

OUR SAVIOUR'S UCC

343 SCOTT STREET

RIPON, WI 54971

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OUR SAVIOUR'S
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

FAITH FAMILY FRIENDSHIP

THE MESSENGER

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Ripon, WI.

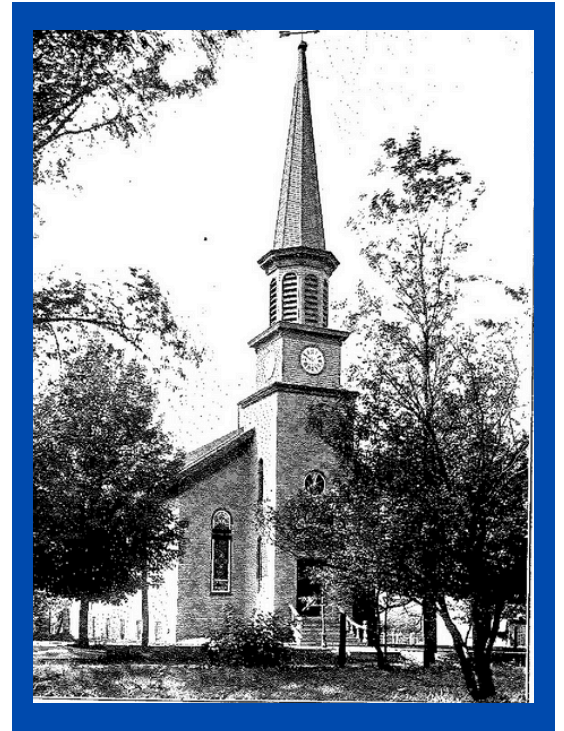


July

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 August 2025 Edition of The Messenger:

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



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<https://bit.ly/OSUCCFacebook>



<https://bit.ly/OSUCCYouTube>

From the Pastor's Desk

One of the books I have enjoyed reading this year “The Shape of Joy: Transformative power of moving beyond yourself” written by Richard Beck. It is a very short book written for everyday people looking at Joy as being different and more important than our pursuit of happiness and maps out why and how this is important. As part of his discussion on Joy he looks at meaning and happiness and what they do for us.



Here is a quote from looking at a group of studies observing how people ranked their perspective looking at self-transcendence or self-enhancement. “...For example, various jobs were rated on the degree to which they benefited either society (self-transcendence) or the self (self-enhancement). Basically, are you working for the good of others or just for yourself? Ratings of happiness were most correlated with jobs viewed as fulfilling the self. By contrast, ratings of the meaningfulness of a job were most correlated with self-transcendence, where the job was perceived as making a difference in the lives of others. Notice how happiness versus meaning hinges on our concerns and what we care about. Meaning in life flows out of transcendent concerns, looking beyond my own interests to care about the needs of the larger world. Happiness, in contrast, is narrowly concerned with thinking only about yourself (Beck 148).”

What Beck has discovered is that when we pursue happiness for ourselves and our children and grandchildren, we are pursuing an inward selfish turn that will never actually satisfy our yearnings. Joy comes through a sense of meaning and Beck finds that joy showing up as gift in response to when we give ourselves away to others, especially when we don't seek anything in return. The quoted paragraph also makes sense of one of Jesus' most disturbing sayings from Matthew 16:24-26, “Then Jesus told his disciples, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life? (NRSV)”

I was gifted the opportunity to spend a week with my eleven-month-old grandson up in Door County Wisconsin and watched this in action. Every morning when I woke up and came down stairs he was already awake with his mother playing on the sun porch so as not to wake everyone else, he got up before all of us, and as soon as he saw me his body would shake with excitement, he would smile from ear to ear and walk or crawl as fast as he could to me so I could pick him up and give and get a big hug.

And the number of times when we were out in public and he saw a stranger, got excited, smiled at them with excitement and waved or reach out to them was amazing. Even more so how their whole attitude, and disposition changed at the joy he radiated to them; they were changed by the way he gave himself away to them. That is also the joy of the Good News of the Gospel, God giving himself through Jesus and the Spirit to 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 \$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.



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*

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. The July Blood Pressure Clinic has been cancelled.

She holds the walk-in “Mind, Body, & Soul Clinic” in her office every Thursday from 10:00 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.

Have you heard of Purple Sunday? It's an event to help raise awareness of Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia. We've scheduling a Fall event that ties into Purple Sunday, and so we decided to have loose change offerings on communion Thursdays and Sunday that will be donated to the Alzheimer's Association in the Fall. Save up your loose change and then look for the purple decorated digital bank jars at the entry points to the chapel and sanctuary. You can deposit your change in the bank, and see the bank's total increase as each coin drops through. It may not be just kiddos who get a kick out of using the digital change banks!

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



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.

More Committee News

Evangelism Committee

The Church Directory project is going quite along well although we do really need your new member photos, please and thank you. 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!

Operation Christmas Child Shoebox - for the month of July we will be collecting personal hygiene items for both boys and girls. This can include a toothbrush, washcloth, comb and hairbrush, nail clipper and file, water bottle, and small flashlight. Please do not donate toothpaste though. The collection box for these will be in the East Narthex again. Have fun with this and thank you!

This year we will be hosting a packing party where, as a church, we get together to fill the shoeboxes before the National Collection week of November 17-24th. In the meantime, we are accepting monetary donations to help cover the shipping for the boxes and also to supplement items collected as needed.

The VBS Mission Project this year is Kidsave Ukraine. Kidsave's mission in the Ukraine is to evacuate and rescue children and families from combat zones, and also bring aid to front line cities and towns. They also provide care for children who have been separated from their families or who have been orphaned. You can learn more at <https://www.kidsave.org/ukraine/>

VBS has set a goal to raise \$500 for Kidsave Ukraine, and we would really like to help them meet, or possibly even exceed, that goal. We will have special collection envelopes in the July bulletins that you can use to donate if you are interested in helping. 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.



Ministries, Projects, and News

Matthew 25: Ministries Pill Bottle Collection

3,229 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!



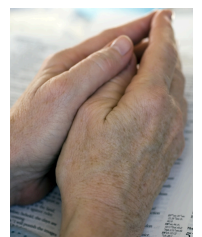
Tabs can come from a variety of cans such as pet food, beverage cans, soup cans, tuna cans, etc. We appreciate all of those who have already donated their tabs, or are still working on their collection jar at home! We understand that even friends of friends have begun collecting and donating too, how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

The Ripon Free Community Meals



In June, everyone enjoyed a little flashback to foods of their childhood! We served Tater Tot casserole as the main and then wowed folks with both Dirt Cake and Sand Cake for dessert--including gummy worms on the Dirt cake and Swedish fish on the Sand cake. There was much happiness in the dining room!

Also popular was the bologna salad rollups that were served as an appetizer. They were tasty and also made for great conversation starters! Do you remember your mom or grandma making bologna salad with her trusty metal meat grinder that clamped to the table or kitchen counter? One person told us her mom called bologna salad "gopher nuts" although we aren't exactly sure why. Has anyone else ever heard that name and know the story?

There was also fresh rhubarb jam and rhubarb sauce available in on the take home snack table.

We did 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, which worked out well. We served 130 meals and had no leftovers at all.

On July 1st we will be serving a Summer picnic that includes hamburgers and brats with all the toppings, French fries, homemade baked beans, and fresh fruit salad. Our talented bakers have the month off again as we'll be serving Ice Cream sundaes with all the toppings! Oh yah, it really doesn't get more like a picnic than that.

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. Church Council, and everyone involved in the meal, would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Barb Stracy, who has decided to step down as co-chair of our Sharing Table Free Community Meal ministry. Barb, you will be much missed for the joy and happiness that you brought to the dining room and all those in it each month! Thank you for all your hard work and commitment to growing the ministry.

WCUCC Annual Meeting

Our Conference's Annual Meeting was June 6th and 7th at Green Lake Convention Center and was an important meeting for delegates of all 4 Associations to attend because it included a vote to dissolve the associations and roll their ministries into a restructured Conference.

Nancy Henning served as our voting delegate for the Annual Meeting and reports the following:

I would personally like to thank OSUCC for allowing me to be a delegate out our Conference's Annual meeting this year. It was an inspiring weekend! It was wonderful to be able to meet many new people, to be able put a face to a name with people I've been corresponding with about the Catalyst grant we received for our Sharing Table Community Meal, and to catch up with old friends I hadn't seen in awhile.

There were many inspiring speakers at the conference, great work sessions that I could attend, and it was interesting to hear what other churches are doing, as well as share what OSUCC is doing.

It was voted to dissolve the associations and become a restructured conference.

On Saturday I attended a luncheon for everyone who had written and received a 2024 Catalyst Grant for their church. For our grant, we showed the video that we put together showing the impact of our Sharing Table Community Meal ministry. We need to show this in church on Sunday for those who haven't seen it!



From Our Parish Nurse

World Hepatitis Day takes place every year on July 28th. The purpose of World Hepatitis Day is to raise awareness about viral hepatitis, its global burden, and to influence real change. Hepatitis is an inflammation of the liver, most commonly caused by a viral infection. There are five main hepatitis viruses, referred to as types A, B, C, D and E. Every 30 seconds, someone dies from a viral hepatitis related illness. However, with the existing prevention, testing and treatment services that are available every hepatitis related death is preventable. Let's take a closer look at the different types of hepatitis.

Hepatitis A: This disease is closely associated with unsafe water or food, inadequate sanitation, or poor personal hygiene. It is primarily spread when an uninfected (and unvaccinated) person ingests food or water contaminated by an infected individual's feces. There is a vaccine to prevent hepatitis A. There is no specific treatment for hepatitis A, and recovery from symptoms following illness can be slow and take several weeks to months.

Hepatitis B: This disease is most commonly spread from mother to child at birth, but it can also be spread by exposure to infected blood or body fluids. The infection can be acute or chronic, and chronic infection puts people at high risk for cirrhosis or cancer. There is a safe and effective vaccine that offers 98-100% protection against hepatitis B. For someone that is diagnosed with hepatitis B there are oral antivirals used to treat the illness.

Hepatitis C: The hepatitis C virus is a bloodborne virus. It is most commonly transmitted through: the reuse or inadequate sterilization of medical equipment, the transfusion of unscreened blood and blood products, or injectable drug use through sharing of injectable equipment. Although there is no effective vaccine to prevent hepatitis C there are DAAs (direct-acting antivirals) that can cure 95% of all hepatitis C infections. Treatment with DAAs can take anywhere from 12-24 weeks. Early diagnosis can prevent health problems that may result from infection and prevent transmission of the virus.

Hepatitis D: The hepatitis D virus requires hepatitis B for replication, meaning only those living with hepatitis B can contract hepatitis D. Hepatitis B and D coinfection is considered the most severe form of chronic viral hepatitis due to how rapidly it can cause damage to the liver and eventually liver cancer. Hepatitis D transmission occurs through broken skin (via injection, tattooing etc.) or through contact with infected blood or blood products. Although there are antiviral treatments for hepatitis D, usually the virus has a low response to those treatments. The best way to avoid contracting hepatitis B and D is to receive the hepatitis B vaccine.

Hepatitis E: The hepatitis E virus is shed through the stool of an infected person and enters the body through the intestines. It is mainly transmitted through contaminated drinking water. Normally illness from hepatitis E lasts about 2-6 weeks, and most people make a full recovery. There are however occasional cases where serious disease known as fulminant hepatitis develops, and without hospitalization and treatment the disease can be fatal.

If you have any questions or would like more information, please visit <https://www.worldhepatitisalliance.org/what-is-viral-hepatitis/>

Emily Burk, RN, OSUCC Parish Nurse

July



Duties

Liturgist

July 6 Cal Fischer
July 13 Dianne Heyn
July 20 Rorie Nitz
July 27 Kelly Mundell

Gatekeepers

July 6 Pete & Kathy Schieler
July 13 Rick & Barb Stracy
July 20 Dennis & Emily Burk, Sue Wrzinski
July 27 Pat Gittens

Audio/Visual Operators

July 6 Keith Mulder, Kelly Mundell
July 13 John Kwiatkoske, Phil Wepner
July 20 Kelly Mundell, Judy Lueck
July 27 Bob Meyer, Judy Lueck

Van Drivers

July 6 Ricky Prellwitz
July 13 Rick Stracy
July 20 Jackie Bogucke
July 27 Tom Carr

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

Usher/Greeters

July 6 Team 3
July 13 Team 4
July 20 Team 5
July 27 Team 6

Altar Guild Monthly Committee

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

Communion Servers

July 6 Phil Manthei, Keith Mulder,
and Rick Stracy

Worship Bulletins


Bulletins are mailed out on Wednesday's
and are also available in the North
Narthex for pickup.

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.

July 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 10:00 am Bible Study, Session 1 5:00 pm Sharing Table Community Meal	2	3 9:00 am MBS Clinic 6:30 pm Worship Service with communion	4 Happy 4th of July! 	5
6 9:00 am Worship Service with Communion 4:30 pm Pack 3735 Committee mtg	7	8 10:00 am Bible Study, Session 1	9	10 9:00 am MBS Clinic 6:30 pm Worship Service	11	12
13 9:00 am Worship Service 10:30 am Church Council Mtg	14	15	16 7:15 pm – FABM Organ Concert in the Sanctuary. Open to all at no charge.	17 9:00 am MBS Clinic 6:30 pm Worship Service	18	19 July Messenger Deadline
20 9:00 am Worship Service	21	22	23	24 9:00 am MBS Clinic 6:30 pm Worship Service	25	26
27 9:00 am Worship Service 5:45 pm - Ripon Area VBS Begins at Grace Lutheran	28 5:45 pm - Ripon Area VBS at Grace Lutheran Church	29 10:00 am Bible Study, Session 2 5:45 pm - Ripon Area VBS at Grace Lutheran Church	30 5:45 pm - Ripon Area VBS at Grace Lutheran Church	31 9:00 am MBS Clinic 5:45 pm - Ripon Area VBS Ends 6:30 pm Worship Service with communion		