



Spaghetti Dinner for Winning @ Life Breakfasts

We are having a spaghetti dinner on **Friday, Jan. 29** from **4-7 pm** to raise money for the Winning @ Life Breakfast program.

Each year we invite all sports teams, and extra-curricular groups from Munster High School to an early morning breakfast to recognize their efforts and to honor them, and their coaches. Chuck Horton, Dave Miller and the Men's Group cook pancakes, bacon

and sausage for the students.

So far this school year we have had 4 breakfasts, with approximately 350 students. We are scheduled to have 2 more in the spring.

Our goal is to reach the choir, speech and debate teams, the band and theatre groups if the scheduling can be worked out.

We use money raised from this

spaghetti dinner to help defray the costs.

Tickets are \$5.00 per person and can be purchased on Sunday mornings, in the church office, or online at www.ridgeumc.org.



Pasta Dinner

Nursery Paging System

Our nursery is growing as more and more babies are being born into the Ridge Church family. The Memorial Committee has recently purchased a new nursery paging system.



Parents are given a pager when dropping off their child. The system will allow nursery staff to immediately, and silently, notify parents if they are needed during

worship.

We believe this system will help to reassure parents that their infants and toddlers are being cared for in a safe and loving environment.



...with our members

Ridge Community Preschool

Munster Parks Preschool has been renting rooms from Ridge Church for several years now. At the end of October, Munster Parks informed us that, due to economic issues, they were going to have to close the preschool at the end of December, 2009. They asked us if we were interested in continuing with the preschool program, keeping the Director, Stayce Christ, and the other two teachers: Miss DeAnna and Miss Eileen.

On Sunday, November 1, Ridge Church had an Administrative Council meeting and voted to accept the Munster Parks Preschool offer to take

over the preschool program. Therefore, as of January 1, Ridge Community Preschool will operate under Ridge Church's ownership.

We will have open house on Tuesday, January 19, from 6-8 pm. There are openings for a 2-day program for 3 year olds, a 3-day program for 4 year olds, and a 4-day program, which is a Pre-K class for children eligible to attend kindergarten the following fall. Our child/teacher ratio is 1 teacher to 8 students.

Tell your family and friends to come to the open house, meet the teachers, and see what the program is all about.



Also, we will be having a program on Friday mornings, 9:30-11:00 for children that are 2-3 years old called **Bright Beginnings**. It is geared to help prepare toddlers for preschool in the fall. Parents (guardians, grandparents, etc.) stay with the children. Children will learn to take turns, sing songs, play instruments, learn finger plays and much more. These are 5 week sessions and start on Jan. 15.

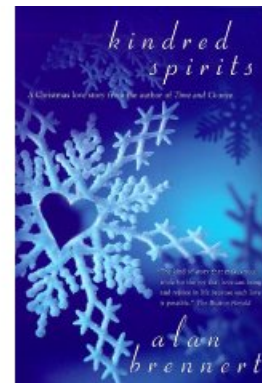
Book Study

The next meeting of the book study group is Monday, January 11, 2010, @ 7:00 pm

In this beautiful Christmas story, two lonely people give up on life, only to find something infinitely more

wonderful. Their experiences are awash with all of the wonders of the hereafter, but with a great deal to teach us all about living here on earth.

Join us for discussion, and invite your friends.



...with the pastor



Happy New Year!

As we kick off 2010, Nathan and I have many great sermon ideas that we are working on. A couple of years ago on Wednesday evenings, as a part of WWE, we did a series in looking at other faith groups. We had speakers from the Muslim, Hindu and Jewish traditions tell us a little bit about their faiths. The response to that series was tremendous. The one piece that became clear during that series was that while we don't know other faith traditions very well, we also don't know much about our fellow Christians.

Beginning on January 3rd, and continuing for the rest of the month of January, Nathan and I will help explore a number of different faith traditions. We will begin with "Our Jewish Roots," as we seek to understand the foundation that Judaism has given us as Christians and the different forms of Jewish faith that exist today. On January 10th, I will explore Orthodoxy and Roman Catholicism.

January 17th, Nathan will look at the Baptist and Episcopal traditions, while I will be down the street at Westminster leading their adult Sunday School Class, as I share about John Wesley and the Methodist movement. On January 24th, I will examine the Lutheran and Presbyterian traditions. We will conclude the series on January 31st with a very special guest speaker. Our District Superintendent, Cindy Reynolds will be with us and share with us our very own United Methodist tradition.

I am looking forward to this opportunity to share with you, so that we

can all understand how similar we are, yet how each faith's traditions do things a little bit differently. On Wednesday nights, as a part of WWE, during this series, I will be leading a study called: Christianity's Family Tree. This study was created by Adam Hamilton of the Church of the Resurrection in Kansas City. This will provide an opportunity for us to dig even deeper as

Wishing you great joy and happiness in 2010!

we seek to understand what other Christians believe and why they do what they do.

February 7th, for the last number of years has been Youth Sunday at Ridge Church, and once again we will be blessed as they lead us in worship.

Valentine's Day, February 14th falls on a Sunday this year. It has been a few years since we celebrated marriage and anniversaries. We want to

honor everyone who is married (or is a widow/widower). Kathy and I are working on planning a great celebration for the day. We

would like a wedding picture from every one. You can either bring it in (and we will scan it) or you can e-mail a copy to me (steve@ridgeumc.org). If you have some ideas how we can make this a very special day, please let Kathy O'Brien or me know.

Pastor Steve



...within our church and beyond

“Have a New Kid by Friday”

6 Week Parenting Class beginning Wednesday, January 6th

6:45-8:00 p.m.

Childcare will be available

Anyone who has dealt with a strong-willed child knows that it is no easy task to turn bad behavior around. But the popularity of TV programs like Super Nanny and Nanny 911 shows that parents have had it up to here and are ready to try anything to get their children to behave. Join **Bob and Deb Birgel** as they facilitate a new video series by bestselling author and psychologist **Dr. Kevin Leman** and discover how you can “**Have a New Kid by Friday.**”

Join other parents and learn how to reverse negative behavior in children—fast.

With his signature wit and encouragement, Dr. Leman offers hope and real, practical, doable strategies for regaining control and becoming the parents you’ve always wanted to be. Topics to be covered include:



- **WAKE UP TO REALITY**
Breaking free from the Parent Trap
- **CAUTION : CHILDREN GROWING UP HERE!**
What kids need that parents must deliver
- **STAYING CONNECTED TO BE RESPECTED**

It’s not an impossible dream

- **CHECK YOUR ATTITUDE AT THE DOOR**
Dudes and Dudettes with ‘tudes not permitted inside!
- **THE AMAZING RACE FOR SELF-ESTEEM**
Raising the bar of confidence without lowering the boom of discouragement
- **“LEMAN SECRETS” FOR ENJOYING THE JOURNEY**
Little things mean a lot!

Check out the website below for a video preview of this study. http://www.sampsonresources.com/products/Have_A_New_Kid_by_Friday_KevinLeman.htm

WWE FOR JANUARY

Dinner 5:45

Program 6:45

Cost: \$5.00 for adults and \$2.50 for children ages 3-10. Please sign up on the attendance sign-in books on Sundays, or call the church office, 838-4770, if you will be joining us for

dinner.

Menus for January:

6th: King Ranch Chicken, salad, biscuits and dessert

13th: Chili with beans, cheese and crackers, fruit and cookies

20th: Stuffed shells, tossed salad, garlic toast, and dessert

27th: Italian Beef Sandwiches, potato salad, gelatin salad and dessert

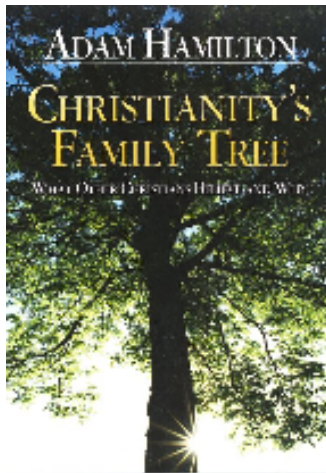
...with upcoming events



Christianity's Family Tree — A Church-wide Study beginning Jan. 6

There are many different faith traditions within the Christian faith.

Ridge Church will focus for six weeks on the subject of "Christianity's Family Tree: What Other Christians Believe and Why" in the hopes that we will come to a greater understanding of the beliefs and practices of our Christian brothers and sisters from other denominations, how those differ from our own beliefs and practices, and what we share in common, and what we can learn from



one another.

The study is based on a video series of the same name featuring the Reverend Adam Hamilton, founding pastor of the Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, Kansas. This special church-wide event will include worship, sermons, and a small-group study on Wednesday evening that will feature videos, bible study, and discussion.

Come and learn more about your relatives in the Christian faith: Orthodox, Catholic, Lutheran, Presbyterian, Anglican, Baptist, and Methodist.

One of the primary goals is to help us see and understand these different Christian denominations and faith traditions. We will explore them with sensitivity and respect, in the awareness that we worship and serve the same God.

As part of the event, we will be making an extra effort to invite everyone, church members and new participants alike. Many of us have relationships with people of other Christian traditions, and through study we will discover that we share much in common. As a part of WWE we will share in a meal each week and then participate in a six week study. Be sure to invite your neighbors and friends to join you.

Breakfast with Santa and Munster Craft Fair Updates & Thanks

Many thanks to all those who helped at the Breakfast with Santa: whether you served, set-up, cleaned-up or bought tickets — Thank You. Special thanks to our cooks: Chuck Horton, Dave Miller and Joel Bandstra.

We served about 96

people, and Santa was a big hit, of course.

Thanks also to everyone who helped make the Craft Fair concession stand event a big success. Thanks to those who helped set-up: Sue Morris, Jan Watson and Wayne Cable, and to Sue Morris

and Matt Svoboda who were in charge on Sat. & Sun. Thanks to all who donated food items, or beverages, and who helped in the concession stand. We made approximately \$2,100 in two days. Thanks for the support!

Nancy Caddick



...within our church

Youth Update

Youth Sunday is February 7, 2010

The Ridge Youth will be running all three services on February 7, 2010. This will be our Youth Sunday and will coincide with our Super Bowl of Caring event. On this Sunday, youth will be preaching,

praying, ushering, and serving communion. It is always a special time to see the talents and dedication of our youth as they minister to us on Youth Sunday. Following services on this day, there will be youth collecting money in soup pots in order to raise



money for the fight against hunger! All donations will go toward Ridge Church's Soup Kitchen.

Please plan to come and participate fully on this special day for the youth!

Benefit Night Update

The Ridge Youth would like to thank everyone who participated in our recent Roadhouse benefit night. It was a very fun night and we raised \$160 to go toward our mission trip next summer. Please look

for future opportunities to help support our youth in their mission experiences.

Thank You

A BIG

HEARTFELT THANK YOU

to our church family for your concern and compassion during Jack's long

journey. Hugs and cards were, and are very important. To Pastors Steve and Nathan: your visits to Jack were greatly appreciated. Our extended church family is wonderful.

Thank you, with love,
Marge, Holly & Stuart Forsythe



Greenery Sale Update

The Ridge Youth had a very successful greenery sale this year! Thanks to all of you who sold, purchased, sorted and delivered greenery. I am sure that all of these greenery items were a joy to look at throughout the

Christmas Season! All proceeds from this fundraiser are being used to send our youth on their summer mission trip. The total amount of profit from this sale was \$763. Thanks again for supporting the Ridge Youth!

...within the community



We have set the date for our semi-annual Auction — Friday, April 9



donation. We need volunteers to make a personal contact with the business owner asking them if they

received the letter and seeing if they are willing to make a donation. Perhaps you have a relationship with a certain business, or would just be willing to do this simple task.

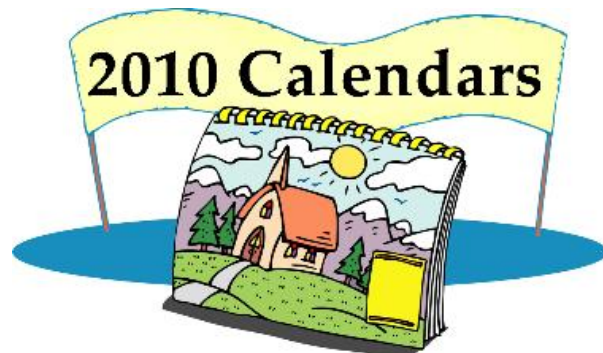
We will have the businesses, with contact person at the business, address, etc. all ready for you to take. The proceeds from the auction go toward the general budget.

Watch in the Sunday bulletin for more information, or you can contact Nancy Caddick, in the church office, 838-4770.

In January we will be seeking your help in following up with area business owners. Letters will go out to the business owners asking them for a



If you are willing to donate flowers to grace our altar for 8:30 & 11:00 services, you may sign up on the flower chart in the hallway by the narthex. Cost is \$25 per Sunday, and you may designate the special occasion, or that the flowers are in honor or in memory of a loved one.



The 2010 calendars, that are donated by Burns-Kish Funeral Home, are available for you to pick up. They are in the narthex and in the entryway by the fellowship hall. Please help yourself.

**RIDGE UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH**

8607 COLUMBIA AVE
MUNSTER, IN 46321

219-838-4770

Worship: 8:30, 9:45 & 11 am

Sunday School 9:45

E-mail: ridgeumc@sbcglobal.net

Steven Conger, Senior Pastor

Nathan Whybrew, Assoc. Pastor

www.ridgeumc.org

Presorted

First-Class Mail

U.S. Postage Paid

Hammond, IN 46321

Permit No. 1503

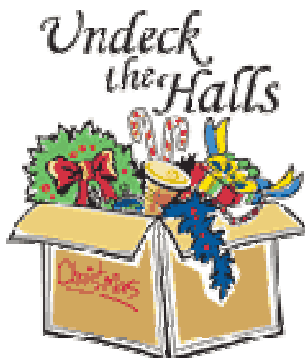
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**TIME DATED MATERIAL —
PLEASE RUSH**

...with upcoming events



On Sun., Jan. 3 right after the 9:45 service, and the 11:00 service we will be taking down decorations and could use your help. A chili lunch will be served.



Yes, I know you may receive this newsletter before Christmas is even over, but Lent begins on Wednesday, February 17! We will have an Ash Wednesday service at 7:00 pm.

With Lent comes our annual Fish Fry's

We have three fish fry's scheduled for 2010:

Fridays:

February 19

March 5 & 19

Mark your calendars and watch for ticket sales



Solid Ground

SERVERS:

Jan. 3

Marie Cost

Liz Pluta

Jan. 10

Tom & Sue Gajewski

Jan. 17

Karen Groszewski

Jan. 24

USHERS

8:30

Stan & Bev Shideler

Megan Shideler

11:00

Larry Temple

Tom Schreuder

Roy Absher

January

Solid Ground

SOUND BOARD:

Jim Doolittle

GREETERS:

Jan. 3

8:30 Clester & Jacque Goins

11:00 Richard & Lois Parbst

Jan. 10

8:30 Mark & Bonnie Alberson

11:00 Rick & Kristina Schumacher

Jan. 17

8:30 Dave & JoAnne Shafer

11:00 Shirley Franks

Mary Ellen Breed

Jan. 24

8:30 Bill & Janie Wilson

11:00 Ellen Nickoloff

Dorothy Seefurth

Jan. 31

8:30 Dave & JoAnne Shafer



January Birthdays

2 Bill Caddick, Jr.
Sue Schmit

3 Adam Bogs

5 Jim Hamblin

8 Gentry Jones

Addison Smitka

Tom Labus

10 Eddy Banjura

11 Pat Snyder

13 Keith Sorrels

Larry Temple

Barb Absher

Kevin Morris

15 Bev Keil

16 Deena McNurlan

Sharon Stewart

18 Barb Zafran

20 Jon Lair

22 Rich Matthews

Ken Angotti

25 Brian Battista

Dorothy Webb

This Month's Birthdays

