

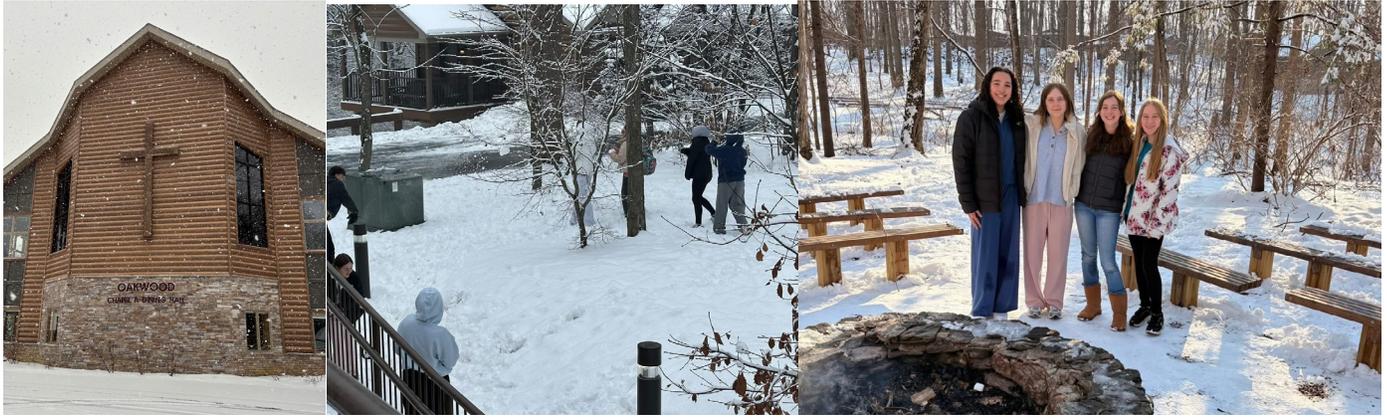
NEW RIDGE
FELLOWSHIP

QUARTERLY

December 2025 - February 2026
Issue 7

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NR STUDENTS WINTER RETREAT By Brynn Schmidt

“This will finally be the year where snow doesn’t mess up our plans” is what I told myself the week of the 2026 Annual Students Winter Retreat.

The past two years we have had to cut our weekend short because of snow making travel difficult. However, the forecast appeared to be clear this year, how exciting! It seemed as though a stress-inducing snowstorm was not in the cards this year. This certainly would have been an answered prayer for me, and the bus drivers! However, an unforeseen snowstorm would end up being the highlight of the weekend for many of the students after all.

Upon arrival and check in, there was a bit of a mix up with the camp’s schedule. Usually during free time, we are given a two-hour time block to play in the gym. But this year, the gym slot had accidentally been scheduled for before our arrival. This was not going to be ideal to say the least. We had over 50 students with us and 5 hours of free time to kill on Saturday. We had plenty of relaxed activities planned, but many students would be looking for a way to run around and get rid of some extra energy. Suddenly, the once perfectly clear radar suddenly changed and called for a big snowstorm beginning Saturday morning. While I was in the midst of panicking about the mix up, God was providing a solution to the problem. My prayers immediately shifted from begging God to keep the snow away to ‘please God let it snow a foot tomorrow!’. And boy, did God deliver!

We woke the next morning to a thick layer of snow with a lot more on the way. Quickly, my fears of there not being enough to do during free time were dispelled as everyone looked forward to a giant snowball fight that afternoon. And it was a snowball fight of epic proportions! I mean, who doesn’t love a good old fashioned snowball fight? It’s not often that a group of 7th grade girls and senior boys are participating in the same activity and enjoying it together. However, if you

put them in a snowstorm and give them a few snowballs and it’s a completely different story. So many students who usually don’t interact were able to get together and enjoy a great afternoon of pelting each other with snowballs. It was a picture of unity and fun for our group. I am so grateful that it snowed.

One of our middle school leaders, Tonya Stone, was part of the snowball fight with a few of her small group girls. She recalls that snowball fight to be a wonderful moment of inclusion for everyone. She especially loved watching a few of the high school boys go out of their way to include her girls in the snowball fight. She notes that the boys weren’t asked to do this but decided to on their own and the effect that it had on the girls was visible. Tonya said: “You could just see these huge smiles on each girl’s face and hear them laughing. Each girl looked so happy to just be out there and be included with the older kids”.

To some, it was just a snowstorm and a fun snowball fight, but for others this snow meant so much more. This snowball fight was a powerful reminder that God always has a plan. He can use an unplanned snowstorm not only to prevent some boredom after a scheduling mishap, but he can also use it to bring a group of people together. He can use a few high school boys and some snowballs to teach those younger girls that they have a place in our youth group and that they matter. God’s plan really is quite beautiful. So even though it snowed again on Sunday and our travel plans to get home were delayed, it didn’t matter- because this year all of the snow was a gift from God meant to bring unity to the student ministry.

THE RESPONSE CREW WORK CONTINUES

By Jay Kratz

The recent significant snowfall required the NR Response Crew to pivot: a refocus, not a standdown. Instead of pruning bushes, clearing debris, and spreading mulch, our team shifted to shoveling sidewalks, scraping ice, spreading salt, and plowing driveways.

While the tasks changed, our mission did not. We serve for one reason: to honor God by being the Hands and Feet of Jesus - consistently living out our commitment to be For Our Neighbors.

Through our relationships with state and local officials, along with our Response Crew volunteers and supporters, we were directed to families who were in desperate need of assistance.

Response Crew is able to bless these families because the ministry is blessed with the resources, equipment and volunteers willing to serve in His name, For Our Neighbors.



"I never knew there were organizations like this."

"I don't know what we were going to do. I couldn't find anyone who could help."

"My snowblower broke down - I could not have done this by myself."

"I thought I was going to be stuck here until it melted."

In total, 19 families were helped in the aftermath of the snowfall. Here are a few of the individuals we were honored to serve:

- A wheelchair-bound husband and wife, unable to get to the curb for medical transport pickup
- A gentleman in his 50s recovering from a recent double hip replacement, living on an unplowed private road
- A recent widow with a long, oversized, unplowed driveway
- A gentleman in his 70s living on a 200-yard unpaved driveway, facing frozen pipes and a broken-down truck - we plowed his driveway and delivered drinking water and food
- A woman with a serious medical condition who was snowed in and unable to get to an urgent doctor's appointment

NR MEN: IT'S NOT JUST BREAKFAST By Mark Eliasson

For those who remember getting a phone call from Al Loughery reminding you about breakfast at the diner, we're gathering again in that same room at the Limerick Diner. This monthly breakfast is a time to slow down and connect. We share what's happening in our lives, the highs and the lows, and encourage one another along the way. That steady rhythm of showing up for each other builds real friendships and a bond that makes us look forward to the next month.

If you've never joined us, this is your invitation. Come hungry and bring a friend. To learn more about NR Men's Ministry, visit our website under "Groups." You can also find each breakfast listed on the Events page.

EXCITING NEWS FOR CREATIVE MOMENTS!

By Natasha Turczynski

Creative Moments has been in operation for 30 years and for the first time ever will be opening a Pennsylvania Department of Education accredited full day Kindergarten. With Boyertown Area School District only offering half-day Kindergarten, this gives the community a chance to pick what works best for their family. The class is being taught by a PA certified teacher using PA Kindergarten state standards while also allowing the students a chance to strengthen their walk with Jesus. The Full day Kindergarten class will run from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. with Lunch and Snack provided.

Creative Moments is also excited to bring back our School Age running program! This fun and motivating program encourages children to stay active while also building healthy habits. As participants run, they'll log every lap they complete and earn sneaker charms along the way to celebrate their progress one step at a time.

If you spot our runners in action, now you know what they're up to! Give them a cheer as they go by and help us support their energy, effort, and enthusiasm for staying active.

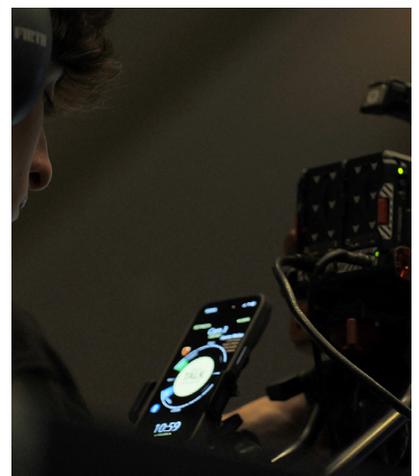
A NEW ERA FOR THE NEW RIDGE TECH TEAM By Eric Cicale

The New Ridge Tech Team is stepping boldly into a new year defined by creativity, precision, and a reimagined approach to worship production.

What's ahead is more than just a list of upgrades, it's the start of a unified vision where filmmaking, broadcast strategy, and immersive worship environments come together in purposeful excellence. And with growth comes opportunity: this is the perfect time for new hands, eyes, and hearts to join the team. We're not just capturing what happens on stage—we're telling a story that helps people encounter God.

While our visual systems are stepping into a more cinematic future, our audio operations are undergoing an equally transformative evolution. This year, the New Ridge Tech Team is investing into our live sound workflows—ensuring clarity, creativity, and consistency from the first note of worship to the final rendering shared online. Our goal isn't audio excellence for excellence's sake. It's about creating an atmosphere where people can worship without distraction and experience God more fully. And it's about sharing that same experience beyond our walls—edifying our church body and spreading the message of Christ throughout our community.

If you are interested joining the Tech Team, drop us an email at ericc@newridgefellowship.com



LIFE GROUPS IN ACTION: WHY CHILDCARE MATTERS

By Debi Coutts

During our recent church-wide Nehemiah study, we saw first hand how powerful Life Groups can be, especially for families. Our Family Life Group meets Friday evenings from 6:00–8:00 pm at the main church, and for many parents, being able to attend simply wouldn't be possible without childcare.

One family shared how meaningful this has been for them:

"For so many years it simply was not in the cards for us due to child care concerns. We have built friendships and are much more connected with others around the church as a result. It's also been great to see our kids building friendships beyond Sunday mornings. None of this would be possible without volunteers willing to watch our little ones."

— The Beals

Another parent echoed that same gratitude:

"This group has helped me feel more connected to our church and grow in my relationship with God. It's something I look forward to each week. Volunteers who help with childcare make it possible for parents like me to fully participate."

— Katie Shrawder

These stories remind us that childcare isn't just a helpful extra—it's what makes Life Groups accessible for many families. When volunteers step in to care for children, parents are able to show up, engage, and grow in community and faith.

We're thankful for a church that values families and for the volunteers who make this kind of ministry possible. If you've ever considered helping with childcare, know that your time truly makes a difference in the lives of families and in the life of our church.



My wife and I, and our 3 kids, have felt blessed getting to come to the Friday night Bible Study at church. I would say that most of the families I became close with started with this Bible Study. I met dads who I could connect with outside of church and this study. I see them all the time, and I get to know them and how they're doing in life. To be honest, it was a little awkward at first meeting new people, but we've grown closer together.

Our kids LOVE seeing the other kids, and they truly are all bonding well together. They see each other at church, but also at school. They play together and are good influences as they become better friends. It reinforces the good in themselves seeing their "church" friends at school, on the baseball field, in orchestra, etc. - Dan Childers



Beal Family



Shrawder Family

CELEBRATING THE HEART OF NR KIDS: OUR VOLUNTEERS (AND THEIR FAMILIES!) By Amy Dilabio

New Ridge Kids wouldn't be what it is without our incredible volunteers. Week after week, they show up early, serve with joy, and pour into the lives of our children—helping them learn, grow, and experience the good news of Jesus in meaningful ways. Their faithfulness is the heartbeat of our ministry, and we are deeply grateful.

But behind every volunteer is often a family who also serves in quiet, sacrificial ways. When someone volunteers, their family gives too. That might look like sitting separately during worship, arriving early so a loved one can serve, or getting kids ready for church solo. These behind-the-scenes sacrifices make ministry possible, and we want our families to know how seen and appreciated they are.

To celebrate this shared commitment, we recently hosted a New Ridge Kids Volunteer Family Pizza & Bowling Party—a chance for spouses and children to join in the fun and be celebrated alongside our volunteers. It was a joy-filled evening of laughter, friendly competition, and plenty of strikes... and for some of us (me included), a few memorable gutter balls! More than the scores, what stood out was the sense of community—being together as a family of volunteers with a shared heart for reaching children and helping them know the love of Jesus.

Thank you to every volunteer and every family member who supports them. Your generosity of time, energy, and love is making a lasting impact on the next generation. We're better together, and we're grateful to be on this mission with you.

Here are a few photos from our evening together—what a great night celebrating community!



NR WOMEN: WHERE CONNECTIONS ARE MADE

By Debbie Madden

New Ridge Women is a thriving ministry at New Ridge Fellowship where women encourage one another and embrace the unique gifts God has given each of us. Together, we learn through a shared journey toward Christ while building deeper, meaningful relationships. We invite all women to join us for fellowship, encouragement, and spiritual growth.

Throughout the year, we host special events designed to foster connection and joy. Last September, we gathered at the North Campus for an end-of-summer picnic featuring hamburgers, hot dogs, delicious sides, scrumptious desserts, and wonderful fellowship. In January, we enjoyed a lively line-dancing event at the North Campus, led by DJ Dan from Sunnybrook's Tuesday night line-dancing. While we may have felt a little sore the next day, we had a great time stomping, kicking, and grapevine-stepping together.

Coming up on April 18, we will host a Women's Breakfast at the North Campus. The morning will include a hot breakfast, worship, and an inspiring testimony by Joanne Cushman titled "I Am the Shepherd's Wife."



NR MISSIONS: IMPACT AROUND THE WORLD By Bob Carle

"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me. – Matthew 25:35-40

The New Ridge Missions team exists to make a global impact for Christ by sharing His word and reaching those in need. Through the tremendous generosity of our members and with the mission organizations that the Missions team supports, God is blessing hundreds of people just like these locally and globally. In 2026, New Ridge is helping to change lives through these wonderful organizations that we partner with. Our Christmas Eve worship services giving totaled over \$72,000, far surpassing our goal of \$60,000. All the proceeds from those services will go toward lifting people up through our supported missions.

Youth Promise in Embu, Kenya focuses on rural development through entrepreneurial skills and computer literacy. A new digital learning center for rural youth has recently been completed, largely funded by New Ridge. The Missions Team is planning a trip this August to Embu, Kenya to work with Youth Promise. Those interested can find out more by filling out the Mission Trip Interest Form on our website.

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age. – Matthew 28:19-20

"I am so very thankful for all the staff at Project Purpose. I believe that opportunities are not just handed in your lap but can be a blessing and/or a lesson if not taken advantage of. I am so grateful that these opportunities are available to our children. Not only am I so thankful and appreciative of all the help and support, but I am glad that my children are understanding the importance, value, and the blessing is that it is centered around God. Thank you all so very much!!" - Mother of two Project Purpose Students

New Ridge, through the Missions we support, is changing lives.

Kassim, a poor, fatherless child in Uganda is now a young Christian undergraduate student at a university, pursuing his degree and a life full of promise.

Dee, in Sellersville, PA, a victim of domestic abuse, is now on the road to independence with food, housing, counseling and skills development.

Bertha, an unemployed, poor young woman from Lilongwe, Malawi has acquired the entrepreneurial skills necessary to build a thriving sewing business and now shares her faith and story with other young people.

The Mission team gives thanks to God for Kassim, Dee, Bertha and all the souls that are being transformed physically and spiritually through His grace and mercy, through the dedication of those with whom we are blessed to support, and through the generosity of the people at New Ridge Fellowship.

By Grace Alone in Philadelphia, PA is an urban congregation that serves the local community with a youth camp, spring fair, food ministry and adult fellowship.

Children Alive Ministries in Mukono, Uganda works to establish and encourage children's ministry in poor and unevangelized communities through after school programs.

Happy to be Home in Gilbertsville, PA enables families to provide a suitable home environment for children with chronic, long term, multiple disabilities.

Jonathan and Amanda Vining affiliated with **Modern Day Missions** serve underprivileged people in Medellin, Columbia. Recently, Harvest House was launched where missionaries can experience healing and restoration through prayer, reflection, and intentional rest.

Operation 143 provides students in 6 local school districts and over 30 schools with meals on the weekends.

Rest Connection in Sellersville, PA helps women in crisis achieve economic and social independence.

Rays of Hope in Blantyre, Malawi exists to strengthen the skills of teachers and educate children and youth for productive lives.

Project Purpose shares with low-income students and families of Pottstown, PA Christ's unique purpose for their lives by providing educational resources and mentoring relationships.

SERVING WITH JOY: CAROL BAAS

By Terri Yescavage

Carol Baas is one of those steady, behind-the-scenes servants who quietly makes a big difference at New Ridge Fellowship. A faithful volunteer in the New Ridge office, Carol brings not only dedication to her work but also a cheerful spirit and upbeat presence that brightens every Thursday morning.

Carol and her husband, Ralph, have been members of New Ridge since June of 1991. Together, they share a rich family life with five children, eight grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren. Her long history at New Ridge reflects a deep commitment to both the church and its people.

Carol's volunteer journey began around 1993, during Joann McCauley's time as treasurer, when she served as the babysitter for New L.I.G.H.T. (Learning in God's Holy Teaching). With a background in office work, Carol soon found herself helping in additional ways. In those early days, before computers were part of daily operations, checks were handwritten, and Carol would often stay after New L.I.G.H.T. to sign checks and help with filing. She continued serving as a babysitter until 2015.

Carol has volunteered under three different treasurers over the years and remains a trusted and invaluable part of the church's financial processes. Though she considered retiring when Anita Kratz retired, her decision to continue serving has been a true gift to New Ridge. As one colleague shared, "I truly enjoy working with Carol and am so grateful that she decided to continue volunteering. Her cheerful spirit and upbeat presence always brighten my day."

Today, Carol can be found in the church office every Thursday morning with a smile, after enjoying a walk at the park with a friend. Her routine is marked by faithfulness and precision: reviewing checks against invoices, signing them, filing paperwork, and making a trip to the post office before continuing on with her day.



Beyond her reliability and attention to detail, it's the personal moments that make Carol so special—those few minutes of catching up before she gets right to the task at hand. Her willingness to serve, her consistency, and her joyful attitude make her an incredible asset to New Ridge Fellowship.

New Ridge is deeply thankful for Carol Baas and her many years of faithful service. Her continued commitment is a blessing to the church, and her impact is felt far beyond the office walls.

UPDATE FROM VILLA FONTANA

We are grateful to share that the baptismal font at Villa Fontana is now being faithfully used by their church and community. What a joy it has been to see the baptismal pool in action as individuals publicly profess their faith and are baptized for the glory of God.

This meaningful step forward was made possible through the partnership of our missions team and the generous financial support of New Ridge. Together, this investment has created a lasting impact, providing a place where lives are being transformed and new life in Christ is being celebrated.

We praise God for what He is doing at Villa Fontana and are thankful to be part of the story.



MY GRIEF SHARE JOURNEY

By Michelle Sims

My grief journey began when my husband, Randy, died suddenly and unexpectedly on May 30, 2021, right after the Covid shutdown. Randy and I were visiting our oldest daughter and her family in coastal North Carolina. While walking along the waterfront, Randy had a massive heart attack. A team of military medics and EMTs gathered and began CPR. Just as the ambulance arrived, Randy regained consciousness. He was loaded into the ambulance. I called his name; he looked at me and smiled. That was the last time I saw him alive. We did not get to say goodbye.

My family was devastated. We held Randy's Celebration of Life in Alabama, where most of our extended family lives. Before I headed back home to Pennsylvania, my children found a grief counselor for me. In the months following Randy's death, God was with me. When I could not walk, God picked me up and carried me. He held me close.

My grief counselor was great. She taught me how to talk through my feelings, led me to strategies that helped me live with my grief, and was there when I cried uncontrollably. She did not have a strong faith in God. When I talked about God's role in my grief, she didn't really understand. After a time, she told me she had helped me as much as she could and suggested I find a faith-based grief organization.

Around this time, I moved to Boyertown and began looking for a church. I found what would become New Ridge Fellowship. I found where I belong! Soon after I joined, I heard about GriefShare. I was a member of the first session of GriefShare here.

In GriefShare, I found my people! I found a loving, supportive group of people who were experiencing the grief of the loss of a loved one. GriefShare provided Biblical foundations for dealing with grief. It provided a safe space to share our grief journeys, our faith, our tears, and even laughter as we healed. We shared our experiences of "firsts"; first birthday without our loved ones, first

Thanksgiving, first Christmas, first anniversary - so many "firsts." GriefShare presented a program specifically for Surviving the Holidays.

My favorite parts of GriefShare are the connections to my faith in God. One evening, the GriefShare leader reminded us of the shortest verse in the Bible. I had read the verse before, but without the specific context it has for me now. In the story of the raising of Lazarus, John 11:35, "Jesus wept." Even though he knew he would raise Lazarus from the grave, Jesus wept. I know that every time I have wept and wailed, Jesus has wept with me, just like Jesus has picked me up and carries me when I cannot move forward on my own. Our God is so, so good!

For me, GriefShare did not end when the session ended. I have lifelong friends that I cultivated in this group - We even have Alumni Dinners where we can continue to share our faith, our healing, and our lives as we move forward in our grief journeys.

GriefShare has had an amazing impact on my life! When I was invited to join the GriefShare leadership team, I did not hesitate to accept. God has blessed me through my participation in GriefShare. My leadership role is a way to share God's infinite love and his healing with others who have experienced the loss of a loved one. I will continue to serve as a leader at every invitation. I find I receive more than I give.



Pictured here are participants gathered for the closing ceremony of GriefShare at New Ridge in December 2025. All received a certificate and filament Bible, then enjoyed refreshments and fellowship. A new cycle of GriefShare will begin in September.

SPOTLIGHT: MONICA SHANLEY

By Rick Drumheller



When striving in life, there is one simple Biblical standard. Would Jesus say, "Well done my good and faithful servant." Jesus teaches by examples and parables. On any given Sunday at New Ridge Fellowship, there is an example of this saying. Perhaps you have run into such an example? There is an abundance of greeters and well-wishers at the door. Each is doing their part to make every attender welcome. For this edition of the Quarterly, I would like to focus on one of these well-wishers, **Monica Shanley**. She stands in the lobby on Sundays and offers smiles and kind words to all who enter.

Yet, behind those glasses and kind words is a computer-like mind. Her focus is to make every attender feel welcome. She specializes in new attenders; She can spot that new look as they walk in through the doors. She glides over, introduces herself and with warmth, smiles, and kind words. She makes new attenders feel Christian love. She then communicates this information to the pastoral staff for follow-up so each new attender can get connected to New Ridge. This is just her entry effort - she has an exit strategy also. She combs the crowd offering prayers and follow up from past discussions. Entering or exiting, she makes you feel welcome and appreciated. This is Monica's gift to the Lord and New Ridge.

Just a little about Monica... Monica studied at Penn State University and Northeast Bible College. She helped start and lead a non-denominational church in the Boyertown Area. After a significant life event brought her through the doors of what would become New Ridge Fellowship, Monica would go on to serve on staff. Some of the positions she served in are; Worship Team Leader, Officer manager, Director of Lay Ministry and of the Women's Ministry. She was incredibly busy.

A mere eight years after deciding to retire, Monica answered the call to return to service. She joined the New Ridge staff in 2023 and is our current New Ridge Experience and Care Director. She enjoys every moment welcoming and getting to know our new guests, connecting them to the church and leading the Care Ministry.

She has three children, Steve, Joanna and the late Abby. Her delight is her 2 grandchildren, Stephen and Abby. We are blessed beyond measure here at New Ridge. The Lord has allowed people such as Monica to serve. If you ask her, she will admit that she does nothing special here. Yet those who have crossed her path can see the love and dedication she has for the Lord. She has the ability of making you feel special and loved.

Please take the time to say hello and perhaps offer a prayer. She pours a large amount of caring into her assignment. Let her feel the same type of Christian Love that she offers so many of us.

EVENTS

FEBRUARY

- 18 Ash Wednesday
- 21 Men's Breakfast

MARCH

- 1 NR Kids First Communion
- 4 Prayer Service
- 6/7 NR Students All Nighter
- 7 Spring Craft show
- 8 Membership Sunday
- 9 CPR Class
- 28 Easter Eggsperience
- 29 Palm Sunday

APRIL

- 2 Good Friday - Featuring Brad Hudson
- 4 & 5 Easter Worship Services
- 18 Women's Breakfast with Testimony

MAY

- 6 Prayer Service
- 31 Mission Sunday

JUNE

- 3 Prayer Service
- 21 High School Mission Trip

JULY

- 1 Prayer Service
- 6-9 VBS
- 6-10 Middle School Mission Trip
- 20-25 Harvey Cedars High School
- 27-31 Harvey Cedars Middle School

For more information on these events, please visit our website
newridgefellowship.com/events

OUR MISSION

PURSUE CHRIST

Our church's center point is Christ. We consistently pursue Him in all we do. No program, service, or person can transform the hearts of those who are broken...only Jesus.

GROW TOGETHER

As a church community, we want to establish a different culture: one of radical hospitality and togetherness. Life is simply better together. In all we do, we hope to establish deep connections within and outside the four walls of our church.

IMPACT THE WORLD

If we can relentlessly pursue Christ and intentionally grow in deep community together, we believe that we can impact the world here in our local community and on a global scale.

OUR VISION IS CLEAR

THAT EVERY
PERSON
WILL LIVE A LIFE
TRANSFORMED BY
CHRIST

INVITE SOMEONE TO CHURCH

Inviting others to New Ridge is an opportunity to extend a welcome, offer support, and share the love of Christ with others. By inviting friends, family, and neighbors to church, we open the door for them to experience a community where they can grow spiritually. Together, we can create a space where everyone feels accepted, valued, and inspired to live out their faith journey.

New Ridge Fellowship offers new guests the opportunity to sign up and receive a special message from one of our staff members and if they're bringing kids, it will prepare them for our secure kids check-in. This is a great why to ease some of the nerves of visiting a new place!

PLAN YOUR VISIT

Share this QR code or visit newridgefellowship.com/planyourvisit.



There's a place for you here!