soon to be October, and the temperature will be dropping; the leaves will change color and fall to the ground. October is also our Stewardship month, where the sermon series will be focused on "Generosity in Action". There will be Stewardship videos during the service that focus on the theme for that Sunday. You hopefully have already received your Stewardship letter and Commitment Card for 2027. It is really good information that will show you how well we are doing financially here at Oak Ridge Methodist Church. Your "Generosity in Action" makes this possible, and I see so many examples all around the church. One example is not only does this church give over and beyond their tithes and offerings to support the church budget, but also gives to support a different mission of the month that may be local, regional, or international. Every time a goal has been set this church continues to give to reach that goal and beyond. Another example is reducing the debt to the Family Life Center Loan. When I first got here, it was around \$2.5 million and now we are celebrating it being under \$1 million. That is absolutely amazing and all glory to God.

Thank you so much for everyone who continues to commit your Prayers, Presence, Gifts, Service, and Witness as you live out these membership vows. Let us all pray about what God is calling us to commit in 2027 in supporting the budget. The Catch the Vision Campaign is coming to a close at the end of this year, and we are moving the Family Life Center Loan Principal payment into the Church Budget. We need to pay at least \$150,000 each year on the principal. We are able to achieve this goal because of all your "Generosity in Action". Thank you again and may we all see how God is working here at Oak Ridge Methodist Church and into our community as we focus on God's Truth, Grace and Love.

Also, this month we will have our Wednesday Night Fellowship Meal on Oct. 14 at 6pm, followed by pumpkin carving for the children and families. The children will learn about how God is calling us all to be jack-o-lanterns spreading the light of Christ out in the world.

Remember that Commitment Sunday will be on Sunday, Oct. 25 where you will be invited to bring your commitment cards forward to the prayer rail or you can place them in the offering plate. If you can't attend, you can fill it out online or you can always bring by the church office any time. I am excited about what God has planned for our church. I hope you are just as excited as I am!

Take care and God Bless, Pastor Mike



FINANCE NEWS



Stewardship Month: Generosity in Action

When most people hear the word stewardship, they often think about budgets, pledge cards, and financial commitments. While stewardship certainly includes how we use our financial resources, Scripture paints a much larger and more beautiful picture. Stewardship begins with a simple truth: everything we have belongs to God.

This October, our stewardship series, Generosity in Action, will invite us to explore what it means to live as faithful stewards of the gifts God has entrusted to us. Building on this focus, we will spend four weeks reflecting on gratitude, trust, generosity, and commitment.

In Week 1, we begin with Psalm 24:1: "The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it." Before we can talk about giving, we must first recognize that God is the owner of it all. Our time, abilities, relationships, possessions, and resources are gifts entrusted to our care. Stewardship is not about asking, "How much should I give?" Instead, it is asking, "How does God want me to manage what He has given me?"

Week 2 challenges us to consider what receives first place in our lives. Proverbs remind us to honor the Lord with our first fruits, not our leftovers. Whether it's our calendar, our attention, our prayers, or our finances, putting God first is an act of trust.

Week 3 focuses on the joy of generosity. When King David and the people of Israel gave toward the building of the Temple, they did so willingly and joyfully. Their giving became an act of worship. Gratitude has a way of opening our hands and our hearts, and generosity often inspires generosity in others.

Finally, Week 4 reminds us that stewardship is ultimately about trust. Through the prophet Malachi, God calls His people back into a faithful relationship with Him. The invitation is not a financial formula but a spiritual journey. As we learn to trust God more fully, we discover again and again that God remains faithful.

Throughout this month, we invite you to take part in these weekly challenges: thanking God for everyday blessings, putting Him first in a new way, finding opportunities to bless others, and trusting Him more deeply with your future. Stewardship is not about what God wants from us. It is about what God wants for us: hearts that are grateful, lives that are generous, and faith that trusts Him completely.

May we enter this season with open hands, faithful hearts, and a renewed commitment to God's mission through His church.

Grace and Peace,
Your Stewardship Team

**GUILFORD
BACKPACK
MINISTRY**

**MISSION
OF THE
MONTH**



Volunteer Fall '26 Newsletter

Guilford Backpack Ministry

Guilford Backpack Ministry is a 100% volunteer 501(c)3 non-profit Ministry of Oak Ridge Methodist Church whose mission is to provide food and basic necessities to students in need in northern and northwest Guilford County area schools. Every week during the school year, we provide bags of nutritious, easy-to-prepare, shelf-stable food to close the weekend food gap for local students.

Feeding Students

We have so many opportunities throughout the school year for you to get involved and make a difference! Each week, a group gathers at Oak Ridge Methodist Church to pack food for students in our community who are experiencing food insecurity. Any donation helps and will make a meaningful impact for our students and their families.

Let's kick off the school year by giving back! We'd love for you to donate here: [GBM Monetary Donations](#)

Our Impact

Summer '26, we gave out over 3,700 pounds of food, with 134 distributions!
June: 867 lbs, 37 served
July: 1,074 lbs, 45 served
August: 1,831 lbs, 52 served

Remember:

\$500 - feeds a child for a year
\$250 - provides Christmas Store gifts: Pants, Shirt, Sweater/Sweatshirt, Jacket, Toy, Book, Toiletries
\$50 - provides a child snacks for a year

The Christmas Store

Each holiday season, we host a very special donation drive to support The Christmas Store, giving families in the Guilford Backpack Ministry the opportunity to shop for Christmas gifts completely free of charge for all of their children, from newborns through age 18.

These families are part of our local community and attend schools throughout Northern and Northwest Guilford County. Your generosity helps make the holiday season a little brighter and ensures that every child has something special to unwrap on Christmas morning.

[GBM Christmas Store Monetary Donation](#)

Our Christmas Store is scheduled for December 12th and more information will be coming soon about volunteer opportunities and ways you can organize your own donation drive to help support The Christmas Store!

Contact Info:

Please feel free to contact us at anytime during the school year:

[Our Site](#)

[Volunteer](#)

[Donate](#)

GuilfordBackpackMinistry@gmail.com



SCOUT TROOP 139



Oak Ridge Methodist Church Family,

Troop 139 would like to update you on the youth ministry that you are supporting through our group. We currently have 50 active youth members who are supported by nine Scoutmasters and many other adults who participate as merit badge counselors, advancement coordinators, etc. Over the summer, 28 members attended summer camp at Camp Raven Knob, working on merit badges related to water sports, technology, nature exploration, health and safety, and much more. Thirteen members participated in a 16-day adventure to Philmont Scout Ranch in Cimarron, NM. Scouts pushed themselves to their limits, backpacking over 115 miles in 11 days to amazing elevations, carrying packs weighing about 50 lbs. Along the way, they learned survival skills and participated in activities like rock climbing, horseback riding, and pole climbing. Feedback from this trip included: "This was the single most amazing thing that I have ever done! I learned so much and did more than I thought I ever could." and "At first it seemed so hard and I was exhausted but as we neared the finish line, I didn't want it to end."

During the past year, three Scouts finished their service projects and attained Eagle rank and we currently have four more Scouts working their Eagle projects. The troop participates in Scouting for Food, Triad Honor Flights, and laying flags for Veterans as well as many other service projects.

We continue to travel monthly and upcoming destinations include Cherokee Scout Reservation, Morrow Mountain State Park, and Washington DC (where we even get to tour the Pentagon). Weekend trips conclude Sunday mornings with a campsite church service. We continue to be thankful for the lessons that Scouting teaches both our Scouts and their adult leaders. We are ever thankful for the beautiful creation that God has given us and the Sanctuary that we often find on the top of a mountain, the canopy above our campfire, or the company of good friends. Many thanks for everything that you do to support our Scouts!

Yours in Service!

Jenny Knesel

Committee Chair, Troop 139

CHILD ACTION INITIATIVE

302 Guy Kalend Golf, Lubumbashi, Haut-Katanga
Democratic Republic of the Congo

Newsletter July - September 2026

Dear church family, greetings from your CAI family in the DRC. We thank God every time we remember you. We always pray with joy for all you do—your faithful prayers and financial support.

Much has happened since our last newsletter, but the highlight has undoubtedly been watching how God is moving in quiet, unexpected ways. We have seen God's grace sustain us, and we are eager to share how He has shown up through the work we do together.

Giving is never about abundance; it is about faith. Helping those in need is a profound act of kindness that can transform lives and bring hope to those in despair. Every gesture you make continues to make a big difference. Helping the needy not only uplifts them but also fosters a sense of unity and humanity in society. "When we help others, we create a ripple effect of goodness that inspires more people to care and contribute to a better world."

The official closing of the 2025–2026 school year in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) took place on Thursday, July 2, 2026. Thirty children under the program received official report cards upon the year's conclusion. The children had school closing ceremonies to mark the end of the year. Groundbreaking ceremonies were also held, with numerous local dignitaries and community leaders present for the celebration.



This marked the transition to a break and to the next grade level. We praise God that six female students received certificates, honors, and special mentions for their progress throughout the year. Several significant developments have occurred because of your love, compassion, and sacrifice.

Summer Holidays: After the school year closed, we established experimental summer activities that combined practical learning in sewing and soap making. This practical learning was conducted by two volunteer instructors in collaboration with three former students who graduated from vocational training this academic year.

The learning program, held three times per week, included creativity and the improvement of motor skills to help the children relax and gain different work experiences during the school break. Children were categorized by skill level and age groups, ranging from quick hand-sewing crafts to beginner-friendly machine sewing. This exceptional summer program included many CAI girls from Kasungami and Kanyaka, teaching them practical life skills such as making African fabrics, shirts, skirts, pants, and various other items. It also helped them stay curious, gain business skills, build practical habits, and prepare for the upcoming school year without the heavy pressure of traditional classes.

In addition, it attracted many young people, as summer holidays often leave youth with unstructured time, which can be risky. The program prevents isolation, provides a constructive hobby, and helps them build friendships and receive mentorship from instructors. It also helps them maintain an academic and productive mindset, reducing the likelihood that they will drop out when the school year starts.

Summer activities went far beyond traditional textbooks to explore practical skills and creative business dreams. As part of this initiative, the children stepped into the Lubumbashi lab to learn the chemistry of handmade soap making, from measuring organic ingredients to calculating precise formulas. They participated in practical soap-making sessions to prepare them for a future filled with additional job skills. This was exciting, as they learned to make laundry detergent, bath soap, bar soap, and antiseptic soap, which will also help them earn pocket money in the future.

Blocks: A group of schoolboys turned hands-on block making into a lifeline for food and other needs. By manufacturing and selling cement building blocks, this boy-led initiative raised funds to restock and purchase essential food and personal supplies for the Amani children. They volunteered during the summer to mix, mold, and cure cement blocks. Local contractors and community members stepped in to purchase the materials made by the boys,

praising the blocks for their durability and affordable pricing. This could be even more productive with a well-organized delivery system, which remains one of our challenges.

We are truly thankful that our students successfully mixed, poured, and laid over 500 blocks to help build concrete block bollards at the main entrance of the project site. One of them said, "We wanted to use our hands to build something meaningful. We are happy that making cement blocks also helps us put dinner on the table and cover some of our incidental needs. We thank God for that."



Teaching girls to make donuts was another fantastic, engaging summer activity that built confidence, practical kitchen skills, and math concepts like measurements and proportions. This enabled our students to kick off the summer holidays with a delicious and creative activity: making custom donuts to celebrate the end of the school term. The activity combined art, teamwork, and, most importantly, lots of fun.

School Supplies Distribution Ceremony: This was a special event where school backpacks, uniforms, notebooks, writing tools, and learning materials were handed out to 40 children to kick off the academic year. As part of the key elements of the distribution ceremony's opening remarks, local community members shared motivational words to encourage the children and thank the donors. "These events help ease the financial burden on families who cannot afford supplies, reduce

dropout rates, and build children's confidence as they start classes," said the chief's representative.



Next Term Outlook: The subsequent 2026–2027 school year officially launched on September 1, 2026, operating under a multi-tiered health restriction system to combat active Ebola outbreaks. Although Katanga Province and Lubumbashi (including Kasungami and Kanyaka) have no declared cases, we continue to emphasize hygienic preventive measures, such as handwashing, to help protect the school children in particular.

Meeting Minutes: On September 15, 2026, the ORMC and CAI Mission held an online quarterly meeting that covered several areas. Participating in this meeting were Mike Carr (ORMC Senior Pastor), Max Kern and Patty Elkins (co-chairs of the ORMC Missions Team) and Isaiah. The meeting focused on mission updates and information regarding the GMC General Conference held in South Africa. The opening prayer was led by Pastor Mike. It touched our hearts, and we thank God for it, as it was very special for the mission work we do.

Please pray for the children, financial security, health, dormitory facilities for the girls, and supervisory facilities in Kasungami and Kanyaka.

Special thanks from Eddie and Yvette for your mission support. Nothing could be done without your precious gifts. Eddie managed to assist at the project site, and Yvette assisted with vegetables at the Amani Center as part of her garden activities. We praise God that Eddie is now a final-year high school student with expectations to start his college or university studies soon.

Thank you all for your prayers and faithful support. May God continue to bless you with His peace and good health.

Isaiah Njimbu

Child Action Initiative

ORMC Children's Ministry Celebrating Snow Cone Day



Coming Soon...

Faith and Craft Hour



Ridge Kids Room
3:00 PM

PreK: October 7
Grades K-1: October 21
Grades 2-3: November 18
Grades 4-5: December 2

TRUNK or TREAT



Sunday, October 25
3-5 PM
Back Parking Lot



Practicing
THE WAY OF
Jesus

- LEARNING
- PRAYING
- GATHERING
- RESTING
- CONTRIBUTING

September RECAP

September was an AMAZING month where we kicked off our official 2026-27 Ridge Youth year! Our Kick-off Tailgate was a HUGE success and TONS of fun! We had almost 80 total people at our Tailgate between students, parents, and family! We have two main focuses this year for The Ridge! First is the Family! We want to connect our families, and especially parents, together so they can experience the same family atmosphere that we have created amongst their students! Our second focus is our "Theme" for the year which is, "Who's Your One?" In short, this theme is all about Multiplicative Discipleship! Fulfilling the Great Commission the way we often read about Jesus fulfilling it, one disciple at a time! Relational Discipleship is at the heart of this! Building trust and being vulnerable with one person so they can see Jesus in, and through, us!



RDGE HIGH SCHOOL BONFIRE

Enjoy s'mores, music and more around the fire!

**Saturday, October 31st
9:00-11:00pm**

Oak Ridge Methodist Church
2424 Oak Ridge Rd.
Oak Ridge, NC 27310



WE NEED YOUR HELP!



TRUNK OR TREAT BUS (TOY STORY)

This year for the Trunk-Or-Treat Bus, The Ridge Youth are doing a Toy Story themed Bus! BUT, we need YOUR help to make it happen! We are having several work days in order to get everything done that is necessary for the bus! PLEASE join us in making this the BEST Bus yet!

Work Day Schedule is:

**Sunday, Oct. 4th: 8:30-10:30am &
5:00-6:30pm**

**Thursday, Oct. 15th: 4:30-7:00pm
(Dinner will be provided)**

**Sunday Oct. 18th: 8:30-10:30am &
5:00-6:30pm**

***Saturday, Oct. 24th: TBD
(If there is any final work left!)**



Text @theridgemc to 81010



jon.christ@oakridgemc.org



336-689-5524

OCTOBER @THE RIDGE

10/4 - Sunday Night @ The Ridge
10/9-10/11 - FALL RETREAT
10/18 - Sunday Night @ The Ridge
10/25 - Trunk or Treat (TOY STORY)
10/31 - HS Hang

NOVEMBER @THE RIDGE

11/1 - Sunday Night @ The Ridge
11/8 - Sunday Night @ The Ridge
11/15 - FRIENDSGIVING*
11/22 - Family Serve
11/29 - Sabbath Sunday

DECEMBER @THE RIDGE

12/5 - Glenwood Christmas Shop
12/6 - CHRISTMAS PARTY*
12/12 - Stokesdale Christmas Parade
12/13 - Sunday Night @ The Ridge
12/20 - Tanglewood Hayride
12/27 - Sabbath Sunday

SAVE THE DATE!!!

Parents Night Out!
A Parents ONLY event!

Friday, November 6th

More details to come!



Concession Volunteers Needed

Northern High School
Friday, October 2 Football Game

2-hour shifts

(6pm - 8pm)
(8pm - 10pm)

Come serve the community and represent
our church



October

Please Give Blood.
American Red Cross

BLOOD DRIVE

October 12, 2026
1:30 - 6:30pm
Family Life Center (FLC)

Wednesday Fellowship Dinner



October 14 @ 6pm



HAMBURGERS/HOTDOGS
BAKED BEANS AND CHIPS

Adults - \$5
Kids Eat Free



Sign-up on Church
Center app



Please contact Glenda Hassler at (770) 778-9709
gkhasler@hotmail.com for details.

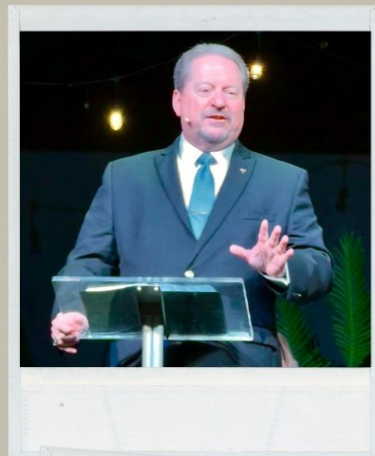


Pumpkin Carving at 6:30pm!



SAVE THE DATE!

BRUNSWICK STEW
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14



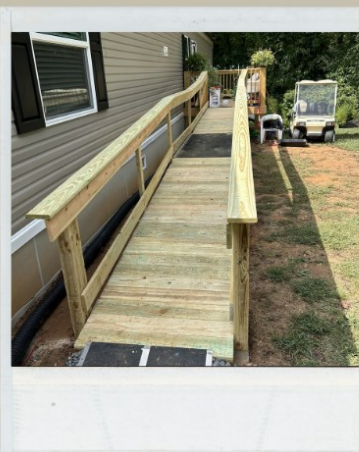
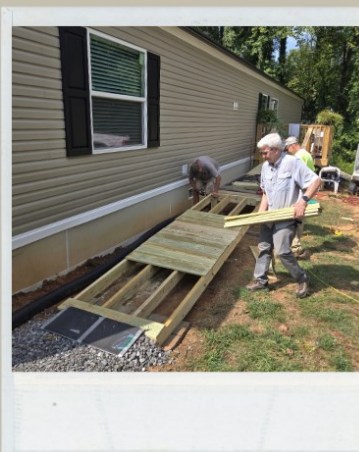
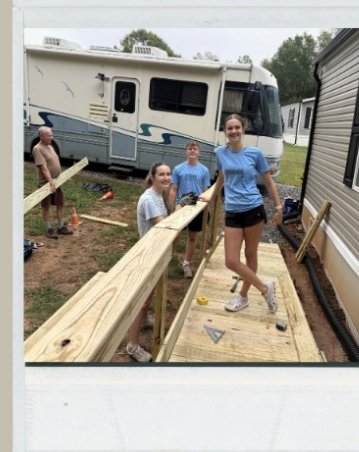




3rd Grade Bibles



Ramp Project



New Members & Newly Baptized

Welcome!



AJ AND ANNA SENSABAUGH
JOINED SEPTEMBER 20, 2026



CARMINE AND DIANE SPERANZA
JOINED SEPTEMBER 13, 2026



BRIAN AND KAYLEIGH KREIDLER
SON KAIDEN BAPTIZED



BOB AND HOPE HAGMAN
JOINED JULY 12, 2026



Did you know?

**1 OF EVERY 2 PEOPLE IN GUILFORD
COUNTY IS NOT PART OF A RELIGIOUS
CONGREGATION. OUR MISSION FIELD IS
RIGHT OUTSIDE OUR DOORS.**

ORMC Staff

Church Office / 336-643-4690

Senior Pastor, Rev. Mike Carr, mike.carr@oakridgemc.org, 336-643-4690 ext. 205 / cell 704-574-0888

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Youth Pastor, Jon Christ, jon.christ@oakridgemc.org, 336-643-4690

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