

Welcome to **OUR SAVIOUR'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**
343 Scott Street, Ripon Wisconsin (920) 748-2544
www.OurSavioursUCCRipon.com

Advent Two Year A Christmas Program December 14, 2025

** All who are able please stand* *L: Leader; P: People*
Prelude Accompanists: Nicole Burdick
Words of Welcome and Good News.

ADVENT VISUAL REFLECTION: Advent Story pt. 3 From the Skit Guys

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE: Joy

L: Today we light the Candle of Joy. Joy is often considered the easiest of these four weeks before Christ's holy birth. We may cling to hope, and pray for peace, but in joy, we delight. In joy, our struggles are released. In joy, we find relief and comfort, a connection to friends and family and God. In joy, we find innocence within that has not been ground out. The lighting of this candle is joy, and it reminds us of candles lit in our lives. No matter the size or color of the wax, no matter what room it is lit in, the act itself is exquisite. While the flame dances, we are one in the miracle and beauty of its light.

(Third candle is lit)

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

L: Joy is the gift God gives us upon waking in the morning to see beams of sun dance in dusty corners or hear much needed rain, even on a leaky roof.

P: Joy is in the delight of tiny precious things.

L: Joy is the magnificence of the Redeemer when the tests come back clear, or when a school test is finally passed, or when the spirit is tested and chooses faith over fear.

P: Joy is in the hands that hold our own while we sit silently and wait.

L: Joy is the patience of Emmanuel when petty disagreement turns into great injustice and change is slow to bend towards what is right and good.

P: Joy is in the small actions we take each day to help righteousness and peace abound.

***HYMN:** "Hail to the Lord's Anointed" R88/Projected

***INVOCATION**

ALL: Beloved, we come now seeking to recognize moments of delight when we feel connected to you. We bring our fragmented hearts filled with good cheer, gentle reverence, and utter amazement; we share our secret hopes, dependable comforts, and cozy moments of advent peace. Rise up within us as we cherish the divinity of all that is good. Amen.

*RESPONSE & INVITATION: "Alleluia"

by Jerry Sinclair

Al-le-lu-ia, Al-le-lu-ia, Al-le-lu-ia, Al-le-lu-ia,
Al-le-lu-ia, Al-le-lu-ia, Al-le-lu-ia, Al-le-lu-ia.

WITNESS OF FAITH: Isaiah 35:1-10

WITNESS OF FAITH: Psalm 146:5-10

CALL TO CONFESSION

L: John the Baptist called people to repentance, to prepare them for the coming of God's reign. Let us, too, repent, that we may be ready for God who comes to us.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ALL: Gentle God, it has been too long since your people have known peace. We turn away from the ugliness hidden behind closed doors, from the ravages of war, from the famine and genocide that stalk our siblings around the world. We've lost hope, lost our faith in the possibility of a small act's power to change. We talk and talk, all the while forgetting that we are not just your mouthpiece, but your hands and feet. Remind us, Redeemer, how to show up for justice. Teach us how to transform this ragged hope into peace for all.

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

L: God says: Remember these things, O Israel, for you are my servant; you will not be forgotten by me. I have swept away your transgressions like a cloud, and your sins like mist; return to me, for I have redeemed you. I say to you in the name of Jesus the Christ, our sins are forgiven.

P: Thanks be to God. Come, Lord Jesus, Come!

*Passing of the Peace [Let us bless one another as we are comfortable.]

WITNESS OF FAITH: James 5:7-10

GOSPEL LESSON: Matthew 11:2-11

HYMN: "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

R99/Projected

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM: "Humble Beginnings"

2025 Sunday School Pageant

"Away in a Manger" Congregation join in, see insert

"Silent Night" (English and German), Congregation join in, projected

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

[Offering options by the sanctuary entrances/social media/mail/office.]

L: There is a simple joy to be found in sharing what we have. Regardless of how much or how little that may be, a portion belongs to God. What God desires is

not an altar of sacrifices, but an outstretched hand. Give what you can, and delight in the joy your gift will bring.

OFFERTORY

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below. Praise God above, you heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

ALL: Precious God, take these gifts in the spirit they were given, with joy and love for our siblings around the world. Let us remember that we all have times of trouble. We will each stand before you, hands clasped in prayer, begging for relief. Use what we have here to bring that relief where it is needed most. Amen.

*BENEDICTION: “Go Now In Peace”

Go now in peace. Never be afraid. God will go with you each hour of every day. Go now in faith, steadfast, strong, and true. Know he will guide you in all you do. Go now in love, and show you believe. Reach out to others so all the world can see. God will be there watching from above. Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.

*Postlude

2025 Children's Christmas Pageant

"Humble Beginnings"

Cast

Narrator	Rorie Nitz
Mary	Nyasia Singh
Joseph	Reid Mueller
Shepherds	Gage Mueller, Atlas Page
Sheep	Solana Camarena, Kaliah Sparks, Vayah Sparks
Wise Men	Alonzo Camarena, Sebastian Camarena, Beau Mueller
Camels	Leighton Boers, Amy Borgardt, Philip Busse

Accompanist and Musicians

Flute/ Recorder	Leighton Boers
Flute/ Recorder/ Piano	Nicole Burdick, Barb Stracy

Directors, Technicians, and Teachers

Musical Director	Barb Stracy
Puppet Director	Amy Borgardt
Audio Visual	Kelly Mundell
Sunday School Teachers	Jackie Bogucke, Debbie Hahn, Phil Wepner

Thank you to all of our helpers and parents for your support!

AWAY IN A MANGER

Music by
WILLIAM J. KIRKPATRICK

Gently ♩ = 100

F Dm F/A Gm C

1. A - way in a man - ger, no crib for a bed, the lit - tle Lord
2. The cat - tle are low - ing, the ba - by a - wakes, but lit - tle Lord
3. Be near me, Lord Je - sus! I ask thee to stay Close - by me for -

Dm G/B C F Dm

Je - sus lay down his sweet head. The stars in the bright sky looked -
Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes. I love thee, Lord Je - sus! Look -
ev - er, and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear child - ren in -

F/A Gm C Dm Gm/B♭ C F

down where he lay, The lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
down from the sky, And stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is night.
thy ten - der care, And fit us for heav - en to live with thee there.



OUR SAVIOUR'S
 UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
 FAITH FAMILY FRIENDSHIP

We welcome all visitors and guests and are glad you can join us for our services.

Large print bulletins and regular bulletins are available in the vestibule and online.

Join us for worship on Sunday at 9:00 am and Thursday at 6:30 pm

Our Sunday Service is broadcast via radio at 10:50 am on WRPN, AM station 1600. If there is a problem with the broadcast, please let the Church Office know on Monday morning.

All worship services are livestreamed on our Social Media Platforms and are available to watch at your convenience. If you are viewing from one of our Social Media Platforms, please make sure to leave a comment or like our post to know you are worshipping with us! If there is an issue with the stream, or you have any feedback, please let the Church Office know.



<https://OurSavioursUCCRipon.com>



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<https://bit.ly/OSUCCYouTube>



Staff Contact Information

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OFFICE HOURS

Our office hours are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 9:00 AM till Noon. There is a drop box adjacent to the office door if you need to drop off items when the office is not open, or you can use the mail slot in the North Narthex if the building doors are all locked.

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Jane Coats, Joel Hahn, and Jean Schuster Dec 11, Kyle Turner Dec 12, Ron Badtke and Jeremy Schouten Dec 13, Karen Kanneman Dec 14, Cory Klettke and Geraldine Schure Dec 15, Cordelia Thiel and Christine Wittchow Dec 16, Ricky Prellwitz and Don Walters Jr Dec 17

ATTENDANCE AND CONTRIBUTIONS FOR LAST WEEK

Thursday:	In-Person: 8	Livestream: 121	Total: 129
Sunday :	In-Person: 72	Livestream: 173	Total: 245

General Fund: \$2,960.00 OCWM: \$131.00 Capital Improvements: \$171.00

Thank you so much for your continued support of in-person, mailed in, and online contributions.

SUNDAY WORSHIP TEAM

A/V: Kelly Mundell/Judy Lueck **Liturgist:** Jaime Prellwitz **Musician:** Terri Wilke/Nicole Burdick

MISSION BAKE SALE

Our Mission Bake sale is Sunday, December 14th, same as the Children's Pageant. The money raised goes to help fund the mission work done by the committee, for example, the cost of shipping all the pill bottles to Matthew:25 Ministries.

For those who enjoy baking holiday treats, we'd truly appreciate it if you'd consider donating some for the bake sale. We have a sign-up sheet in the East Narthex by the door. We'd like to have all donations at the church by 10:00 AM on Saturday, December 13th so we can prepare them for the bake sale. Thank you!

MESSENGER CLARIFICATION

We'd like to clarify some information about the Ripon Christmas Fund that was in the Missions Committee section of the December Messenger. How the miscommunication happened is kind of a funny story about programs with similar names colliding with a senior moment. Apologies!

What we meant to share is that if you are interested in donating to The Christmas Fund, managed by the UCC's Pension Board, there will be an opportunity to do so on Sunday, December 21st. We'll have special offering envelopes available in the bulletin that day.

The Christmas Fund has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ for over 100 years, providing emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, and Christmas "Thank You" gift checks each December to our denomination's lower-income retirees.

BLUE CHRISTMAS

Our special ecumenical service of healing for anyone struggling with the holiday season is on Thursday, December 18th at 6:30 PM in the sanctuary here at Our Saviour's. The service will be livestreamed as well. This service is open to everyone in the community and is a collaborative effort between churches.

Please note there will not be a regular 6:30 PM worship service held in the Chapel that evening.

PRAYER CHAIN MINISTRY



Are you in need of special prayers? Feel free to use our prayer chain ministry by contacting Caroline Retzlaff, 920-748-2367.

IN OUR PRAYERS: *Sharri Dailey, Tara Koller, Emily McGuire, Bonnie Mundell, Ron Prellwitz, Mark Sabel, Barb Schultz, and 16 Unspoken.*

HOLIDAY MEAL BAGS

We are still supporting contributions to the Ripon Community Food Pantry's Holiday Meal Bag program for the Christmas meal if you are interested in helping. We'd like to be able to deliver a check to the pantry on December 23rd. Thank you!

WWW REGISTRATIONS

Women's Wild Winter Weekend is Friday, February 20 through Sunday, February 22nd, with an option to go up Thursday, February 19th for an additional fee. Don't forget that OSUCC offers scholarships to all of our members, which covers the cost of this camp!

Registration opens at 9:00 AM on December 15th. Call Jackie at 715-479-8255 to register rather than going online. Make sure to tell her that you are a member of OSUCC so that she includes you on the single invoice they send directly to us. Registration fills up super fast so don't delay!

MISSIONS FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION

We provide donations to both the Ripon Area Food Pantry and the Ripon Community Food Pantry. The items you donate are divided between the two.



Suggested items for December are: Canned tuna, chicken, salmon; peanut butter; oatmeal; rice; pasta; single serve cereals, apple sauce, etc. (used in emergency food bags); boxed cereals; protein bars; breakfast shakes; canned vegetables, fruit, stew, chili; Hamburger Helper; Mac & Cheese; stuffing mix; shelf stable milk; flour; brown and white sugar; mayonnaise; mustard; ketchup; salad dressing. Thank you for your support of our local area food pantries!

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

- Thur. Dec 11
9:00 am - Mind, Body, and Soul Clinic with Nurse Emily
5:15 pm - Sr. Choir Practice
6:30 pm - Worship Service in the Chapel
- Fri. Dec 12
9:00 am - Salvation Army Bell Ringing at Hy-Vee. Shifts available!
- Sat. Dec 13
10:00 am - Please have donated baked goods in the East Narthex
- Sun. Dec 14
9:00 am - Worship Service in the Sanctuary with Children's Pageant
10:00 am - Missions Committee Bake Sale
10:15 am - Sunday School
10:30 am - Adult Christian Ed
6:30 pm - Lego Multiverse Team
- Mon. Dec 15
4:00 pm - Worship Committee Meeting and candle prep
6:15 pm - Puppet Practice
- Tues. Dec 16
5:00 pm - Sharing Table Community Meal, Immanuel UM Church
6:00 pm - Pack 3735 Den Meeting

NEXT WEEK'S EVENTS

- Thur. Dec 18
9:00 am - Mind, Body, and Soul Clinic with Nurse Emily
5:15 pm - Sr. Choir Practice
6:30 pm - Blue Christmas Worship Service
- Sun. Dec 21
9:00 am - Worship Service in the Sanctuary
10:15 am - Sunday School
10:30 am - Adult Christian Ed
6:30 pm - Lego Multiverse Team
- Wed. Dec 24
4:00 pm - Candlelight Christmas Eve worship service with communion. All are welcome.
9:00 pm - Candlelight Christmas Eve worship service with communion. All are welcome.
- Thur. Dec 25
Merry Christmas! *The church and church office are closed.*



QR CODES FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE

Please feel free to use either of these two scannable QR codes with your Smart Phone.

