

NEW RIDGE
FELLOWSHIP

QUARTERLY

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Issue 8

IN THIS ISSUE

- 3 NR STUDENTS
- 4 CARE MINISTRY
- 5 NR KIDS
- 5 WIDOWED MINISTRY
- 6 PASTOR'S ASSISTANCE FUND
- 7 MISSIONS TEAM
- 8 LIFE GROUPS
- 9 UPCOMING EVENTS

A NOTE FROM THE LEAD PASTOR...

At New Ridge Fellowship, we believe church is more than a building or a Sunday service. Church is people. Church is community. Church is family. Throughout this year, our church focus has been Relationships. Beginning with our "At the Table" sermon series earlier this year, we have been learning what it means to grow closer to God while also building deeper connections with one another.

This summer, we are excited to put that vision into action through Second Summer Sundays, a series of special Sundays designed to help our church family slow down, spend time together, and build meaningful relationships beyond our normal Sunday routine. These gatherings will create space for conversation, fellowship, and connection as we enjoy food, fun, and community together after worship services.

Second Summer Sundays will take place on June 14, July 12, and August 9. On June 14 and August 9, we will hold our regular 8:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. worship services, followed by food and fellowship outdoors after each service. On July 12, following VBS week, we will come together for one combined worship service at 9:00 a.m., followed by a larger church-wide celebration for all ages.

We also want to share our heart with our 11:00 a.m. church family. These Sundays are not about taking something away, but about intentionally bringing our entire church family together to strengthen relationships across all services. More than just events, these Sundays are opportunities to create connection, community, and a greater sense of belonging within our church family.

As we prepare for these special Sundays, we invite everyone who calls New Ridge home to consider serving. From setup and hospitality to activities and cleanup, every role helps create an environment where people feel welcomed, loved, and connected. Volunteers can sign up through the Church Center App or on our website.

We are praying that God will use these moments to deepen relationships and help people experience the joy of doing life together. We cannot wait to spend this summer with you at Second Summer Sundays.
- Pastor José "Ricky" Ayala





NR STUDENTS: MORE THAN A GROUP By Brynn Heverly

...It is the prospect of a relationship with Jesus that keeps them coming back.

Here at New Ridge Students, we have a wonderful group of students. We have many students who have only known New Ridge Fellowship as their church home for their entire lives. We have students who have moved to the area and begun to attend this church and youth group. But we also have a large portion of students who did not grow up attending church at all. These students decided to join the youth group largely because of an invitation from a friend. In most cases, a Wednesday or Tuesday night spent hanging out with friends playing different games or sports seems like a fun time, but they aren't necessarily there to learn anything about faith. However, what has been the case over and over again is the games and friends may get a student through the doors, but it is the prospect of a relationship with Jesus that keeps them coming back.

Over the past three years it has been a privilege to watch many students begin their walk with the Lord and grow into strong, passionate believers. If you've been paying attention on a Sunday morning, you've been able to see this transition slowly take shape. Over the past few years so many of our students have decided to not just prioritize youth group gatherings each week, but Sunday church a priority as well. I wish I could take the full credit for encouraging students to join us on Sundays, but honestly it's been pretty much completely student led to prioritize Sunday mornings in the way that they do. One thing is clear: faith is important

to these students even if just 4 years ago they barely gave Jesus a second thought.

That's part of what made this year's Testimony Night and Confirmation/Baptism Sunday so special. Testimony Night is an opportunity for 4-5 students to share with their peers what the Lord has been doing in their lives throughout the year. Confirmation/Baptism Sunday is the culmination of an 8 week course where students publicly affirm their faith in front for the congregation through verbal confirmation or baptism. Between the two different events, we had around 20 students sharing their faith publicly. I have a sneaking suspicion that there was a celebration in heaven at the sight of all these bold acts of faith. Students were honest about their journeys, some sharing about their lifelong walk with God, but many sharing about their relatively new walk that began just a few years ago.

All I have to say after both of these events is that I am grateful. I'm grateful that God uses the invitations of a friend to bring students into faith. I'm grateful that students are comfortable and confident enough to share their stories and their struggles with their peers and the congregation. I'm grateful to get to be a part of 12 baptisms. I'm grateful for a congregation that prays for and cares about these teenagers. Most of all, I'm grateful that God never stops working in our lives.

NEW LAY PASTORS COMMISSIONED

By Pastor Monica Shanley

At all services on Sunday, April 12, we were honored to commission the following Lay Pastors, who completed their training and answered God's call to serve New Ridge Fellowship in Care Ministry: Betty Cavett, Carol Daniels, Mazie Furness, Carol Gilliford, Cindy Kohler, Joanne Letnaunchyn, and Michelle Sims.



Lay Pastors serve as part of the Care Ministry under the direction of Pastor Monica Shanley. Many regularly visit members who are homebound or living in assisted living facilities, offering communion, prayer, and fellowship. Members who can no longer attend New Ridge worship services receive ongoing care from our Lay Pastors. Others are part of the GriefShare leadership team or lead our Meal Ministry, make hospital visits, and support those facing difficult life circumstances. A new initiative will also connect Lay Pastors with younger members who are attending college or serving in the military.

One of our veteran Lay Pastors, Deb Fryer, serves in a unique and impactful way. She responds promptly to each online prayer request by sending a heartfelt, Spirit-led prayer. If you have submitted a request, you have likely experienced this blessing firsthand! I often hear how deeply Deb's prayers are appreciated and how frequently they are reread or shared with the person for whom prayer was requested.

These newly commissioned Lay Pastors now join Deb Fryer, Dan Robison, Sharon Cramer, Fay Crowell, Debi Coutts, Scott Hamrick, Noah Clinard, Terri Schoenly, Ralph Ritter and Frank Tobin as part of our Lay Pastor team.

Thank you to John Midgley who leads the Lay Pastor Training, and Sharon Cramer who helps to assist him! If you feel that you could use the support of someone in our Care Ministry team, or have interest in becoming a Lay Pastor, please contact Pastor Monica at monicas@newridgefellowship.com.

Thoughts from our new Lay Pastors on their commissioning...

Becoming a Lay Pastor has humbled me and given me a new appreciation for how hard our Pastors at New Ridge work. I am privileged and blessed to help in a small way to serve the Lord and to care for the people of our church.

Becoming a Lay Pastor has been an honor and joy in this season of my life. I love helping to care for our church community. One take away from our training is that we need to remember that we are the care givers and God is the cure giver. A true blessing during my visits has been praying with my care receiver in their time of need.

Becoming a Lay Pastor has given me more opportunity to share the love and grace God has shown me over the years with others.

I must admit I never thought about becoming a Lay Pastor. After I was approached, I prayed and thought about what I had to give. A few days later I realized the Lord was nudging me to say yes. I am very proud of my new way to serve and anticipate much love and beautiful experiences during this journey. Thank you to John Midgley, Pastor Monica and Sharon Cramer for your support.

NR KIDS: INVESTING IN THE NEXT GENERATION

By Amy Dilabio

One of the greatest privileges of the church is investing in the next generation, and every Sunday at New Ridge Kids we have the opportunity to do exactly that. Behind every smiling child, every worship song sung with excitement, every Bible story shared, and every moment of connection is a team of volunteers making an eternal impact.

Earlier this month, we shared the vision that New Ridge Kids is more than childcare during a worship service — it is ministry. It is a place where children are discovering who God is, learning that they are deeply loved by Jesus, and building a foundation of faith that can shape the rest of their lives. We truly believe there is no junior Holy Spirit. God is moving in the hearts of children right now, and we have the incredible opportunity to be part of it.

What makes NRK so special is that it takes all kinds of people to create these moments. Some volunteers lead games or teach lessons. Others rock babies, help at check-in, sit beside a nervous child, prepare supplies during the week, or simply offer a warm smile and a listening ear. Every role matters. Every volunteer helps create an environment where children feel safe, known, loved, and excited to learn about Jesus.

This is a season of growth and excitement for New Ridge Kids. From Sunday mornings to special events, VBS, family gatherings, and ministries like Open Arms and Buddy Ministry, we are watching God open doors to reach more children and families than ever before. We are praying for people who want to be part of something meaningful — people who want to use their gifts to help shape the faith of the next generation.

You do not have to be a Bible expert or a former teacher to serve. You simply need a willing heart. When adults show up consistently in the life of a child, incredible things happen. Children begin to feel seen. Families feel supported. Faith begins to grow. And often, volunteers discover that their own faith grows too.

If you have ever wondered where you fit in or how God might use you, New Ridge Kids may be the place. We would love for you to join us as we create spaces where children can pursue Christ, grow together, and impact the world for Jesus. The work happening in NRK is eternal, life-changing, and filled with joy — and there is room for you to be part of the story.

HEARTS OF HOPE WIDOWED MINISTRY

By Sharon Cramer

What a wonderful day of fellowship and celebration as the Widowed Ministry gathered for a Memorial Day picnic at North Campus on May 17. More than 40 guests joined us for an afternoon filled with connection, laughter, and gratitude. Pastor Daniel opened the gathering in prayer, followed by a heartfelt group rendition of God Bless America. We also took time to honor the veterans in attendance for their service and sacrifice.

After lunch the event continued with a lively game of The Price Is Right, featuring celebrity guest hosts Drew Carey (Frank Tobin) and Vanna White (Vicky Thomas), complete with the iconic theme song. Guests embraced the patriotic spirit by wearing their favorite red, white, and blue attire, and congratulations went to Don Fountain and Loretta Holinka, who each won a gift card for best dressed patriotic apparel. The afternoon was filled with fellowship, encouragement, and so much laughter.

Events like this are possible because of many caring hands. The Widowed Ministry team includes Sandy Kopp, Vicky Thomas, Barbara Cooper, Linda Shade, Ronnie FitzPatrick, Darlene McIlvee, Joy Stickney, and Sharon Cramer. Special thanks also to Dave and Lisa Stone, along with volunteers from Celebrate Recovery, and The Marshall Family - Noelle, Carl, and children Kai, Reissa, and Brynne were incredible volunteers throughout the event. We were also blessed to work in collaboration with Hope Community Church and welcome their widowed members, making the day even more special.

WHAT IS THE PASTOR'S ASSISTANCE FUND?

By Pastor José "Ricky" Ayala

Any time we share in Holy Communion during our services, you may notice wooden boxes in the lobby area with a sign that says "Pastor's Assistance Fund."

I wanted to take a moment to explain what this fund is and what it is not, so our church family clearly understands its purpose.

First, the Pastor's Assistance Fund is not a fund that exists to help the pastors personally. Instead, it is a fund that pastors use to help people in our church family and community who may be going through a difficult season in life.

Over the years, this fund has helped people with groceries, gasoline, utility bills, counseling sessions, and other urgent needs. Sometimes families go through unexpected hardships. Sometimes people are carrying burdens quietly and simply need someone to care. This fund allows our church to respond with compassion and practical support.

One of the beautiful things about this ministry is that it reflects the heart of Jesus. Throughout the Gospels, we see Jesus caring for people not only spiritually, but also physically and emotionally. As a church family, we want to continue living out that same kind of love.

The Pastor's Assistance Fund is made possible through the generosity of people at New Ridge Fellowship who choose to give above and beyond their regular tithes and offerings. Every gift, no matter the size, becomes part of helping someone know they are seen, loved, and cared for during a hard moment.

Thank you, New Ridge, for continuing to be a church that loves people well.



Our family is a military family, and during the government shutdown, things became very difficult for us. We have school-aged children, and I had recently changed jobs so I could better fit our family's schedule. That change came with a pay cut, but we were thankful we no longer needed childcare.

Then the shutdown happened, and my husband was suddenly out of work. I picked up extra work where I could, but we were struggling to put food on the table. Pastor Ricky reached out to us knowing my husband was military.

Through the Pastor's Assistance Fund, New Ridge helped our family with food and even oil for our home. We were overwhelmed by the kindness shown to us, and it still brings tears to my eyes thinking about it. We truly love the family we have found at New Ridge.

- A Church Member Blessed by the Pastor's Assistance Fund

NR MISSIONS: BY GRACE ALONE By Bob Carle

New Ridge Fellowship, through the Missions team, is reaching hundreds of people globally and locally. The missions and organizations that we support are providing marketable skills to help people achieve economic independence, meals to the food insecure, shelter to people who have none, and exposure to the Word of God to all.

In March, members from By Grace Alone Church visited New Ridge and got the chance to share their mission with us. BGA is a vibrant and Christ-centered church serving the intercity neighborhoods of Philadelphia. Since its beginnings as a community Bible study, BGA has grown into a diverse and mission-minded congregation committed to loving and serving its neighbors with the good news of Jesus.



Norma was a senior citizen who had struggles with addictions. She had difficult relationship issues with her daughter and could not see her grandchildren. There were health issues that required weekly hospital visits. And when her building was scheduled to be renovated, she was told that she would have to leave her place of residence, effectively rendering her homeless.

But God's love is boundless. The loving people at By Grace Alone, shared His love in tangible ways, frequently checking on her health with a nurse from the congregation, helping her to find affordable housing, inviting her to a bible study, and welcoming her into the church family.



Norma's life has changed. She reads the Bible now, helps with food distribution, hosts her new friends at her apartment, and mentors younger women. This is a true reflection of the heart of BGA's ministry - incarnational outreach; living alongside people in the community, listening to their needs, and responding with Christ's love.

The Missions team is continuously thankful and praising God for the generosity of the believers at New Ridge. Together by His grace, we are helping to enable these incredible organizations to meet the needs both spiritually and physically of so many. The Missions team also asks for your prayers for the 10 volunteers that are planning a trip to Youth Promise in Kenya this August. They will be busy with tutoring, spiritual mentoring, medical screening, food distribution, and visiting families.

For a full list of supported ministries and to learn more about the wonderful and varied ways that God is reaching people through Missions visit our website.

Throughout May, the Missions team worked with Operation 143 to help make weekend meals available by encouraging our worshippers to drop off fruit cups, applesauce cups, or pudding cups. Operation 143 is an organization that provides students in 6 local school districts and over 30 schools with meals on the weekends. The donations will be presented to Operation 143 on Missions Sunday, May 31.

LIFE GROUPS IN THE LENTEN SEASON By Debi Coutts

For the Lenten season, our Life Groups gathered to study *Unoffendable* by Brant Hansen.

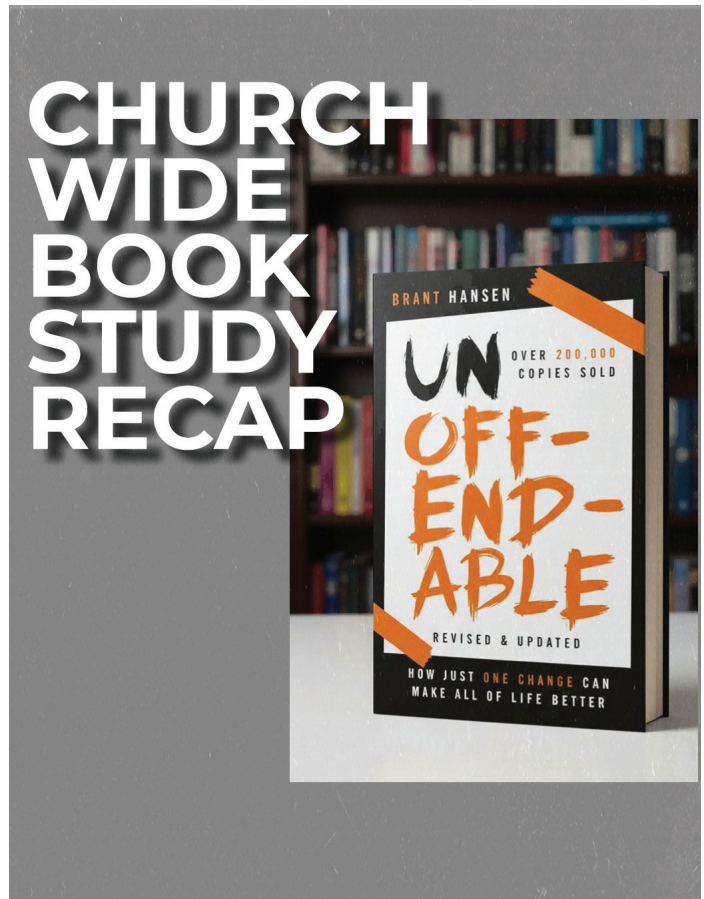
As our church stepped into 2026 with a focus on relationships, this study equipped us to think honestly about how we respond when tensions rise, feelings get hurt, or misunderstandings happen. It reminded us that while offense can come easily, grace, patience, and forgiveness are what is needed to truly hold people together.

Across our groups, people shared openly about what they were learning and where they were being challenged. Many talked about experiencing the freedom of not being offended over every little thing, realizing they no longer needed to rehearse imaginary arguments in the shower or compose dramatic comeback speeches while driving home.

Others admitted they had been in a long-standing relationship with needing to be right and were finally ready to let that go. I also heard from many participants that this is a book they plan to return to again and again—a resource worth rereading to be reminded of these important lessons.

More than anything, this study helped us remember that healthy relationships do not happen by accident, but are built when people choose humility, kindness, and love. We are thankful for the way God is using our groups to strengthen connections and draw our church family closer together.

Groups like these provide opportunities for people to grow in their faith, build meaningful relationships, and encourage one another through God's Word. As our church continues to grow, we are always looking for individuals who may feel called to host a group in the future. You do not need to have all the answers or be a Bible expert, just a heart for people and a willingness to help create a welcoming environment where others can grow.



Whether you feel ready to serve now or are simply interested in learning more about future opportunities, we would love to connect with you. Training, guidance, and support are available for those interested in exploring this area of ministry.

If you would like more information about hosting a study group, please email Debi Coutts at DebiC@newridgefellowship.com.

EVENTS

MAY

31 Missions Sunday

JUNE

3 Platter with Chatter
3 Prayer Service
3 NR Students McFormal
6 Men's Fishing Trip
7 Graduate Recognition in Services
7 NR Students Senior BBQ
14 Second Summer Sundays
20 Trail Riders Bike Trip to Jim Thorpe
21-26 High School Mission Trip

JULY

1 Platter with Chatter
1 Prayer Service
6-9 Vacation Bible School
6-10 Middle School Mission Trip
12 Second Summer Sundays
20-25 Harvey Cedars High School Week
27-31 Harvey Cedars Middle School Week

AUGUST

3-7 Kids Push the Rock Sports Camp
5 Platter with Chatter
5 Prayer Service
9 Second Summer Sundays

SEPTEMBER

2 Platter with Chatter
2 Prayer Service
2 GriefShare Begins
26 Praise and Worship Night Hosted by Celebrate Recovery

OCTOBER

3 Blessing of the Animals
7 Platter with Chatter
7 Prayer Service
23 NR Night of Worship

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!