

OUR SAVIOUR'S UCC

343 SCOTT STREET

RIPON, WI 54971

Non-Profit  
Organization

U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

RIPON, WI

Permit No. 31

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

OUR SAVIOUR'S  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

FAITH FAMILY FRIENDSHIP

# THE MESSENGER

Vol. 101, No. 2

February 2025

Ripon, WI.

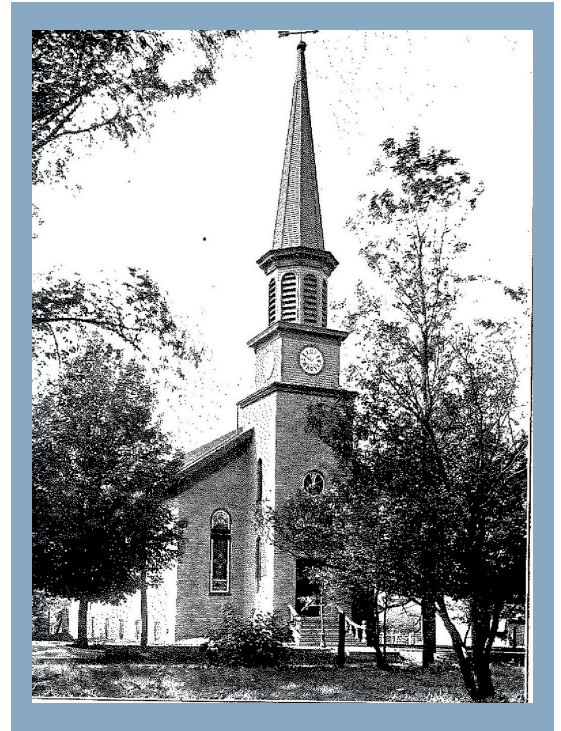
# FEBRUARY

*Snow Moon photo credit: International Star Registry*

# Welcome to The Messenger

*Published by Our Saviour's UCC since 1924*

- Page 2 From the Pastor's Desk**
- Page 3 Committee News**
- Page 4 More Committee News**
- Page 5 Ministries, Projects, and News**
- Page 6 More Ministries, Projects, and News**
- Page 7 From Our Parish Nurse**
- Page 8 February Duties Schedule**
- Page 9 February Calendar**



## Join us for Worship In-Person, Virtually, or by Radio!

Worship Services are Thursday at 6:30 pm in the Chapel and Sunday at 9:00 am in the Sanctuary. Both services are Livestreamed to Facebook, YouTube, and our website. On Sunday at 11:00 am you can also tune in to 1600AM WRPN to listen to the radio broadcast of the 9:00 am worship service.

For those who worship through our online opportunities, if you live in the greater Ripon area and would like Rev. Mundell to come by in person to visit and bring you communion, please call our church office at 920-748-2544 to set up an appointment. He is very happy to do that for you!

## Deadline for the March 2025 Edition of The Messenger:

Events to be included on the calendar, committee updates, articles, etc. should be submitted to the office by **February 15th** via email to the Church office, [osuccripon1@gmail.com](mailto:osuccripon1@gmail.com), or you may drop your information in the office, or submit it using the the QR code at the right and filling out the short form that is automatically sent directly to the office email. Thank you.

QR Code



**Our Saviour's United Church of Christ**  
**343 Scott Street, Ripon, WI 54971 | 920.748.2544**  
**[www.OurSavioursUCCRipon.com](http://www.OurSavioursUCCRipon.com)**



<https://bit.ly/OSUCCFacebook>



<https://bit.ly/OSUCCYouTube>

# From the Pastor's Desk



I tried reading a book to my grandson the other day. It didn't go quite how I wanted it to go. He liked sitting in my lap and having me hold the book in front of him while reading and pointing at the pictures on the pages, but he didn't appreciate the experience in the same way I did. He thought my pointing fingers were there to be grabbed and put in his slobbery mouth, and that the pages of the book were there for the sole purpose of being eaten rather than read. He and I are going to need to have some good conversations about the importance of reading and books, but I suppose I will have to wait until he can talk and read before we have them.

What is amazing to see is that if you sit him up, he can stay sitting for a long time and usually only falls over when he reaches too far for something he wants. He cannot crawl yet, but he does know how to roll, so he will roll himself every which way until he gets to what he is after. Sometimes he will hit his head or get stuck under stuff or bump his body into things. When that happens he sometimes cries, but more times than not he just changes direction and keeps trying. He needs to touch, taste and listen to everything that makes a sound. I think we forget this about ourselves as we get older, and that may not be the best for us.

Everything in the world to him is fresh, new, and amazing and he wants to experience it with wonder and excitement, and at times even with joy. This is the gift of a new life for most of us, and to see it in my grandson at six months is amazing for me.

When I set my grandson up after he falls over so he can keep on going, slobber and all, it kind of feels like he's baptizing me as he wipes all his slobber off on me. And I can't help but think about what my own baptism, my rebirth, means for me. It is God washing away, through Jesus, all the stuff that keeps me from getting back up and continuing to explore and experience the world around me.

I had a teacher who said it this way, pulling from Martin Luther's ideas, "Baptism is as if you were placed safely in a boat floating on a vast ocean, you can climb out into the water and swim away in any direction as long and as hard as you like, but the moment you stop and turn back toward your boat it bumps into you and flips you back up into safety." Our baptism into Jesus' death and our eventual resurrection is the hope to simply keep getting back up. To return to the joy and wonder of life found in sharing ourselves with other people and letting them share themselves with us.

Jürgen Moltmann, in his book, "In the End-the Beginning" helps us think about getting up in this way, "Christian faith is faith in the resurrection, and the resurrection is literally just that: rising up again. It gives us the strength to get up, and the creative freedom to begin something fresh. A new life begins. (xi)" I believe what God has always wanted or us is life, and life abundantly in this amazing world God has created and continues to sustain while working to also redeem it from our sin.

Watching my grandson's openness to the world fills me with hope and reminds me of why Jesus came to us as a baby. Think about the father's joy and wonder in watching Jesus explore with joy and wonder the world that God has made and keeps making anew! The good news is that God is for us in Jesus so that we can keep getting up, over and over again, to new life and God's eternal love for us. Let us live in hope as we journey through the season of Epiphany together.

# Committee News

## Altar Guild

The 2025 sign-up book is available on the stand outside of the church office. This sign-up is for each of the sponsorships. Altar flowers are \$25 and Organ flowers are \$16 each. Radio Broadcasts are \$50 per sponsor & \$25 per sponsor per bulletin. Checks for Altar and Organ flowers should be made out to OSUCC ALTAR GUILD. All other checks can be made out to OSUCC. Thank you!



Our next meeting is Sunday, February 9th at 10:15 am. We welcome anyone new that would like to come and join our Altar Guild group. If you have any questions, please contact Caroline Retzlaff at 920-748-2367 or Iona Altnau at 920-748-5391.

## Called to Care *Committee*

Nurse Emily holds a Blood Pressure Clinic the first Sunday of every month after the worship service. This month that date is February 2nd. She holds the Mind, Body, & Soul Clinic every Thursday from 9:00 am until Noon. If you would like a visit from Nurse Emily, please call her at 920-748-2544 during office hours or email her at [osuccnripon1@gmail.com](mailto:osuccnripon1@gmail.com).

Called to Care has started planning our next community learning event for Spring 2025. We'll be sharing more details in the future months.

The next Called to Care meeting will be held Thursday, February 13th, at 9:30 am in the conference room. New members are always welcome to join us to help provide fellowship and support for members of our congregation. If interested please talk to Rev. Mundell, Iona Altnau, Julie Stellmacher, Caroline Retzlaff, Pat Gittens, or Kathy Lang.



## *Christian Education Committee*

Our next committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 17th, at 5:30 PM.

- **Adult Ed:** Meets at 10:30 AM after Worship Service.
- **Christian Ed Classes:** Sunday School meets at 10:15 AM after Worship Service.
- **Confirmation Class:** We have a class underway. Contact Rev. Mundell if you would like to join the class.
- **Nursery:** We have a child/parent space available in the Southwest Corner of the Sanctuary.

## *Evangelism Committee*

The current issue of *The Upper Room* is available in the East Narthex, the North Narthex, and in front of the church office. There is no charge for this wonderful publication so please do take advantage of using it. There is a large print size and a small size available.



Our next committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 17th, at 6:30 pm.

# More Committee News

## Evangelism Committee

The current issue of *The Upper Room* is available in the East Narthex, the North Narthex, and in front of the church office. There is no charge for this wonderful publication so please do take advantage of using it. There is a large print size and a small size available.



Our next committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 17th, at 6:30 pm.



## Mission Committee

This year's date for Missions Committee's Souper Bowl Sunday is February 9th. Help us, well, at least acknowledge that big football game our Packers aren't in

this year (Super Bowl LIX) by donating cans of soup that will help our Ripon community food pantries stay stocked up and our community fed during this chilly winter. We thank you!



Missions Committee will meet next until Tuesday, February 18th, at 5:30 pm. Anyone interested in joining the committee is welcome to attend.

## OSUCC Church Council

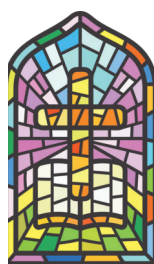
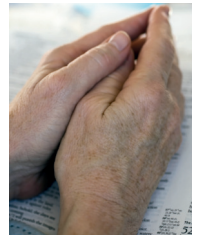
The date for our congregation's Annual Meeting is scheduled for February 16, 2025 at 10:15 am. The 2024 Annual Report will be available for members to review on Sunday, February 2nd, two weeks prior to the meeting.

We hope all will make the time to be present and take part in this important process for our religious community here at OSUCC.

## Prayer Chain Ministry

In our Prayers: *Sandra Badtke, Jim Clausen, Cattibree Dailey, Tara Koller, Sue Meyer, Barb Schultz, Ron Triemstra, Chris Wiegand, 12 unspoken, and all others.*

Feel free to use our prayer chain ministry by contacting Caroline Retzlaff at 920-748-2367.



## Worship Committee

Our search for a new Choir Director is ongoing. If you hear of someone who may be interested, please contact Barb Stracy at 920-229-1183.

The next meeting of the Worship Committee is Monday, February 17th, at 4:30 pm. Anyone interested in joining the committee is welcome to attend.

# Ministries, Projects, and News

## The Ripon Free Community Meals



Our January Free Community Meal was kind of noisy! With the way the Christmas and New Years holidays fell, 2 churches had cancelled their meals. You could definitely tell that people missed the conversation of old and new friends!

Our January Chili dinner meal was very well received and even featured a special treat of either a shrimp or a piece of pickled herring. Glad that folks liked that although it may not have been everyone's (maybe like Barb?) favorite treat. Not naming names though! 😊 Those who passed on the special treats just left more for the rest of the diners to savor!

For the February 4th meal, Nancy is preparing a "Sunday" dinner of Roast Pork, mashed potatoes and gravy, squash, and salad. We are asking our wonderful, famous bakers to prepare cupcakes of any flavor and type. That can be fun! You know how well your desserts excite and delight our diners, keeping them indecisively hovering over the dessert table. It's fun to watch!

Look for the volunteer sign-up boards in the East Narthex again for the upcoming months of meals. Each month has food prep needs specific to the menu being served. As volunteers there are different ways to be involved and your time is very much appreciated. Thank you everyone!

## Women's Wild Winter Weekend!

Registration is open for the February 21-23, 2025 Women's Wild Winter Weekend! There is an option to go on February 20th as well. The theme for camp will be Kindness, and the Saturday dinner theme will be "Tailgate Party" so make sure to pack your favorite team wear and accessories!



While you can register online, we highly recommend calling 715-479-8255 instead. OSUCC generously provides scholarships to all our ladies who attend this wonderful event, so make sure to tell the registrar that when you call so that you don't pay the camp fee yourself. The camp will bill the church for our entire group at the close of registration.

WWW offers moments of personal reflection, singing, crafts, group activities, and enjoying fellowship time. Indulge in self-care at the Comfort Corner, browse the Silent Auction, savor the delights of the fabulous Saturday night banquet (featuring a chocolate fountain bar), join in uplifting worship, and, of course, relish ample time to immerse yourself in the quiet yet wild beauty of Moon Beach in winter.

Please join the many ladies from our Saviour's who will be going, and be prepared to meet more ladies from other UCC churches in Wisconsin also. If you'd like to talk to someone about camp, you can ask Boni Jensen, Judy Heitman, Becky Mulder, Debbie Han, Jackie Bogucke, Kelly Mundell, Pat Gittens, or Debbie Cluppert.

# More Ministries, Projects, and News

## Matthew 25: Ministries Pill Bottle Collection

**428 Pill Bottles in 2025!**

Thank you for all your donations! We are so grateful for the steady donation of pill bottles of every type and size. In 2024, we sent 14 full shipping boxes of bunnies, make that bottles, down to Blue Ash and we're well on our way in 2025. Let's keep them multiplying in the closet!

OSUCC is one of the last collection points in the area so this project is very important for helping keep the bottles out of landfills. We send them to Matthew 25: Ministries in Blue Ash, OH who ships the bottles to developing countries who need assistance in the improvement of available medical care.

Please continue dropping off pill bottles (with prescription labels removed) to the church office. If the office is closed, feel free to leave them in the brown plastic basket located on the table in the North Entrance vestibule. Thank you!



## Pop Tabs for Ronald McDonald House

**9,376 Pop Tabs in 2025!**



Tabbs can come from a variety of cans such as pet food, beverage cans, soup cans, tuna cans, etc. We appreciate all of those who have already donated their tabs, or are still working on their collection jar at home! We understand that even friends of friends have begun collecting and donating too, how exciting! Thank you all so very much!

The tabs collected are sent to Ronald McDonald House, who recycles them and uses the proceeds to help fund the general operations expense of the House--keeping it open to serve even more families.

## Pack 3735 Annual Pancake Breakfast and Silent Auction

Cub Scout Pack 3735 regularly meets here at Our Saviour's and we are delighted to share their upcoming fundraising event with you. What are they serving? How about pancakes, French toast, eggs, sausage, fruit, assorted baked goods, coffee, tea, milk and juice! Oh yum!



You can eat here in Fellowship Hall where the event is being held, or take out is available. Children 2 and under eat free, 3-11 years and those 55+ eat for \$6.50, 12-54 years eat for \$8.00. They are serving from 8 am - Noon.

Don't forget about the Silent Auction...



# From Our Parish Nurse

February is American Heart Month, a time each year used to raise awareness on the importance of a healthy heart and to encourage healthy habits to reduce the risk of heart disease.

Today one in four deaths in the U.S., or about 600,000 Americans yearly, can be attributed to heart disease. This makes it the number one cause of death for most groups. It affects all ages, genders, and ethnicities.

Heart disease occurs when the arteries leading to the heart become clogged. Risk factors include high cholesterol, high blood pressure, smoking, diabetes, and excessive alcohol use. You can take an active role in reducing your risk for heart disease by eating a healthy diet, engaging in physical activity, and managing your cholesterol and blood pressure. This is a great chance to start some heart-healthy habits!

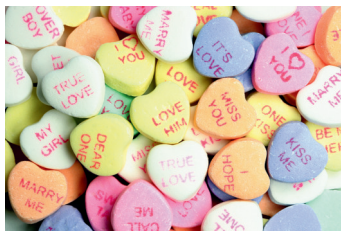
## 5 Interesting Facts About Heart Health

1. Heart attacks can be silent - One in five heart attacks occur without the person even knowing they had a heart attack.
2. Heart attacks affect women differently - Women may experience different symptoms than men. These include pain in the back, arm, neck, or shoulder; nausea, fatigue, shortness of breath and vomiting.
3. Young women are at higher risk than men - Women under the age group of 50 are twice as likely to die of a heart attack as men in the same age group.
4. Another reason to hate Mondays - Heart attacks are more likely to occur on Monday mornings than any other day of the week. Scientists believe this is attributed to the disruption of our circadian rhythm over the weekend which leads to increased blood pressure and other changes to the nervous system.
5. Diet soda raises heart attack risk - If you drink one or more diet sodas a day, your chances of having a heart attack are 43% higher than those who drink regular soda or none at all.

## 4 Ways to Observe American Heart Month

1. Take up a heart-healthy habit - Staying active, eating healthy, and watching your weight are all important parts of maintaining a healthy heart. Pick a new heart-healthy habit such as walking or substituting sodas with water and try to stick with it for the whole month and beyond!
2. Educate yourself - Learn about the risk factors for heart disease, the ways you can prevent them, and the lifestyle choices you can make to help you stay healthy.
3. Get your Cholesterol tested - If you're worried you may be at risk for heart disease, ask your doctor for a simple cholesterol test to let you know if you're at risk and should make adjustments to your diet.
4. Participate in National Wear Red Day - Wear red on Friday February 7th to support the cause of raising awareness about heart disease in women.

For more information you can visit <https://nationaltoday.com/american-heart-month/>



# February Duties

## Liturgist

February 2 Jeremy Schouten  
February 9 Heidi Schwanke  
February 16 Rick Stracy  
February 23 Keith Mulder

## Gatekeepers

February 2 Pete & Kathy Schieler  
February 9 Rick & Barb Stracy  
February 16 Emily & Dennis Burk, Sue Wrzinski  
February 23 Pat Gittens

## Audio Operator

February 2 John Kwiatkoske  
February 9 Bob Meyer  
February 16 Keith Mulder  
February 23 Phil Manthei

## Coffee Hour

After 9:00AM Worship with Coffee and Juice - For those who feel comfortable, feel free to join us!

## Usher/Greeters

February 2 Team 5  
February 9 Team 6  
February 16 Team 1  
February 23 Team 2

## Altar Guild Monthly Committee

Iona Altnay, Bev Garro, Dianne Heyn,  
Marge Mundt

## Van Drivers

February 2 Ricky Prellwitz  
February 9 Rick Stracy  
February 16 Jackie Bogucke  
February 23 Rick Stracy

*Call Church Office by 12PM Thursday before the following Sunday to reserve a seat!*

## Bulletin Delivery

Bulletins are mailed out on Wednesday's

## Communion Servers

February 2 TBD

# February 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						<b>1</b>
<b>2</b> 8:00 am Pack 3735 Pancake Breakfast 9:00 am Worship with Communion 10:00 am BP Clinic 10:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Adult Ed 4:30 pm Pack 3735 mtg	<b>3</b> 6:15 pm Puppets	<b>4</b> 5:00 pm Sharing Table Community Meal 6:30 pm Pack 3735 Den Mtg	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 9:00 am MBS Clinic 5:15 pm Sr Choir 6:30 pm Worship Service	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> 9:00 am Worship Service 10:15 am Altar Guild 10:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Adult Ed	<b>10</b> 6:15 pm Puppets 6:30 pm Church Council Mtg	<b>11</b> 6:30 pm Pack 3735 Den Mtg	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 9:00 am MBS Clinic 9:30 am Called to Care 5:15 pm Sr Choir 6:30 pm Worship Service	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 10:00 Private Baptism February Messenger Deadline
<b>16</b> 9:00 am Worship Service 10:15 <b>2024 Annual Mtg</b>	<b>17</b> 4:30 pm Worship Mtg 5:30 pm Christian Ed Mtg 6:15 pm Puppets 6:30 pm Evangelism Mtg	<b>18</b> 5:30 pm Missions Mtg 6:30 pm Pack 3735 Den Mtg	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 9:00 am MBS Clinic 5:15 pm Sr Choir 6:30 pm Worship Service	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> 9:00 am Worship Service 10:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Adult Ed	<b>24</b> 6:15 pm Puppets	<b>25</b> 5:30 pm Pack 3735 Blue & Gold Dinner and Crossover Ceremony	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 9:00 am MBS Clinic 5:15 pm Sr Choir 6:30 pm Worship Service with Communion	<b>28</b>	