

OUR SAVIOUR'S UCC

343 SCOTT STREET

RIPON, WI 54971

Non-Profit  
Organization

U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

RIPON, WI

Permit No. 31

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



# THE MESSENGER

Vol. 102, No. 8

August 2026

Ripon, WI.

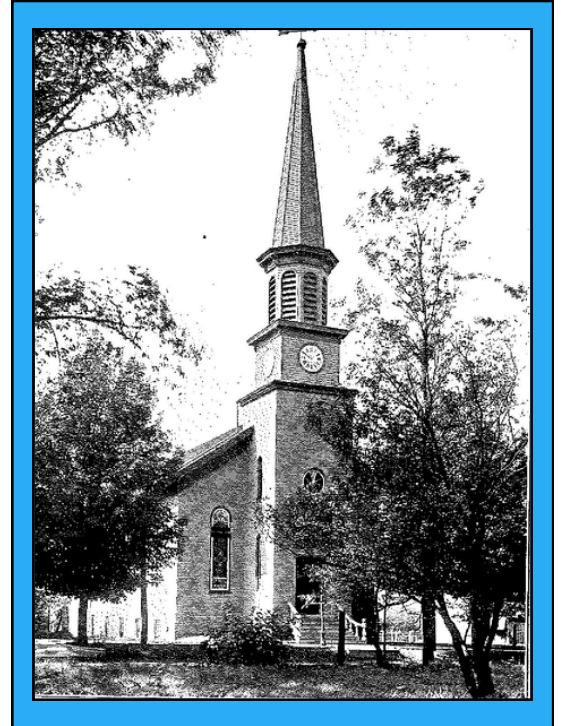


*August*

# *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 August Duties Schedule**
- Page 8 August 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 September 2026 Edition of The Messenger:**

Events to be included on the calendar, committee updates, articles, etc. should be submitted to the office by **August 22nd** via email to the Church office, [osuccripon1@gmail.com](mailto: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**  
**343 Scott Street, Ripon, WI 54971 | 920.748.2544**  
**[www.OurSavioursUCCRipon.com](http://www.OurSavioursUCCRipon.com)**



<https://bit.ly/OSUCCFacebook>



<https://bit.ly/OSUCCYouTube>

# From the Pastor's Desk



I got to hold my new grandson the day he was born, and it felt like the blanket wrapped around him weighed more than he did. My hands together are long enough to hold him as he is so small at this point. When his two-year-old brother holds him, he makes the big brother look so big and grown up. That baby is so amazing to hold and yet completely helpless. He is born incapable of caring for himself in any meaningful way. He needs his family to survive

“The evening our daughter-in-law went into labor, we rushed over to their house so that we could take care of our first grandson while his parents were at the hospital birthing the second. We spent the night as he was sleeping and took care of him all day long until his other grandparents arrived and relieved us after a full day and a night with only a few hours’ sleep as he woke up panicked because he couldn’t find mom or dad and grandma and grandpa meant play time even though it was one in the morning.

He was amazing to watch as he now plays differently. Things rarely go in his mouth other than food. He is attaching words to objects and people. He is even starting to construct small couple word sentences. And he mimics words he hears said by adults. He can walk, run, and climb to just about anywhere he wants too if we are not watching and redirecting. He is experiencing the world in a completely different way than he did six months ago and a year ago.

What amazes me in all of this is that all the amazing experiences that he is having are all taking place without any long-term memories being formed. His experiences are only in the moment. He won’t start developing long term memories, especially associated with people until he is somewhere between three and four years of age.

So, God puts years of learning, snuggling, cuddling, experimenting, exploring, developing frameworks to interact with the world in place all while we are completely depended upon others before we can even communicate clearly with words, and remember our interacts with the people. In a sense, we develop a physical sense of the world and love from our family before we develop a relational sense that we can express with words.

My grandson’s ability to express love and care without using words is humbling for me. His actions make me wonder if we too often misuse the language of love and underuse our ability to express love without words. Maybe, when our elder family members lose their words to express love, we need to remember our children to re-teach us how to show and receive love with our elders in ways that do not require either of us to use words. Maybe we let ourselves more than we should get caught up in saying love words and using loving words and we forget to simply love and do it with the words.

Jesus’ death on the cross and resurrection are God’s way of saying I love you without words to you and I.

# 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 August 16th 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*

This month Nurse Emily will hold her Mind, Body, Soul Clinic from 9 am till Noon on Thursday, August 13, and Thursday, August 20th. She can check blood pressure both at the MBS clinic or on Sunday, Aug. 2 at 10 AM. 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](mailto:osuccpnripon1@gmail.com).

You can also find Nurse Emily at the Senior Center on Thursday, August 20th from 1-3 pm. She'll be offering blood pressure checks there now also!

The next Called to Care meeting will be held Thursday, August 13th, at 9:30 AM in the conference room.



## *Christian Education Committee*

Our next committee meeting will be Monday, August 17<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm. Enjoy the summer and we'll see you then!

- **Adult Ed:** Will resume in the Fall.
- **Christian Ed Classes:** Will resume in the Fall.
- **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.

## *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 committee meeting will be Monday, August 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm. If you are interested in joining our committee, please come to the meeting!

# More Committee News



## Mission Committee

Missions Committee will meet next on Tuesday, August 18th, 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!

Ripon Area School District Student Needs Closet - We will again be supporting the RASD with stocking their Student Needs Closet for the upcoming school year. A complete list of the items they need the most can be found in the church office and on Nurse Emily's bulletin board. Collection bins will be available at each of the church entrances throughout July and August. If you would rather, monetary donations can also be given in the church office.

Operation Christmas Child - For the month of July we will be collecting school supplies. There is a box in the East Narthex available to drop off your donations and if you want to do a monetary donation, that can be given in the church office.

Kids Church Camp (VBS) - Thank you to everyone who so generously contributed to *Sleep in Heavenly Peace*, the mission project for Camp this year. Incredible, the communion table is double stacked front and back!



On Sunday, July 26<sup>th</sup>, Rev. Kevin said a blessing over the bedding for all the children who will receive it, along with a new bed of the their own.



## Worship Committee

The worship committee and Church Council have been working together on the process of hiring a new accompanist. The committee has updated the job description and are open to the person being both an accompanist and choir director, if possible.



Paid ads have been placed in area newspapers and on online advertising campaign utilizing our social media sources has been set up. The position is also on the employment board of several websites such as UCCMA and the College of Music at UW-Oshkosh.

In July we had an inquiry and resume come in from our newspaper ad. The candidate was interviewed and while a very nice, personable individual, she didn't have the level of skill needed so was not a good fit for the position.

We are using pre-recorded hymns from several sources we have found online that will be inserted into the worship presentation and played through the sound system. This is not without its challenges, so we appreciate your patience and kindness as we fine tune this process. We know it is different than what we're accustomed to, but it will only be for this interim period till we find someone new.

We plan to keep the congregation updated as we go along. We would also ask that every member pray to God to bring us the right person at the right time. Thank you for your support and if you have questions, please talk to us.

Our next committee meeting is Monday, August 17<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm. If you are interested in joining our Committee, please speak with Jeremy Schouten.

# Ministries, Projects, and News

## ***Matthew 25: Ministries Pill Bottle Collection***

***4,876 Pill Bottles in 2026!***

And we're well on our way! 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***

***37,259 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!

## ***NexTrex "Recycle Beyond the Bag" Project***

***56 lbs of Plastic in 2026!***



Hey, we're getting the hang of this recycling thing and the news is spreading to the community that we're doing it. We even spotted some water softener salt bags in one batch, bravo! Think beyond the pantry and grocery store bags-- so long as it's clean it can join it's relatives in the recycling bin.

Thank you to our members and to the community members who are hopping on board to help keep those plastics out of landfills. Thank you!

# ***More Ministries, Projects, and News***

## ***The Ripon Sharing Table Free Community Meals***



On July 7th our meal was very attended, with 130 meals being served. The meatloaf dinner and ice cream sundaes really seemed to hit the spot for everyone there, and we're glad to see that!

For our Tuesday, August 4th meal we'll be serving another family favorite, spaghetti and meatballs, with garlic bread, either a green veggie or a salad, possibly another side, and our talented bakers are going to be making those amazing homemade desserts that go so beautifully with a hearty Italian meal. Wonder what they will be making for us? The suspense is just terrible!

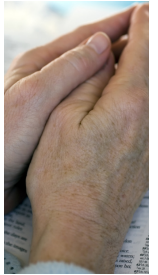
All in our community are welcome to join us for these Sharing Table Free Community Meals and families are welcome. We do have highchairs available for those with "Littles". We'll be serving from 5 pm till 6 pm.

Thank you so much to all who continue to volunteer the time and talents supporting this mission project. Each and every one of you is so very appreciated!

## ***Prayer Chain Ministry***

In our Prayers: Emily McGuire, Maggie Moon, Kathy Schieler, the family and friends of Gloria Hughes, and 10 Unspoken.

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



## ***Quotes for August***

"A perfect summer day is when the sun is shining, the breeze is blowing, the birds are singing, and the lawnmower is broken."— James Dent

"Being a child at home alone in the summer is a high-risk occupation. If you call your mother at work thirteen times an hour, she can hurt you."— Erma Bombeck

"By August, my garden has given up on me, and frankly, I'm done with it too."— Sarah Kelly

"Some of the best memories are made in flip flops."— Kellie Elmore

"The crickets felt it was their duty to warn everybody that summertime cannot last forever."— E.B. White

"It's August and soon everything will be all about pumpkin spice again, no matter if you like it or not."— Alice Jones





## From Our Parish Nurse

Each year the month of August is designated as National Wellness Month. It is a time used to prioritize self-care, focus on reducing stress, and create healthier habits. No matter how busy life gets, it is important and necessary to take care of yourself and make self-care a priority. Research shows that self-care can help increase happiness by up to 71% when we manage our stress and maintain a healthy lifestyle.

Here are 10 ways you can celebrate National Wellness Month by putting yourself first.

- Stay hydrated by increasing your water intake- set a goal amount of water to drink and aim to reach that daily
- Try new healthy foods- commit to trying new healthy foods and see how you can add them to your regular meal routine, you could start small by simply adding more fruits or veggies to your meals
- Screentime break- it is important to make sure you're taking breaks away from your digital devices, some ways you can do that include setting an alarm or timer to remind yourself to take some time away, set daily usage limits for yourself, make certain areas of the house tech-free zones
- Monitor your sleep and adjust for better sleep habits- one very beneficial way to improve your sleep is by avoiding screentime before bed, screen time disrupts your natural sleep cycle by delaying sleep onset, suppressing the release of melatonin, and by mentally stimulating your brain, this tricks your body into thinking it should stay awake leading to shorter and lower-quality sleep
- Try something new- add something new to your daily routine like trying a fun workout video on YouTube right at home or by joining a group workout class where you can meet new people or you could learn to meditate
- Become organized- make your environment more peaceful and less cluttered, this could mean organizing a physical mess in your home or it could mean organizing your files or emails on your computer in a way that makes things less stressful for you
- Focus on the positives- at the end of each day take some time to reflect on the positives of the day, what made you smile?
- Celebrate all wins- acknowledge and celebrate anything you cross off your to-do-list, the smallest things can be the most difficult
- Set realistic goals- don't overwhelm yourself by trying to make too many changes at once, look at your work/life balance and see what changes are realistic for you
- Check-in on your mental health- assess your mental health and be honest where you really are, reach out to your support system or professionals if you need help

If you have any questions or would like to read more about the ways you can prioritize yourself during National Wellness Month you can visit: <https://bryanuniversity.edu/announcements-news/10-ways-to-celebrate-national-wellness-month/>

**Emily Burk, RN, OSUCC Parish Nurse**

# August



# Duties

## Liturgist

Aug 2 Jeremy Schouten  
Aug 9 Jamie Prellwitz  
Aug 16 Heidi Schwanke  
Aug 23 Keith Mulder  
Aug 30 Cal Fischer

## Gatekeepers

Aug 2 Rick & Barb Stracy  
Aug 9 Dennis & Emily Burk, Sue Wrzinski  
Aug 16 Pat Gittens  
Aug 23 Keith & Becky Mulder  
Aug 30 Pete & Kathy Schieler

## Audio/Visual Operators

Aug 2 John Kwiatkoske/Kelly Mundell  
Aug 9 Kelly Mundell/Judy Lueck  
Aug 16 Bob Meyer/Kelly Mundell  
Aug 23 John Kwiatkoske/Kelly Mundell  
Aug 30 Keith Mulder/Kelly Mundell

## Communion Servers

Aug 2 Keith Mulder & Rick Stracy

## Altar Guild Committee for August

Pat Gittens, Debbie Hahn, Judy Heitmann,  
Julie Stellmacher, Tammy Widlake

## Usher/Greeters

Aug 2 Team 2  
Aug 9 Team 3  
Aug 16 Team 4  
Aug 23 Team 5  
Aug 30 Team 6

## Van Drivers

Aug 2 Dennis Burk  
Aug 9 Jackie Bogucke  
Aug 16 Bob Lueck  
Aug 23 Ricky Prellwitz  
Aug 30 Tom Stellmacher

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

## Worship Bulletins

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

## Coffee Hour

Come enjoy coffee, juice, and  
baked goods after the 9:00 AM  
Worship Service.  
Everyone is welcome!

Interested in hosting coffee hour?  
The signup book is on the counter  
by the microwave in the East  
Narthex.

# August 2026

| SUNDAY                                                                                                            | MONDAY                                                                   | TUESDAY                                                              | WEDNESDAY                                       | THURSDAY                                                                                                       | FRIDAY | SATURDAY                         |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|----------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                   |                                                                          |                                                                      |                                                 |                                                                                                                |        | 1                                |
| 2<br>9:00 am Worship Service -<br>Communion and<br>Schultz Family<br>Singers<br>10:00 am Blood Pressure<br>Clinic | 3                                                                        | 4<br>5:00 pm Sharing Table<br>Community Meal,<br>OSUCC               | 5<br>Noon - Rotary<br>Meeting, East<br>Narthex  | 6<br>6:00 pm Lego Team<br>6:30 pm Worship Service                                                              | 7      | 8                                |
| 9<br>9:00 am Worship Service<br>10:30 am Church Council<br>Mtg<br>6:00 pm Lego Team                               | 10<br>1:00 pm Science Club                                               | 11<br>5:00 pm Sharing Table<br>Grace Lutheran                        | 12<br>Noon - Rotary<br>Meeting, East<br>Narthex | 13<br>9:00 am MBS Clinic<br>6:00 pm Lego Team<br>6:30 pm Worship Service                                       | 14     | 15                               |
| 16<br>9:00 am Worship Service<br>10:00 am Altar Guild<br>6:00 pm Lego Team                                        | 17<br>4:00 pm Worship Comm<br>5:30 pm Christian Ed<br>6:30 pm Evangelism | 18<br>5:30 pm Missions Comm<br>5:00 pm Sharing Table<br>Immanuel UMC | 19<br>Noon - Rotary<br>Meeting, East<br>Narthex | 20<br>9:00 am MBS Clinic<br>1:00 pm Senior Center<br>BP Clinic<br>6:00 pm Lego Team<br>6:30 pm Worship Service | 21     | 22<br>July Messenger<br>Deadline |
| 23<br>9:00 am Worship Service<br>6:00 pm Lego Team                                                                | 24                                                                       | 25<br>5:30 pm Sharing Table 1 <sup>st</sup><br>Congregational        | 26<br>Noon - Rotary<br>Meeting, East<br>Narthex | 27<br>6:30 pm Worship Service<br>6:00 pm Lego Team                                                             | 28     | 29                               |
| 30<br>9:00 am Worship Service<br>6:00 pm Lego Team                                                                | 31                                                                       |                                                                      |                                                 |                                                                                                                |        |                                  |