

OUR SAVIOUR'S UCC

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OUR SAVIOUR'S
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

FAITH FAMILY FRIENDSHIP

THE MESSENGER

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Ripon, WI.

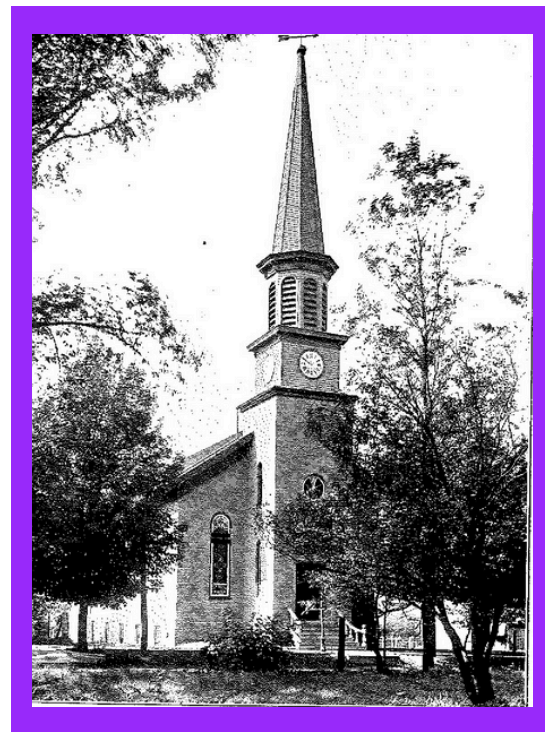
MARCH



Welcome to The Messenger

Published by Our Saviour's UCC since 1924

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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 April 2025 Edition of The Messenger:

Events to be included on the calendar, committee updates, articles, etc. should be submitted to the office by **March 15th** via email to the Church office, 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
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www.OurSavioursUCCRipon.com



<https://bit.ly/OSUCCFacebook>



<https://bit.ly/OSUCCYouTube>

From the Pastor's Desk



Rev. Dr. Kevin Mundell

We are about to enter the season of Lent which takes us to the heart of our Christian faith, and I have been thinking about the end of the journey for God quite a bit lately. The eastern Christian churches have made Jesus' death and resurrection the center of their celebrations and the biggest and most important celebration of the year, whereas the western Christian churches have in general made Christmas their most important day and put the most effort into Christmas Eve celebrations. The whole story matters and the death and resurrection changes everything for us as people God has made, loved, and given up so much to redeem, to bring home to God.

I have been thinking about the last days of Jesus' life through the influence of Jürgen Moltmann as he flips the question from what does the cross mean for us as sinners, to what does the cross mean for God? For me, the heart of the story begins in Gethsemane when Jesus is praying for another way forward and begins to sweat blood as he is grieving. I believe this is the beginning of Jesus experiencing the abandonment of God the Father and Spirit; the start of him knowing what it means to be forsaken by God for the first time in his existence. That forsakenness takes him through his trials, his beatings, and his death on the cross where he cries out to God the Father and dies. In his death, Jesus suffers the forsakenness of God the Father.

In Jesus' death, God the Father loses his son. Both Jesus and the Father experience the death of God in two different ways. Maybe this is what is meant by sickness unto death and lostness that takes us to the place of nothingness? Jesus is now experiencing the dark night of the soul while the Father is experiencing in the forsakenness of the son, a world eclipsed of God as the son is no longer present in the world. As our creeds teach, Jesus is now in hell which means that a part of God, the Son is in hell and the Father is still in the heavens above and the Spirit has yet to be given as a gift to Gods' faithful.

God the Father, through the Spirit, raises Jesus the Son up from hell, back to life in a resurrected body as the first fruits of the resurrection and reconciling work of God. The pain and suffering, the forsakenness, the death is all now a part of God as is Jesus' humanness. He is resurrected in his human body and still eats with his disciples.

I wonder what it means for God that the Father now knows death in one way and the Son now knows death in another way and the spirit knows death through the father and the son. This makes sense of why the apostle Paul can say in 1 Cor. 6:20, "For you were bought with a price [meaning it cost God a lot to forgive our sin]; therefore, glorify God in your body [your whole self here and now]." God is about life and hell has no power over God (we might even ask how Jesus has changed hell?); the resurrection changed everything for us and for God.

Faith in Jesus sets us free from sin and death. Living in Christ's freedom has something to do with glorifying God, with living in Joy, with living hope, with loving God and others for their sake and not ours. The Lenten journey is about knowing where we come from and where God is taking us through our faith in Jesus. Our giving up during the season of lent is a way of glorifying God for what God has given up for us. It is not just a practice but more a humble act of appreciation and dwelling in what God has done for us out of love. Let us journey into lent 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!



The congregation again has the opportunity to order beautiful flowering Spring plants that can be taken home after the Easter worship service. This year you can choose from Easter Lily, Tulips, Daffodils, Hyacinths, and Crocus. All will be in 6" pots and the price for any variety is \$12 per plant. Order deadline is Tuesday, March 18th at 3 PM. The order form will be available in the bulletin. If you need the form emailed to you, please contact the church office.

Welcome to Judy Lueck and Patti Schaalma, who both recently joined Altar Guild. We are so pleased to have you join us on our committee!

Our next meeting is Sunday, March 16th at 10:15 am. We invite anyone that would like to join Altar Guild to attend our meeting and learn more. If you have any questions, please contact Caroline Retzlaff at 920-748-2367 or Iona Altnau at 920-748-5391.

Called to Care *Committee*

Our Lenten Learning presentation this year will take place on March 30th during coffee hour. Sarah Heyn, a licensed Social Worker and mental health counselor, will be presenting "How to have Important Conversations with your Family". She will be following up on our fall presentation on Advanced Directives and will talk about other difficult, but necessary, conversations we need to have with family members. Please plan to attend and come with your questions.

Nurse Emily holds a Blood Pressure Clinic in her office that is open to all OSUCC members on the first Sunday of every month after the worship service. This month that date is March 2nd.

She holds the walk-in "Mind, Body, & Soul Clinic" in her office every Thursday from 9:00 am until Noon if you would like to stop in for a blood pressure check or would like to talk with her about your medications or any other health-related concerns or questions you might have.

If you would rather schedule a visit from Nurse Emily, please call her at 920-748-2544 during office hours or email her at osuccpnripon1@gmail.com. If you don't have one yet, ask her to bring some Prayer Squares along so you can choose one for yourself! These colorful, comforting hand-knit squares are made here at OSUCC.

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.

More Committee News



Christian Education Committee

Our next committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 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 committee is aware that our last Church Directory was published in 2019, and is currently looking into options that would provide both online access and printable copies, yet that could be maintained and updated by our church office as changes occur.



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

Thank you to all who contributed to Souper Bowl Sunday! Your generosity is much appreciated by the two food pantries we donate to, and our community families that they serve.

Sunday, March 30th, is the collection for UCC's One Great Hour of Sharing. This year's theme is "Be the Light". When we participate in One Great Hour of Sharing, we shed light in places where circumstances make it difficult to imagine a future with hope. We create possibility for people forced to flee their homes in search of safety and new promise. We support life-giving recovery efforts when disasters devastate communities and overturn lives. We empower partners around the globe in their labors to build sustainable futures.



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

Worship Committee

Our search for a new Choir Director is ongoing and we have a post on Facebook that you can share. 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, March 17th, at 4:30 pm. Anyone interested in joining the committee is welcome to attend.



Ministries, Projects, and News

Matthew 25: Ministries Pill Bottle Collection

780 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. Let's keep them multiplying in the closet like bunnies!

We are also grateful to several ladies here at OSUCC who volunteer their time to sort and pack the shipping boxes that we send out. Thank you, and you know who you are!

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 and supplies.



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 so much!

BREAKING NEWS: The ministry has received a grant from Webster's Foundation, thanks to the efforts of a member of the Missions Committee. Congratulations and well done! The grant will be used to cover the shipping costs for sending the bottles down to Blue Ash.

Pop Tabs for Ronald McDonald House

9,376 Pop Tabs in 2025!



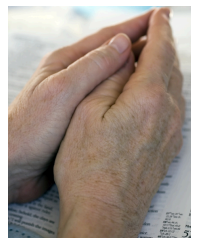
Tabbs can come from a variety of cans such as pet food, beverage cans, soup cans, tuna cans, etc. We appreciate all of those who have already donated their tabs, or are still working on their collection jar at home! We understand that even friends of friends have begun collecting and donating too, how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

Prayer Chain Ministry

In our Prayers: *Sandra Badtke, Jim Clausen, Cattibree Dailey, Tara Koller, Sue Meyer, Mark Sabel, Barb Schultz, Ron Triemstra, Chris Wiegand, 9 unspoken, and all others.*

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



More Ministries, Projects, and News

The Ripon Free Community Meals



In February the dining room was pretty full to capacity. What a great feeling it was seeing that!

For the March 4th meal, we will be having an open face hot turkey sandwich, mashed potatoes, dressing, green bean casserole, pistachio salad, and of course your choice of a delicious homemade dessert. There may even be a little Irish in there somewhere!

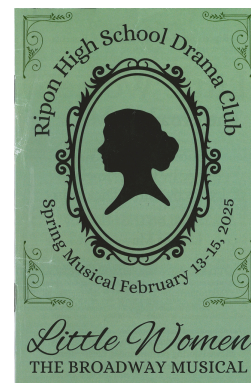
Look for the volunteer sign-up boards in the East Narthex again for the upcoming months of meals. If the sign-up lines are full you are still very welcome to come and help. We appreciate each and every one of you and the time you put in to help make these meals happen.

God Bless each and everyone!

Our Talented Young People

If you attended Ripon High School Drama Club's Spring Musical, "Little Women, The Broadway Musical" you may have recognized a few familiar faces in the cast and crew. The show ran February 13 - 15th, if you were lucky enough to have seen it.

Treading the boards were Rorie Nitz, cast as Braxton (the Villan) and Jayden Hinton, cast as Theodore "Laurie" Laurence (the boy-next-door, unofficial brother). Behind the scenes was Madison Boers on the Costume crew, helping the actors look the part while keeping all the costumes together and ready for the cast members. Good job, all!



Northeast Association Meeting Announced

The Northeast Association of the Wisconsin Conference UCC is holding a Zoom meeting on Thursday, March 13th at 6:30 PM.

This Zoom meeting will offer NEA members an opportunity to share discussion and have Q&A time with our conference minister Franz Rigert regarding the dissolution of the associations in the Wisconsin Conference. We will also learn more details about the ways in which we might connect and support one another for greater ministry impact after this change.

All members of the NEA are invited to attend. Please use the link below to register or enter https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/xUCgLqBJRlyOhClbJ_5wmQ#/registration in your browser. A Zoom link will be sent to you after registration and again a day or two before the meeting.

[CLICK TO REGISTER](#)



From Our Parish Nurse

National Consumer Protection Week takes place March 2-8, 2025. It is a time to help people understand their consumer rights and avoid fraud and scams. Here are some common signs of a scam and some helpful tips to avoid them.

Four Signs That It's A Scam

1. Scammers PRETEND to be from an organization you know- They often claim to be contacting you on behalf of the government (Medicare, IRS, Social Security) or pretend to be business like a utility company, tech company or even a charity. They can use technology to change the phone number that appears on your caller ID, so the name and number may not be real.
2. Scammers say there's a PROBLEM or a PRIZE- They might say you owe money to the government, someone in your family had an emergency, that there's a virus on your computer, or that there is a problem with one of your accounts. Others lie and say you won money in a lottery or sweepstakes, but you have to pay a fee to get it.
3. Scammers PRESSURE you to act immediately- They want you to act before you have time to think. They will pressure you not to hang up so you can't check their story. They might threaten to arrest you, sue you, take away your license, or say your computer is about to be corrupted.
4. Scammers tell you to PAY in a specific way- They often insist you can only pay using cryptocurrency, wiring money through a company like Western Union, using a payment app, or putting money on a gift card and then giving them the numbers on the back of the card. Some will send you a check (that will later turn up to be fake), then tell you to deposit it and send them money.

How To Avoid A Scam

1. Block unwanted calls and text messages
2. Don't give your personal or financial information in response to a request that you didn't expect- Honest organizations won't call, email, or text to ask for your personal information, like your Social Security, bank account, or credit card numbers. If you get an email or text message from a company you do business with and you think it's real, it's still best not to click on any links. Instead, contact them using a website you know is trustworthy or look up their phone number. Don't call a number they gave you or the number from your caller ID.
3. Resist the pressure to act immediately- Honest businesses will give you time to make a decision. Anyone who pressures you to pay or give them your personal information is a scammer.
4. Know how scammers tell you to pay- Never pay someone who insists you can only pay with cryptocurrency, a wire transfer, a payment app, or a gift card, and never deposit a check and send money back to someone.
5. Stop and talk to someone you trust- Before you do anything else, tell someone you trust what happened. Talking about it could help you realize it's a scam.

If you were scammed or think you saw a scam, tell the Federal Trade Commission at ReportFraud.ftc.gov
If you have questions or are looking for more information please visit <https://consumer.ftc.gov/scams>

Emily Burk, RN, OSUCC Parish Nurse



March Duties

Liturgist

March 2 Cal Fischer
March 9 Dianne Heyn
March 16 Rorie Nitz
March 23 Jeremy Schouten
March 30 Kelly Mundell

Gatekeepers

March 2 Keith & Becky Mulder
March 9 Rick & Barb Stracy
March 16 Tom & Julie Stellmacher
March 23 Rick & Barb Stracy
March 30 Dennis & Emily Burk, Sue Wrzinski

Audio Operator

March 2 Kelly Mundell
March 5 Phil Manthei
March 9 John Kwiatkowske
March 12 Phil Manthei
March 16 Phil Manthei
March 19 Keith Mulder
March 23 Keith Mulder
March 26 Kelly Mundell
March 30 Phil Manthei

Coffee Hour

Everyone is welcome! Come enjoy coffee, juice, and baked goods after the 9:00 AM Worship Service. Interested in hosting coffee hour? The signup book is on the counter by the microwave in the East Narthex.

Usher/Greeters

March 2 Team 3
March 9 Team 4
March 16 Team 5
March 23 Team 6
March 30 Team 1

Altar Guild Monthly Committee

Pat Gittens, Debbie Hahn, Judy Heitmann, Julie Stellmacher, Tammy Widlake

Van Drivers

March 2 Bob Lueck
March 9 Ricky Prellwitz
March 16 Tom Stellmacher
March 23 Rick Stracy
March 30 Jackie Bogucke

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

Bulletin Mailing

Bulletins are mailed out on Wednesday's

Communion Servers

March 2 Rick Stracy & Buck Kwiatkowski

March 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2 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	3 6:15 pm Puppets	4 5:00 pm Sharing Table Community Meal 6:30 pm Pack 3735 Den Mtg	5 Ash Wednesday 6:30 pm Worship Service	6 9:00 am MBS Clinic 5:15 pm Sr Choir 6:30 pm Worship Service	7	8
9 Time Change 9:00 am Worship Service 10:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Adult Ed	10 6:15 pm Puppets 6:30 pm Church Council Mtg	11 6:30 pm Pack 3735 Den Mtg	12 6:30 pm Lenten Service	13 9:00 am MBS Clinic 9:30 am Called to Care 5:15 pm Sr Choir 6:30 pm Worship Service	14	15 April Messenger Deadline
16 9:00 am Worship Service 10:15 am Sunday School 10:15 am Altar Guild 10:30 am Adult Ed	17 4:30 pm Worship Mtg 5:30 pm Christian Ed Mtg 6:15 pm Puppets 6:30 pm Evangelism Mtg	18 Noon Easter Flowers Order Deadline 5:30 pm Missions Mtg 6:30 pm Pack 3735 No Meeting	19 6:30 pm Lenten Service	20 9:00 am MBS Clinic 5:15 pm Sr Choir 6:30 pm Worship Service	21	22
23 9:00 am Worship Service 10:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Adult Ed	24 6:15 pm Puppets	25 6:30 pm Pack 3735 No Meeting	26 6:30 pm Lenten Service	27 9:00 am MBS Clinic 5:15 pm Sr Choir 6:30 pm Worship Service	28	29
30 9:00 am Worship Service 10:15 am Sunday School 10:15 am Lent Learning Presentation 10:30 am Adult Ed 4:30 pm Pack 3735 mtg	31 6:15 pm Puppets					