

OUR SAVIOUR'S UCC

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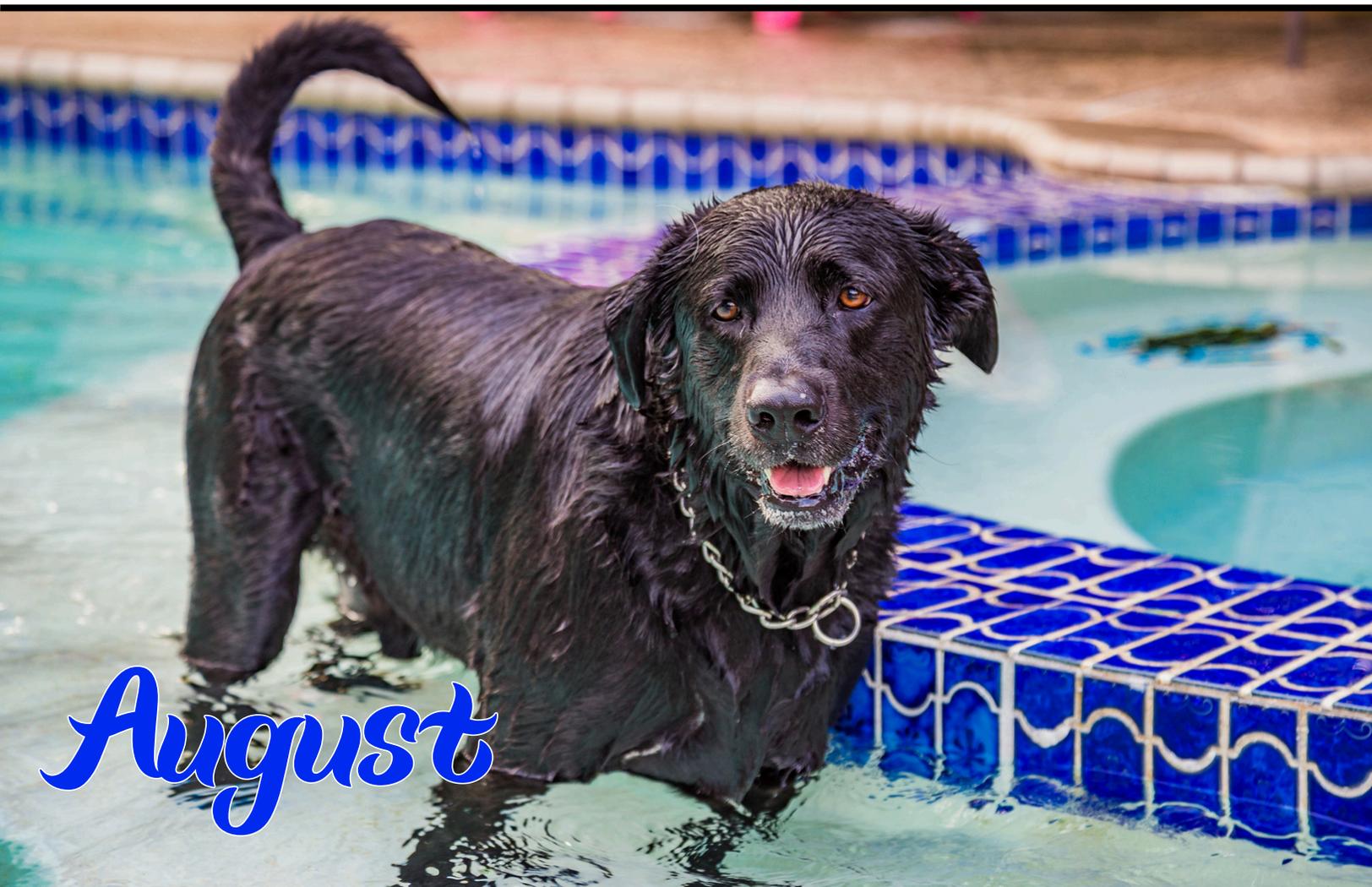
THE MESSENGER

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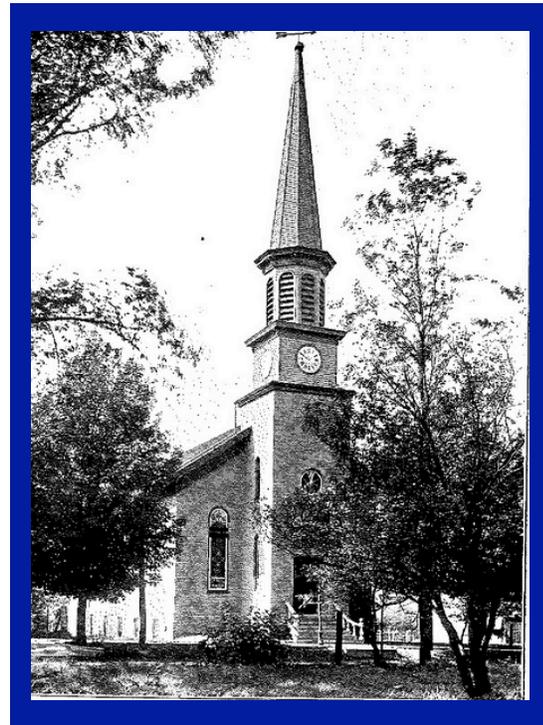
August



Welcome to The Messenger

Published by Our Saviour's UCC since 1924

- Page 2 From the Pastor's Desk**
- Page 3 Committee News**
- Page 4 More Committee News**
- Page 5 Ministries, Projects, and News**
- Page 6 More Ministries, Projects, and News**
- Page 7 From Our Parish Nurse**
- Page 8 August Duties Schedule**
- Page 9 August Calendar**



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 September 2025 Edition of The Messenger:

Events to be included on the calendar, committee updates, articles, etc. should be submitted to the office by **August 16th** 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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www.OurSavioursUCCRipon.com



<https://bit.ly/OSUCCFacebook>



<https://bit.ly/OSUCCYouTube>

From the Pastor's Desk



Rev. Dr. Kevin Mundell

Kelly and I just came back from the United Church of Christ's 35th Synod held in Kansas City where we were delegates for our second synod in a row. The Synod is the national gathering of all the UCC to conduct the business of the church at a denominational level.

This Synod had eleven resolutions brought to the church to debate from various ministry settings throughout the UCC. Each delegate is assigned to a committee randomly and each committee must decide if their resolution should go to the floor for a vote, and in what form it should go to the floor.

What is so fascinating to me is which resolutions become heated and controversial when they get to the floor and which ones pass without a hiccup. I am always surprised by how the delegates react or don't react to different resolutions.

During this Synod there was one resolution that stood, and I expected it to be the most controversial of all the resolutions. The committee that brought it forward did modify the wording quite a bit to clarify the intent of the resolution. Most resolutions are debated for about twenty to thirty minutes, but this one went well over an hour and a half before two people called the question to end the debate.

The resolution has seven parts with a "further be it resolved" section also with four parts. Here are the first three parts: 1 - We affirm that all are made in God's image and are deserving of life free from oppression, persecution, and violence. 2 - We denounce all acts of the U.S. Government and the State of Israel that contribute to a continuation of the genocide of the Palestinian people. 3 - We affirm that the ongoing genocide of the Palestinian people perpetrated by the State of Israel and supported by the U.S. is a humanitarian crisis that calls for immediate action.

Here is where the spirit of God was amazingly present. There were two microphones to speak for a resolution and two in opposition. Everyone who wished to speak was given one minute to make their argument.

There was a microphone for people trying to make an amendment to a resolution and a microphone for a Point of Order, which got used often and which when used, called for one of our pastors to stop and pray for us and the process.

There were two different amendments brought forth, debated and eventually voted down. The resolution finally passed, but had the highest opposition vote and the most abstention votes of any resolution vote at the Synod.

Throughout the entire debate, there was no yelling. There were intense emotions at times from the people on both the pro and con microphones, but no yelling or name calling. The experience we had during this resolution gave us all a clear sense of our understanding that we are brothers and sisters in Christ and Christ comes first. There was a clear sense that we could disagree and still have love for one another in the intense emotions of the moment. When the voting was done a delegate called for a national level minister to pray for the group with gratitude over the resolution process, and in recognition that this world is a place where people are dying in ways they should not be dying.

This is God's world, not ours; we live as gift.

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 no longer maintain 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 August we will be collecting Games & Activities 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. The collection box for these will be in the East Narthex again. Have fun with this and thank you!

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.

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.

Worship Committee

We are hosting an Organ concert here in the Sanctuary on August 14, 2025, 6:30 PM, featuring Jared Stellmacher. This concert is open to all in the community and beyond, and there is no admission fee. A free will offering to benefit flood relief efforts in the Southwest is appreciated, but not required.



Due to the organ concert on August 14th there will not be a regular Thursday worship service in the Chapel.

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

3,933 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

31,659 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. It's a win-win situation!

Prayer Chain Ministry

In our Prayers: Jim Badtke, Sandra Badtke, Cattibree Dailey, Tara Koller, Emily McGuire, Sue Meyer, Mark Sabel, Barb Schultz, Joe Wrzinski, the family and friends of Jeffery Mueller as they grieve his loss, and 14 Unspoken.

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



Our Summer Picnic in July dinner on July 1st was well attended and everyone present enjoyed the brats, hot dogs, hamburgers/cheeseburgers, fries, chips, baked beans, and fresh fruit salad. The ice cream sundaes were well received by everyone present, though there were no takeaways on those due to the hot day we had!

Changing the dining room up set-up so we that could accommodate 16 more diners has really worked out well. We served 130 meals at the July meal with very minimal leftovers.

For our August 5th meal, we'll be in the period known as the Dog Days of Summer. However, rest assured that there won't be any dogs present to beg under the tables in Fellowship Hall while we serve up a wonderful end-of-summer meal of BBQ Country Style Ribs, Mashed Potatoes and Gravy, Corn, Seafood Pasta Salad, and Grape Salad. It's a Bakers Choice month for our talented bakers, who will be making decisions difficult for you again with a variety of luscious homemade desserts to chose from. It's so hard to chose just one!

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.



August 14th Organ Concert

The Worship Committee is hosting an Organ Concert on August 14, 2025 at 6:30 PM in the Sanctuary. The featured organist is none other than our own Jared Stellmacher! That phrase, "if you know, you know", is thrown around a lot but in this particular case you do know what an absolutely amazing musician Jared is and what a wonderful evening of fabulous music you will be treated to!

The concert is open to all in our community and beyond, and there is no admission charge. A free will offering to benefit the flood relief efforts in the US Southwest is appreciated.

There will not be a regular Thursday evening worship service in the Chapel on August 14th but we hope you will consider coming to the concert instead!

Summer Adult Ed Class #2

The second session of our Summer Adult Education class will begin on Tuesday, July 29th at 10:00 am in the Chapel lounge, running through August 19th. This class will focus on the Letter of Galatians and it's look at how to live as a Christian from Paul's perspective. We hope to see you at the class!

Fall Committee Meeting Dates

Please don't forget to let the office know when your committee resumes meeting again in the Fall so that we can update the calendars, worship bulletins, and Messenger. Thank you!

Overdose awareness month is observed each year in August and culminates in International Overdose Awareness Day (IOAD) on August 31st. IOAD is a global event dedicated to raising awareness about overdose deaths, reducing the stigma surrounding drug-related deaths, and acknowledging the grief of those who have lost loved ones to overdose. Let's discuss a few overdose basics.

What is an overdose? Overdose occurs when a person has more of a drug, or a combination of drugs, in their body than the body can cope with. All drugs can cause an overdose, including medications prescribed by a doctor. It is important to know the right amount and the right time to take your medication. It is also important to know which drugs should not be mixed. If you have any concerns about your medications speak with your provider or pharmacist.

What are some overdose signs and symptoms? Overdoses can look different depending on what type of drug or combination of drugs that have been used. For instance, a person who experiences an overdose from a drug that depresses the central nervous system (opioids including heroin or fentanyl, benzos, barbiturates, or alcohol) may lose consciousness and stop breathing. Yet a stimulant drug (amphetamines) overdose may lead to overheating, a cardiac event, or symptoms relating to neurotoxicity.

When should an ambulance be called? An overdose is a medical emergency that requires immediate medical attention. Always call an ambulance if you suspect someone has overdosed. Some signs or symptoms that would warrant a 911 call may include: being unconscious, having a seizure, experiencing a severe headache, experiencing chest pain, experiencing breathing difficulties (snoring or gurgling), or if someone is extremely paranoid, agitated and/or confused.

What is Narcan? Narcan or naloxone is the drug used by paramedics to revive people who have had an opioid overdose.

Overdose Prevention Strategies

All drug overdoses are preventable. Practical strategies to reverse and prevent overdoses and reduce the harm associated with drug use are available. Some of those strategies include:

- Narcan/Naloxone distribution programs which provide individuals with free Narcan and train them on proper use of the medication
- Safe injection sites which are fixed or mobile spaces where individuals are provided sterile drug use equipment and are monitored by trained staff when using illicit drugs
- Medication-assisted treatment (MAT) which is an evidenced based, whole person approach, utilizing medication in combination with counseling, behavioral therapies, and peer support for the treatment of substance use disorders
- Needle and syringe programs which are a social service that allow injectable drug users to obtain clean and unused hypodermic needles at little or no cost and dispose of used needles in an appropriate manner
- Drug checking or drug testing services which analyze drugs to uncover any potentially dangerous substances

A Hopeful Decline

Recent data shows some or all of these initiatives may be making a difference. Provisional data from the CDC indicates a significant drop in overdose deaths in the US in 2024. An estimated 80,391 drug overdose deaths occurred in 2024, that is nearly a 27% decrease from the 110,037 deaths estimated in 2023. This is the lowest number of annual overdose deaths since 2019, before the COVID-19 pandemic.

For more information or to find ways to get involved please visit <https://www.overdoseday.com/>

August



Duties

Liturgist

August 3 Jeremy Schouten
August 10 Heidi Schwanke
August 17 Jamie Prellwitz
August 24 Keith Mulder
August 31 Cal Fischer

Gatekeepers

August 3 Keith & Becky Mulder
August 10 Pete & Kathy Schieler
August 17 Tom & Julie Stellmacher
August 24 Rick & Barb Stracy
August 31 Dennis & Emily Burk, Sue Wrzinski

Audio/Visual Operators

August 3 John Kwiatkoske, Kelly Mundell
August 10 Keith Mulder, Kelly Mundell
August 17 Kelly Mundell, Judy Lueck
August 24 Bob Meyer, Phil Wepner
August 31 John Kwiatkoske, Kelly Mundell

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

August 3 Team 1
August 10 Team 2
August 17 Team 3
August 24 Team 4
August 31 Team 5

Altar Guild Monthly Committee

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

Van Drivers

August 3 Bob Lueck
August 10 Ricky Prellwitz
August 17 Tom Stellmacher
August 24 Rick Stracy
August 31 Jackie Bogucke

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

Communion Servers

August 3 Keith Mulder, Ricky Prellwitz

Worship Bulletins

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

August 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3 9:00 am Worship Service with Communion	4	5 10:00 am Bible Study, Session 2 5:00 pm Sharing Table Community Meal	6	7 9:00 am MBS Clinic 6:30 pm Worship Service	8	9
10 9:00 am Worship Service	11 6:30 pm Church Council Mtg	12 10:00 am Bible Study, Session 2	13	14 9:00 am MBS Clinic 6:30 pm Organ Concert featuring Jared Stellmacher	15	16 September Messenger Deadline
17 9:00 am Worship Service	18	19 10:00 am Bible Study, Session 2 Ends	20	21 9:00 am MBS Clinic 6:30 pm Worship Service	22	23
24 9:00 am Worship Service	25	26	27	28 9:00 am MBS Clinic 6:30 pm Worship Service	29	30
31 9:00 am Worship Service						