

The Ridge Church  
7350 Old Hwy 13  
Carbondale, IL 62901

Phone: 618.457.0479

Email: RidgeChurch@OnTheRidge.org

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

### Join us Sunday Morning

8:30 am "Coffee And ..."  
9:00 am Sunday School/ Small Groups  
10:15 am Morning Worship  
6:00 pm Evening Devotion

### Wednesday Night is Family Night

5:30 PM Supper (by Reservation)

6:30 PM

Bible Study and Prayer  
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*



### #OnTheRidge

### Vacation Bible School

June 11-15, 9- Noon

4 yrs - completed  
6<sup>th</sup> grade

### YOUTH Vacation Bible School

June 11-14 12:30 - 3 pm

Youth grades 7-12

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### #Go-GorhamOutreach

### Vacation Bible School

July 9-13 6-8 pm

Grades k-6<sup>th</sup>



# The Witness

Wes Henson, Pastor

March 18, 2018

Vol. 42, No. 11

## A Family's Future Health and Happiness



As I write this article, Easter is about 2 and half weeks away. We have "Sprung Forward" to "fast" time (Daylight Saving Time), and spring is right around the corner (March 20). With all the rain we've had I am just waiting for the sun to burst forth a couple of days and send the grass into a growing spurt of cataclysmic proportions. Yes, the New Year is gaining momentum and everyone's calendar is getting full.

Being busy, active, involved, and on the go, appear to be the narrative of today's family and of society in general. No doubt, the affluence of the day combined with the opportunities that abound contribute to the non-stop frenzy many families experience. Time passes quickly and one must make the most of the present time.

"Carpe Diem" (Seize the day) is often referenced as the reason for such frenzied family activity. However, that is NOT what the term infers. In its proper context, ("Carpe diem, quam minimum credula postero" - "Seize the day, trusting as little as possible to the future") means, to do everything you can do today to make tomorrow better. It's not about indulging in the present and ignoring the future, but realizing that today's activities affect and influence the results of the future.

So, the "take home" is this: As you quickly fill up the family calendar with good activities to "seize the day", do not leave the future to chance and by-pass the benefits of weekly Bible study, worship, and service. These activities have the greatest influence on your family's future health and happiness.

We Labor Together With God,

Wes

**Deacon of the Week:**

Don McDonald

**Trustee of the Month**

Shawn Wilson

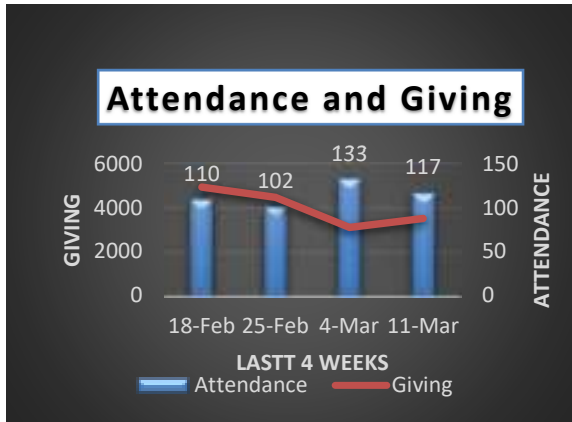
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**The Weekly Count**

SS/Small Group	117
Worship	103

**God's Tithes and Our Offerings**

General Fund	3,523.00
Debt Retirement	807.58
Wednesday Supper	80.00
Easter Egg Hunt	15.00
Annie Armstrong	20.00
Fuge	220.00



**Home Connection**  
 Venida McKinnies  
 Parkway Manor Rm.  
 #207  
 Marion, IL  
 62959  
 Please remember  
 Venida with a card or  
 a phone call

Home Connections!  
 Make one This Week

**9 Keys For Church Members To Be More Guest Friendly This Easter**

- 1. Pray as you enter the Campus.**  
Pray for the guests, services, pastor, and sermon.
- 2. Park at the most distant spot available.** Save the closer parking places for guests.
- 3. Greet people.** They may be guests or members. It's okay to introduce yourself to either.
- 4. Look for people to help.** You know the place well. Many will not.
- 5. Sit as close as possible to the front of the worship center.** Save the back for guests and late folks.
- 6. Sit in the middle.** So people will not have to walk over you.
- 7. Sit closely.** Be ready to sit cheek to cheek.
- 8. Volunteer to serve.** As the number of attendees increase, so does the need for volunteers.
- 9. Pray as you leave.** The Holy Spirit is likely working. Pray for His continual work of conviction and comfort.

These are simple acts of service. And if you survive doing these acts of kindness and service on Easter, you just might be able to do them on other days of worship as well.

**Coming Up On The Ridge**

**Saturday, March 17, 8 AM Campus Work Day**

**Saturday, March 17, Adult 1 & Others**  
 Irish Dinner and Game night at Louie & Jenny Hertter's  
**Arrive after 5; Eat after 6 -**  
 Wear Green- Games set up for Adults and Kids

**Sunday Nights 6 PM - Winter and Spring Faith in Action**  
**March 18 - Faith to Unite - Ephesians 4:1-16**  
 We plan to stream on FB Live

**Sunday, March 18, 5 PM**  
**VBS Workers Get Together**

**Wednesday, March 21, 7:30 PM**  
**Gorham TeamKID Meeting**  
 For those who will be going to Gorham

**Sunday, March 25, 3 PM**  
**Easter Egg Hunt #OnTheRidge**

**Thursday, March 29, 6:15 PM**  
**Maundy Thursday Service -**  
**Lord's Supper Communion**

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## This Week on The Ridge

### Sunday, March 18

8:30 AM - Coffee and...  
9:00 AM SS/small groups  
10:15 AM - Morning Worship  
5:00 PM - Adult Choir Rehearsal  
5:00 PM - VBS Workers  
Get Together  
6:00 PM - Evening Worship and  
Children's Choir

### Wednesday, March 21

7:00 AM - Men's Prayer Time  
5:45 PM - Dinner by reservation  
menu: grilled chicken, potato salad,  
baked beans, salad & dessert  
6:30 PM - Adult Prayer time,  
Bible Study, children's  
mission activities  
7:30 PM - TeamKID Meeting  
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### Saturday, March 24

1:00 PM - Gorham Easter Egg Hunt  
6:00 PM - Adult 2 Social  
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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

## Information You Need

**Sundays at 9 AM God Is ...**  
March 18

**God Is Our Banner**  
March 25

**God Is Our Peace**  
April 1

**Easter- God Is Faithful**  
April 8

**God Is Our Shepherd**  
April 15

**God is Our Righteousness**  
\*\*\*

### Hospitality - March 18

Casserole: Avis Barrett  
Fruit: Jamie Robison  
Bakery: Angie James

If you would volunteer to bring food,  
please sign up in the hospitality area  
or call the church office  
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**Campus Work Day**  
**On The Ridge**  
**Saturday, March 17,**  
**8 AM**

**Something for everyone. Arrive  
when you can, leave when you must**

## Easter Egg Hunts

This year we are hosting two Easter egg hunts. One in Gorham  
on **March 24** and our annual one on The Ridge on **March 25**.

### You can help by providing

- 1) Wrapped Easter candy,
- 2) Money for supplies,
- 3) Praying that we will be able to reach  
out to the unchurched and,  
a good time and good weather.

Deadline for money and wrapped candy is March 18.

### Annie Armstrong Easter Offering

The primary ministry initiative of the **North American  
Mission Board** is church planting and compassion ministries.

**49%** of the **NAMB** budget is provided by Annie  
Armstrong Easter Offering. **38%** is provided through  
the **Cooperative Program**.

**The Ridge Church goal for the Offering is \$1,000.**

### 6:30 PM Wednesday March 21

We will focus on a few of the more than 5,000 missionaries  
and 3,800 chaplains supported by the NAMB. We will pray  
specifically for the missionaries, the needs of their  
ministries, and the needs of their families.

**Pray with us.**

**Easter 2018 is just 2 weeks away.**  
Invitation cards and a great  
Easter explanation card are available  
at the Information Area.

Please take several to give away  
and begin inviting today!

**Easter Egg Hunt 2018**  
Sunday, March 25th at 3 PM\*  
Ages Birth through 6th Grade



\*Rain Date 3/31 10 AM

**Easter Sunrise Service**  
April 1, 2018  
7 AM  
Breakfast to Follow



**Easter Cantata**  
April 1, 2018  
10:15 AM  
The Ridge Choir  
presents...  
"Blessed Redeemer"

The Ridge Church 7350 Old Hwy 13 Carbondale IL 618.457.0479

### After Easter Study

**"Becoming a Welcoming Church" by Thom Rainer**  
6:30 PM Wednesdays April 4 through May 2

A game plan to become more hospitable  
A guide to make a difference to those who visit.  
An assessment and audit tool to locate where we are  
on a spectrum between welcoming and wanting.

Cost of book \$5

Call the church office to reserve your copy  
(Not necessary for the study)

**April 1, Easter Sunday**  
7 AM Sunrise Service - Breakfast to follow  
9 AM Small Groups  
10:15 AM Easter Cantata **"Blessed Redeemer"**  
presented by The Ridge Church Choir



**Happy Birthday March 11**  
Lisa Dover and  
Daryl Meier

# Sunday School and Small Group Study March 18, 2018

Preschool (birth-5)  
Children (gr 1-6)  
Students (gr 7-12)  
Adults

The Triumphal Entry  
The Triumphal Entry  
God is Our Banner  
God is Our Banner

Luke 19:28-40  
Luke 19:28-40  
Exodus 17:8-16  
Exodus 17:8-16

## ONE CONVERSATION™

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

**CONNECTION POINT:** Through Jesus' death and sacrifice we are covered by God's protection.  
**THE BIBLE MEETS LIFE:** "We stand better when we stand together." "There's strength in numbers." We generally agree with those statements, but sometimes life can feel so insurmountable that no amount of help and support makes a difference. Thankfully, God stands over the world, and He stands over every single issue we face. As the Israelites discovered, God is a banner over us, covering us with His protecting presence.

**BIBLE  
STUDIES  
FOR LIFE**

**EXODUS 17:8-16**  
*Our Banner*

### PRESCHOOL



**MATTHEW 26:17-30;**  
**1 CORINTHIANS 11:23-26**

**LIVE IT OUT:** Use the tune "London Bridge" to sing the following words with your preschooler: *Jesus said, "Remember Me, Remember Me, Remember Me." Jesus said, "Remember Me." I love Jesus.*

The disciples knew it was time for a special celebration called Passover. They asked Jesus, "Where do you want us to prepare the supper?"

Jesus sent them into the city. He said, "Tell the man you will meet that I want to celebrate at his house."

Jesus' disciples prepared for the special supper.

During the supper, Jesus took some bread. He thanked God for it. Jesus tore the bread into pieces. He gave bread to each disciple.

Jesus took a cup and thanked God for it. Jesus shared the cup with each disciple.

Jesus told His disciples to remember the things He did and to remember this special supper. Jesus and the disciples sang a song before they left the special supper.

### KIDS



**MATTHEW 26:17-30;**  
**1 CORINTHIANS 11:23-26**

**LIVE IT OUT:** Is your child a Christian? If not, share with her the plan of salvation. If she is, explain how the Lord's Supper helps us remember that Jesus died for our sins. Ask your child to tell things she remembers from Bible stories about Jesus.

Paul wrote a letter to the believers in Corinth. He told the people in Corinth about Jesus' last supper with the disciples.

The disciples were together for the Passover feast. At this feast, the people ate lamb. They ate flat pieces of bread.

This was the last time the disciples would eat together. The disciples had questions about what was to happen.

During the feast, Jesus took some bread. He thanked God for the bread. He shared the bread with His disciples. Jesus said, "This is My body which is for you. Remember Me when you eat this."

Then Jesus picked up a cup. He said, "This cup is the new promise in My blood. When you drink this, do it to remember Me."

Jesus and the disciples sang. Later Jesus was arrested.

### STUDENTS

**THE POINT:** We are always covered by God's protection.

- What are some things we rely on for protection?
- When have you felt like you were under attack?
- How do you make sure you're relying on God when the battle is long?
- What does God's banner of protection look like in your life?

Discuss the following quote: "It is the duty of all Nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey his will, to be grateful for his benefits, and humbly to implore his protection and favor."<sup>1</sup> —George Washington

**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:** How does your student see you living by faith and trusting in Jesus? Talk with your student about ways you can each grow in trusting Jesus more.
- **COMMUNITY:** Reach out to friends and neighbors that are experiencing difficult times and minister to them. Make sure they know God is their protector.
- **CULTURE:** Consider ways you and your student can share God's goodness with those that do not know His love.

1. "Thanksgiving Proclamation, 3 October 1789," National Archives [online], [accessed 27 August 2007]. Available from the Internet: <https://founders.archives.gov/documents/Washington/03-04-02-0091>.

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