

OUR SAVIOUR'S UCC

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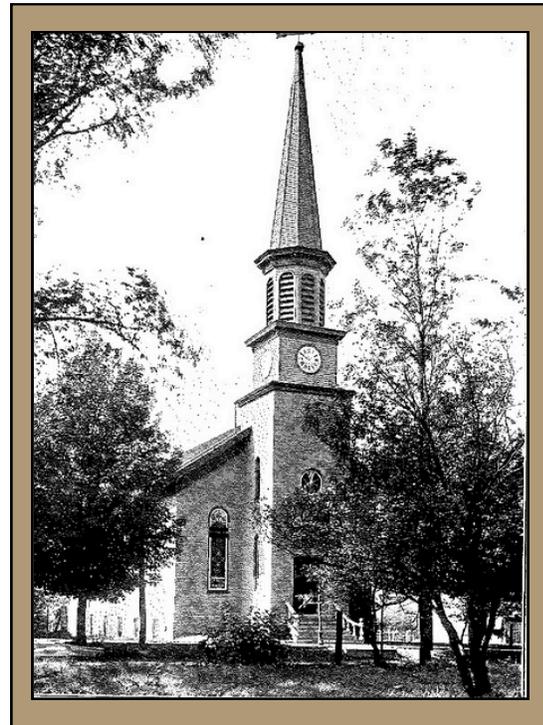
February



Welcome to The Messenger

Published by Our Saviour's UCC since 1924

- Page 1 From the Pastor's Desk**
- Page 2 Committee News**
- Page 3 More Committee News**
- Page 4 Ministries, Projects, and News**
- Page 5 More Ministries, Projects, and News**
- Page 6 From Our Parish Nurse**
- Page 7 February Duties Schedule**
- Page 8 February 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 March 2026 Edition of The Messenger:

Events to be included on the calendar, committee updates, articles, etc. should be submitted to the office by **February 21st** 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



Our Saviour's United Church of Christ
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www.OurSavioursUCCRipon.com



<https://bit.ly/OSUCCFacebook>



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From the Pastor's Desk



Rev. Dr. Kevin Mundell

One of the definitions for sin is “missing the mark,” an archer’s term when the arrow doesn’t land on the target. We usually internalize the term because our culture wants us to think in terms of our radical autonomy and so moralize the missed mark.

But what if the term is better understood as, “missing the whole point of life, our life given to us by God?” The apostle Paul says in Romans 6:23 that, “the wages of sin is death”; then maybe what life is about, in God’s eyes, is love. Sin may be that which disconnects us from God, ourselves, and each other. Sin is forgetting that we are all part of this together which is why Jesus always said the heart of God’s commandments are found in loving God and loving neighbor as ourselves. This would then be why Paul’s love passage, 1Corinthians 13 is about being in community with God and each other and not about romantic love between two lovers.

I believe the biggest threat to this love from God is fear. My grandpa in Kansas loved me and I knew it not simply because he told me, but because he shared with me stories of his life that he hadn’t shared with anyone else. When he died, I hurt badly. I went to his funeral service at his conservative Baptist church. The minister, instead of helping me grieve, tried to scare me with hell to “convert me to Christianity” from his perspective. I left so angry because I felt the minister had betrayed the love of my grandfather for me and God’s love in my grandfather through his pushing of fear.

The experience helped me to realize that there are a lot of people in the name of Jesus who really believe in fear and a God who wants to judge and punish us rather than love and walk with us.

Have you ever thought about how we use the idea of hell? God, who made us, put God’s image in us, when sin separated us, sent a part of himself, the Son, who became fully human and God, and lived God’s love for us until we killed him because we were afraid of that love. But he was then raised up, showing us the depth of God’s love for us and God’s forgiveness for us.

Some of us then think that this God, sets aside a place for everyone who refuses the free gift of God’s love during their lifetime here on earth to send us after life to live in torment and torture for eternity. How is that God being a God whose essence, if John is correct, is love?

Have you ever thought about how we come into this world with nothing? We then add stuff to our life and when we die, all the stuff is left behind, and in time all the stuff we accumulated with our life becomes dust. What seems to matter is not the stuff of our lives but the connections with the people in our lives and love of God, self and the others that stays with us as God promises to bring us into God’s future through Jesus.

There are intense things happening in our country, let alone our world. Our calling is to be where we are and live God’s love looking for the people who are not experiencing love, and bringing it to them. Let us do this together as we live God’s love in the here and now that we share.

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!



Our next full meeting is Sunday, February 8th 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 February 1st at 9:30 am.

We are in the process of organizing a Lenten Learning Event, and will share more with you as information becomes available.

Just a reminder that Nurse Emily holds a Mind, Body, & Soul Clinic for our members every Thursday morning from 9:00 am until noon. She can check your blood pressure then also. If you would like a home visit from Nurse Emily please call 920-748-2544 during office hours or email her at osuccpnripon1@gmail.com.

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 Thursday, February 12th, at 9:30 AM in the conference room.



Christian Education Committee

Our next committee meeting will be Monday, February 16th 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.



This month we are going to go ahead and roll out the new online church directory, Instant Church Directory. We hadn't forgotten, we were just waiting for more photos that didn't come--so we're going ahead anyway. One of the great things about this directory is that it is a real-time directory that we can update with new photos and information at any time, and those changes are immediately visible to anyone who accesses it online.

There are two ways to access it online. One is through the mobile app, Instant Church Directory, available to download for free for both iPhone and Android phones in your App Store. The other way is online at www.members.instantchurchdirectory.com. We'll get your login information out to you and will be holding Learning Opportunities during coffee hour to help folks get logged in the first time and become comfortable using the directory. If you want to use online access you must have a valid email address in the directory.

For those who don't have an email address or don't want online access, we will have printed copies of the directory available to you. How often that will be reprinted is something we still need to work out.

Our next meeting will be Monday, February 16th, at 6:30 PM and we welcome new committee members!



Mission Committee

Missions Committee will meet Tuesday, February 17th, 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! The bake sale earned \$209!

Thank you to all who generously donated to the UCC Pension Board's annual Christmas Fund. \$135 was collected and has been sent to the UCC.

Everyone knows about Super Bowl LX on Sunday, February 8th. And yes, the Packers managed to be one of the teams not playing in it--again, BUT we will still be having our own Souper Bowl Sunday that day anyway!

Our Souper Bowl is a winner for both the Ripon Area Food Pantry and St. Catherine's and the Ripon Community Food Pantry at Traded Treasures. How can both win, you ask? They can because we bring cans of soup to church on Souper Bowl Sunday that will be much appreciated by our community members who use the pantries. You can even bring your soup in even before Feb. 8th, and we'll set them aside for Souper Bowl Sunday.

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.

Our next regular committee meeting is February 17th, at 4:30 PM.



Ministries, Projects, and News

Matthew 25: Ministries Pill Bottle Collection

885 Pill Bottles in 2026!

And we begin again! 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

2,526 Pop Tabs in 2026!



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: Sharri Dailey, Tara Koller, Emily McGuire, Bonnie Mundell, Ron Prellwitz, Mark Sabel, Barb Schultz, and 18 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 February

"When I stand before God at the end of my life, I would hope that I would not have a single bit of talent left, and could say 'I used everything you gave me'."-- *Erma Bombeck*

"If life were predictable it would cease to be life, and be without flavor."-- *Eleanor Roosevelt*

More Ministries, Projects, and News

The Ripon Sharing Table Free Community Meals



In January we started our 3rd year of this wonderful outreach mission project here at our Saviours by serving a Sunday roasted pork dinner, and it was very well received by our diners. We served 130 meals again and raffle winners of the cookie platters seemed also very pleased.

For our Tuesday, February 3rd meal we'll be serving a year-round favorite of turkey and gravy, mashed potatoes stuffing, corn, cranberry relish, fruit juicy jello, and of course some amazing desserts provided by our very talented bakers here at OSUCC.

All are welcome to join us for our Sharing Table Free Community Meals. "February is a short, sweet month for new beginnings and heart-felt connections" so we hope to see you at 5 pm down in Fellowship Hall.

Thank you so much to all who continue to volunteer the time and talents supporting this mission project. You are so very appreciated!

WCUCC Annual Meeting 2026

Have you wanted to attend our 2026 Annual Meeting of the Wisconsin Conference before but just didn't for what ever reason? Perhaps this is your year! The conference is being held April 10th and 11th at the Green Lake Conference Center. The agenda is still under construction, but you can follow it's progress at <https://wcucc.org/annual-meeting/>.

OSUCC is allowed to send 2 voting delegates to the convention and will pay for your meals. Let Rev. Kevin know if you are interested or have questions about what is expected as a delegate.

If you would rather get your feet wet first by volunteering at the conference there are many opportunities to do that, including helping at the Registration Desk, Hospitality, Ushers, Workshop Ushers and Golf Cart Drivers.

To learn more about these opportunities and to sign up online, go to <https://wcucc.org/annual-meeting/volunteer-opportunities/>

Women's Wild Winter Weekend 2026

WWWW is Friday, February 20 through Sunday, February 22nd, with an option to go up Thursday, February 19th for an additional fee. We have 18 ladies with confirmed reservations already for this wonderful camp experience!

We can't wait to hear all the tales and see the wonderful photos! Don't let us down, ladies. We're counting on you!

Lovely, Lost, and Lonely

This lovely, possibly handmade, earring was found after the late service on Christmas Eve. It was in the East Narthex on the carpeting before the doors to the outside. It is lonely for it's mate and missing it's owner! If it is yours, call or come to the church office to be reunited.





From Our Parish Nurse

February is National Cancer Prevention Month, with World Cancer Day being observed on February 4th. It is a time used to raise awareness about the steps we can all take to reduce our cancer risk. While some factors, like genetics, are beyond our control, many lifestyle choices can help prevent cancer.

Here are the facts:

- 2 million Americans were diagnosed with cancer in 2024
- Of those, more than 600,000 died from their disease
- More than 40% of these cases and nearly half of the deaths can be attributed to preventable causes such as smoking, excess body weight, physical inactivity, and excessive exposure to the sun, among others

Here are some steps you can take to help reduce your cancer risk:

- **Get Regular Screenings** - Routine screenings, such as mammograms, pap and HPV tests, colonoscopies, lung cancer CT scans, PSA blood tests, and skin checks, can all detect cancer in its early stages when treatment is most effective. Speak with your provider to determine which screenings are right for you based on your age, lifestyle, and family history. Early detection saves lives!
- **Maintain a Healthy Diet** - A healthy, well-balanced diet can effectively protect against some forms of cancer. The main things to focus on with your diet include: choosing fruits and vegetables that are rich in antioxidants, choosing whole grain options instead of refined carbs, choosing lean meats, such as fish and poultry, and limiting red and processed meats.
- **Stay Physically Active** - Regular exercise lowers your risk of several cancers, including breast and colon cancer. You should aim for at least 150 minutes of moderate exercise each week. Some activities you could do include walking, swimming, or biking.
- **Avoid Tobacco and Limit Alcohol** - Smoking is the leading preventable cause for cancer. If you smoke, seek help in order to quit. Alcohol consumption has also been linked to several cancers, so moderation is the key. That means one drink per day for women, and two drinks for men.
- **Protect Your Skin** - UV exposure is a major cause of skin cancer. You can protect yourself by: wearing sunscreen (SPF 30 or higher), seeking shade during peak sun hours, and by wearing protective clothing.
- **Know Your Family History** - Like was said earlier, some cancers are related to genetics and run in families. If you have a strong family history of cancer, genetic testing and increased screenings may be recommended for you.

For more information, or to take their Cancer Prevention Quiz, you can visit <https://www.aacr.org/patients-caregivers/awareness-months/national-cancer-prevention-month/>

Emily Burk, RN, OSUCC Parish Nurse

February



Duties

Liturgist

Feb 1 Jeremy Schouten
Feb 8 Heidi Schwanke
Feb 15 Rick Stracy
Feb 22 Keith Mulder

Usher/Greeters

Feb 1 Team 5
Feb 8 Team 6
Feb 15 Team 1
Feb 22 Team 2

Gatekeepers

Feb 1 Dennis & Emily Burk, Sue Wrzinski
Feb 8 Pat Gittens
Feb 15 Keith & Becky Mulder
Feb 22 Pete & Kathy Schieler

Van Drivers

Feb 1 Dennis Burk
Feb 8 Jackie Bogucke
Feb 15 Bob Lueck
Feb 22 Ricky Prellwitz

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

Audio/Visual Operators

Feb 1 Kelly Mundell/Phil Wepner
Feb 8 Bob Meyer/Kelly Mundell
Feb 15 Keith Mulder/Judy Lueck
Feb 18 Keith Mulder/NA
Feb 22 John Kwiatkowske/Phil Wepner
Feb 25 Bob Meyer/NA

Altar Guild Committee

Pat Gittens, Bev Garro, Judy Lueck,
Marge Mundt, Patti Schaalma

Worship Bulletins

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

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.

Communion Servers

Feb 1 Bob Lueck and Keith Mulder

February 2026

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