

The Connection

Ridge United Methodist Church

Volume 7, Issue 10

October 2015

Inside this issue:

60th Anniversary	2
October Events	3 - 5
Next Month	5 & 6
Missions & Prayer	7
Education	8
Youth & Music	9
With Thanks	10
In Ministry & Celebrations	11

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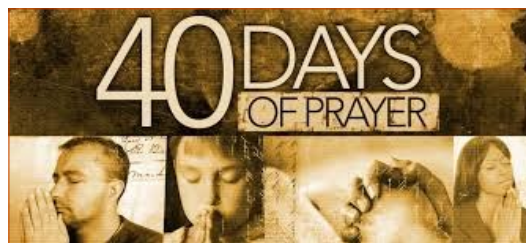
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Season of Prayer: The Right Time

The wisdom writer for the Book of Ecclesiastes captures the power of timing in the beautiful poem we read in Chapter 3. Eugene Peterson's paraphrase of 3:1 is, "There's an opportune time to do things, a right time for everything on the earth..."



The opportunity for conversing and listening to our Lord is all ways, everywhere, and always, especially if we follow Paul's lead from 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18. "Rejoice always, *pray without ceasing*, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you" (NRSV).

As many of you are aware, I am inviting our Ridge UMC family to participate in a Season of Prayer. Often we think of a prayer season as only connected a special holy or liturgical season like Advent or Lent. Those special times of our church year are ripe for renewal, reflection and repentance however, this season of prayer fulfills a different purpose.

When I refer a season of prayer, I mean a short period of time such as forty days to

focus upon the soul of our congregation. Our Season of Prayer (September 22-November 1) is designed to aid us in re-tuning our ears to hear, our eyes to be

open, and our hearts to be ready for what God is calling Ridge to do and be "anew" in ministry together. Thus, our Prayer Guides have been developed to help

you, your family or your small group pray or intercess for our church leadership, staff and congregation.

As Prayer Leaders, God has given us a unique assignment to pray for the needs of the body of Christ. God has given us charge to discern the need of the body as to work alongside of Him to advance the kingdom. And before we do anything great or small for the Kingdom... let's start together on our knees acknowledging that we need the Spirit's guidance, we trust in the provision of God our Heavenly Parent, and we wait on the unending grace of Jesus to unfold in our life together.

See you in the "praying place,"

Pastor Michelle

60th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

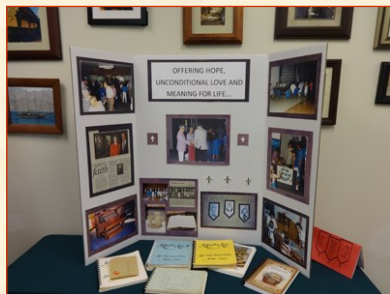
Page 2

The Connection

On Sunday, September 13th, nearly 200 members of the Ridge Church family celebrated our 60th Anniversary with a special service and special guest, Bishop Michael J. Coyner, (pictured below at left and center).



During the service, we recognized our 26 Legacy Members—those who have been members for 49 years or longer. The total years of their membership totaled 1,403! They are listed below:



Alice Altherr
Russ Altherr
Judy Bretz
Sue Cook
Charles Crary
George Erickson
LaVern Grasty
Lew Grasty
Louise Howe
Ray Howe
Julia Keeler
Rudolph Kirncic
Phyllis Lund

Rich Matthews
Lois McClaughry
Dick McClaughry
Ellen Nickoloff
Dolores Ray
Bob Ray
Diana Rogers
Kris Schumacher
Chuck Simpson
Nancy Simpson
Pat Snyder
Russ Snyder
A. Edwin Wickland



The "Ridge Museum" was on display in rooms 104-106, with memorabilia and a history of 60 years. The celebration also included a carry-in meal in the fellowship hall.



Special thanks to Celebration Committee members Celia (Hayes) Grasty, Nancy Caddick, Kathy O'Brien and Diana Rogers, as well as many volunteers.

Primetime trip to the Lincoln Funeral Train Thursday, October 8th



Join the Primetime group for breakfast at Cracker Barrel in Hammond, followed by a visit to the Lake County Welcome Center to view the Lincoln Funeral Train, a replica of the train that carried President Abraham Lincoln's body across the United States more than 150 years ago.

The train was created to commemorate the 150th anniversary of Lincoln's assassination and funeral. It is a near-exact replica. We'll meet at Cracker Barrel, 7750 Corinne Drive (Kennedy Avenue) at 9 a.m. Sign up on the Primetime bulletin board in the main hallway.

new MEMBERS CLASS



Join us for our Autumn New Member Class!

Are you ready to learn more about our Christian faith, United Methodist heritage, and the gifts of the Ridge United Methodist Church family?

If so, then, come for conversation, discussion and learning Sundays at 3 p.m. on **October 4th, 11th and 18th!**

Pastor Michelle will teach!

Joining Sunday will be November 22, during our next combined service at 10 a.m.

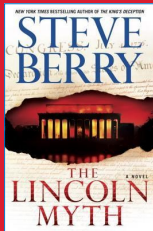
Family Hayride & Bonfire Oak Ridge Prairie County Park Sunday, October 18th 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Join us for an evening of fun! We'll take a tractor-driven hayride through one of our beautiful county parks. Then we'll roast hot dogs and marshmallows over a bonfire.

The cost is \$5 per person for the hayride. We will collect money at the event.

Watch for sign-ups on the bulletin boards. Each family should also sign up to bring one of the following: hot dogs, buns, graham crackers, marshmallows, Hershey bars. Hot chocolate and water will be provided.

**Ridge Book
Group:
THE LINCOLN
MYTH
Monday, October
19th @ 7 p.m.**



This Cotton Malone adventure involves a flaw in the United States

Constitution, a mystery about Abraham Lincoln, and an explosive political issue. Malone risks life, liberty, and his greatest love in a race for the truth about Abraham Lincoln—while the fate of the United States of America hangs in the balance.

You can pick up your copy of this thriller at the Munster Public Library, and join the discussion.

**FALL CLEAN-UP DAY
Saturday, October 24th
8 a.m. to noon**

We need your help to get the grounds around Ridge Church ready for winter. There are weeds to pull, trees to trim, leaves to rake, and branches to stack at the curb.

Bring rakes, shovels, gloves, pruners, hedge trimmers, and let's work together!

In case of bad weather, our rain date is October 31st

**ADMINISTRATIVE
COUNCIL
MEETING**

Tuesday, October 27th at 7 p.m.

Don't be left out! Find out what's happening at your church by attending the next meeting of the Administrative Council! All are welcome.

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Daylight Savings ends at 2 a.m. on November 1st. Don't forget to turn your clocks back!

Halloween fun on Sunday, October 25th!

Halloween Carnival from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m.



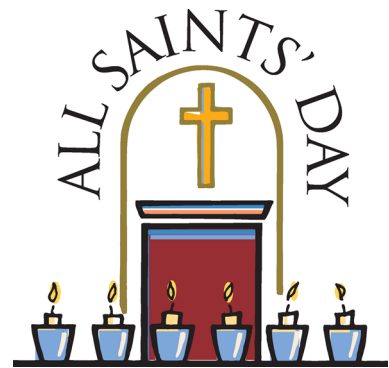
Kids through 5th grade can put on their Halloween costumes and get ready for a great time at the Carnival! There will be plenty of games and prizes. After the Carnival, kids will be invited to head outside to

TRUNK or TREAT!



This is where the adults get a turn to dress up, decorate their cars and join the fun by handing out goodies. Beginning at 5 p.m., children can "trunk or treat" from car to car.

Plan now to join us and spread the word by sharing this information with neighbors and friends.



**Sunday,
November 1st
@ all services**

Ridge Church will celebrate our recently departed members with the reading of names, tolling of a bell, and sharing a flower with a representative of each family.

During our recognition of saints, you will be welcome to share out loud the name of a loved one or friend who has died in the past year. Together, we will honor our loved ones and be blessed with the power of Resurrection!

House Blessing & Open House for the Knight family

Sunday, November 8th
2 p.m. to 5 p.m. (Central time)

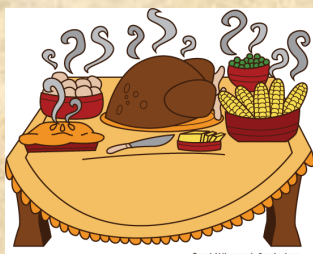
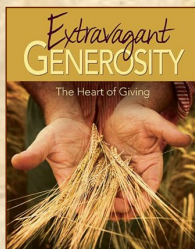
1103 Boxwood Drive in Munster
(Corner of Boxwood and York in Cobblestones)

Our Ridge UMC family is invited to the Knight home! Rev. Paul Arnold, our Associate District Superintendent, will offer a brief House Blessing at 2 p.m.

Come and go anytime during the afternoon.
Your presence is your gift.

**Coming Soon:
Celebrating Our
Past and
Recognizing Our
Commitment on
Sunday,
November 22nd**

We will remember the past and the laying of our cornerstone as we look toward the future on this special Sunday. During our combined service at 10 a.m., we will express our generosity through our 2016 financial commitments to Ridge Church. Then we will join together for a pre-Thanksgiving Dinner in the fellowship hall.



Turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes and gravy, and beverages will be provided. Please bring your family's favorite side dish, salad or dessert, and a copy of the recipe that we can share with others.



*This special season
begins Sunday,
November 29th.*

SHOEBOX CHRISTMAS PROJECT

You can help bring joy this Christmas to children who live in the Spirit Lake Nation region in the Dakotas.



Shoebox Christmas is a program that provides Christmas gifts to children in need in the Dakotas and Minnesota. In 2014, 6,445 gifts were donated and distributed by the Spirit Lake Ministry Center to children in the Crow Creek and Pine Ridge reservations of South Dakota; the Spirit Lake Nation and Turtle Mountain reservations in North Dakota; and the Red Lake Reservation in Minnesota.



Kathy Giannini makes it easy to do—just pick up a shoe box at church and follow the instructions! Boxes are due back to church by Sunday, November 22nd.

From your Ridge Missions Team:



In honor of Bishop Michael Coyner's visit on September 13th, and to celebrate his 12 years of service as our Bishop prior to his retirement in 2016, the Missions Team approved donating \$500 to the Epworth Discipleship Center project. This project which will impact young people who attend, visit and/or go to various Conference camps or retreats across Indiana.

The Team also thanks all who donated backpacks and school supplies: teachers from Maywood and Lafayette Elementary schools in Hammond were thrilled to receive donated school supplies for their students. Remaining supplies were donated to Sojourner Truth House in Gary.



ANGEL TREES: Shopping Alert!



Salvation Army Angel Tree tags will be available starting in mid-November. Please take advantage of all the sales NOW to buy gifts for our local underprivileged kids. All toys, books, hats, glove and mittens are welcome!



Prayer Chain

"Don't worry over anything; whenever you pray tell God every detail of your needs in thankful prayer." (Philippians 4:6)

There is power in prayer, especially when a number of people are praying at the same time for the same need. This fall we are organizing a new Prayer Chain—but we will have a Day Chain and Evening Chain. The Day Chain will serve from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Each group will receive prayer requests as they come into the church office. Each member will pray with another Chain member, and then pass the need on to the next person. The Chain is complete as it comes back to the office.

The Evening Chain will receive calls from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. to pray for the needs of the day, plus any emergency needs that are received each evening. If you are interested in becoming a Prayer Chain member, please contact Kathy O'Brien.

Prayer Blanket Ministry



You can help those who need to feel God's love by wrapping them in prayer with a Prayer Blanket.

Each blanket is personalized with the recipient's name, and is prayed over by Ridge Church members before being delivered.

Each blanket is \$10, and can be ordered by calling the church office.

Education News

Sunday School for all ages kicked off on September 20! **Wes Lukoshus** is teaching Adult Sunday School. **Lauren Holloway** is teaching Middle School Sunday School, along with assistants **Kathy Giannini** and **Jennifer Zaronias**. **Mr. Bob & Ms. Kim Miskimins** are teaching Preschool Sunday School. And, the Kindergarten through Fifth Grade team of teachers includes **Shelley Cohs, Cindy Leber, Steve Minton, and Marcy Smitka**, along with substitutes and assistants **Sarah Schroeder, Mary Jo Smith, Sue Gray, and BethAnn Smolinski** (the last two who also sub in the Preschool class).

All Sunday School classes begin at 9:45 a.m. Adults and Preschool run every Sunday; Kindergarten-Middle School runs every Sunday EXCEPT Communion Sundays. This year promises to be another great time of fun and excitement, discussion with learning, activities and a deeper understanding of God and God's love and activity in our lives... Support our teachers, substitute teachers, and assistants by praying for them and letting them know you've prayed. You can also support by

joining Ridge's teaching ministry! We're always looking for enthusiastic and gifted people. Please talk to anyone on the Education Committee.

Each month we feature a Bible Study/Christian Education group so our readers are more familiar with the Christian Education opportunities available through our church. This month we focus on the **Adult Sunday School** class led by **Wes Lukoshus**.

Wes shares: "After a summer recess, the Scripture and Discussion Adult Sunday School class has resumed... Adults of all ages are welcome. We read, discuss, offer perspectives, share a laugh or two, and, of course, study the Bible as we seek to better understand God's will for our lives. No pressure. We study in a relaxed atmosphere and have a great time doing it!

"Whether it's learning and applying the lessons of the Scriptures to help us better understand how to be the people God wants us to be, or gaining insights how to better deal with the challenges of our lives, studying God's word helps

enlighten and equip us.

"This fall, we'll engage in a study series about God's Justice. We'll study Biblical characters and their interaction with God's justice. No advance preparation is necessary—unless you want to read our Scripture passage for the following Sunday. Bring your own Bible or use one from the church library.

"If you cannot make it every week—no problem; come when you can. We welcome you! Grab a cup of coffee, a donut hole or bagel, and come join us!" Wes' class meets in the parlor (next to the sanctuary) and runs from 9:45 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Thank you, Wes! And grateful thanks to all our teachers and education leaders who share their gifts and talents to give us opportunities to grow in our faith and closer to God. Do you have a passion for teaching? Are you interested in being on the Education Committee to help shape our church's Christian education? Answer God's call! **YOU are invited to share your gifts and talents!**

What Is a Song? By Joe Felice

We may think of a song as a pleasant combination of beautiful voices and music. But it is much *more* than that. If we listen carefully, we can hear a special kind of music from unexpected sources—the everyday sounds of home, the natural sounds of the earth, or a simple expression of kindness.

A young man, who had been away for a very long time, came back to his boyhood home. As he climbed the porch stairs, he noticed the familiar creaking of the second stair from the bottom, and he heard the happy voices of his loved ones inside. It was music to his ears. “I felt,” he recalled, “like the house and my family were singing to me a wonderful chorus of welcome home!”

To a new mother, the cry of her newborn baby is a song. It soon becomes so familiar that she can recognize it instantly and hear in it the unspoken lyrics of her baby’s needs. And what is a song to a child but the sweet, calming voice of a mother or the expressions of approval and encouragement from a father.

In nature, the chirping of an ordinary bird is called a song. Even great whales in the oceans are said to be singing when they vocalize to one another at distances measured in hundreds of miles. The leaves of the trees sing as they gently rustle in the autumn breeze. To one who loves nature, the sounds of the earth are a song.

What, then, is a song ... *to God*? Perhaps it is any good deed done by one of His earthly children. With each kind human word that eases another’s burden, in all the goodness of our lives, we sing praises to our Father in heaven.

What is a song? In the truest sense of the word, a song can be heard in anything that lifts and blesses our lives. So listen, and hear the sweet music of life all around us.

If you would like to share in a ministry of song and music, then please consider joining the Music Ministries of Ridge Church. The Ridge Ringers handbell choir meets each Monday at 7:30 p.m. to rehearse. The Chancel Choir rehearses on Thursdays at 7 p.m., and the Solid Ground Praise Band rehearses at 7 p.m. each Wednesday.



Youth Group officially kicked-off in September! For those who are curious or know of youth in the area who are not connected with a church, Youth Group meets on Sundays:

- ♦ Middle School is from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.
- ♦ High School from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

The overlapping hour is dinner. (Free food, what’s not awesome about that?!)

GREENERY SALE

Ridge Youth will be doing our annual Greenery Fundraising



Sale during October to help raise money for future mission opportunities!

You can knock two birds out with one stone: add some holiday cheer with a Christmas wreath AND support your Youth!

Watch for more information about this fundraiser.



Dear Ridge
UMC,

I cannot
thank you
enough for all
the donations
of school
supplies for
my classroom
and my
building. Your
generosity
has made it
possible for
my students
to have all
the necessary
supplies to
start off the
year.

We are
forever
grateful!
Thank you!

Much love,

Rina Horgan

Heartfelt thank-yous to so many people who have supported me and my family since Larry passed away: Pastor Michelle for helping us plan and having a beautiful memorial service, and being there for support. The hugs, many cards and spoken words. The prayers—and I know there are many.

The luncheon was wonderful. It's nice to be able to visit and have a meal with family and friends in a warm and relaxed setting.

And to all the people who set up tables and chairs, cooked, baked, sewed and cleaned up: Thank you.

Warmly,

Betty Temple

I want to express my appreciation to the RUMC congregation. I am moving to 17319 Wetherington Drive, Westfield, IN 46074, after living in Munster for more than 40 years.

You have been my extended family and always there for me, in moments of joy and sadness, and more importantly, in everyday living. There are so many examples of strong Christians here, and they have been so influential on me.

I would like to specifically thank the Martha Circle and the Women's Bible Study, for such nice farewell celebrations. Thank you to Beth and the gals for the lovely cards and sentiments. Thanks to the RUMC staff and all of you who have touched my life.

Blessings to all of you,

Sarah Lasbury

Happy Birthday!

2	Mary Webber	18	Richie Leber
3	Marge Forsythe	19	Miranda Hoehn
	Laurelyn Gorlaczky		Jim Kane
	Barb Hinkens		Barbara Powell
	Richard Horgan		Diana Rogers
	Lorrayne Schmock	24	Evelyn Anderson
5	Jim Hamblin		Eric Knight
6	Michael Zaronias		Alison Kostelich
7	Emilia Cook		Larry Washington
9	Daniel Cappel		Charlene Wilson
	Sheryl Walters	27	Bill Caddick
10	Carter Chnupa		Michael Comandella
11	Diane Payne		Brandon Gorlaczky
12	Roy Basher		David Walters II
	Naomi Loos	29	Monte Novak
	Tim Zatorski	30	Shelley Cohs
13	Austin Martinez		Devin Raack
14	Debbi Kiefer	31	James Dye
15	Linda Ehlebracht		
17	Will Moell		
	Delores Shevchenko		
	Adam Tenbarger		

Ushers

8:30

Mandy Barbee
Ray Howe
Cheryl Sorrels

11:00

Bernice Nance
Kris Schumacher
Rick Schumacher
Larry Washington

Greeters

8:30

Please Volunteer!

11:00

10/4 Tom & Virginia Schreuder
10/11 Cheryl Roach & Dorothy Seefurth
10/18 Wayne & Janet Cable
10/25 Jim & Renee Jones

Liturgists

8:30

9/6 Kevin Mybeck
9/13 Tanya Jones
9/20 Chuck Lair
9/27 Wes Lukoshus

9:45

10/4 Shannen Smolinski
10/11 Terry Smith
10/18 Eric Messmer
10/25 Matt Scardine

11:00

10/4 Cindy Regnier
10/11 Ellen Byrne
10/18 Dennis Gray
10/25 Steve Rogers

October Anniversaries

Eric & Carrie Messmer	October 4
John & Monte Novak	October 5
Rich & Shirley Matthews	October 11
Dick & Lois McClaughry	October 13
Eric & Michelle Knight	October 21
Matt & Nora Hay	October 26

We've moved!

Sarah Lasbury	Matt & Nora Hay	Linda Ehlebracht
17319 Wetherington	16615 Downstream	2400 Rolling Hill Dr.
Westfield, IN	Westfield, IN	Dyer, IN 46311
46074	46062	
219-718-5957		

Hospitality

8:30 & 11:00

Martha Circle

9:45

10/4 Dayanna Frey & Lorena Alvarado
10/11 Jennifer Hill
10/18 Charlene & Tracey Wilson
10/25 Danny & Lisa Percak



**Ridge United
Methodist Church**

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Worship with us

Sunday mornings at 8:30, 9:45,

or 11:00

Do you have news to
share? The deadline
for **The Connection**
is October 15th.

UPCOMING sermons

October 4th

"Praying Out"

Psalm 13, Acts 16:16-34

October 11th

"Praying Through"

Matthew 6:5-14

October 18th

"Praying For"

Mark 2:1-12

October 25th

You will be blessed by Rev. Linda Lawler, retired elder and mother of Pastor Michelle/grandmother of Diana Knight, who will be our guest preacher.