

FOR OUR GUESTS

We are glad you chose to worship with us today! We want to make your experience with us as easy and enjoyable as possible. The following information will help you to know what to expect today.

Please take advantage of our children's programs:

Nursery (ages 0 through 2 yrs.)

A staffed, teaching nursery is located out the auditorium doors to the right.

Jesus' Farm (Ages 3 yrs. - K)

Jesus Farm is our pre-school program, offered during both hours, to help children know that God loves & cares for us. Every activity is geared to the child's learning level. It is located out the auditorium doors to the left. Your child may be checked in at the wagon.

rEVOLVe (Grades 1 - 5)

rEVOLVe is our elementary age program located in the lower level of the fellowship hall. Bring your child down at 9:00 for Sunday School. Then, following congregational singing/worship songs, children will head to the lower level and enter a time of worship & an environment to develop a relationship with Jesus Christ through different activities.

The Offering - It is a privilege to give back to God a portion of the material blessings He has given us. Offering boxes are located on the walls at the back of the auditorium or you can give online @ ripleycoc.com.

Communion - We choose to offer the Lords' Supper each Sunday for all Christians to share. This is done to provide an opportunity to obey Christ to commune "in remembrance" of His death on the cross. Use this quiet time to draw close to the sacrificial Savior. Emblems can be picked up at the table in the foyer.

Decision and Dedication - Times for public responses to God are included in our worship. If you believe that Jesus is the Son of God, has the power to be your Savior, and has the right to be your Lord, this is an invitation for you to come to the front at the invitation song to announce your belief publicly and to

accept Christ by immersion in water (baptism). If you are an immersed believer in Jesus, and desire to be an active member of this body of believers, then come to affirm your faith publicly and express that desire. Responses for rededication and prayer are also encouraged by coming to the front at the invitation song.

If you would like further information about either of these decisions, feel free to schedule an appointment with one of our staff members. Individuals may make these decisions throughout the week and need not take place in the worship service.

If you need additional information or assistance, please ask an usher or greeter. They are here to assist you.



Ripley Church of Christ

9:00 am Worship & Sunday School

10:30 am Worship

Ph. 330-567-2320

www.ripleycoc.com

For more detailed information about our church, service opportunities or ministries, stop by our welcome center or visit us on the web. You'll find access to sermons, resources, calendar, and more.



December 5, 2021

Tom Benter
Senior Minister

Ariel Stivers
Children's Ministry Coordinator

Jeremiah Stivers
Associate Minister

Sermon Notes

Where is God in the Wilderness?

Look, the virgin will conceive a child. She'll give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel, which means God is with us.

- Matthew 1:23



The wilderness is different from the valley, because t_____ in the wilderness usually lasts a lot longer. The wilderness is a barren place, a dry place, a desolate place where you feel very alone.

KEY: Your deepest n_____ becomes a g_____ when it drives you to d_____ on God.

1 Kings 19

Verse 2

Verse 3

Verse 4

Verse 5-6

Verse 7

Verse 8-9

Verse 10

Verse 11-13

Why does He whisper? _____

The Lord is close to the brokenhearted; he rescues those whose spirits are crushed. - Psalm 34:18

The Lord is my shepherd; I have all that I need. He lets me rest in green meadows; he leads me beside peaceful streams. He renews my strength. ... Even when I walk through the darkest valley, I will not be afraid, for you are close beside me. Your rod and your staff protect and comfort me. - Psalm 23:1-4 (NLT)

CONCLUSION

Maybe what you have is all that you have, because you're doing this life thing on your own. The promises to God's people are not your promises because you've never chosen to be a part of God's family.

This Week

Today:	9:00 a	Worship & Sunday School
	10:30 a	Worship & Sunday School
	6:00 p	Flourish Women's Group
Mon:	6:00 p	Missions' Ministry Conference Call
Wed:	6:30 p	Play Practice in Auditorium
	7:00 p	Men's Bible Study, Fellowship Hall

ABF Classes / Locations

9:00a

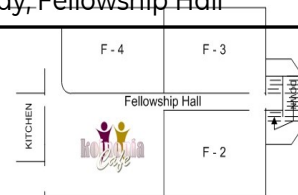
Adult Study, Luke F3

Women's Class: The Power of a Praying Woman by Stormie Omartian Conference Room

10:30a

College / Young Adults F-3

Ladies' Class, Conference Rm



Nov. 28 Giving \$5,059.10 Budget \$7,692.31



***NOTE: Masks and communion supplies are available in the foyer as you enter.**

Upcoming Events

Christmas Activities



How it Works:

1. Keep track of all the Christmas expenses you encounter this Christmas season.
2. Give an extra gift this Christmas season that is greater than the average amount you spend on people this year. A special offering will be received on December 19.

Staff Appreciation / Christmas Bonus' - You can contribute by identifying on your offering envelope or giving to one of the Elders.

Dinner Theater December 10 & 11 6:00p

Reservations required for Dinner 330.567.2320

Play 7:30p

Dec 12 10:30a play only

Christmas Eve Services- 4:30 & 6:00p

One worship service on December 12, 19, 26, & January 2.

Sunday school as normal December 12, 26 & January 2.

Ripley Ladies' Fellowship banquet Monday, 12/13, 6:00 p. All welcome. Meat, rolls, beverage provided. Please bring a side dish and items for the "Good Deeds" basket.

Ripley "Christmas Card Service", our youth will sort and distribute to anyone who *REGULARLY ATTENDS* Ripley. Collecting no later than *WEDNESDAY*, December 15. *Put in ALPHABETICAL ORDER* in Christmas mailbox in the Workroom.

Looking for helpers for Christmas Theater Dinner. Contact Lisa McCartney (330.685.4506) or sign up at the Registration Station.

Ladies: Do you long for intimacy with God? Do you desire to feel His presence, to hear His voice, to sense His pleasure? If drawing near to God is the desire of your heart, then we invite you to join us in an invigorating study of the discipline of fasting. Bible Study will start after Christmas. If you have any questions please contact Marla Tipton 330.347.1025

If anyone is interested in covering the office phone December 27-31 for full or half days during Janelle's vacation, call the office at 330.567.2320 or text 330.466.9664.

