

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

VOL. 100

Ripon, WI.

January 2024

NO. 1

JANUARY

January 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 6:15 pm Puppets	2 5:00 pm Sharing Table Community Meal 6:30 pm Pack 3735 Parent Leader mtg	3	4 5:15 pm Senior Choir 6:30 pm Worship Service	5	5
7 9:00 am Worship Service, Communion 4:00 - 5:00 pm Den Mtg	8 6:15 pm Puppets 6:30 pm Church Council Mtg	9 6:30 pm Pack 3735 mtg	10	11 5:15 pm Senior Choir 6:30 pm Worship Service	12	13
14 9:00 am Worship Service 4:00 - 5:00 pm Den Mtg	15 4:30 pm Worship Committee 5:30 pm Christian Ed 6:15 pm Puppets 6:30 pm Evangelism	16 6:30 pm Pack 3735 mtg	17	18 9:30 am Called to Care 5:15 pm Senior Choir 6:30 pm Worship Service	19	20 Deadline for February Messenger
21 9:00 am Worship Service 10:00 Altar Guild 4:00 - 5:00 pm Den Mtg	22 6:15 pm Puppets	23 6:30 pm Pack 3735 mtg	24	25 5:15 pm Senior Choir 6:30 pm Worship Service with Communion	26	27
28 9:00 am Worship Service 4:00 - 5:00 pm Den Mtg	29 6:15 pm Puppets	30 6:30 pm Pack 3735 Pinewood Derby	31			



January Duties

Liturgist

January 7 Dianne Heyn
January 14 Cal Fischer
January 21 Phil Manthei
January 28 Kelly Mundell

Gatekeepers

January 7 Keith & Becky Mulder
January 14 Pete & Kathy Schieler
January 21 Rick & Barb Stracy
January 28 Sue Wrzinski, Emily &
Dennis Burk

Audio Operator

January 7 Bob Meyer
January 14 Kelly Mundell
January 21 Phil Manthei
January 28 John Kwiatkoske

Coffee Hour

After 9:00AM Worship with Coffee
and Juice - For those who feel
comfortable, feel free to join us!

Usher/Greeters

January 7 Team 1
January 14 Team 2
January 21 Team 3
January 28 Team 4

Altar Guild Monthly Committee

Barb Schouten, Marge Mundt, Peg
Buelow, Bev Garro, Iona Altnau

Van Drivers

January 7 Bob Lueck
January 14 Ricky Prellwitz
January 21 Rick Stracy
January 28 Jackie Bogucke

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

Bulletin Delivery

Mailed out on Wednesday's
Kay Quinn will deliver to Russell Manor
Iona Altnau will deliver to Maplecrest Manor

Communion Servers

December 3 Phil Manthei and Rick Stracy



Happy New Year, a Poem by John P. Reed

Brush away old heartaches.
Learn from our mistakes.
Another year is finally over.
A new dawn awakes.

Let the old year out.
Welcome the new one in.
Bury the bad things of the past
As a new year now begins.

Make your New Year wishes
As simple as you can
Pray for peace and love,
Not for wealth or fame.

Pray for health and happiness.
Pray for your fellow man.
Pray for all the ones you love.
Pray for those who've lost their way

As the midnight hour chimes,
We leave the old and embrace the new.
I wish the things you wish for yourself,
And may God's love stay with you.

Monica Gagnon, Parish Nurse

Women's Wild Winter Weekend

It's almost February...time to register for Moon Beach Women's Wild Winter Weekend 2024!

Dates this year are February 23rd - 25th, with an option to go early on Thursday, February 22nd. The theme this year is Prayer and Saturday Night is a Pajama Party!



Scholarships that cover the registration cost are available to all church members. Moon Beach will bill OSUCC directly for the registrations.

Registration is now open for the event and we suggest you call Moon Beach at 715-479-8255 rather than using the online registration tool. Otherwise you will need to pay the registration fee online to complete the online registration.

What do we do at camp? We do bible study, book discussion, crafts, snow shoeing, hiking, choir, silent auction, movies, board/card games, and sitting by the fireplace just relaxing or reading. Oh, and we can't forget the food at camp. The food is so good!

Want to talk with members who have gone? Feel free to chat with Boni Jensen, Judy Heitmann, Becky Mulder, Heather Lauffer, Debbie Hahn, Jackie Bogucke, or Pat Gittens.

Prayer Chain Ministry

IN OUR PRAYERS: Bob Schouten, Kathy Luedke, Tara Koller, Pat Schaub, Edna Schwandt, the family of Roy Krause and they grieve his loss, 21 unspoken, and all others.

Feel free to use our prayer chain ministry by contacting Caroline Retzlaff at 920-748-2367.



Ripon LEGO Team #1665 Competitions



OSUCC is home to Ripon's LEGO Multiverse Team #1665. The team is 10 students in grades 4-8, coached by Sara & Dave Heyn, Julia & Mike Manor, Naomi Magadanz. Dave Schoff is the Lead for Ripon. Sara is Head Coach.

Their first competition was November 2023 at the Wisconsin First Lego League Regional tournament in Janesville. Twenty-nine teams from all over Wisconsin competed for a spot in the Sectionals, with hopes of making it on to the State competition.

This year's theme required teams to highlight the role that science, math, technology, and engineering play in the arts. The teams were judged on their written presentation and also how their LEGO robot was designed and programmed to complete a set series of tasks. The team does all the work.

The Ripon team won at Regionals and moved forward to Sectionals on December 16th. Their head coach said, "They competed very well and showed the judges all that they had learned this year. We are super proud of all they accomplished." Unfortunately, the team did not advance on to State this year, but keep an eye on them for 2024!

More Mission Committee News...

The Ripon Community Meals

Last month we shared that Our Saviour's will be participating in this mission beginning in January 2024 and that four Ripon area churches are participating.

Now we can share the exciting news that a fifth Ripon area church has joined the mission and will handle the 5th Tuesdays of each month.

The new schedule for The Sharing Table meals is as follows:

- 1st Tuesday, 5 - 6 pm - Our Saviour's United Church of Christ - Fellowship Hall, elevator accessible
- 2nd Tuesday, 5 - 6 pm - Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church - Fellowship Hall
- 3rd Tuesday, 5 - 6 pm - Immanuel United Methodist Church - Fellowship Hall, elevator accessible
- 4th Tuesday, 5:30 - 6 pm - First Congregational Church of Ripon - Drive Thru on Ransom St. for boxed dinners
- 5th Tuesday, 5:00 - 6:00 pm, St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Parish, Parish Hall, lower level parking lot, handicap accessible.

Our first meal will be served on January 2, 2024 from 5:00 pm till 6:00 pm. Our Church Council members and others are volunteering, and on the menu is Turkey and Stuffing Casserole.



Salvation Army Bell Ringing



On Friday, December 8th, a group of OSUCC members manned the red kettle and bells for the Salvation Army over at Webster's Market.

A huge thank you to Debbie Hahn, Iona Altnau, Nancy Henning, Mary and Jim Schultz, Judy Lueck, Amy and Steve Borgardt, Bonnie Jensen and Pat Gittens, Kelly Mundell, and our Confirmands for participating. It looks like fun was had, and there were even rumors of some happy dancing going on too!



Missions Committee News

So far in 2023...

3,962 Pill Bottles

Thank you so much! We have far exceeded last year's total!

If you haven't already, please consider dropping off pill bottles, with prescription labels removed, at the office, or if the office is closed, leave them in the basket located beneath the table in the north entrance (vestibule).



46,987 Pop Tabs

We are so very thankful to those who have already donated their tabs, or are still working on their collection jar at home. So far in mid-December you've donated 4,935 tabs! We'll keep counting through the end of 2023 and then start again for 2024, so ensure all your friends have begun collecting!



Mission Committee Holiday Season Recap

Here's hoping everyone had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Here's the recap on the 2023 Holiday Season giving:

- Harvest InGathering - 549 non-perishable food items were donated to the Ripon Community Food Pantry.
- Traded Treasurers Holiday Meals - A total of 24 meals were donated, 20 from the congregation and 4 from the committee.
- Operation Christmas Child Shoebox - 41 shoeboxes were packed by the congregation.
- Santa Club Cards - A total of 25 cards were donated, 20 from the congregation and 5 from the committee.
- Pack 3735 and Troop 6737 - Missions paid the annual charter dues for both groups.

We on the Missions Committee are so appreciative and thankful for the caring, giving congregation that we have here at Our Saviour's. Your generosity has helped so many, in so many different ways, over the course of 2023. Thank you so very much!

Annual OSUCC Holiday Bake Sale

Another very successful Holiday Bake Sale is in the books. Thank you so much to everyone who took the time to make such an amazing variety of delicious looking holiday treats!

Thank you also to all those who were delightedly buying the treats. At the writing of this edition, there were still some available here at the church and so sales were still happening. So yummy!



COMMITTEE NEWS

Altar Guild

The 2024 Sign-up is available on the stand outside of the office. This sign-up is for ALL 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.

We welcome anyone new that would like to come and join our Altar Guild group. If you have any questions, please contact Caroline Retzlaff or Iona Altnau.



Catch us at our next meeting on January 21st, 10:00 am, right after Worship in the Conference Room.

Christian Education Committee



NURSERY: We have a child/parent space available in the South West Corner of the Sanctuary.

Christian Ed Classes: Sunday School meets at 10:15 AM after Worship Service.

Confirmation Class: We have a class underway. Contact Rev. Mundell if you would like to join the class.

Adult Ed: Meets at 10:30 AM after Worship Service.

Evangelism Committee

2023 Coffee Hour: We have had such a wonderful time seeing all the committees and individuals who have held a coffee hour so far this year. Thank you for your support! Have you signed up for a Sunday in 2024? The Sign-Up Sheet will be available in the East Narthex!

Upper Room: The current issue is available for purchase in the vestibule. They are \$1.00 each. Please put money in an envelope provided (they are next to the upper room booklets), label it "Upper Room", drop into the mail slot.

Calendar: Please call or email the Church Office about any added events and meetings, or if changes are needed to an existing event.



Stewardship Committee

Have loose coins? Have you heard about the Stewardship Loose Coin program?

If you would like to donate to that, please make sure the coin is in an envelope marked for that purpose. Many thanks!



Called to Care Committee

Mind, Body, & Soul Clinic: Clinic will be on hold beginning in January 2024. The Called to Care team thanks Nurse Monica for all of her work with them and our congregation.

Additional Called to Care Committee members are always welcome to join us to help care for our congregation. If interested please talk to Pastor Mundell, Iona Altnau, Julie Stellmacher, Dianne Heyn, Caroline Retzlaff, Pat Gittens, or Kathy Lang.

From the Pastor's Desk

Happy New Year and a Blessed Epiphany. I want to share a story of something I observed before Christmas. I was with a group of rotary exchange students, inbound (foreign students living in the US for a year) and outbound (US students who will be traveling overseas to live for a year). We were on a scavenger hunt in downtown Chicago and this year each group of students needed a couple of adults along as chaperones. The reason we were needed was because the tension in the downtown was a bit high due to the streets being filled with twenty-one thousand political refugees from Venezuela and bus loads arriving each day with more refugees because Chicago is a sanctuary city. So, as we walked down Michigan Avenue there were families with small children sitting against the buildings out of the way with everything that they owned in front of them begging for any help they could get.

It was difficult to see so many woman and small children sitting there with all they had, unable to speak any English. They were either kicked out of their home country because they believed in democracy and free elections or because the current dictator collapsed the economy by eighty percent and everything they had owned was lost or taken from them. The city of Chicago was trying to find housing and jobs for all these people whose dreams were shattered at someone else's hands. Here they are now in a foreign country, not where they really wanted to be, with nothing but the clothes on their backs and without the ability to speak the dominant language.



Rev. Kevin Mundell

What amazed me was watching the different high schoolers from our group of exchange students take money from their own wallets or purses and walk over to give it to some of the families in need as we were explored downtown Chicago. Both our students and our foreign students were helping some of the people in need as we passed by. No one told them to do this or expected them to do this. As one said to me, "I'm blessed, I can help." Their generosity to these strangers was so awesome to see.

After our scavenger hunt we regrouped at one of Chicago's most famous pizza places, where we were treated to course after course of food. We were all sitting at tables for six and were given enough food at each table for twelve people. After we had finished, some of the adults and some of the students saw how much food was left. They began taking to-go boxes big enough for one or two large pieces of pizza and filling them, using up most of the leftover, untouched pizza pies. They then took all the to-go boxes back to Michigan Avenue and, as we walked along, began passing out boxes of still warm pizza slices to all the people they could who were sitting up against the walls of buildings waiting till the homeless shelters opened back up.

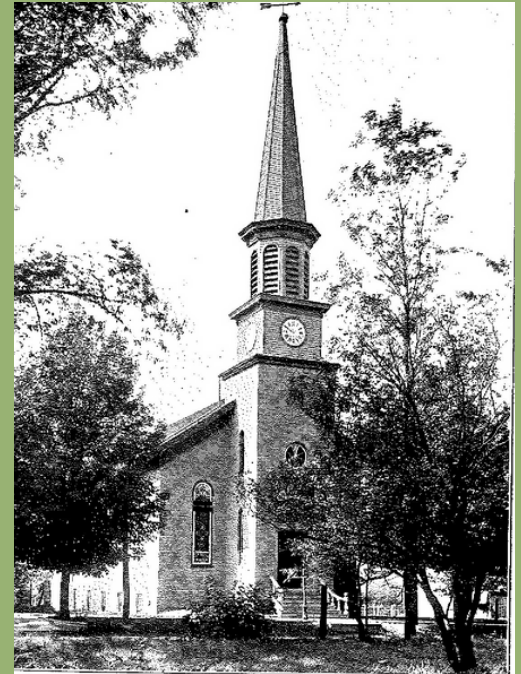
It is so easy to make our world small and miss all the things going on around us. Sometimes we need to simply because our world is so complex. It was awesome to be a part of a group of people who, without thinking or being told to, simply found ways to show a small token of generosity. We don't know if their gift of food and a bit of cash made a big difference but, in some cases, the pizza may have been enough to keep someone alive one more day and give them a chance at another one with more hope.

The season of epiphany is about Jesus showing us how to open our world with small acts that can touch and change people's lives through God's power in us. Let us together ask God to continue transforming us this Epiphany season as we live our faith each day.

Welcome to The Messenger

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Join us for Worship In-Person, Virtually, or by Radio!

Worship Services are Thursday's at 6:30pm or Sunday's at 9:00am

Both Worship Services are streamed to Facebook, YouTube, and are also available on our website.

You can also tune In at 11:00am on Sunday's to 1600AM WRPN for the Radio Broadcast.

DEADLINE FOR THE FEBRUARY 2024 MESSENGER:

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

Email these to the Church office at osuccrippon1@gmail.com, or you may drop your information in the office, or submit it taking a photo of the the QR code at the right and filling out the short form which is automatically sent directly to the office email. Thank you.

QR Code

