

OUR SAVIOUR'S UCC

343 SCOTT STREET

RIPON, WI 54971

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RIPON, WI

Permit No. 31

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



THE MESSENGER

Vol. 102, No. 10

October 2026

Ripon, WI.

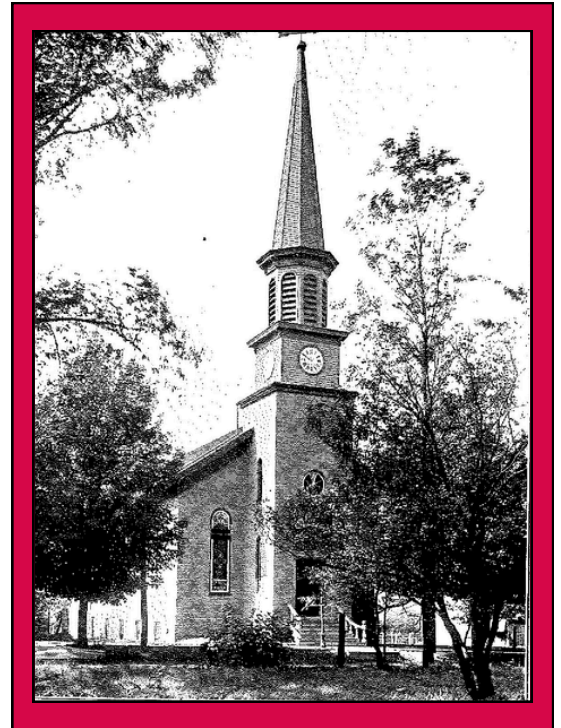


October

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 November 2026 Edition of The Messenger:

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



I read an article recently that bothered me, citing the work of demographer and university professor Ryan Burge, who recently published the book, “The Vanishing Church: How the Hollowing Out of Moderate Congregations Is Hurting Democracy, Faith, and Us.”

What Burge found is that the moderate Christian churches who worked very hard to keep their faith front and center and critiqued, while participating in both political parties, are disappearing.

What we are getting in their place are churches that use their Christian faith to justify their political partisanship and are no longer critiquing the ideologies of each party while pointing to Jesus death and resurrection, but are instead showing how “their” party is following the correct biblical ethics. Burge calls it, “the big church sort.” Churches that were close to evenly split in members are finding that if they are leaning more to the right then they are losing member from the left, and vis versa. I believe there is truth in this observation, but that it only catches a part of what is happening.

William T Cavanagh, in his book, “The Uses of Idolatry,” adds another lay to the picture Burge is painting. Cavanagh says that as our culture is publicly becoming more secularized (no religion in public spaces) we are not decreasing in our religiousness but are moving it to the economy (our obsession with sports gambling functions as a religious level) and our obsession with political ideology now functions for many as a religious identity.

Another important layer to the picture Burge is painting is that culturally, the moderate churches that I would argue had a stronger sense of Jesus first, were all shaped in a time period where institutions were respected, believed in as valuable tools, and whose ways of functioning brought great comfort to many.

I would argue that since the 1960’s, as a nation we have taught our young people not to trust institutions, which in the big picture also means not to trust churches anymore. We did this by not taking sexual misconduct by leadership seriously, we did it by averaging a 50% divorce rate for the past five decades, we did it by letting companies no longer take care of us with benefits and pensions, and we did it by the many ways we have let technology replace humans--with AI being the most recent wave and the next wave to be robots.

Our moderate churches were institutional churches and as people have migrated away from institutions the numbers in those churches have shrunk dramatically, negating their public voices.

For Burge, there is hope because it is God’s church, not ours, and it is powered by God’s Holy Spirit. We are called to be community, and the spirit can help us learn to be community anew in our current challenging situation.

Paul’s Letter to the Romans (which we journeyed through all summer) teaches us that we come to the cross with nothing, trusting by faith that Jesus loves and has forgiven all of us. When we live the Agape love Jesus lived, new communities will form around us.

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 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 Wednesday 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 Wednesday, October 21st from 1-3 pm. She'll be offering blood pressure checks there now also!

The next Called to Care meeting will be held Wednesday, October 14th, at 9:30 AM in the conference room.



Christian Education Committee

Our next committee meeting will be Monday, October 19th 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:** Classes have begun but there is room for more children to sign up!
- **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, October 19th 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, October 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!

CWS Blanket Sunday - Thank you for wrapping someone in care and reminding them that they are not forgotten. A total of \$345 was collected for this wonderful mission and will be sent on to CWS in Elkhart, IN.

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.

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 October we will be collecting games and activities. 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.

Stewardship Committee



Our next committee meeting will be in October to prepare the stewardship pledge materials mailing. Please keep an eye on the worship bulletin for the exact date of the meeting.

What does the Stewardship Committee's purpose? It's to cultivate a culture of gratitude and generosity by encouraging members to share their time, talent, and treasure. They promote "whole-life-stewardship", moving beyond just fundraising to viewing all resources as gifts from God. If you are interested in joining our Committee, please speak with Julie Stellmacher.

Worship Committee



Our next committee meeting is Monday, October 19th, at 4:00 pm. If you are interested in joining our Committee, please speak with Jeremy Schouten.

Should you have ideas, questions, concerns, or suggestions relating to our worship services please do not hesitate to speak with a committee member. Other members of the committee are Debbie Hahn, Judy Heitmann, Keith Mulder, Julie Stellmacher, and Barbara Stracy.

Quote for the Month

"Yet, I can face the winter with calm. I suppose I had forgotten what it was really like. I had been thinking of the winter as a horrid wet, dreary time fit only for professional football. Now I can see other things—crisp and sparkling days, long pleasant evenings, cheery fires. Good work shall be done this winter. Life shall be lived well. The end of the summer is not the end of the world. Here's to October..." —A.A. Milne, "A Word for Autumn"

Ministries, Projects, and News

Matthew 25: Ministries Pill Bottle Collection

5, 580 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

47,543 Pop Tabs in 2026!



Tabbs 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

116 lbs of Plastic in 2026!



Hey, we've gotten the hang of this recycling thing and the news has spread 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 September 1st Sharing Table Community meal was very attended, with 140 meals served. The hot turkey sandwiches were very popular and there was hardly any food leftover for take aways.

For our Tuesday, October 6th meal we'll be serving a wonderful meal featuring boneless pork chops, potatoes, corn, and either salad or a green side. Maybe some applesauce (not that we're hinting). Our talented bakers are surprising us with seasonal desserts again. Whatever they do, we're always happy with!

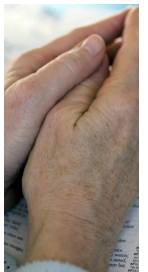
All in our community are welcome to join us for these Sharing Table Free Community Meals and families are welcome. We do have highchairs available for those with "Littles". We'll be serving from 5 pm till 6 pm.

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: Brent Heitmann, Emily McGuire, Maggie Moon, Kathy Schieler, the family and friends of Ruth Ann Cluppert, and 12 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.



Anniversary Sunday Breakfast

Please come share a wonderful celebratory breakfast served down in Fellowship Hall after the worship service on Sunday, October 11th. All of the anniversary couples, their families, and all of our members are invited!

On the menu is scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage, potatoes, pancakes (both plain and blueberry) and an egg bake. The Church Council is supplying fresh fruit and the Altar Guild has a full sheet cake for the occasion. It all sounds pretty amazing!

Parish Nurse News

Nurse Emily is changing her office day here at OSUCC from Thursday to Wednesday!

Starting Wednesday, October 14th, she will be holding her Mind, Body, Soul Clinic on Wednesdays from 9:00 am until Noon and will be doing her member visits on Wednesday afternoons. If you would like a visit from her, please email her at osuccpnripon1@gmail.com or call her during office hours at 920-748-2544.

She will also be at the Senior Center for Blood Pressure checks on the 3rd Wednesday of each month, so that will be October 21st.



From Our Parish Nurse

October is National Sudden Cardiac Arrest Awareness Month and it is a time used to raise awareness about the signs and symptoms of sudden cardiac arrest and how to respond to someone in cardiac arrest.

What is Sudden Cardiac Arrest?

While having a heart attack can increase your risk of experiencing sudden cardiac arrest, they are two distinctly different conditions, with different causes, and exhibiting different symptoms.

- Sudden cardiac arrest is often an electrical problem with the heart where it suddenly stops beating and pumping blood to vital organs. A person with no pre-existing signs of heart disease can suffer sudden cardiac arrest.
- Heart attack occurs when blood flow to the heart is severely reduced or blocked. The blockage is usually due to a buildup of fat, cholesterol, or other substances in the coronary arteries.

How do I know if someone is having sudden cardiac arrest?

Signs of sudden cardiac arrest include:

- Sudden collapse- the person drops without warning
- Unconsciousness- the person does not respond to touch or loud sounds
- No normal breathing- the person stops breathing or is gasping
- No pulse- the person has no detectable heartbeat
- Other signs- the person's eyes may roll back or stay open and they may have brief seizure like activity

Some people may have warning signs and experience the following symptoms minutes to hours or even days before their heart stops: chest pain or pressure, shortness of breath, dizziness or lightheadedness, nausea or vomiting, racing heartbeat or palpitations, extreme fatigue or weakness. If you experience any of these symptoms, please seek medical attention immediately.

What do I do if faced with someone in sudden cardiac arrest?

CPR and AED training teaches you the skills needed to act when sudden cardiac arrest occurs. It is estimated that there are over 350,000 out-of-hospital cardiac arrests in the U.S. every year, and about 70% of all cardiac arrests happen in the home. That means you could be saving the life of a family member or friend.

Sometimes people refrain from helping someone who needs CPR because they are afraid that they will injure the person or do something wrong. Calling 911 and starting chest compressions is better than doing nothing and can help give the person a better chance of survival. Roughly 90% of sudden cardiac arrests prove fatal without quick help.

Steps if you come across someone you think is in Sudden Cardiac Arrest:

- Call 911 or have someone nearby call 911 immediately. The emergency dispatcher can guide you on what to do until help arrives, including Hands-Only CPR
- Check to see if the person is breathing or responsive
- Send someone to get the AED
- If the person is not breathing, or only gasping, and they are not responsive, start CPR immediately.
- Use an AED if available when it arrives.

If you have any additional questions, or would like to sign up for a CPR class in your area visit:

<https://www.redcross.org/take-a-class/resources/articles/sudden-cardiac-arrest-awareness-month?srsltid=AU7gw4UY1-JTLpRY-bxMhI5RlwwQZNUvaCm40-aDH8xozjwVc3zNnZ7v>

Emily Burk, RN, OSUCC Parish Nurse

October



Liturgist

Oct 4 Jackie Bogucke
Oct 11 Jaime Prellwitz
Oct 18 Heidi Schwanke
Oct 25 Keith Mulder

Gatekeepers

Oct 4 Keith & Becky Mulder
Oct 11 Pete & Kathy Schieler
Oct 18 Rick & Barb Stracy
Oct 25 Dennis & Emily Burk, Sue Wrzinski

Audio/Visual Operators

Oct 4 John Kwiatkoske/Phil Wepner
Oct 11 Keith Mulder/Judy Lueck
Oct 18 John Kwiatkoske/Phil Wepner
Oct 25 Keith Mulder/Kelly Mundell

Communion Servers

Oct 4 Keith Mulder & Ricky Prellwitz

Altar Guild Committee for October

Iona Altnau, Jane Brady, Bev Garro, Judy
Lueck, Patti Schaalma

Duty Schedule

Usher/Greeters

Oct 4 Team 5
Oct 11 Team 6
Oct 18 Team 1
Oct 25 Team 2

Van Drivers

Oct 4 Bob Lueck
Oct 11 Ricky Prellwitz
Oct 18 Rick Stracy
Oct 25 Dennis Burk

*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.

October 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 9:00 am MBS Clinic 6:00 pm Lego Team 5:15 pm Senior Choir 6:30 pm Worship Service-Communion	2	3
4 9:00 am Worship Service - Communion 10:00 am Blood Pressure Clinic	5 6:15 pm Scott Street Puppet practice	6 5:00 pm Sharing Table Community Meal, OSUCC	7	8 9:00 am MBS Clinic 5:15 pm Senior Choir 6:00 pm Lego Team 6:30 pm Worship Service	9	10 7:00 pm Organ Concert by Jared Stellmacher to benefit the Sandy Polcyn Music Scholarship
11 Anniversary Sunday 9:00 am Worship Service *, Anniversary Breakfast to follow 6:00 pm Lego Team *Guest Organist is Jared Stellmacher	12 1:00 am Science Club 6:15 pm Scott Street Puppet practice 6:30 pm Church Council Mtg	13 5:00 pm Sharing Table Community Meal, Grace Lutheran	14 9:00 am MBS Clinic 9:30 am Called to Care Mtg	15 5:15 pm Senior Choir 6:00 pm Lego Team 6:30 pm Worship Service	16	17 November Messenger Deadline
18 9:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am Altar Guild 6:00 pm Lego Team	19 4:00 pm Worship Comm 5:30 pm Christian Ed 6:15 pm Scott Street Puppet practice 6:30 pm Evangelism	20 5:00 pm Sharing Table Community Meal, Immanuel UMC 5:30 pm Missions Comm	21 9:00 am MBS Clinic 1:00 pm Senior Center BP Clinic	22 5:15 pm Senior Choir 6:00 pm Lego Team 6:30 pm Worship Service	23	24
25 9:00 am Worship Service 6:00 pm Lego Team	26 6:15 pm Scott Street Puppet practice	27 5:30 pm Sharing Table Community Meal, 1st Congregational	28 9:00 am MBS Clinic	29 5:15 pm Senior Choir 6:00 pm Lego Team 6:30 pm Worship Service-Communion	30	31 