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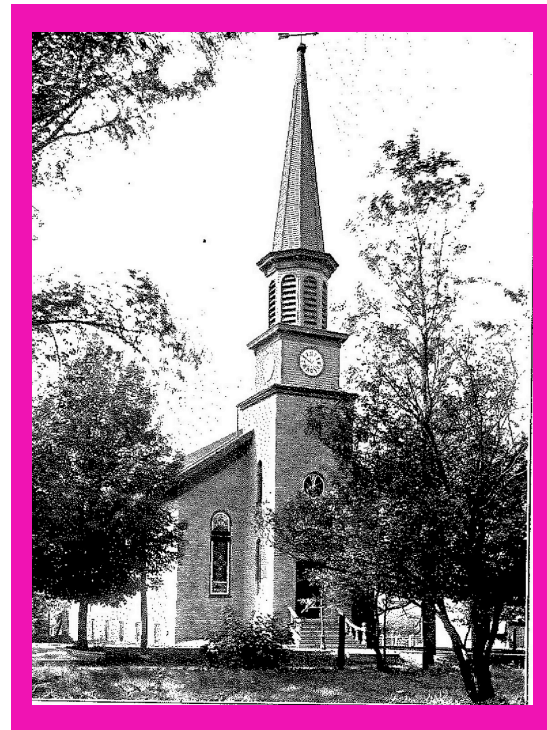
Ripon, WI.



# 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 June 2025 Edition of The Messenger:

Events to be included on the calendar, committee updates, articles, etc. should be submitted to the office by **May 17th** 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



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**[www.OurSavioursUCCRipon.com](http://www.OurSavioursUCCRipon.com)**



<https://bit.ly/OSUCCFacebook>



<https://bit.ly/OSUCCYouTube>

# From the Pastor's Desk



Rev. Dr. Kevin Mundell

Recently I was at the Pueblo cultural center in Albuquerque NM learning more about the Indigenous people living in the area. The first thing that struck me is that they have a thirteen-thousand-year history of living where they live. The second thing is that they do not have a written language or history or understanding of the religious beliefs. Who they are is carried in their dances and they have over a thousand dances that they perform regularly that help pass on their beliefs, their identity, their political structure, the values they hold as a people from generation to generation.

At the heart of who they are is a simple people who sees all that comes into their hands as gift to be used, and shared as a gift with others. They live simply and share what they have with anyone who comes to them in need, whether of their own people or a stranger.

In a sense, we do a similar thing as Christians when we do our worship well. At the heart of our worship done well is a retelling of the story that shapes who we are, helps us understand our values, and reminds us of Gods gracious presence with us and for us. The call to worship is a call and response of God to us and we answer, then lift God in praise and adoration. We hear the word spoken to us to remind us of the story we belong to because of our faith in Jesus. We confess to God our failures and trust God when we are forgiven through the words of assurance. We bless one another with Christ's blessing through the passing of the peace. The word is proclaimed to us, so we know that God is for us and where God comes to us. We give back to God from the gifts in our lives to share with others in community. We leave blessed, to go into the world to serve as Jesus served, taking the story to the world as we live our lives in community with others.

Unfortunately, I fear we are not hearing our own story as Christians as well as we once did. Maybe in part it is because we don't tell our story in a way that encompasses more of ourselves. Think about it this way--at a Pueblo dance there would be special food cooking for the special occasion the dance was for, and the scents would be filling the air. We would be hearing the story, seeing the images in the dance costumes, physically retelling the story as dancers. We would be feeling the textures of the dance costumes fabrics with all the images woven into them and painted onto them that help to tell the story.

Alas, in a way I fear our real challenge is that our culture tells a different story that more people find more compelling. That story is told through our political structure, our social structures, and our economic structures. Unfortunately, some of our Christian structures have adapted themselves to that cultural story.

The story that seems to appeal to them most is the story that we are each able to be happy and content on our own and that anything that blocks our happiness should be done away with. Government should create a system so that we can each be happy and block anything that stops our pursuit of happiness. Society tells us things like, "I just want to be happy." and "I just want my children and grandchildren to be happy." Our economic system tells us that if you buy this or live that way, you will be happy. We have the item, the therapy, the diet, the exercise program, and the meditation program to help us "be happy". Yet the level of overall happiness in the US continues to decline.

Jesus never calls his disciples to be happy, rather he calls them to be faithful and love as he loves. Paul calls us to have the same mind as Jesus our Christ and pursue love through our faith above all else. Our Christian story should be a story of love experienced through how we dance our gift of life from God.

# 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 all who ordered Spring flowers for Easter. This Spring was definitely a challenging time for shipping fresh plants from the growers to stores, and we appreciated everyone's understanding and patience as we did what we could to make the situation work out for the better. Thank you!

We will be offering Red Geranium's for Pentecost again and are in the process of talking with several sources for the plants. Pentecost is June 9<sup>th</sup> this year. Please keep watching the weekly bulletins for more details, prices, and an order form.

Our next meeting is Sunday, May 18th 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*

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.

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 May 4th.

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](mailto: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, May 8th, at 9:30 am in the conference room.

# More Committee News



## ***Christian Education Committee***

Our next committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 19th, 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 concluding and Confirmation Sunday is May 4th.
- **Nursery:** We have a child/parent space available in the Southwest Corner of the Sanctuary.

## ***Evangelism Committee***

The Church Directory project is going along well and we are in the part of the process where we need new photos of our church members, committees, and groups! You can submit a non-copyrighted photo to the church office via email or drop it off, OR you can contact the office and set up a time for our volunteer photographers to take photos for you!



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, May 19th, at 6:30 pm.



## ***Mission Committee***

Missions Committee will meet next Tuesday, May 20th, at 5:30 pm. Anyone interested in joining the committee is welcome to attend.

Thank you to all who gave to our Lenten Initiative! We were able to raise \$2,590 for the partnership with United Way for the Ripon Area Food for Thought Program. The \$90 will be held in our project fund for next year.

Thank you to all who participated in our April Undie Sunday month project to help support RASD and their Basic Needs Closet. There were a lot of nice new undies, socks, and even leggings collected that will be appreciated.

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, May 19, at 4:00 pm. Anyone interested in joining the committee is welcome to attend.



# Ministries, Projects, and News

## **Matthew 25: Ministries Pill Bottle Collection**

**1,893 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**

**20,256 Pop Tabs in 2025!**



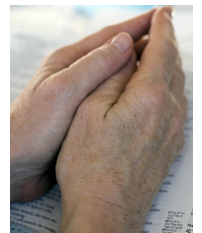
Tabs can come from a variety of cans such as pet food, beverage cans, soup cans, tuna cans, etc. We appreciate all of those who have already donated their tabs, or are still working on their collection jar at home! We understand that even friends of friends have begun collecting and donating too, how 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, Cattibree Dailey, Tara Koller, Sue Meyer, Mark Sabel, Barb Schultz, Chris Wiegand, the family and friends of Jim Clausen, 10 unspoken, and all others.*

Feel free to add yourself or a loved one to our prayer chain ministry by contacting Caroline Retzlaff at 920-748-2367.



# *More Ministries, Projects, and News*

## *The Ripon Free Community Meals*



Just when you think Fellowship Hall can not possibly hold anyone else, more people arrive! This is a good problem to have! We solved it by adding 2 card tables with 6 chairs for the family and their children. It was their first time attending a Sharing Table meal anywhere.

Before the meal was served, Barb Stracy shared that our congregation's Lenten Initiative this year was to raise \$2,500 to become the fourth partner supporting United Way's Ripon Food for Thought program. She went on to explain how the program provides weekend food to the school children in our community whose families are struggling with food insecurities. She also shared that free will offerings received at the meal would be donated to our church's the fundraising efforts for the program. We were astonished that at the end of the evening, the free will donations totaled \$390, thanks to the generosity of those present. Thank you so much!

At the April meal we served 134 meals to guests in the dining room, plus another 16 meals to our volunteers and those guests who took leftovers home, for a grand total of 150 meals served! It was one of our most well attended Sharing Table Meals and included individuals and families we had not seen before. The Sharing Table ministry is definitely growing, which is a wonderful thing for people in our community.

We could not do these meals without all of you who support this ministry by helping with prep, cooking, serving, cleaning, baking, etc. and we feel so blessed by the gift of your time and efforts! Thank you so much!

Our May menu is Ham, Hashbrown Casserole, Macaroni and Vegetable Salad, and Coleslaw. Our talented bakers will be making their choice of fruit desserts such as pies, crisps, cobblers, tarts, etc. Sounds like a wonderful meal and we hope to see you there!

## *Senior Recognition Night*

Ripon High School will hold Senior Recognition Night on Wednesday, May 14<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 pm in the auditorium. One of the seniors being recognized that evening will be our own Jayden Hinton.

Rick Stracy will also be attending, representing the OSUCC Scholarship Committee, to present Jayden with a scholarship certificate in the amount of \$2,000. Congratulations, Jayden!

If you are unable to attend the event, please offer your congratulations to Jayden when next you see him.

## *Mark Your Calendars*

- May 1st: Church Office begins Summer Hours: Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 9:00 am - Noon.
- May 4th: 9:00 am - Confirmation Sunday
- May 11th: 9:00 am Worship Service in the Sanctuary - Mother's Day
- May 14th: 7:00 pm - Ripon High School Senior Recognition Night in the auditorium
- May 21st: RHS Baccalaureate at Our Saviour's UCC. More details to follow.
- May 26th: Memorial Day



# From Our Parish Nurse

In 1949, Mental Health America founded an annual observance for mental health awareness. In the month of May each year, individuals and organizations come together to highlight the importance of mental wellbeing, educate the public, reduce stigma, and promote support for those affected by mental health conditions. Because of misconceptions and stigma surrounding mental health issues, people often suffer in silence and choose not to seek treatment for their conditions. By normalizing conversations around mental health, it nurtures a more compassionate society where individuals feel empowered to seek help, leading to improved wellbeing.

## Here are some key facts about Mental Health in the U.S.

- 1 in 5 U.S. adults experience mental illness each year
- 1 in 6 U.S. youth have a mental health condition, but only half receive treatment
- 50% of all lifetime mental illness begins by age 14, and 75% by age 24
- 48 million adults in the U.S. have anxiety disorder, 21 million have major depression, 7 million have bipolar disorder, and 1.5 million have schizophrenia
- In 2022, 22% of high school students in the U.S. seriously considered suicide

## What are some ways to raise awareness for Mental Health?

There are many ways to support Mental Health Awareness Month! One of the best ways is to lead by example and prioritize your own mental health. The National Council for Mental Wellbeing offers the Four Ways Forward Toolkit, a checklist that offers practical tips, insight, and education to focus on your mental wellbeing. To download your free toolkit visit <https://www.thenationalcouncil.org/mental-health-awareness-month/four-ways-forward-toolkit/>.

Another thing you could do this month to move mental health forward is get trained in Mental Health First Aid (MHFA). MHFA is a course that teaches you how to identify, understand, and respond to signs of mental illnesses and substance use challenges. To find course offerings visit <https://www.mentalhealthfirstaid.org/population-focused-modules/adults/>. Many of the course offerings are funded by grants and are offered at no cost to participants.

## What are some available Mental Health Resources?

- SAMHSA's National Helpline is a free, confidential, 24/7/365 referral and information service for individuals and families facing mental health and/or substance use disorders. It can be reached by calling 1-800-662-HELP (4357)
- 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline is a free, confidential, 24/7/365 service that is available to those facing mental health struggles, emotional distress, alcohol or drug use concerns, or for those that are struggling and just need someone to talk to. They offer counselors by calling or texting 988, or they offer a chatline at <https://988lifeline.org>. They also have a Veteran Crisis line that serves Veterans and those who support them. That option can be reached by calling 988 and then pressing 1, by texting 838255, or by live chat at <https://www.veteranscrisisline.net/get-help-now/chat/>
- FindTreatment.gov is a free resource that helps people seek treatment for mental and substance use disorders

If you or someone in your life is struggling with their mental health, the best thing you can do is reach out and start a conversation. Just supporting those in your life can spread the message of awareness and acceptance.

For additional information please visit <https://www.thenationalcouncil.org/mental-health-awareness-month/>

**Emily Burk, RN, OSUCC Parish Nurse**



# May Duties

## Liturgist

May 4 Cal Fischer  
May 11 Dianne Heyn  
May 18 Rorie Nitz  
May 25 Keith Mulder

## Gatekeepers

May 4 Dennis & Emily Burk, Sue Wrzinski  
May 11 Pat Gittens  
May 18 Keith & Becky Mulder  
May 25 Pete & Kathy Schieler

## Audio/Visual Operators

May 4 Bob Meyer, Phil Wepner  
May 11 John Kwiatkoske, Judy Lueck  
May 18 Keith Mulder, Kelly Mundell  
May 25 Kelly Mundell, Phil Wepner

## Van Drivers

May 4 Jackie Bogucke  
May 11 Tom Carr  
May 18 Bob Lueck  
May 25 Ricky Prellwitz

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

## Usher/Greeters

May 4 Team 6  
May 11 Team 1  
May 18 Team 2  
May 25 Team 3

## Altar Guild Monthly Committee

Iona Altnau, Bev Garro, Judy Lueck,  
Marge Mundt, Patti Schaalma

## Communion Servers

May 4 Rick Stracy & Buck Kwiatkowski

## Bulletin Mailing

Bulletins are mailed out on Wednesday's

## 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.

# May 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				<b>1</b> Church Office Summer Hours Begins 9:00 am MBS Clinic 5:15 pm Sr Choir 6:30 pm Worship Service with Communion	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4 Confirmation</b> 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>5</b> 6:15 pm Puppets	<b>6</b> Church Office Closed 5:00 pm Sharing Table Community Meal 6:30 pm Pack 3735 Pack Mtg	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 9:00 am MBS Clinic 9:30 am Called to Care 5:15 pm Sr Choir 6:30 pm Worship Service	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11 Mother's Day</b> 9:00 am Worship Service 10:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Adult Ed	<b>12</b> 6:15 pm Puppets 6:30 pm Church Council Mtg	<b>13</b> Church Office Closed	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 9:00 am MBS Clinic 5:15 pm Sr Choir 6:30 pm Worship Service	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> June Messenger Deadline
<b>18</b> 9:00 am Worship Service 10:15 am Sunday School 10:15 am Adult Ed 10:15 am Altar Guild	<b>19</b> 4:00 pm Worship Mtg 5:30 pm Christian Ed Mtg 6:15 pm Puppets 6:30 pm Evangelism Mtg	<b>20</b> Church Office Closed 5:30 pm Missions Mtg 6:30 pm Pack 3735 Den Mtg	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 9:00 am MBS Clinic 5:15 pm Sr Choir 6:30 pm Worship Service	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> 9:00 am Worship Service 10:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Adult Ed 4:30 pm Pack 3735 mtg	<b>26 Memorial Day</b>	<b>27</b> Church Office Closed 6:30 pm Pack 3735 Den Mtg	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 9:00 am MBS Clinic 5:15 pm Sr Choir 6:30 pm Worship Service	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>