

**The Ridge Church**  
**7350 Old Hwy 13**  
**Carbondale, IL 62901**

Phone: 618.457.0479

Email: [RidgeChurch@OnTheRidge.org](mailto:RidgeChurch@OnTheRidge.org)

Web: [www.OnTheRidge.org](http://www.OnTheRidge.org)

**Join Us Sunday**

|                     |          |
|---------------------|----------|
| Small Groups/SS     | 9:00AM   |
| Morning Worship     | 10:15 AM |
| Evening Bible Study | 6:00 PM  |

**Wednesday Night is Family Night**

|                         |         |
|-------------------------|---------|
| Supper (by Reservation) | 5:30 PM |
| Bible Study and Prayer  | 6:30 PM |
| Mission Friends         |         |
| Children in Action      |         |
| Youth Bible Study       |         |

**Follow us on Facebook:**

[facebook.com/OnTheRidgeChurch](https://www.facebook.com/OnTheRidgeChurch)

**Follow us on Twitter:**

[twitter.com/TheRidgeChurch1](https://twitter.com/TheRidgeChurch1)

**Our Mission:**

***The Mission of The Ridge Church is to lead non-believers into fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ***

**The Dark Side**  
**Fear Not**

**The Point:** Dabbling with evil is destructive; seeking direction from God brings life.

Join us Sunday at 9 AM as we study I John 4:1-6 and discuss these 5 questions

1. What are some of the most unusual phobias you've heard about
2. Who comes to mind when you hear the word 'discernment'?
3. What are some distortions of the nature of Jesus we still hear today?
4. How would you describe the two opposing spirits in the world today?
5. Jesus is greater than those who oppose us. How will this truth influence your daily life?

**We have a small group for everyone!**

\*\*\*

**#GO Gorham Outreach**  
**September 30<sup>th</sup>**



# The Witness



Wes Henson, Pastor

September 24, 2017

Vol. 41, No. 37

Rambling on ...



## Sunday School A Team Effort

**David Francis.** LifeWay's director of Sunday School writes,

When I am speaking to a group of teachers about organizing their classes, someone will invariably say, "**We don't have an outreach leader**" or "**We don't have an inreach leader.**" I always respond the same way: "**Yes, you do!**" You see, if you are the leader, and you don't have someone in those or other positions, you ARE that leader! However, it is too much for any one person. So we need a team.

**Time** Developing a high performance team takes time. The ideal is a weekly planning meeting. Also the entire Sunday school team should meet monthly. These meetings need to be well planned and balanced with information and motivation

**Encouragement** The fuel that powers effective teams is relationships. Sometimes leaders get so busy they can burnout. Each class needs an **inreach leader** to encourage the class.

**Accountability** Effective teams have clear roles and responsibilities, and hold each other accountable. There is one thing worse than a vacancy: a filled vacancy with one who has the title, but doesn't do the job. Often, the reason is that the responsibilities were not communicated when they were enlisted for the job.

**Mission** High performing teams share a common purpose and goal. For Sunday School teams, a mission that compels is bigger than just showing up on Sunday mornings and going through the motions. It is rather a commitment to utilizing Sunday School as an intentional strategy to help people connect to the church, to Christ, to each other, and to opportunities for ministry. Is your Sunday school/small group team built around a mission to help people invite, discover, and connect?

We Labor Together With God,

*Wes*

**Deacon of the Week:**

Mike Garlinghouse

**Trustee of the Month**

Josh Dover

\*\*\*\*\*


**In Bible Study and Worship**

|               |     |
|---------------|-----|
| Small Groups: | 101 |
| Worship:      | 96  |

**God's Tithe and Our Offerings**

|                  |            |
|------------------|------------|
| General Fund     | \$2,456.00 |
| Debt Retirement  | 387.59     |
| Wednesday Supper | 75.00      |
| State Missions   | 100.00     |
| Disaster Relief  | 100.00     |

Online giving to The Ridge Church is available 24/7

Scan this QR code   
Or, download the Tithe.ly app from iTunes  
Or, Google Play



**Home Connection**

Phyllis Prowell  
1 New Ballas PL.  
Rm.122  
Creve Coeur, MO  
63146

Please remember Phyllis with a card or a phone call.

Home Connections!  
Make one This Week

**Sunday Nights This Fall  
"Old Testament Leaders"  
6:00 PM**

**September 24 1 kings 21:1**

*Isaac: Discover the laughter of God in Isaac*

**October 15 Genesis 32:23**

*Jacob: Limos are reminders form God*

**October 29 Genesis 39-40**

*Joseph: Where is God when it All Goes Wrong*

**November 26 Joshua 1**

*Joshua: Moving from here to there*

*We will stream Sunday Night Study on Facebook LIVE*

\*\*\*

**Hospitality September 24**

Casserole: Amy Wilson  
Bakery: Janette Peterman  
Fruit: Betty Wilson

If you would volunteer to bring food, please sign up in the hospitality area.

**Choir Rehearsal Sunday at 5 PM  
Rehearsing for The Christmas Cantata  
The Greatest Story Ever Told**

**Top 10 Reasons to join The Ridge Choir**

10. Rehearsal on Sunday at 5 pm means an afternoon away from the stresses of busy life AND it's a great way to start the week!
9. You always have a great reserved seat for Christmas and Easter.
8. You will be setting a good example for all the children, teenagers (and reluctant adults.)
7. Intellectual Stimulation—when you make music, you are using both sides of your brain simultaneously.
6. Since the choir sits facing the congregation everyone can see your pleasant smile
5. No auditions or solos required!
4. People who are involved in music live longer and are healthier
3. "To Sing is to pray twice!" St. Augustine:
2. Every once in a while, you might catch a glimpse of Heaven's choir singing along with you. I'm not kidding!
1. Serving the Lord—considering all He does for us, it's just a little giving back to HIM!

**Presented on December 17<sup>th</sup> This is an Outreach Friendly Event**

## This Week on The Ridge

### Sunday, September 24

8:30 AM -Coffee and...

9:00 AM - Small Groups

10:15 AM -Morning Worship

5:00 PM - Choir Rehearsal

6:00 PM - Evening Worship

### Gorham Outreach Meeting

If you are unable to attend,  
contact Lisa Hottensen.

### Tuesday, September 26

6:00 PM-WMU Mission in Action  
Meeting

### Wednesday, September 27

7:00 AM - Men's Bible Study

5:45 PM - Dinner by reservation

**menu:** pork steak, cheesy potatoes,  
corn, salad & dessert

6:30 PM - Adult Bible Study &  
prayer time, youth Bible study, &  
children's mission activities

### Saturday, September 30

1:00 PM - Gorham Block Party

Featuring Matt Blagg

\*\*\*\*

### Annual Community

#### Coat Drive

Collecting now through

October 6<sup>th</sup> at University Baptist  
Church with distribution at 11 am on  
October 7. For more info call  
618-457-0323

## **Heads Up!**

### **Thanksgiving Baskets**

This year's goal is to provide  
30 food baskets for families  
in need. The cost is \$30/  
family. Please see Dennis  
or Karissa for information.

\*\*\*

### **Pavilion Addition Work Day**

**October 7th at 8:00 am**

\*\*\*

### **Operation Christmas**

### **Child Collecting in September**

Tooth brushes (toothpaste  
NOT allowed), combs &  
brushes, wash cloths and bar  
soap, socks, caps, bandanas,  
sunglasses, flip-flops, kid sized  
t-shirts,

**Donations for  
shipping \$9 a box**

\*\*\*\*

'The secret of change is to  
focus all your energy, not  
on fighting the old, but on  
building the new.'

## The Dark Side

### **Small Group Study Continues**

**September 24,**

Fear Not!

1 John 4:1-6

**October 1,**

Battle Armor

Ephesians 6:10-20

**October 8,**

Battle Plan

Matthew 4:1-10

Small groups/Sunday school  
9 AM Sunday Morning

Arrive a little early for  
some "Coffee And ..."

*We have a group for everyone*

\*\*\*

**Feed the Murphysboro  
Red Devils Football team  
3:30 pm Friday October 6<sup>th</sup>**

\*\*\*

**Back to Church Sunday  
October 1, 2017  
10:15 am**

Contact - Invite - Bring

## **The Ridge Fall Festival**

**Sunday October 22**

**5-8 PM**

Make Caramel apples  
(apples provided);  
Fresh Kettle Korn,;  
Games for the Kids  
Bring a pumpkin to decorate.

Drinks and table  
service provided.  
Bring hotdogs/buns for your  
family and a dish to share.

**This is an outreach friendly event**  
\*\*\*

**Ridge Church  
Thanksgiving Dinner  
Sunday November 12  
6-8 PM**

**Provided:** Turkey  
and dressing, Mashed  
Potatoes, Gravy,

Bring sides or dessert  
Families bring 2  
Singles/Couples 1

**This is an outreach friendly event**

# Gorham Outreach #GO Block Party Saturday September 30<sup>th</sup>; 1-3 pm



## Volunteers Needed!

Pass out flyers on September 23. Leave from The Ridge at 9 AM

Vehicle with a trailer hitch to pick up and return Celebration Trailer in Pinckneyville

Serve food

Help with the horse rides

Engage the people of Gorham

**Concert  
by Matt Blagg**

**Menu  
&  
Activities**

- Hot Dogs
- Sno Cones
- Popcorn
- Brownies, Rice Krispy Treats

- Face Painting
- Bounce House
- Jumbo Jenga
- Horse Rides

**And  
More!**

## Cookies Needed!

We need cookies, brownies, or rice crispy squares for approximately 150 participants for the Gorham Block Party.

Each treat should be individually wrapped and at The Ridge no later than 1:00 pm on Sept. 29.

If you can help, please let Avis Barrett (687-2131) know no later than Sunday, September 24<sup>th</sup>.

**Gorham Block Party Meeting Sunday at 6 PM**

# Sunday School and Small Group Study September 24, 2017

|                     |               |              |
|---------------------|---------------|--------------|
| Preschool (birth-5) | Abram and Lot | Genesis 13   |
| Children (gr 1-6)   | Abram and Lot | Genesis 13   |
| Students (gr 7-12)  | Fear Not      | 1 John 4:1-6 |
| Adults              | Fear Not      | 1 John 4:1-6 |

## ONE CONVERSATION™

Use these discussion starters to help foster a spiritual conversation with your family.

**CONNECTION POINT:** Jesus loves and helps people.

**THE BIBLE MEETS LIFE:** When we read the headlines, we can easily get the impression that evil is winning. Evil is rampant, and unfortunately, evil will even present itself as good. We can still recognize evil for what it is because the truth will always line up with Jesus Christ. Evil can be deceptive, but we can avoid deception by knowing the truth—and we know the truth when we know Jesus.

**BIBLE  
STUDIES  
FOR LIFE**

**1 JOHN 4:1-6**

*Fear Not*

### PRESCHOOL



#### GENESIS 13

**LIVE IT OUT:** Look at a family photo album with your child. Take time to help your child remember family members they do not see often. Remind your child that God loves families. Thank God for your family and for God's love.

Abram had a large family and many animals. He had helpers to take care of his animals. Lot, Abram's nephew, had many animals, too.

One day Lot's helpers began arguing with Abram's helpers. There was not enough grass and water for all the animals.

Abram heard the helpers fighting. He knew it was wrong for his helpers and Lot's helpers to be arguing. Abram knew that God wants families to get along and work together.

Abram told Lot to choose the land where he wanted to live. Abram said that he would take the other land. This way they would both have plenty of grass for their animals.

Lot chose the grassy land by the river. He moved his family, helpers, and animals to the land next to the river. Abram took his family, helpers, and animals and moved to another part of the land. God promised the land to Abram's family forever.

### KIDS



#### GENESIS 13

**LIVE IT OUT:** Help your child deal with problems with other family members. Discuss the problem and help your child think of solutions. Encourage your child by reminding her that God made her able to think and solve problems.

Abram, his wife Sarai, and his relative Lot left Egypt. Abram took his family to a place where he had worshiped God.

The land did not have enough food and water for all the people and all the animals. Lot's servants and Abram's servants argued with each other.

Abram said to Lot, "Our servants should not argue. We are a family! We have the whole land before us. If you go to the right, I will go to the left. If you go to the left, I will go to the right."

Lot saw the Jordan Valley. It was green and beautiful. Lot chose the valley and moved there.

God spoke to Abram. "Look around you. Look in every direction. I will give you a big family. I will give the land to your family. Walk from one end of your land to the other!"

So Abram moved and built an altar to worship God.

### STUDENTS

**THE POINT:** We don't need to fear evil forces when we're in Christ.

- What are some of the most unusual phobias or fears you've heard about?
- Why is simply being aware of existing dangers so important?
- What practical steps can you take to discern between false teaching and God's truth?
- How would you describe the two opposing spirits in the world today?

Discuss the following quote: "Fear not that thy life shall come to an end, but rather fear that it shall never have a beginning."<sup>1</sup>

—John Henry Newman

**LIVE IT OUT:** Your student has been encouraged to take practical steps to take his or her faith and Live It Out in the Personal Study Guide.

Here are some ways you can encourage your students to live out their faith with Christ personally, in community, and in their culture:

- **CHRIST:** Take time to study some verses this week with your student in which we see God as a powerful, conquering King.
- **COMMUNITY:** Your student is facing many fears and challenges that are different from the ones you faced in school. Pray with him or her for the power to overcome these fears and experience the power of the gospel.
- **CULTURE:** There are two sides fighting for power in our world. Jesus has already overcome the world, so how can He use you and your student to gain victory?

1. "John Henry Newman > Quotes > Quotable Quote," Goodreads, [accessed 22 February 2017]. Available from the Internet: <http://www.goodreads.com/quotes/562528-fear-not-that-thy-life-shall-come-to-an-end>.

**We have a small group and a class for everyone.  
Join us Sunday at 9 AM**