

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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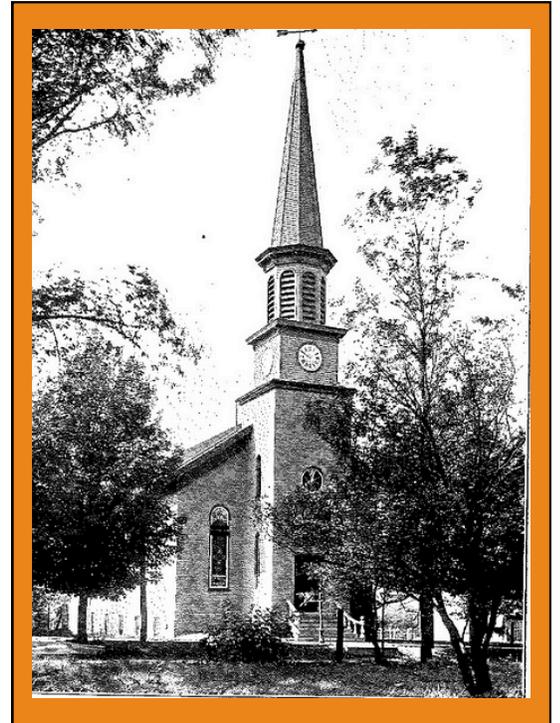
Ripon, WI.

January

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 February 2026 Edition of The Messenger:

Events to be included on the calendar, committee updates, articles, etc. should be submitted to the office by **January 17th** 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



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From the Pastor's Desk



Rev. Dr. Kevin Mundell

As we enter a new year, I want to share a story that has inspired me from one of the most enjoyable books I read this year. The book is, "To Heal a Fractured World" by Rabbi Jonathan Sacks. The story he tells is this,

"There was a Rebbe so intent on his studies (of the Torah) that he failed to hear the cry of his baby son. His father heard, and went down and took the baby in his arms until he went to sleep again. Then he went into his son, still intent on his books and said, 'My son, I do not know what you are studying, but it is not the study of Torah it if makes you deaf to the cry of a child'. To live the life of faith is to hear the silent cry of the afflicted, the lonely and marginal, the poor, the sick and the disempowered, and to respond. For the world is not yet mended, there is work still to do, and God has empowered us to do it – with him, for him and for his faith in us (82-82)."

The last line is an amazing understanding of covenant. God believes in us and wants to work with us to mend God's world. We are to co-create and bring more beauty into God's world as we journey through our lives with God. The healing does not come from God fixing what we have broken but from us noticing and using who God has made each of us to be to bring that healing with God through our love, kindness, generosity, creativity, joy, hope, peace, reconciling, forgiving, embracing work with the people God brings across our paths.

The story itself is amazing because it reminds us that we can believe we know what is right and wrong and what is pleasing to God yet miss the very heart of what matters to God. Think about it this way, would God want us singing hymns in church on a Sunday if there was someone sitting outside of one of our entrances who had no food? Being so focused on God's law that you miss your own baby's cries of need means you do not understand the law you are focused upon.

When you read the gospels and find Jesus in conflict with different Jewish religious leaders, the conflict is usually along the lines of the Rebbe not hearing the cry of his baby. The religious leaders are so focused on people behaving correctly and doing all the right things that they miss the cries of the broken and hurting around them. Jesus' ministry was the hearing the broken and hurting cries and bringing people the healing and forgiveness that they needed.

As we enter the new year, how will we as a church and as individual members of the Our Saviour's community live our faith in Jesus through bringing healing into the world with God? Sometimes it is a smile, a kind word, a handshake, a hug, a listening ear, a gesture of kindness. Sometimes it is listening when someone needs to vent because too many things in their life are beyond their control. Sometimes it is helping someone see something differently to empower them to change how they think and speak. The ways we can co-heal with God are many. The key is to participate.

God's Grace is Sufficient. Rev. Dr. Kevin Mundell

Committee News

Altar Guild

The 2026 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 \$80 for 2 arrangements and Organ flowers are \$50 for 1 arrangement. 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. That makes the bookkeeping a whole lot easier!



We apologize for the cost increase of the floral arrangements. We've tried a couple different florists in order to get the quality of flowers and arrangements that we want at a reasonable price, and feel we have finally found a good match. Unfortunately, for most of 2025, the Altar Guild was making up the difference between what church members pre-paid and what the Altar Guild was actually billed. While we didn't want to, there was little choice but to pass the increase on. We do wish that wasn't necessary but you can rest assured you will enjoy quality, fresh flowers in beautiful arrangements.

Our next full meeting is Sunday, January 18th after the worship service. We invite anyone that would like to join Altar Guild to attend our meetings and learn more. If you have any questions about what Altar Guild does and the team approach we use, please feel free to contact Tammy Widlake at 920-517-1192 or Caroline Retzlaff at 920-748-2367.

Called to Care *Committee*

If you don't have one yet, pick up a Prayer Square or ask Nurse Emily to bring some along when she visits so you can choose one for yourself! These colorful, comforting hand-knit squares are made here at OSUCC.

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 next clinic is January 4th at 10:00 am.

We are looking for a few more members of this team and both men and women are invited to participate. You can talk to Nurse Emily, Iona Altnau, Pat Gittens, Kathy Lang, Caroline Retzlaff, Julie Stellmacher if you wonder what exactly the team does or would like to be a part of it.

The next Called to Care meeting will be held January 8th, at 9:30 AM in the conference room.



Christian Education Committee

Our next committee meeting will be Monday, January 19th at 5:30 pm.

- **Adult Ed:** Sunday Adult Ed class meets from 10:30 am - 11:30 am, so do grab a coffee and treat beforehand.
- **Christian Ed Classes:** Sunday School classes meet from 10:15 am - 11:15 am.
- **Confirmation Class:** Confirmation class has begun, contact Rev. Mundell for more information.
- **Nursery:** We have a child/parent space available in the southwest corner of the West Narthex, adjacent to the back of the Sanctuary. There are restrooms nearby in the corridor leading to the Chapel that are outfitted with Koala Care changing stations for your convenience.

More Committee News

Evangelism Committee

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 meeting will be Monday, January 19th, at 6:30 PM and we welcome new committee members!



Mission Committee

Missions Committee will meet Tuesday, January 20th, 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!

Thank you again to all who donated wonderful baked goods for the December 14th Bake Sale, and to all who so eagerly purchased them!

We'd like thank everyone who so generously donated for the Ripon Community Food Pantry's Family Holiday Meal Program! We received your donations of \$850 (17 meals) for Christmas and Scott Street Puppets donated \$100 (2 meals) to the program as well. The pantry is thrilled beyond words and immensely grateful to everyone who is helping this program meet the needs of families in our community.

This newsletter will be printed and bulk mailed before the Sunday, December 20th offering opportunity for the UCC Pension Board's annual Christmas Fund. We thank you now though, and appreciate any support you choose to share for this program.



Lastly, thank you for your generosity for the October Harvest InGathering food collection! Here is a look at the Altar that Sunday morning!

Thank you to the Committee for getting the food split up and delivered to Ripon Area Food Pantry and Ripon Community Food Pantry. Both pantries were very appreciative!

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 regular committee meeting is January 19th, at 4:00 PM.

There is a special meeting of the Worship Committee on Monday, December 22nd at 4:00 PM to prep candles for the Christmas Eve services.



Ministries, Projects, and News

Matthew 25: Ministries Pill Bottle Collection **8,318 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

59,445 Pop Tabs in 2025!



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

Feel free to add yourself or a loved one to our prayer chain ministry by contacting Caroline Retzlaff at 920-748-2367.



Quotes for January

"Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow."-- *Albert Einstein*

"You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream."-- *C. S. Lewis*

More Ministries, Projects, and News

The Ripon Sharing Table Free Community Meals



Our December Roast Beef dinner went over very well and included a somewhat unexpected visit from Santa Claus partway through dinner! Apparently he was out test driving a new sled and Rudolph got hungry for cookies, flat out refusing to fly any further until Santa got him some of the delicious ones we were serving. Good move, Rudolph. It worked out for you!

We served about the same number of meals that we normally have. We tried something new with the leftovers in December that seems like it will work just fine going forward. If we have leftovers during a meal after everyone has eaten, including our volunteers, diners are each welcome have one additional meal to take home with them, but no more than that. There will be another food option available for them to take home after that, for example a frozen breakfast or lunch meal.

For our January 6th meal we'll be serving another delicious Sunday-style meal-- Roast pork, mashed potatoes and gravy, sauerkraut, salad, dinner rolls, and of course some amazing desserts provided by our very talented bakers here at OSUCC.

Food insecurity is a real thing here in Ripon and offering these 5 community meals does help a bit to address that. This mission is meaningful in so many ways, and has become an important fixture for our community members, not only for the food, but for the fellowship.

Thank you again to all who continue to support this mission by helping in so many ways--prepping food; setting tables; baking; serving during the meal; chatting with diners and helping them feel welcome no matter their age, status, ability, or situation; cleaning up; bringing diners over in the Church's van and getting them safely back home after the meal, etc. You are making a difference, one plate and one smile at a time!

Women's Wild Winter Weekend 2026

Calling all "Wild Women" for a wonderful weekend away! WWWW will include time for personal sabbath, singing, crafts, group activities and fellowship time. Pamper yourself in our Comfort Corner, enjoy the Silent Auction, our fabulous Saturday night banquet (complete with a chocolate fountain bar), wonderful worship and, of course, plenty of time to enjoy the quiet but wild beauty of Moon Beach in winter. This year's theme is "Trust".

WWWW 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 that covers the cost of this camp!

Registration is full BUT you can still call 715-479-8255 and ask to be added to the waiting list. Most, if not all, of the waiting list is able to get in providing the camp is able to have additional accommodations available. Make sure to tell the Registrar that you are a member of OSUCC when you call so that she includes your name and camp fee on the single invoice they send directly to us.

This is a great opportunity to spend quality time with the many ladies from our church who attend, as well as make new friends from other ladies attending from fellow UCC churches. Please ask Pat Gittens, Kelly Mundell, Debbie Hahn, Boni Jensen, or any of the other ladies who have gone before this if you have any questions about camp!

NATIONAL
**BLOOD
DONOR**
MONTH



From Our Parish Nurse

January is National Blood Donor Month, and since 1970 it has been used as a time to honor and celebrate the generosity of America's volunteer blood donors. President Nixon signed the proclamation designating January as National Blood Donor Month to encourage people to give blood at a time when this critical resource is needed. Due to holiday celebrations, inclement weather, and cold and flu season, the winter months are often a time of reduced donations and an increased risk of blood shortages.

Here are some facts and information regarding blood donation:

- One donation of one pint of blood can be used to save multiple lives
- Every 2 seconds in America someone needs blood
- 1 in 7 people entering a hospital need blood
- More than 6.8 million donations are needed annually
- 38% of the U.S. population are eligible to donate blood but only about 3% actually donate each year

Here are some critical facts to help understand the blood donation process:

- A typical blood donation takes about 10-15 minutes, but the entire process from registration to recovery takes about 1 hour.
- You can donate whole blood about every 56 days.
- Blood is used for trauma patients, cancer treatments, surgeries, chronic illnesses, and blood disorders. Emergency rooms need blood on the shelves before emergencies happen.
- One blood donation can be separated into red blood cells, plasma, and platelets. That is how one donation can help multiple people.
- Plasma can be stored for up to one year, red blood cells for about 42 days, and platelets for only 5 days. That is why regular donations are crucial to keep supplies up.
- Patients are most likely to find a compatible match from donors of the same race or ethnicity. A diverse group of donors is essential to treat all patients effectively.

Did you know for some blood donation has actual health benefits? Regular blood donation may reduce the risk of heart disease and cancer, help maintain healthy iron levels, and provide free health screenings.

For more information, to find out if you meet eligibility requirements to donate, or to find a donation site please visit <https://www.blooddonormonth.org/>

Emily Burk, RN, OSUCC Parish Nurse

January



Duties

Liturgist

Jan 4 TBD
Jan 11 TBD
Jan 18 TBD
Jan 25 TBD

Gatekeepers

Jan 4 Keith & Becky Mulder
Jan 11 Pete & Kathy Schieler
Jan 18 Tom & Julie Stellmacher
Jan 25 Rick & Barb Stracy

Audio/Visual Operators

Jan 4 John Kwiatkowske/Kelly Mundell
Jan 11 Kelly Mundell/Phil Wepner
Jan 18 Keith Mulder/Judy Lueck
Jan 25 Bob Meyer/Kelly Mundell

Worship Bulletins

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

Communion Servers

Jan 4 Keith Mulder, Rick Stracy

Usher/Greeters

Jan 4 Team 1
Jan 11 Team 2
Jan 18 Team 3
Jan 25 Team 4

Van Drivers

Jan 4 Bob Lueck
Jan 11 Ricky Prellwitz
Jan 18 Tom Stellmacher
Jan 25 Rick Stracy

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

Altar Guild Committee

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

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.

January 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 9:00 am MBS Clinic 5:15 pm Sr Choir Practice 6:30 pm Worship Service with Communion 6:30 pm Lego Multiverse	2	3
4 9:00 am Worship Service with Communion 10:00 am Blood Pressure Clinic 10:15 Sunday School 10:30 Adult Education 6:30 pm Lego Multiverse	5 6:15 Puppet Practice	6 5:00 pm Sharing Table Community Meal, OSUCC 6:30 pm Pack 3735 Leader Meeting	7	8 9:00 am MBS Clinic 9:30 am Called to Care 5:15 pm Sr Choir Practice 6:30 pm Worship Service 6:30 pm Lego Multiverse	9	10
10:15 Sunday School 10:30 Adult Education 6:30 pm Lego Multiverse						
11 9:00 am Worship Service 10:15 Sunday School 10:30 Adult Education 6:30 pm Lego Multiverse	12 6:15 Puppet Practice 6:30 pm Church Council Mtg	13 5:00 pm Sharing Table Community Meal, Grace Lutheran 6:30 pm Pack 3735 Den meeting	14	15 9:00 am MBS Clinic 5:15 pm Sr Choir Practice 6:30 pm Worship Service 6:30 pm Lego Multiverse	16	17 January Messenger Deadline
18 9:00 am Worship Service 10:15 Sunday School 10:30 Adult Education 6:30 pm Lego Multiverse	19 4:00 pm Worship Comm 5:30 pm Christian Ed Com 6:30 pm Evangelism Comm 6:15 Puppet Practice	20 5:00 pm Sharing Table Community Meal, Immanuel UMC 5:30 pm Missions Comm 6:30 pm Pack 3735 Den meeting	21	22 9:00 am MBS Clinic 5:15 pm Sr Choir Practice 6:30 pm Worship Service 6:30 pm Lego Multiverse	23	24 Pack 3735 Pinewood Derby
25 9:00 am Worship Service 10:15 Sunday School 10:30 Adult Education 6:30 pm Lego Multiverse	26 6:15 Puppet Practice	27 5:30 pm Sharing Table Community Meal, 1st Congregational 6:00 pm Pack 3735 Awards Night	28	29 9:00 am MBS Clinic 5:15 pm Sr Choir Practice 6:30 pm Worship Service 6:30 pm Lego Multiverse	30	31