

OUR SAVIOUR'S UCC

343 SCOTT STREET

RIPON, WI 54971

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THE MESSENGER

Vol. 101, No. 6

June 2025

Ripon, WI.



June

June 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 9:00 am Worship with Communion 10:00 am BP Clinic 4:30 pm Pack 3735 Committee mtg	2	3 5:00 pm Sharing Table <i>Community Meal</i> 6:30 pm Pack 3735 Pack Mtg	4	5 Last Day of School in Ripon 9:00 am MBS Clinic 6:30 pm Worship Service	6 WCUCC Annual Meeting at Green Lake Conference Center	7 WCUCC Annual Meeting at Green Lake Conference Center
8 Pentecost 9:00 am Worship 10:30 am Church Council Mtg	9	10	11	12 9:00 am MBS Clinic 9:30 am Called to Care 6:30 pm Worship Service	13	14 9:00 Children's Fair at Ripon High School
15 Father's Day 9:00 am Worship Service 10:15 am Altar Guild	16	17	18	19 10:00 am MBS Clinic 6:30 pm Worship Service	20	21 July Messenger Deadline
22 9:00 am Worship Service	23	24	25	26 10:00 am MBS Clinic 6:30 pm Worship Service	27	28 8:00 - Noon - Ripon Area VBS Brat Fry at Hy-Vee
29 9:00 am Worship Service	30					



June Duties

Liturgist

June 1 Rick Stracy
June 8 Heidi Schwanke
June 15 Jamie Prellwitz
June 22 Rick Stracy
June 29 Jeremy Schouten

Gatekeepers

June 1 Tom & Julie Stellmacher
June 8 Rick & Barb Stracy
June 15 Dennis & Emily Burk, Sue Wrzinski
June 22 Pat Gittens
June 29 Keith & Becky Mulder

Audio/Visual Operators

June 1 Bob Meyer, Judy Lueck
June 8 Kelly Mundell, Judy Lueck
June 15 Keith Mulder, Kelly Mundell
June 22 Kelly Mundell, Phil Wepner
June 29 Bob Meyer, Kelly Mundell

Van Drivers

June 1 Tom Stellmacher
June 8 Rick Stracy
June 15 Jackie Bogucke
June 22 Tom Carr
June 29 Bob Lueck

Usher/Greeters

June 1 Team 4
June 8 Team 5
June 15 Team 6
June 22 Team 1
June 29 Team 2

Altar Guild Monthly Committee

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

Communion Servers

June 1 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.

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



From Our Parish Nurse

The month of June is dedicated to Alzheimer's Brain Awareness and is focused on increasing the public's understanding of Alzheimer's disease and its impact. Alzheimer's disease is a progressive brain disorder that primarily affects memory, thinking, and reasoning skills, leading to a decline in daily activities. It is the most common cause of dementia in older adults and accounts for 60-80% of all dementia cases. Here are 10 early signs of Alzheimer's and dementia. If you notice any of these symptoms, don't wait, schedule an appointment with your provider because early detection is important.

1. Memory loss that disrupts daily life- forgetting recently learned information, forgetting important dates or events, asking the same questions over and over, and increasingly needing to rely on memory aids (ex. Reminder notes) Typical age-related change - sometimes forgetting names or appointments and then remembering them later.
2. Challenges in planning or solving problems- changes in the ability to develop and follow a plan or working with numbers, trouble following a familiar recipe or keeping track of monthly bills. Typical age-related change - making occasional errors when managing household bills.
3. Difficulty completing familiar tasks- hard to complete daily tasks, trouble driving to familiar locations, organizing a grocery list or remembering the rules to a favorite game. Typical age-related change- occasionally needing help to use microwave settings or to record a TV show.
4. Confusion with time or place- losing track of dates, seasons and the passage of time, trouble understanding something if it is not happening immediately, forgetting where they are or how they got there. Typical age-related change- getting confused about the day of the week and then figuring it out later.
5. Trouble understanding visual images and spatial relationships- visual changes leading to difficulties with balance or trouble reading, problems judging distance and determining color or contrast, causing issues with driving. Typical age-related change- vision changes related to cataracts.
6. New problems with words in speaking or writing- trouble following or joining a conversation, stopping in the middle of a sentence and having no idea how to continue or repeating themselves, trouble naming a familiar object or using the wrong name. Typical age-related change- sometimes having trouble finding the right word.
7. Misplacing things and losing the ability to retrace steps- putting things in unusual places, losing things and unable to retrace their steps to find them again, may accuse others of stealing. Typical age-related change- misplacing things from time to time and retracing steps to find them.
8. Decreased or poor judgement- changes in judgement and decision making, may use poor judgement when dealing with money, may pay less attention to grooming or keeping themselves clean. Typical age-related change- making a mistake once in a while, like neglecting to change the oil in the car.
9. Withdrawal from work or social activities- withdrawing from hobbies, social activities or other engagements. Typical age-related change- sometimes feeling uninterested in family or social obligations.
10. Changes in mood and personality- becoming confused, suspicious, depressed, fearful or anxious, becoming easily upset at home, with friends or when out of their comfort zone. Typical age-related change- developing specific ways of doing things and then becoming irritated when a routine is disrupted.

If you have questions or would like additional information please visit https://www.alz.org/alzheimers-dementia/10_signs

More Ministries, Projects, and News

The Ripon Free Community Meals



We welcomed the month of May in by including tiny “May Day Baskets” to the table decorations. The dinner was very well attended, with 128 diners enjoying the wonderful Ham dinner and home-made desserts. After making sure our 13 volunteers had something to eat, there was really nothing left for take outs. We figured a total of 141 were served.

Most of the table were full so we set up 2 card tables for a family who came in around 5:30 with four young children who didn't want to be split up. Next month Rick will set the dining room up with 2 more round tables so we can accommodate 16 more diners and hopefully avoid adding tables during the meal.

Our June meal is a nod to our childhood comfort foods. The menu includes a delicious, comforting Tater Tot Casserole, tossed salad, bread, and fruit. Dessert will be Dirt Cake and its cousin, Sand Cake. Remember these? They are crushed cookies in the appropriate color (dirt or sand!) with layers of cool, creamy pudding. We'll see if the fun Gummy creatures are added to the top of the desserts... we have seen Gummy crabs online that would be fun along with the traditional Gummy worms! Our talented bakers have the months of June and July off.

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!

WCUCC Annual Meeting

Our Conference's Annual Meeting is June 6th and 7th at Green Lake Convention Center this year. It's going to be an important meeting for all 4 Associations to attend because it includes a vote to dissolve the associations and roll their ministries into a restructured Conference.

Each church can have 2 delegates vote at the meeting. Nancy Henning has agreed to serve as a voting delegate and she will be there for the Catalyst grant she wrote that helps support the Sharing Table Community Meal here at OSUCC. We still need another voting delegate, so please let a Church Council member or Rev. Mundell know as soon as possible so that we can get you registered and pay the fees for you.

Interested in a Summer Adult Education Class?

Rev. Mundell is considering having an Adult Education class during the summer on Tuesday mornings at 10:00 am in the Chapel or the adjacent lounge area, depending on how many people attend.

Please let him know if you are interested in attending and if you have any specific topics that you would like to see included in the class.

The Farmer's Almanac has revealed it's 2025 Summer weather predications and it's supposed to be hotter than average--a “Real Scorcher” in their words. Come enjoy the air conditioning in the Chapel or lounge area and enjoy discussing new topics with others in our OSUCC family!

Ministries, Projects, and News

Matthew 25: Ministries Pill Bottle Collection **2,290 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, Emily Maguire, Sue Meyer, Mark Sabel, Barb Schultz, 13 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 Committee News



Christian Education Committee

Our next committee meeting will be in the Fall.

- **Adult Ed:** Sunday class is on Summer Break. Possible Tuesday morning class based on interest.
- **Christian Ed Classes:** Christian Education classes are on Summer Break. See you in the Fall!
- **Confirmation Class:** Christian Education classes are on Summer Break. See you in the Fall!
- **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 will be in the Fall. Updates on open projects will be in the Bulletin.



Mission Committee

Missions Committee will meet Tuesday, August 19th, at 5:30 pm. This is a very active committee so if you are interested in joining us, we would be happy to welcome you!

The organizations partnering with United Way for the Food for Thought Program are SSM Health of Ripon, Ace Hardware of Ripon, Horicon Bank of Ripon, and Our Saviour's UCC.

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 June, we can focus on the "WOW" items from the list on the Nurse's bulletin board in the hallway? One of these toys will go in each box, and they can be different for girls and boys. It can be a stuffed animal; a doll; a toy truck, car, or tractor; a hobby kit; a ball or mini football, etc. They just have to fit in the Shoe Box. The collection box for these will be in the East Narthex again. Have fun with this and thank you!

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 will be in the Fall. Anyone interested in joining the committee is welcome to attend.



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 \$50 and Organ flowers are \$30 each. Radio Broadcasts are \$50 per sponsor & \$25 per sponsor per bulletin. All checks should be made out to OSUCC, with Altar Guild written on the memo line if you are sponsoring flowers, please. We are transitioning away from maintaining a separate checking account.



Thank you to all who ordered Red Geranium's for Pentecost this year. Hounsell's has always been very good to work with and are the provider for these lovely plants.

Our next full meeting is in the Fall. We invite anyone that would like to join Altar Guild to attend our meetings 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 June 1st.

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.

Thank you to those ladies, and you know who you are, who have provided lovely crocheted prayer shawls and lap blankets. They are all very beautiful and are much appreciated by those who receive them!

Stay tuned for some exciting Fall events! And no, we won't be dropping any hints before then.

The next Called to Care meeting will be held Thursday, August 14th, at 9:30 AM in the conference room.

From the Pastor's Desk



I came across some notes I had saved from when I last read John Caputo's book, *On Religion*. Caputo is Jaques Derrida's most well know disciple, Derrida being the father of deconstructionism as a philosophical practice.

The first quote I marked because it moved me is this, "True religion, genuine religiousness, means loving God, which means a restlessness with the real that involves risking your neck; it means serving the widow, the orphan, and the stranger in the worst streets of the most dangerous neighborhoods, without getting trapped by the claim to a privileged driving revelation made by the particular religions. "God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them" (John 4:16)." [On Religion, 114]

In simple terms what Caputo means is that living our Christian faith means when we see a person in need, we help them, not because it is the right thing to do, or because God may be watching and we want to please God, but rather because the person needs help, and we can help. And we help knowing it will cost us, but we do it anyway for their sake.

The second quote I marked was this, "Religious truth is a truth without knowledge. Religious truth is a deed, not a thought, something that demands our response, without pretense or dissemblance, that costs us our blood and our tears, even if we do not know who we are. Especially then." [On Religion, 115-116] When we are truly letting God move in our lives, we sometimes simply act for others without even thinking about what we are doing.

The third quote I liked was, "God is more important than religion as love is more important than faith. [On Religion, 117] These words from Caputo, give me hope. They also make sense of James', "Faith without works is dead," without it becoming a moral legalism. Think of it this way, when I am not spontaneously finding ways to love the strangers that cross my path then maybe I have turned God into an idea and faith into a safe wall around me.

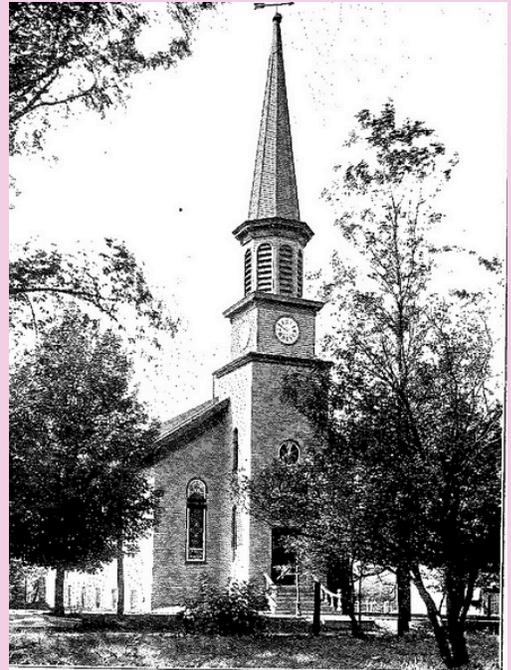
Why might I do this? Sometimes it's easier to make God an idea. Sometimes I would rather wait for the moments when I believe I can make a difference not for the sake of the other in need but to justify myself and make myself look good before God. When I do this, I lose sight of the God who loves me and replace that God with one who wants to damn me for my poor moral choices.

What if the New Testament author of I John has it right by saying, "God is Love." This would mean that the very essence of God is love, and then my spontaneously acts of love when those moments come each day are to bear witness to God in me, and to what God is doing in the world around me.

Welcome to *The Messenger*

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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 July 2025 Edition of The Messenger:

Events to be included on the calendar, committee updates, articles, etc. should be submitted to the office by **June 21st** 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



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