

OUR SAVIOUR'S UCC

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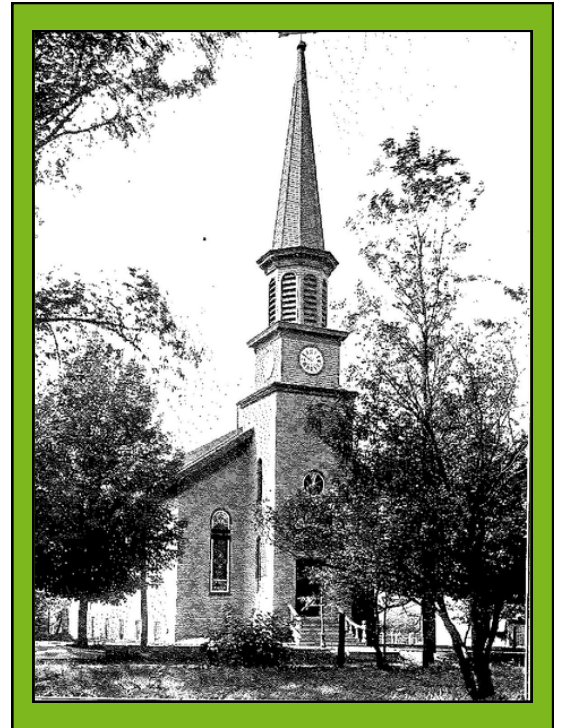


September

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 October 2026 Edition of The Messenger:

Events to be included on the calendar, committee updates, articles, etc. should be submitted to the office by **September 19th** via email to the Church office, osuccripon1@gmail.com, or you may drop your information in the office, or submit it using 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



This year has been a blessing, a surprise blessing for me that came through the gift of taking into our home Sophie, a young woman from Germany who had just finished her high school education and wanted to serve God through a church organization as a volunteer here in the US.

Kelly and I had rearranged our life so that this year we could start hosting Rotary high school youth exchange students again and so we were not expecting to be hosts yet. But then Rev. Rigert, our Conference minister told us that they and the camp were going to bring in a volunteer from Germany, but needed extra things for them to do, and asked if Our Saviour's would like to share the intern. Of course, I said yes and when I told Kelly about the opportunity, she said yes, and that we should host her if they need a host.

We did not know what we were getting into, but we quickly learned that Sophie was a delightful person ready to have her world opened to her and met a who bunch of wonderful people at our church. She fit in right away and helping with office projects and then jumping in to help with our turkey dinner and our funeral luncheons, especially when a team was short help. She helped with our confirmation program and worked with me in the STRIVE rotary program I oversee that helps high school students transition from high school into their next phase of life.

Sophie enjoyed the Thursday night worship service in the chapel and began attending almost every week and coming early enough to hangout and talk with those joining her beforehand. After many services she would help me gatekeep and then ask theological questions about things I said in the sermon.

After many confirmation sessions when everyone had left for the evening, she we bring up more theological questions that led, for me, enjoyable conversations about God and how we try and live our faith.

Sophie became the daughter Kelly, and I didn't know we needed. She also bonded with Katrina and became the little sister Cody didn't realize he needed as well. And Fergus fell in love with her and still lights up whenever she shows up and spends any time with him. And she held Graham, the first baby she ever held when he was less than a week old.

She celebrated Thanksgiving and Christmas with us, went to Florida and Door County with us for vacation as simply a part of our family. And mornings on vacation were about how to keep Fergus from getting into Sophie's room and waking her up as she slept in the latest every day.

God has made and is sustaining a world that is constantly growing. We are gifted through our faith and baptism with the Holy Spirit to help us continue to grow in love for God and love for neighbor. Seeing Sophie grow reminded me of how important it is for us to never stop growing and never stop connecting with new people and to marvel in how God is always bringing new life into being.

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!



Our next full meeting is Sunday September 20th 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*

Nurse Emily holds her Mind, Body, Soul Clinic from 9 am till Noon on each Thursday of the month. She can check blood pressure both at the MBS clinic or at the Blood Pressure Clinic held the first Sunday of each month after worship service. 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.

You can also find Nurse Emily at the Senior Center on Thursday, September 17th from 1-3 pm. She'll be offering blood pressure checks there now also!

The next Called to Care meeting will be held Thursday, September 10th, at 9:30 AM in the conference room.



Christian Education Committee

Our next committee meeting will be Monday, September 21st at 5:30 pm. We're looking forward to another exciting year of Christian Education opportunities here at OSUCC!

- **Adult Ed:** More information to come if this will be held while Rev. Kevin is on Sabbatical...
- **Christian Ed Classes:** Kicks off on Sunday, September 13th!
- **Confirmation Class:** There are no youth of confirmation age this year, but we will begin classes if anyone who is interested comes forward from the community.
- **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, September 21st 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, September 15th, 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 - Thank you to all who donated to the Student Needs Closet! Your generosity is helping students in our community by providing basic needs items they would otherwise not have access to!

Operation Christmas Child - We will again be doing a shoebox packing party in November, so we are collecting items now to help fill our boxes! For the month of September we will be collecting clothing and accessories. There is a box in the East Narthex available to drop off your donations and if you prefer to give monetary donations, those can be given in the church office. To see a full list of suggested items take a look at Nurse Emily's bulletin board outside the church office.

CWS Blanket Sunday - The special mission offering is Sunday, September 13th. Your generosity is felt both in the US and around the world, and your compassion doesn't end with a blanket. It becomes a tangible sign of love, comfort and dignity. You are wrapping someone in care and reminding them that they are not forgotten. Thank you!

United Church of Christ Neighbors in Need Sunday - This special mission offering is Sunday, October 4th. Gifts to Neighbors in Need support the United Church of Christ's ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). The other two-thirds of the offering support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, direct service projects, and grants.

Worship Committee



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

As you are aware, 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.

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.

In August we had an inquiry from an individual who had originally been referred to us by Jared Stellmacher. She was most recently working as the organist for a church in Green Bay, but that situation has recently changed.

This candidate has been interviewed and auditioned her skills both as an organist and pianist. She is very talented and very well qualified. She also has the desire and the skills to be able to direct our Senior Choir. Very positive discussions are underway with the candidate and we hope to be able to share wonderful news very soon!

Thank you for your support, prayers, and patience while we've been going through the search process, and if you have any questions at all, please talk with Jeremy Schouten or Julie Stellmacher.

Ministries, Projects, and News

Matthew 25: Ministries Pill Bottle Collection

5,120 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

43,754 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

77.5 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. Our environment thanks you too!

More Ministries, Projects, and News

The Ripon Sharing Table Free Community Meals



Our August 4th Sharing Table Community meal was very attended, with 135 meals being served. Everyone enjoyed the wonderful Italian Spaghetti meal, delicious desserts, and good fellowship. The door prize baskets were well received also!

For our Tuesday, September 1st meal we'll be serving a Fall meal of a Hot Turkey Sandwich, Mashed Potatoes and Gravy, Carrots, and Baker's Choice Desserts Wonder what they will be making for us? The suspense is just terrible!

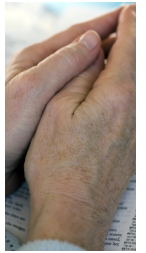
All in our community are welcome to join us for these Sharing Table Free Community Meals and families are welcome. We do have highchairs available for those with "Littles". We'll be serving from 5 pm till 6 pm.

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, 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.



Wir Werdoe Dich Vermissen!



Wir Werdoe Dich Vermissen, Sophie!

For those of us whose German may be either rusty or non-existent, that phrase means "we will miss you" in English. People use it when saying goodbye to a friend, coworker, or family member who is leaving.

Over the course of what feels like a very short year, Sophie Moldenhauer has become all of those things for a great many of us, and she will indeed be greatly missed.

Sophie, we wish you all the best as you return home to your family and begin the next chapter of your wonderful life.

We can't wait to see how God's plan for you unfolds! Hugs and prayers from us all!



From Our Parish Nurse

Prostate Cancer Awareness Month is observed every September in the United States. This month is used to raise public awareness about prostate health, encourage early screenings, and support research. Here are some facts about prostate cancer.

- Prostate cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer among men, after skin cancer
- About 1 in 8 men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer in their lifetime
- 60% of cases diagnosed are in men over the age of 65, and the average age of prostate cancer diagnosis is around 66 years old
- Family history of prostate cancer can double your risk of getting the disease
- There were more than 3.5 million men living with prostate cancer in the U.S. as of 2025
- About 1 in 44 men will die of prostate cancer, making it the second leading cause of cancer death among men, after lung cancer

The Prostate and PSA Testing

Prostate cancer begins in the prostate gland, a walnut-sized gland in the male reproductive system located directly below the bladder. The prostate surrounds the urethra, which is the tube that carries urine out of the body. As a man ages, the prostate tends to increase in size, and this can cause the urethra to narrow and decrease urine flow. This is called BPH or benign prostatic hyperplasia, and it is not the same as prostate cancer. Prostate cancer occurs when the prostate grows out of control. In early-stage prostate cancer, men usually have no symptoms. When signs do appear, they often mirror conditions like BPH and include trouble urinating, weak flow, blood in the urine, and pelvic discomfort.

For a man at average risk, the recommendation is to start having PSA testing at age 50. For a man at higher risk, like those with a family history, your doctor may choose to start testing at age 40-45. The PSA test is a simple blood test that looks for a protein called prostate-specific antigen that is made by the prostate. A high PSA test might indicate prostate cancer and would warrant further evaluation.

Prevention: What Can You Do?

While there is no guaranteed way to prevent prostate cancer, certain lifestyle choices may help lower your risk.

- Stay active: regular exercise helps maintain a healthy weight, carrying extra weight is linked to a higher risk of advanced prostate cancer
- Eat a balanced diet: focus on fruits, vegetables, and whole grains as they may reduce risk. Limit high-fat dairy, red meat, and saturated fats, look for plant-based fats like olive oil and nuts instead. Also, green tea and soy products may offer protective benefits and support healthy hormone levels.
- Limit alcohol: reduce or avoid drinking alcohol
- Avoid smoking: smoking is linked to many cancers, and quitting can improve your overall health
- Know your family history: men with a father or brother who had prostate cancer are at higher risk and should start screenings earlier in life

If you have any concerns about your prostate health, talk to your provider about PSA testing. Or to learn more you can visit <https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/prostate-cancer/symptoms-causes/syc-20353087>

September



Duty Schedule

Liturgist

Sept 6 Jackie Bogucke
Sept 13 Dianne Heyn
Sept 20 Jeremy Schouten
Sept 27 Rorie Nitz

Usher/Greeters

Sept 6 Team 1
Sept 13 Team 2
Sept 20 Team 3
Sept 27 Team 4

Gatekeepers

Sept 6 Tom & Julie Stellmacher
Sept 13 Rick & Barb Stracy
Sept 20 Dennis & Emily Burk, Sue Wrzinski
Sept 27 Pat Gittens

Van Drivers

Sept 6 Tom Stellmacher
Sept 13 Rick Stracy
Sept 20 Dennis Burk
Sept 27 Jackie Bogucke

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

Audio/Visual Operators

Sept 6 Kelly Mundell/Phil Wepner
Sept 13 Keith Mulder/Phil Wepner
Sept 20 John Kwiatkoske/Judy Lueck
Sept 27 Bob Meyer/Phil Wepner

Worship Bulletins

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

Communion Servers

Sept 6 Judy Maguire & Debbie Hahn

Coffee Hour

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

Altar Guild Committee for September

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

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

September 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 5:00 pm Sharing Table Community Meal, OSUCC	2	3 6:00 pm Lego Team 6:30 pm Worship Service- Communion	4	5
6 9:00 am Worship Service - Communion 10:00 am Blood Pressure Clinic	7 	8 5:00 pm Sharing Table Community Meal, Grace Lutheran	9	10 9:30 am Calle to Care Mtg 6:00 pm Lego Team 6:30 pm Worship Service	11	12
13 9:00 am Worship Service, Sunday School Kickoff, Blanket Sunday 6:00 pm Lego Team	14 6:30 am Church Council Mtg	15 5:00 pm Sharing Table Community Meal, Immanuel UMC 5:30 pm Missions Comm	16	17 9:00 am MBS Clinic 1:00 pm Senior Center BP Clinic 6:00 pm Lego Team 6:30 pm Worship Service	18	19 October Messenger Deadline
20 9:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am Altar Guild 6:00 pm Lego Team	21 4:00 pm Worship Comm 5:30 pm Christian Ed 6:30 pm Evangelism	22 5:30 pm Sharing Table Community Meal, 1 st Congregational	23	24 9:00 am MBS Clinic 6:00 pm Lego Team 6:30 pm Worship Service	25	26
27 9:00 am Worship Service 6:00 pm Lego Team	28	29 5:00 Sharing Table Community Meal, St. Catherine of Siena	30			