

NEW RIDGE FELLOWSHIP

QUARTERLY

June - August 2025
Issue 5

CELEBRATING GOD'S WORK: NEAR AND FAR

This issue is packed with inspiring stories of how God is using New Ridge Fellowship to make a lasting difference. You'll read about our NR Students serving on mission trips to Puerto Rico, Pittsburgh and Pottstown, the incredible milestone of over 2,000 handmade gifts from our Prayer Shawl Ministry, and the joy and energy of 150 children and 90 volunteers who came together for this summer's Vacation Bible School.

You'll also discover how our dedicated volunteers, thriving ministries, and faithful mission partners are sharing Christ's love in practical and powerful ways — from our own community to places across the globe. Every article is a testimony of God's goodness, faithfulness, and the impact we can have when we serve Him together.

Let's celebrate all that He has done — and step forward with excitement for the opportunities ahead!

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WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT NEW RIDGE FELLOWSHIP?

Save the dates — Sunday, September 21 and 28 — for our upcoming Essentials Class, held in the Chapel from 12:15–2:15 PM, right after the 11:00 service. We'll provide lunch and childcare, so you can come ready to connect, learn, and grow with us!

Register through the Church Center app or email Monica Shanley at Monicas@newridgefellowship.com to sign up.

NEW RIDGE FELLOWSHIP —
ESSENTIALS
— TAKE THE NEXT STEP

THE LATEST STITCH FROM THE PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

By Susan Graper



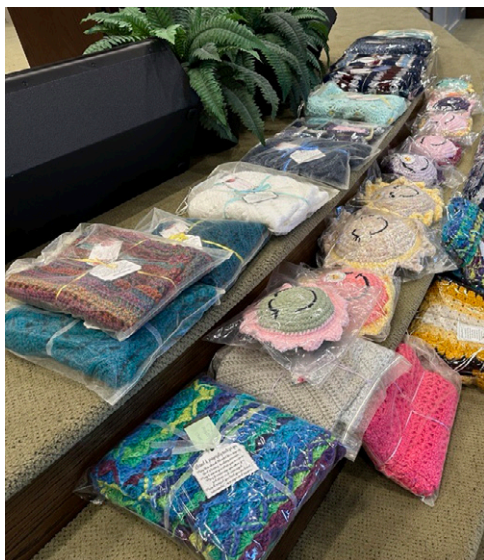
The Prayer Shawl Ministry started in 2012 with prayer shawls and lapghans (blankets for women, men and children). Over the years, we have added more items, many of which are specific to children. Each request we receive is recorded on a spreadsheet log and the week of July 20, 2025 our total count of items requested from our congregation and including our outreach projects has totaled 2,000 items!

Our outreach projects started with providing baby blankets to St. Lukes Bethlehem NCIU in 2017 and 2018 and continued in 2019 & 2021 providing baby blankets to Bright Hope Pregnancy Center located in both Bethlehem & Easton, PA. Our most recent addition came last year in 2024 with the Sunshine Pillows that expanded into its own outreach ministry called "Katelyn's Sunshine Pillows" which was highlighted in an earlier edition of the church newsletter. In May of 2025, Katelyn went home to be with Jesus, but her legacy lives on through her amazing faith and outreach during her strong & courageous battle with Cancer. Her family gave a title to her fight naming it "Strong Like Katelyn." "Katelyn's Sunshine Pillows" has yielded over 200 pillows & will continue here at New Ridge. We are also looking at partnering with her home church in Ohio where they may launch their own ministry. Another outreach project was initiated within the past year by providing plastic bag mats for the homeless in the greater Pottstown area.

In March of this year, our church office received a call from Penn State's St. Joe's Hospital in Reading, PA. They advised that the hospital had been receiving quilts for their patients, but that had stopped. They had heard about our ministry from a family member who does attend New Ridge. I consulted with our ministry members & it was decided that we would craft & donate a sampling of what our ministry provides. By June, we had crafted 10 sunshine pillows, 10 shawls, 10 lapghans and 25 prayer squares. On June 19th, our ministry delivered all the items to the church & both Pastor Ricky & Pastor Daniel prayed over every item. Pastor Daniel laid everything out on the Chapel's stage steps & took pictures. He then posted those pictures on our church's Facebook page. The pictures are also included with this article. Shortly after the delivery was made to St. Joe's, I received a phone call from requestor at St. Joe's thanking us for providing the items and was impressed with how beautiful everything was and the time and effort it took to make everything.



We have had members come & go in our ministry, but it is due to the blessing of their hands that we have been able to provide so many individuals with our hand stitched items. We receive many thank you cards from recipients stating how blessed they feel to have received a prayer shawl. We feel equally blessed that God's hand has been on our ministry from the beginning.



The honor and glory go back to God for reaching our latest milestone. Our ministry will go on for as long as we keep it centered on God and what he WILLs for it.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry would like to continue to participate in more outreach projects and as a congregation you can help by advising us of any need you might come across. Of course, we also continue to be here to serve the needs of our own congregation. We continue to strive to be a ministry that continues to not only impact our own community, but also our greater community, country & world.

A SUMMER OF SERVICE By Brynn Schmidt

This summer we sent a team of students to **Puerto Rico** to serve alongside Villa Fontana Church. During our time there we helped to paint the church, clear out spaces, clean up the property, but our main project was to host a VBS for the children. The biggest challenge that our team had to overcome was figuring out how to share the love of God with those we are serving when there was a language barrier. Even despite this barrier, It was a wonderful week! Perhaps the most powerful moment of the whole trip was getting to worship with our brothers and sisters at Villa Fontana during their Sunday service. Because of the language barrier, we needed a few translators to help us understand what was being said. Immediately after the service began one thing was clear, Villa Fontana is a praying church. They pray boldly, they pray passionately, and they pray often!

It was an incredible experience to be a part of this service and listen to the prayers of the people. While the pastor and congregation members prayed out loud in Spanish, the translators prayed simultaneously in English





for our team to understand. It was loud and many voices could be heard at the same time praying to God. It was in those moments that I was reminded of the passage of scripture in Revelation. I truly believe that our mission team got a small glimpse of Heaven during that service. Though there were only two languages being spoken, it was an incredibly impactful experience to reflect on how the Lord hears every prayer of every person, no matter what language they are speaking.

A few days after the Puerto Rico team returned home, we sent out a second team to serve in **Pittsburgh**. This trip was almost entirely made up of students who had not been on a mission trip before. Many of the students entered the week hesitantly, more than a few of them wondered what God had in store for them on the trip. My encouragement to the students before leaving was to clear all expectations they had going into the week and just be ready to serve in whatever way the Lord asked. One student, Regan was wondering what God had in store for her as they left for the trip and was even a little nervous about what the week would bring. But God did what God does and used her in her willingness to impact people in ways that she did not anticipate.



Our church partnered with Group Missions for this trip and served in various locations with different churches from all over the country. Our team was split up into different crews with students that they had never met and were sent out to various locations to serve. Though these crews start the week as strangers, they certainly do not end the week that way. Through their time spent serving alongside each other, eating meals together, and spending time working through devotionals, friendships are quickly fostered.

Regan's crew was no exception. Though shy at first, the team grew close as they served at a



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local daycare helping take care of children and share the love of Christ with them. One might think that the people who needed to be shown the love of God the most were these children that the crew was sent to serve, but there was someone else that needed to be shown God's love that week. There was a girl in that crew who was also serving who was desperately in need of someone to remind them that God loved her. Without even realizing it, Regan showed kindness, care, and compassion to this girl while serving alongside her. She made sure to always include her, to give her the courage to join the worship team, and through her actions she reminded this girl that she was worthy of love and that she was loved by the Lord. Little did anyone know, but this girl had been going through a very rough season in her life at home. This girl was so impacted by Regan that at the end of the week, through teary eyes, she shared how our student was one of the kindest people she had ever met and that she would not forget her. The Lord knew that this girl needed someone like our student to impact her for the week.

As is often the case in life, unexpected challenges seem to pop up when it is least convenient. This was certainly the case for our friends at Mission First the week of our **Pottstown** Mission Trip. Throughout the week, we were scheduled to help out at an organization called Mission First. However, unexpectedly in the beginning of the week, there was a gas leak which caused the gas to have to be shut off for a couple of days. However, the middle school students were ready to help! Our team stepped up in huge ways in order to get everything done that needed to get done.

Friday morning came and it was time for the community meal. Though the students were tired from a full week of serving at mission first, VBS, and around North campus, they were ready to go! They got up early and helped set up the meal, finalize last minute prep, and finally serve the meal to anyone in the community who stopped by! It was a wonderful event and went off without a hitch! The director of Mission First expressed just how grateful she was for the team's help that week. She told these middle

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school students that there is no way that they would have been able to pull off this meal without our help. She simply could not believe how much of a blessing it was to have our team serving there that week.

When we go on mission trips, sometimes we expect things to go a certain way or for God to use us to serve the people of whatever area we are in. But often, the Lord knows far better than us and puts us in positions to serve people who we would never have imagined need us to help them. I am so thankful for each student on each of our trips this summer and I am so thankful for stories like this one and many others where we see that the Lord is using us in mighty and powerful ways.

SUNDAY MORNING STUDY

Over the past year, a few of our students met every Sunday for bible study between the 9:00 and 11:00 services. Much of this past year was spent studying the book of Revelation, a challenge that each student was excited to dive into and learn more about. Each person in the study, me included, learned so much about Revelation and gained a deep appreciation for this apocalyptic book. One of the consistent ideas that kept popping up through our studies was the beautiful glimpses into Heaven that we are given. One such verse is Revelation 7:9-10 which says: "After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands and crying out with a loud voice, 'Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the Throne, and to the Lamb!'" I just love this vision of a unified Heaven where every voice blends together to lift up praises to God, no matter where they come from or what language they speak. What a day that will be!



TECH ARTS: CAPTURING GOD'S WORK

At New Ridge Fellowship, we're blessed with many volunteers who serve behind the scenes — and two of them help preserve our church's story one snapshot at a time. Two of our volunteer photographers, Michael Taylor and Trish Carle, bring their passion, talent, and hearts for service to every event, worship service, and gathering. Their work ensures that the special moments we share as a church family don't just pass by — they're remembered, cherished, and shared.

For Michael, photography is more than a hobby — it's a way to serve with the gifts God has given him. "I enjoy photography because it allows me to freeze moments in time that would otherwise fade away," Michael says. "I was looking for a way to serve, and what better way than through the gift God gave me. My favorite moments are capturing candid images of people worshipping."

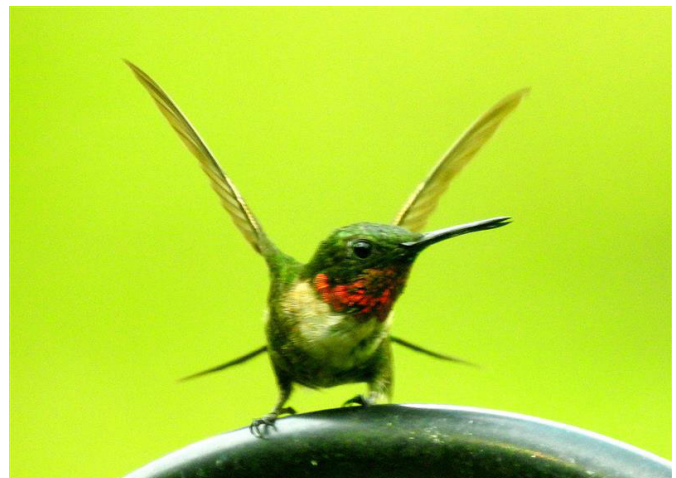
Trish brings over 45 years of experience behind the lens, and her joy for photography is unmistakable. "When I have my camera in my hand, I'm happy!" she shares. From birds and landscapes to church events and the people who make them special, Trish loves using her skills to create images that connect us. "I love to be able to use my skills to take photos and then share those photos with everyone. Here is one of my favorite pictures!"

Michael and Trish's contributions go far beyond beautiful images. Their photos help tell the story of our community — moments of worship, fellowship, laughter, and love — so we can look back and see God's faithfulness in every frame.

We are deeply grateful for their dedication, creativity, and the countless hours they give to help us remember what matters most.



By Michael Taylor



By Trish Carle

HEARTS OF HOPE PICNIC

By Sharon Cramer

It was a patriotic day of fun and fellowship at the Widowed Ministry Hearts of Hope Picnic held on May 18. With over 40 guests in attendance, it was a sea of red, white, and blue, as everyone dressed in Patriotic colors to honor Memorial Day. We began the picnic by recognizing our veterans, singing "God Bless America" and prayer. Master Grillers Chuck Storti and Frank Tobin did a great job of grilling hamburgers and hot dogs that were provided by the church. Everyone brought their favorite side dish – there was so much delicious food, including appetizers, salads, side dishes and desserts - it took 3 tables to display it all! After we enjoyed our picnic fare, John and Kass Bolles entertained us with their music. We sang along to some of the tunes; there were lots of foot tapping and head bopping. Noelle Marshall and Kass Bolles sang a beautiful rendition of "At the Table". We held a "Best Patriotic Dressed" contest in which Frank Tobin and Loretta Holinka won Wawa gift cards for their outstanding patriotic apparel. Beautiful red, white and blue, flower arrangements, made by Vicky Thomas, were sent home with guests and volunteers. Truly a wonderful day that was filled with smiles, laughter, and friendships!



Our next Widowed Ministry event is a Fall Festival on Sunday, October 12, 1 – 3 PM at North Campus, 3065 N. Charlotte St. Gilbertsville. For more information on the Widowed Ministry, contact Sharon Cramer at sharonc@newridgefellowship.com

MISSIONS UPDATE 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 which are listed below, like these locally and globally. In 2025, New Ridge is helping to change lives through these wonderful organizations:

- Youth Promise in Embu, Kenya focuses on rural development through entrepreneurial Skills and computer literacy. A new digital learning center for rural youth is nearing completion.
- 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.
- 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.
- Jonathan and Amanda Vining affiliated with Modern Day Missions serves underprivileged people in Medellin, Columbia. This year Harvest House was launched where missionaries can experience healing and restoration through prayer, reflection, and intentional rest.



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- Happy to be Home in Gilbertsville, PA enables families to provide a suitable home environment for children with chronic, long term, multiple disabilities.
- Children Alive Ministries in Mukono, Uganda works to establish and encourage children's ministry in poor and unevangelized communities through after school programs.
- 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.

Through the work of our mission partners, lives around the world are being transformed — stories of hope, healing, and new beginnings are unfolding every day. Some of these life changing stories include... Kassim, who grew up as a poor, fatherless child in Uganda. Today, he is a young Christian university student pursuing his degree — and a future filled with hope and promise. In Sellersville, PA, Dee, once a victim of domestic abuse, is now rebuilding her life. With food, housing, counseling, and skills training, she's on the path to independence and restoration. Across the globe in Lilongwe, Malawi, Bertha, a once unemployed young woman, has learned entrepreneurial skills that have helped her launch a thriving sewing business. She now uses her story and her faith to inspire other young people to pursue their own dreams.

The New Ridge Missions Team gives thanks to God for Kassim, Dee, Bertha, and all the lives being transformed — both physically and spiritually — through His grace and mercy. These stories are made possible by the dedication of our mission partners and the generosity of the New Ridge Fellowship family.

**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**

LOOKING TO GET INVOLVED?

At New Ridge Fellowship, there's a place for everyone to grow, connect, and belong. Whether you're a child, teen, young adult, parent, or senior, we offer groups and gatherings tailored to every age and stage of life. From Bible studies and small groups to youth nights and family events, you'll find opportunities to build meaningful relationships and deepen your faith. Visit our website or send an email to info@newridgefellowship to learn how you can get involved.

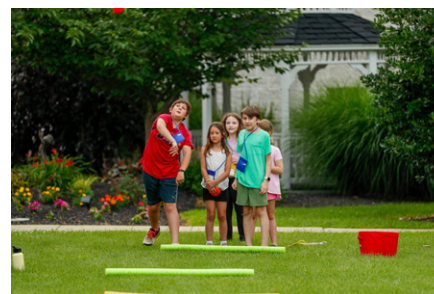
TRUE NORTH: A VBS ADVENTURE TO REMEMBER

By Amy DiLabio

This summer, New Ridge Kids hosted an unforgettable week of Vacation Bible School with True North as our theme. One hundred fifty children and ninety volunteers joined us as we looked to Jesus as our guide on the journey of life. We discovered that Jesus is a trustworthy friend, and we learned that when we look to Him, we're never truly lost.

The best part? Watching friendships bloom—between kids and leaders, between peers—and seeing the seeds of faith take root in young hearts. VBS is a beautiful picture of our church coming together to show kids the love of Jesus in a fun, camp-like atmosphere. What's next for New Ridge Kids?

For our next adventure we're starting a journey through the Bible—from Genesis to Revelation—discovering how God's plan for salvation has been unfolding since the very beginning. Each week, kids will learn how the Bible tells one big story, and how they are a part of it. God's love and provision are written on every page, and we can't wait to explore it together.



SUMMER SPOTLIGHT: FIRE PIT AT NORTH CAMPUS

The newly renovated fire pit at North Campus is now complete — and it's more than just a fresh look. This project was the vision and hard work of one of our own NR Students Ellie Sell, completed as her Eagle Scout Project.

What began as six months of planning and two months of construction has transformed into a welcoming outdoor space for fellowship and community. The renovation features six bench swings, freshly installed weed barriers, new gravel, and sturdy wooden posts and beams.

It wasn't without challenges — post holes filled with rainwater, the heavy weight of 12-foot beams, and the sheer scale of the project made it a true team effort. Thankfully, the New Ridge Response Crew stepped in to help lift those massive beams nearly 10 feet into place.



Today, the fire pit is already buzzing with activity, being enjoyed by the NR Students, Celebrate Recovery, Women's Ministry, and KidSit. A friendly reminder: the swings are designed to hold about 800 pounds and are meant for gentle use — no excessive swinging or roughhousing, please!

Beyond the physical transformation, this project has been a journey of leadership, organization, and perseverance for Ellie who will be starting her freshman year of high school this fall. She extends heartfelt thanks to the church and its leadership, her parents for their tireless support, her brother Dan, Scout Troop 79G in Palm, PA, and everyone who pitched in along the way.

We hope you'll take time to enjoy this inviting space — it's here to bring people together for years to come.



ARE YOU AT THE CROSSROAD? By Rick Drumheller and Jay Kratz

As I prepared for this edition, I reached out to Jay Kratz for an update on the Response Crew's summer projects. He immediately thought of the 2023 Flood reunion in Reading, where our team had spent months cleaning up and distributing food. I remembered the blessing of serving in that project, and it seemed like the perfect story to highlight missions. On his way to the reunion, Jay came upon an accident at Boyertown Pike and Limekiln Road. True to his character, he stopped to help the motorists, assisted emergency crews, and shared his observations with police. Thankfully, no one was seriously injured, and Jay went on to the reunion, which carried on without issue. Later, he discovered his dash cam had recorded the entire accident. He saved the footage and provided it to the police for their investigation.



This article is not about the tragedy of an accident, but about how the Lord can use any circumstance—whether difficult or joyful—for His glory. I am going to share Jay's words that he sent me: *"...I downloaded the footage and called the officer. He said he would drive down and pick up a thumb drive. He arrived, looked at the video and ask a few additional questions. I then shared with him information on the Response Crew. He smiled and chuckled and said 'I have been working on finding help for a Vietnam veteran whose property has fallen into disrepair.' He said he would help us do the cleanup and other veterans in his department would likely join with us." They shared information about a future project that would help a Vietnam veteran, and they parted ways. Excited to meet this veteran I immediately visited his house. Terry, the homeowner, served in Vietnam in 1967-68. He stated "What timing you have. I just received a visit from the Township." Terry produced a letter which was a notice to clean up his property or be fined. As I left Terry's home, I wished him a great afternoon. Terry replied, "I will, thanks to you." Like many other people we help, he's just not able to do it for himself. He shared that he used to have the nicest property on the block, now it's the ugliest. Well, not for long! The day after meeting him, three Response Crew Volunteers performed a brief cleanup and will return shortly for a complete cleanup."*

Jay just lived the story of the "Good Samaritan." He helped an unknown family during crisis. He provided comfort and expected nothing in return. His reward was a path to another person in need of God's love and mercy. This all started at the crossroad in Amity. So, I offer to you where is your crossroad? Will you be willing to help another, regardless of the cost? How will the Lord use your situation to bring him glory? What task has God assigned to you to complete for the glory of the kingdom? The Lord has equipped you for this task. Do not be fearful or retreat. I offer these lyrics as words of encouragement. The song "In Christ Alone" states and declares, "No power of Hell, no scheme of man, can ever pluck me from his hand." Step out in faith. Regardless of the situation you are facing, stand in the power of Christ.

EVENTS

AUGUST

30 Annual Classic Car and Bike Show

SEPTEMBER

3 GriefShare Begins
3 Prayer Service
5 Women's Picnic
13 Men's Breakfast
20 Celebrate Recovery Praise & Worship Night
21 Essentials Class Begins
27 Middle School Adventure

OCTOBER

1 Prayer Service
4 Blessing of the Animals
12 Hearts of Hope Widowed Ministry Fall Festival
19 New Members
24 Night of Worship
26 Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Handout

NOVEMBER

1 Holiday Craft Show
2 All Saints Day
5 Student Testimony Night
9 Veterans Day
12 Prayer Service
16 Baptism
19 Grief Share: Surviving the Holidays
23 Return Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes

DECEMBER

6 NR Kids A Merry Little Christmas Party
9/10 NR Students Christmas Parties
13/14 Christmas Spectacular
17 Hope for Holidays
23/24 Christmas Eve Services

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!