

OUR SAVIOUR'S UCC

343 SCOTT STREET

RIPON, WI 54971

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Organization

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## *The Messenger*

VOL. 100

Ripon, WI.

March 2024

NO. 3

# March





# March 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
<b>3 Lent 3</b> 9:00 am Worship Service, Communion	<b>4</b> 6:15 pm Puppets	<b>5</b> 5:00 pm <b>Sharing Table</b> <b>Community Meal</b> 6:30 pm Pack 3735 Parent Leader mtg	<b>6</b> 6:30 pm Lent Worship in Chapel	<b>7</b> 5:15 pm Senior Choir 6:30 pm Worship Service	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10 Lent 4</b> 9:00 am Worship Service 4:00 - 5:00 pm Den Mtg	<b>11</b> 6:15 pm Puppets 6:30 pm Church Council Mtg	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 6:30 pm Lent Worship in Chapel	<b>14</b> 5:15 pm Senior Choir 6:30 pm Worship Service	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 9:00 am Altar Guild Room Cleanup <b>April Messenger</b> <b>Deadline</b>
<b>17 Lent 5</b> 9:00 am Worship Service 10:00 Altar Guild Mtg 4:00 - 5:00 pm Den Mtg	<b>18</b> 4:30 pm Worship Committee 5:30 pm Christian Ed 6:15 pm Puppets 6:30 pm Evangelism	<b>19</b> 5:30 Missions meeting	<b>20</b> 6:30 pm Lent Worship in Chapel	<b>21</b> 9:30 am Called to Care 5:15 pm Senior Choir 6:30 pm Worship Service	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24 Lent 6</b> 9:00 am Worship Service 4:00 - 5:00 pm Den Mtg	<b>25</b> 6:15 pm Puppets	<b>26</b> 6:30 pm Pack 3735	<b>27</b>	<b>28 Maundy Thursday</b> 9:30 am Called to Care 5:15 pm Senior Choir 6:30 pm Worship Service with Communion	<b>29 Good Friday</b> 6:30 pm Ecumenical Good Friday Service in the Sanctuary	<b>30 Holy Saturday</b>
<b>31 Easter</b> 7:00 am Worship with Communion 7:45 am Breakfast 9:00 am Worship with Communion						



# March Duties

## Liturgist

March 3 Cal Fischer  
March 10 Dianne Heyn  
March 17 Phil Manthei  
March 24 Jeremy Schouten  
March 31 Rorie Nitz

## Gatekeepers

March 3 Barb & Rick Stracy  
March 10 Sue Wrzinski, Emily & Dennis Burk  
March 17 Pat Gittens  
March 24 Keith & Becky Mulder  
March 31 Pete & Kathy Schieler

## Audio Operator

March 3 Phil Manthei  
March 6 Phil Manthei  
March 10 Kelly Mundell  
March 13 Phil Manthei  
March 17 John Kwiatkoske  
March 20 Phil Manthei  
March 24 Kelly Mundell  
March 28 Phil Manthei  
March 31 7 AM - Phil Manthei  
March 31 9 AM - John Kwiatkoske

## Coffee Hour

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

## Usher/Greeters

March 3 Team 3  
March 10 Team 4  
March 17 Team 5  
March 24 Team 6  
March 31 Team 1

## Altar Guild Monthly Committee

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

## Van Drivers

March 3 Rick Stracy  
March 10 Jackie Bogucke  
March 17 Tom Carr  
March 24 Bob Lueck  
March 31 Ricky Prellwitz

*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

March 3 Dianne Heyn &  
Patti Schaalma

# From Our Parish Nurse

Did you know Kidney disease is often referred to as a “silent disease” because there are usually no symptoms during its early stages? As many as 90% of Americans who have chronic kidney disease don’t know they have it until it is very advanced.



Did you know Kidney disease is often referred to as a “silent disease” because there are usually no symptoms during its early stages? As many as 90% of Americans who have chronic kidney disease don’t know they have it until it is very advanced.

The good news is your doctor can perform 2 quick tests to check for kidney disease and provide guidance on how to make changes to keep your kidneys healthier for longer.

The tests include a urine test to check for kidney damage and a blood test to see how well your kidneys are working. If your kidneys show signs of damage your doctor may refer you to a specialist, called a nephrologist, or recommend more frequent testing.

Even if you feel healthy, if you are over 60 or have risk factors such as diabetes, high blood pressure, or heart disease it is important to discuss with your doctor getting tested for kidney disease.

Some important steps you can take to protect your kidneys from damage include:

- Quit smoking
- Take your medications as prescribed
- Monitor OTC medications for NSAIDs(ex. Ibuprofen or Naproxen) as these can cause kidney damage
- Control your blood sugar if you are a diabetic
- Control your blood pressure
- Meet with a dietician to develop a meal plan
- Make physical activity part of your routine
- Aim for a healthy weight
- Get enough sleep
- Find healthy ways to cope with stress and depression

Protecting your kidneys may allow you to work, spend time with family and friends, stay active, and do other things you enjoy for longer.

For more information you can visit <https://www.niddk.nih.gov/health-information/community-health-outreach/national-kidney-month>

**Emily Burk, OSUCC Parish Nurse**







### ***The Ripon Free Community Meals***

Our February Community Meal was a delicious spaghetti dinner and included wonderful baked goods for dessert. Everything vanished quickly! A total of 88 meals were served, an increase over the 75 meals served last month.

Everyone is so generous with their time and talents, thank you so very much! We are so appreciative of the Church Council, who continues to help with the meals, our other volunteer helpers, and all those who baked the amazing array of delicious desserts. The line at the dessert table was moving quite slow due to diners who just couldn't seem to make up their minds which two dessert items they should take!

This month we will be serving ham, hashbrown casserole, baked beans, pistachio salad and, of course, dessert. Beverages include decaf coffee, chocolate or white milk, and water. Everyone is welcome to come enjoy great fellowship and food!

Our next meal will be served on March 5, 2024 from 5:00 pm till 6:00 pm. Any volunteers who would like to come help are very welcome, and would need to be there at 4:00 pm to help set up. This month again we had everything cleaned up by 7:00 pm and had a great time helping while visiting with diners. Please join in the fun!

If you would like to help Nancy Henning in the meal prep during the day, feel free to call her at 920-229-3486. If you'd prefer to be a 4:00 volunteer helper, you can let her know by calling her at 920-229-1183.

The 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.

### ***Prayer Chain Ministry***

IN OUR PRAYERS: Bob Schouten, Kathy Luedke, Tara Koller, Pat Schaub, Edna Schwandt, 21 unspoken, and all others.

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



## Missions Committee News

**Totals for 2024...**

**1,096 Pill Bottles**

Oops, and sorry, but we reported the number of pill bottles for January incorrectly.

We are still starting 2024 strong, with a closet full of bottles waiting to be counted. Please continue dropping pill bottles (with prescription labels removed) off to the church office. If the office is closed, feel free to leave them in the brown plastic basket located beneath the table in the North Entrance (vestibule). Thank you!



**5,270 Pop Tabs**

We started 2024 strongly with 5,270 pop tabs donated for Ronald McDonald House! Wow! We so very thankful to those who have already donated their tabs, or are still working on their collection jar at home. so please ensure all your friends have begun collecting too. Thank you so very much!



## One Great Hour of Sharing

Sunday, March 10th, is UCC's One Great Hour of Sharing special mission offering day. This year's theme is Share the Light, and envelopes will be available here to use.



This Lenten Offering supports the disaster, refugee, and development ministries of the United Church of Christ within Wider Church Ministries. When disaster strikes or people are displaced by violence or poverty, you are part of the response and recovery for the most vulnerable through your contribution. Learn more at <https://www.ucc.org/giving/ways-to-give/our-churchs-wider-mission/one-great-hour-of-sharing/>.

## Thank You, Thank You so Very Much!

Missions Committee would like to thank everyone who participated in the Souper Bowl Sunday can collection. The soup has been delivered to the food pantry.

We would also like to thank everyone for their generous response to the Venezuelan Refugee collection of coats and other very needed clothing that is currently still going on. The donation box in the East Narthex has overflowed in only the very best way, but don't let that discourage you from donating!

Kelly Mundell is heading down to Rockford, IL in late February and will be taking the current donations down to Jaycie Mundell to turn in to the organization she works with. We'll be continuing to collect for a few more months.



# More Committee News

## Evangelism Committee

You enjoyed the famous OSUCC tote bags so much that it gave us an idea. How do you like the idea of a OSUCC embroidered logo shirt of your very own? Yes, please?



We heard you! We're using 4Imprint, the same company that brought you the tote bags, as the supplier for our new OSUCC logo shirts. The shirts will be available in a traditional style polo shirt for men or women, or a V neck polo style shirt for women. The material will be that wonderful Quick Dry material that makes summer wear a breeze.

We will have samples of sizes and colors available to help with your decision making process. Money will be needed when placing your order and we're estimating the cost between \$22 - \$24. Order forms and samples will be available soon so watch your bulletins and listen for any announcements too.

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! Did you know that you, as an individual or family could host a coffee hour? It's fun to host and chat with many of our church family. The Sign-Up Sheet is by the sink in the East Narthex.

You are invited to join the Evangelism Committee in a Brat Fry Fundraiser at Webster's Market on Friday May 3rd. What would you enjoy doing to help? You could be our Master Grill Chef(s), be the smiling face that helps all those hungry folks buy their brats, or if you prefer something less visible--bake some of your favorite sweets that we'll be selling at the stand also! More details to follow. If you have questions or would like to sign up, please talk with Jennifer Klettke, Judy Lueck, or Barb Stracy. This is going to be a fun time!

**Upper Room:** The current issue 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.

**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 your 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 is still on hold and we'll share the date for when it will resume once that is available. The Called to Care team meetings will continue as scheduled with Rev. Mundell attending.

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

# Committee News

## Altar Guild

The Altar Guild will be getting together at 9:00 AM on Saturday, March 16th to perform our annual room cleanup and organizing.

Easter flowers for the Sanctuary's altar will include these choices:

- Easter Lily - 6" pot - \$13
- Hyacinth - 4" pot - \$5
- Tulips - 6" pot - \$9
- Daffodils - 6" pot - \$9
- Easter Cactus - 4" pot - \$13



*Catch us at our next meeting on March 17th, 10:00 am in the Conference Room.*

The order form will be available as an insert in the bulletin starting in March and will also be available in the office and East Narthex.

The 2024 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.

We welcome anyone new that would like to come and join our Altar Guild group. If you have any questions, please contact Caroline Retzlaff at 920-748-2367 or Iona Altnau at 920-748-5391

## Christian Education Committee



**Nursery:** We're happy your little ones are here at church! We have a child/parent space available in the South West Corner of the Sanctuary and for your convenience there are Koala Kare changing stations in all of our Ladies restrooms.

**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.

## Worship Committee

Our search for a new Senor Choir Director continues! Please help by watching, listening and talking it up with friends and neighbors. You never really know who knows who and as the circle widens, we may find someone who is looking for such an opportunity.

Questions, suggestions on searching, or recommendations can be directed to Barb Stracy at 920-229-1183.





# From the Pastor's Desk

More times than not, when I hear people talk about the season of Lent, they talk in terms of giving something up, but if we are not careful this can cause us to miss the point to the season's journey.

For me, a more helpful way to think about the season of Lent is how can I spend more time with God and with the people in my life? Once I figure out how to spend more time with God and the people in my life, that will dictate what I need to give up for the season of Lent.

I came across a quote of a favorite Christian thinker I have read for years, Douglas John Hall, which is what helped me think about this in this different way. This comes from his book, *Confessing Faith*. "Jesus said "Follow Me!" not "Follow a model-for-ministry that I am leaving behind for you."

It is not as if the church were a voluntary community of altruistic persons who thought it good to behave in the world as Jesus behaved; rather, it is a community gathered by the Holy Spirit and made participant in the life and work of the crucified and risen Christ. The church does not "extend" this representative life of the Christ into a world in, and to which, the Christ himself is no longer present." (DJH, *Confessing Faith*, Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress, 1998; pg. 185.)

What Hall is trying to remind us of is that our faith puts us in a relationship with Jesus; where we experience this most fully is when we share ourselves as a person with other persons, stepping into the brokenness of their life as we let them step into the brokenness of our life. Jesus' work was to reconcile people which makes our work, as Christians, the same. What this looks like is walking with people and learning to love them as they are, flaws and all, and letting them, if they are able, love us with our flaws and all.

I met two people who embodied this in a similar way, a man named Gene and a woman named Geri. Both were retired and both were, later in life, diagnosed with terminal cancer. Both listened to their options and chose to do nothing treatment-wise, and both became very active in the time they had left. They each called everyone they cared about and invited them over to their house one at a time over a two-month period. One had everyone sit in the living room for a conversation and the other had everyone sit at the kitchen table with cookies and a hot beverage for a conversation.

What they both did was tell everyone how much they meant to them, what they appreciated about them, a few of their fondest memories with them, and that they loved them. They both were able to say goodbye in a meaningful way to everyone they cared about. After the last person was seen for each of them, they died within a day or week of the visit, way earlier than predicted.

The one regret both Gene and Geri had that they shared with me during my visit with them each was that they didn't do this sooner, or more often, because the time they spent with each person turned out to be an incredible blessing for them.

I believe this is what the Lenten journey is really about. We walk with the person of Jesus as we encounter Jesus in the sharing of our lives with the people God brings across our path. The sharing is not about being polite and nice but about actually caring for and bearing each other's stories and burdens so that neither of us is ever alone in our life's journey. Let us continue to walk with each other seeing each other face to face and embracing Jesus' presence in our midst as we walk together.



# *Welcome to The Messenger*

*Published by Our Saviour's UCC since 1924*

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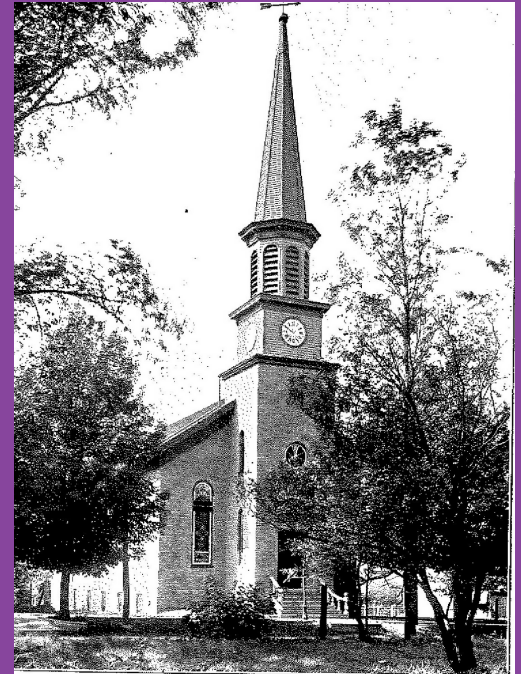
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***Join us for Worship In-Person, Virtually, or by Radio!***

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 APRIL 2024 MESSENGER:**

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

Email these to the Church office at [osuccripon1@gmail.com](mailto:osuccripon1@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**

