



Vol. 101, No. 4

April 2025

Ripon, WI.

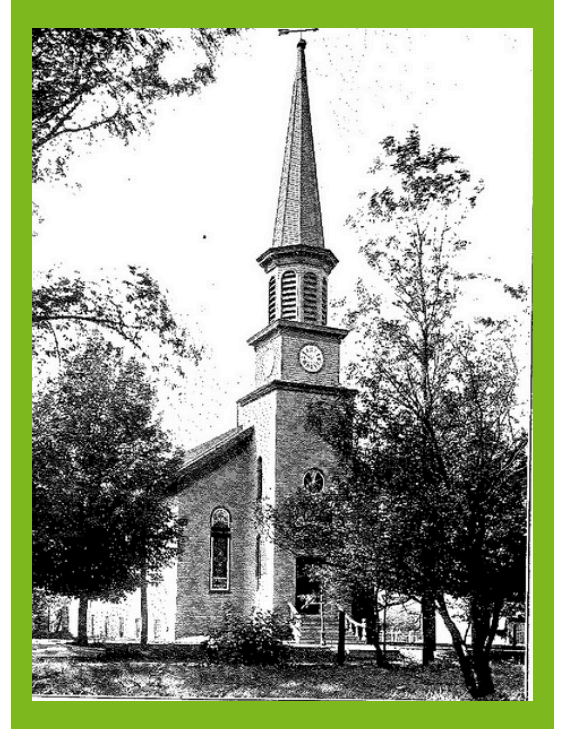
April



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 10:50 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 May 2025 Edition of The Messenger:

Events to be included on the calendar, committee updates, articles, etc. should be submitted to the office by **April 19th** 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
343 Scott Street, Ripon, WI 54971 | 920.748.2544
www.OurSavioursUCCRipon.com



<https://bit.ly/OSUCCFacebook>



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From the Pastor's Desk



“What am I supposed to do with my life?” This question haunts us throughout our lives in many ways. We encounter it when we are young and realize all of our schooling is designed to help us answer the question. Our society expects us to answer the question, but unfortunately only with a utilitarian answer.

As we approach the end of high school and for some the end of technical school or college the question becomes front and center even if we have a specific focus of study. The question shows up throughout our working career. It even comes back to us once we are retired and again if we transition into some kind of assisted living place. “What am I supposed to do with my life?”

Christians will change the question slightly and make it, “What purpose does God have for my life?” But more times than not, when I am asked to help Christians struggling with this rephrased question, I find that they are only looking for a utilitarian answer such as what occupation am I supposed to pick for my working profession? What if god’s only concern about the job you do is that you are not hurting anyone while doing whatever job you do? What if what God cares about is who you are in what you do and not the actual doing?

In First Timothy, the apostle Paul is writing to his mentee, Timothy, to encourage him to stay at the church in Ephesus and correct the new people who have come in and tried to lead the church down a bad path focusing them on the wrong stuff. In verse five Paul lays out what he believes the heart of discipleship in Jesus is all about in this way, “But the aim of such instruction is love that comes from a pure heart, a good conscience, and sincere faith.” None of Paul’s instructions on discipleship are connected to the job we do, the purpose of my life defined by utility as our culture tries to do to us. Rather, Paul sees the heart of God coming through in our living authentic love in relationship to as many people as we can wherever we go and in whatever we do with our lives.

If you look in Revelation at the section on the seven churches, when a church is criticized for failing to be a church it is because they have lost the original love that was at the heart of their becoming a church. What is way easier than faith and love is rules that allow us to stay safely in our own inner worlds and do things for others without needing to work on a meaningful relationship. But that is not what Paul sees as the heart of discipleship, but rather love and faith in Jesus.

This is the heart of our Lenten journey. When we discipline ourselves during lent it is not for us directly, it is to make more space for God and others in our life with deeper loving connection. The Lenten disciplines are a mirror of worship which is about setting ourselves aside and giving our all to God and serving our neighbor at the same time. If I practice Lenten disciplines to get something out of them or go to worship to get something out of it, I am not disciplining or worshipping but rather am using for my own personal gain.

What am I supposed to do with my life, wherever I am on my journey? Love God and love my neighbor. Give myself away in love to those I can. Jesus whole ministry is a giving of himself away for us. The call of the cross is to do likewise knowing that we have been set free to love by the blood of the Cross. Let us make our life a practice of love as God is loving us.

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!



Thank you to everyone who placed an order for Spring flowers that will adorn our altar on Easter Sunday! There are 48 plants coming, with a nice mix of the different plants that were available. It will be lovely! Don't forget to pick your plants up after the service is over, please.

Our next meeting is Sunday, April 13th 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*

Thank you to all who attended our Lenten Learning presentation. Sarah Heyn presented on "How to have Important Conversations with your Family". Thank you for your participation and questions. Check back in the Fall when we plan to offer another wonderful learning opportunity, details to follow.

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 April 6th.

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.

Do you enjoy visiting people to brighten their day? Do you enjoy planning and providing educational opportunities or special events to members of the church and community? If so, Our Saviour's Called to Care Committee is looking for additional members to help provide fellowship and support for members of our congregation. This opportunity is open to both men and women.

If this sounds like something you would enjoy, feel free to reach out to Pastor Kevin or Nurse Emily to find out more.

The next Called to Care meeting will be held Thursday, May 8th, at 9:30 am in the conference room.

More Committee News



Christian Education Committee

Our next committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 21st, at 5:30 PM.

- **Adult Ed:** Meets at 10:30 AM after Worship Service. NO CLASS ON EASTER.
- **Christian Ed Classes:** Sunday School meets at 10:15 AM after Worship Service. NO CLASS ON EASTER.
- **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

After looking at several different software packages, the committee decided on Instant Church Directory, a cloud-based solution that provides secure online member access as well as a printed directory. Setup and data loading is in process, so watch for more updates!



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, April 21, at 6:30 pm.



Mission Committee

Missions Committee will meet next Tuesday, April 15th, at 5:30 pm. Anyone interested in joining the committee is welcome to attend.

Introducing “Undie Sundays” and, no, it doesn’t mean we will only be wearing our undies to church! Each Sunday in April you will have the opportunity to help support some of our area students that are in need of some basic clothing items. Please bring in new socks and underwear for Elementary age children (sizes 5T-14). There will be laundry baskets near each entrance that the items can be placed in. Thank you for helping!

Operation Christmas Child Shoebox - This year we will be hosting a packing party where as a church we will collect items throughout the year and then get together to fill shoeboxes before the National Collection week of November 17-24th. For the month of April we will be collecting school supplies for boys and girls. To see the full list of items we will be collecting throughout the year stop by the nurse bulletin board across from the church office. We will also be collecting monetary donations for the remainder of the year to help go towards shipping the boxes and also supplement some of the needed items for the boxes.

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, April 21, at 4:00 pm. Anyone interested in joining the committee is welcome to attend.



Ministries, Projects, and News

Matthew 25: Ministries Pill Bottle Collection

1,256 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!

Pop Tabs for Ronald McDonald House

9,376 Pop Tabs in 2025!



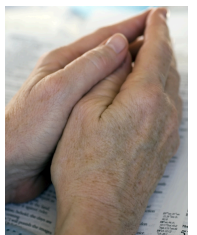
Tabs can come from a variety of cans such as pet food, beverage cans, soup cans, tuna cans, etc. We appreciate all of those who have already donated their tabs, or are still working on their collection jar at home! We understand that even friends of friends have begun collecting and donating too, how 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, Tom Stellmacher, Ron Triemstra, Chris Wiegand, 10 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



During Lent, we reflect more on what we can do to help others. We have opportunities every month to give food or money for specific mission programs, and these are all good things. But maybe you would prefer to give of your time?

There are sign-up sheets in the East Narthex asking for help with prepping, serving and baking for our monthly Sharing Table Free Community Meal. Could any of these opportunities fit your time budget?

Our community is very grateful for these meals and the fellowship opportunity they bring. And, of course, good food is always a hit (thanks, Nancy Henning!)

Our April menu is roast beef, Cheesy Broccoli Pasta and Rice hot dish, carrots, blueberry salad, and assorted home-made desserts. To our talented bakers--it's a Bakers Choice month so have fun with dessert types, flavors, and colors!

We consistently feed over 100 people with donations of \$200 + per meal. In March we served 121 meals, including our volunteers and left-over take outs.

We thank the Websters Foundation of another \$3,000 grant for this project. Good work with the grant application, Nancy Henning!

Mark Your Calendars

- April 6th: 9:00 am Worship Service in the Sanctuary and "Undie Sunday".
- April 13th: 9:00 am Worship Service in the Sanctuary and "Undie Sunday".
- April 17th: 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm - Maundy Thursday Worship Service in the Sanctuary
- April 18th: 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm - Ecumenical Good Friday Worship Service at Grace Lutheran Church
- April 20th Easter Sunday Schedule:
 - 7:00 am - 7:40 am - Early Worship Service in the Sanctuary
 - 7:45 am - 8:15 am - Easter Breakfast in Fellowship Hall
 - 9:00 am - 10:00 am - Late Worship Service in the SanctuaryNo Adult Education Class or Sunday School Classes | Don't forget to pick up your Easter flower order!
- April 27th: 9:00 am Worship Service in the Sanctuary and "Undie Sunday".
- May 4th: 9:00 am - Confirmation Sunday
- May 21st: RHS Baccalaureate at Our Saviour's UCC. More details to follow.



From Our Parish Nurse

This year Friday April 11th is World Parkinson's Disease Day, a day used to amplify awareness and understanding about Parkinson's disease internationally. It is also a time to advocate for research and better treatments and a time to bring the Parkinson's community together. To better understand this disease, that affects nearly 1 million people in the US and more than 6 million people worldwide, let's talk about what Parkinson's disease is, what causes it, what some symptoms are, and what treatments are used today.

What is Parkinson's Disease?

Parkinson's disease (PD) is a chronic and progressive neurological disorder that affects movement and other bodily functions. In PD nerve cells in the brain that make dopamine, a chemical that helps coordinate movement, stop working or die.

What Causes Parkinson's Disease?

For most people, the cause of their Parkinson's is unknown. Researchers believe that PD is caused by a combination of factors including genetics, environmental factors, and aging. Researchers estimate that about 30% of PD risk is explained by genetics. In the past 10 years researchers have identified a handful of causal Parkinson's genes, but they feel there are many more to be discovered. Not everyone who carries these genes will develop Parkinson's, other factors must play a role. Environmental factors associated with an increased chance of developing PD include head injury and exposure to pesticides. Age is the greatest risk factor for PD. As we age, our cells are more susceptible to damage and our gene expression may change, which could set off a chain of cellular events that leads to Parkinson's disease. In other words, there are many unknowns surrounding this disease and only awareness and additional research will shed light for those affected by it.

What are some symptoms of Parkinson's Disease?

PD symptoms are different for each person, but it often starts with a tremor in one hand. People are often most familiar with the motor symptoms associated with PD, such as stiffness in the muscles, slowness with walking, or resting tremor. Many people also experience non-motor symptoms as well such as constipation, low blood pressure, urinary problems, changes with mood and thinking, problems with sleep, speech and swallowing problems, pain, vision changes, and weight loss.

What are some of the treatments for Parkinson's Disease?

All PD treatments are aimed at easing symptoms and improving quality of life. Today's treatments are tailored to each person's unique symptoms, there is no "one-size-fits-all" approach to Parkinson's care. They use medications to help with the motor and non-motor symptoms. Levodopa was approved for PD in the late 1960s and is still one of the most commonly prescribed drugs for PD. It increases dopamine levels in brain to help power normal movements. Exercise can also help manage PD symptoms, and some early research shows it may help protect the brain. It is recommended that those with PD get set up with a movement disorder specialist. This is a neurologist with additional training in PD. Seeing a movement disorder specialist on a regular basis can help optimize your treatment regimen.

For more information please visit <https://www.michaeljfox.org/>

Emily Burk, RN, OSUCC Parish Nurse



April Duties

Liturgist

April 6 Jamie Prellwitz
April 13 Heidi Schwanke
April 20 Rick Stacy
April 27 Keith Mulder

Usher/Greeters

April 6 Team 2
April 13 Team 3
April 20 Team 4
April 27 Team 5

Gatekeepers

April 6 Pat Gittens
April 13 Keith & Becky Mulder
April 20 Pete & Kathy Schieler
April 27 Rick & Barb Stracy

Altar Guild Monthly Committee

Emily Burk, Dianne Heyn, Kathy Lang,
Caroline Retzlaff, Sue Wrzinski

Audio Operator

April 2 Phil Manthei
April 6 Phil Manthei
April 9 Bob Meyer
April 13 John Kwiatkoske
April 17 Phil Manthei
April 20 Phil Manthei - 7:00 am
April 20 John Kwiatkoske - 9:00 am
April 27 Kelly Mundell

Van Drivers

April 6 Tom Carr
April 13 Bob Lueck
April 20 Ricky Prellwitz
April 27 Rick Stracy

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

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.

Bulletin Mailing

Bulletins are mailed out on Wednesday's

Communion Servers

April 6 Rick Stracy & Buck Kwiatkowski

April 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 5:00 pm Sharing Table Community Meal 6:30 pm Pack 3735 Pack Mtg	2 6:30 pm Worship Service	3 9:00 am MBS Clinic 5:15 pm Sr Choir 6:30 pm Worship Service with Communion	4	5
6 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	7 6:15 pm Puppets	8 6:30 pm Pack 3735 Den Mtg	9 6:30 pm Lenten Service	10 9:00 am MBS Clinic 5:15 pm Sr Choir 6:30 pm Worship Service	11	12
13 9:00 am Worship Service 10:15 am Sunday School 10:15 am Altar Guild 10:30 am Adult Ed	14 6:15 pm Puppets 6:30 pm Church Council Mtg	15 5:30 pm Missions Mtg 6:30 pm Pack 3735 Den Mtg	16	17 Maundy Thursday 9:00 am MBS Clinic 5:15 pm Sr Choir 6:30 pm Worship Service	18 Good Friday 6:30 pm Ecumenical Service at Grace Lutheran	19 April Messenger Deadline
20 Easter 7:00 am Worship Service 7:45 am Breakfast 9:00 am Worship Service 10:15 am Sunday School	21 4:00 pm Worship Mtg 5:30 pm Christian Ed Mtg 6:15 pm Puppets 6:30 pm Evangelism Mtg	22 6:30 pm Pack 3735 Meeting	23	24 9:00 am MBS Clinic 5:15 pm Sr Choir 6:30 pm Worship Service	25	26
27 9:00 am Worship Service 10:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Adult Ed 4:30 pm Pack 3735 mtg	28 6:15 pm Puppets	29 6:30 pm Pack 3735 Den Mtg	30			