

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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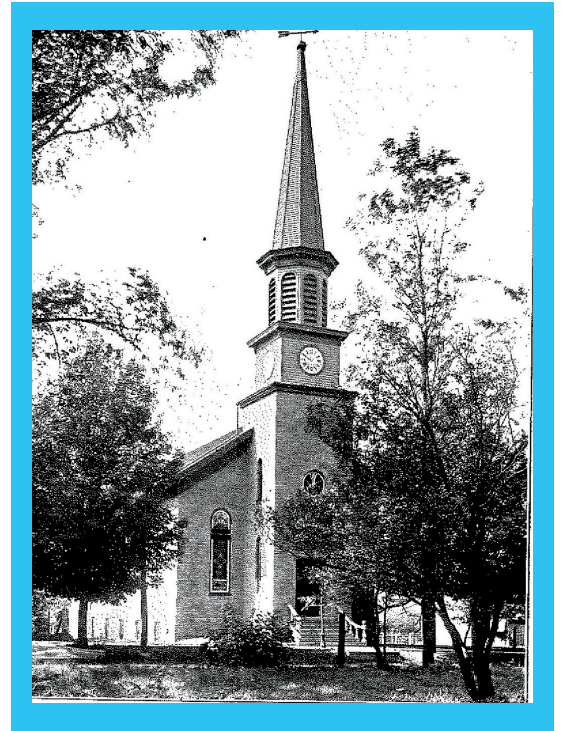
Ripon, WI.



Welcome to The Messenger

Published by Our Saviour's UCC since 1924

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Deadline for the July 2024 Edition of The Messenger:

Events to be included on the calendar, committee updates, articles, etc. should be submitted to the office by **June 15th**.

Email these to the Church office at osuccripon1@gmail.com, or you may drop your information in the office, or submit it taking a photo of the the QR code at the right and filling out the short form which is automatically sent directly to the office email. Thank you.

QR Code



Join us for Worship In-Person, Virtually, or by Radio!

Worship Services are Thursday's at 6:30pm or Sunday's at 9:00am

Both Worship Services are streamed to Facebook, YouTube, and are also available on our website.

You can also tune In at 11:00am on Sunday's to 1600AM WRPN for the Radio Broadcast.

Our Saviour's United Church of Christ
343 Scott Street, Ripon, WI 54971 | 920.748.2544

From the Pastor's Desk



Rev. Dr. Kevin Mundell

During the season of Easter one of the lectionary passages that came up has lodged itself in my heart and mind. I keep thinking about it a little bit every day. The passage was from 1 John 4:7-12 and reads as follows: “Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God’s love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us (NRSV).”

What is amazing about this passage is that it is the only place that describes the essence of God as Love. And it is not a simple love but a love willing to give up a part of God’s self in Jesus, his son, for us. It is a love willing to die for our sake.

Imagine being somewhere with one of your closest friends and something happens that put your life in jeopardy, but the friend knocks you out of the way and dies in your place. Would this change you? Would it change how you see your life?

In that moment I would imagine I would have a clear sense that the life I now have is mine solely as a gift. I have been taught to believe that my life is mine and, in some way, I deserve it. But I believe a friend dying in my place would change how I see and think about my life.

The film, *Saving Private Ryan* is about a woman who has four sons in the military and on the D-day invasion three of her sons die and the fourth goes missing. A unit is sent behind enemy lines in Germany to find the missing fourth son. They do find Ryan but in so doing the entire unit one by one dies in the process.

At the end of the film Ryan is at the Arlington National cemetery at the grave of the commander of that unit that gave their lives to bring him home safely. He turns to his wife and asks her, “Am I a good person? Did I live a good life?” His issue is he knows his life is a gift given to him by a group of strangers who died because they didn’t want a mother to lose all her children in the great war.

What John does, once we understand that God is love and the kind of love God has shown us through Jesus, is to tell us that we ought to love one another as God has loved us.

We are not being asked to be Midwest nice, or polite, or neighborly to each other in what we call a friendly manner. No, John tells us we ought to love God and our neighbors just as Jesus demonstrated his love for us on the cross. In many ways this is the opposite of what our culture is about, as we are pushed to define ourselves through our consumption or to move out of the way if we can no longer consume enough to matter.

John reminds us that “if we love one another, God lives in us, and God’s love is perfected in us.” Our deepest sense of God’s presence in us primarily comes when we are loving other people. God isn’t about us as an individual, but rather as we share our lives with each other. This is the very essence of God being Triune: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit indwelling and sharing their lives together. God wants for us to know this kind of love and connect, which comes when we love one another over ourselves. Let us join in living to love as God has first loved us.

Committee News

Altar Guild

Thank you to all who ordered Red Geraniums this year! The plants were very nice and we had a total of 34 of the beautiful plants up on the altar for the Pentecost worship service. If you weren't there to see in person, take a look at the livestream of the service on Facebook!



The 2024 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 \$25 and Organ flowers are \$16 each. Radio Broadcasts are \$50 per sponsor & \$25 per sponsor per bulletin. Checks for Altar and Organ flowers should be made out to OSUCC ALTAR GUILD. All other checks can be made out to OSUCC.

We welcome anyone new that would like to come and join our Altar Guild group. If you have any questions, please contact Caroline Retzlaff at 920-748-2367 or Iona Altnau at 920-748-5391.

Christian Education Committee

Adult Ed: Enjoy your summer and we'll see you when we resume.

Christian Ed Classes: Enjoy your summer and we'll see you when we resume.

Confirmation Class: Enjoy your summer and we'll see you again when we resume.



Nursery: We're happy your little ones are here at church! We have a child/parent space available in the South West Corner of the Sanctuary and for your convenience there are Koala Kare changing stations in all of our restrooms as well as in the Conference Room.

Called to Care *Committee*

Calling all who can knit or crochet! Called to Care would like to revive our Prayer Shawl Ministry will need donations of handmade prayer shawls to make that happen. We have a book of easy patterns for both knit or crochet in the Church office that you are welcome to take copies from. For those who want to help the ministry in other ways, donations of yarn to be used by those making the shawls would also be very welcome.

Nurse Emily holds the Mind, Body, & Soul Clinic every Thursday from 9:00 am until Noon. The June Blood Pressure Clinic will be held after worship service on June 2nd. If you would like a visit from Nurse, please call her at 920-748-2544 during office hours or email her at osuccpnripon1@gmail.com.

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

Additional Called to Care Committee members are always welcome to join us to help care for our congregation. If interested please talk to Rev. Mundell, Iona Altnau, Julie Stellmacher, Dianne Heyn, Caroline Retzlaff, Pat Gittens, or Kathy Lang.

More Committee News

Evangelism Committee

A huge thank you to everyone who helped the day of our Brat Fry fundraiser at Webster's, as well as all who baked those yummy desserts before hand! We had a very successful event and raised \$674 to benefit Dolly Parton's Imagination Library for children in Ripon.



Dolly Parton began the Imagination Library in 1995 to benefit the children of her home county in East Tennessee. Dolly's vision was to foster a love of reading among her county's preschool children and their families because she wanted children to be excited about books and to feel the magic that books can create. By mailing high quality, age appropriate books directly to each child's home she could ensure that every child would have books, regardless of their family's income.

In 2000 the program went National in the US, then in 2006 expanded into Canada. In 2007 the United Kingdom adopted the program in 2007, and in 2014 Australia did the same.

Today, over one million books per month are mailed to children around the world, inspiring them to Dream More, Learn More, Care More and Be More.

Upper Room: The current issue 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.

Mission Committee

Thank you to all who donated to our Mother's Day Diaper Drive! Your donations will be distributed between our local Ripon Food Pantries to benefit our community.

Have you heard of a Recycled Card Program before? St Jude's Ranch for Children in Boulder City, NV has one that we would like to collect cards for. You can bring in the front of any card (except those from American Greetings, Disney, Hallmark due to Copyright) and we'll get them down to St. Jude's to help provide work and life skills to teens who have been victims of sex trafficking. You can learn more about this organization at: <https://www.healingcenter-stjudesranch.org/>

Worship Committee

Here are two upcoming events that you will want to mark on your calendar:

- Sunday, July 14th, there will be a joint worship service between First Congregational Church of Ripon and Our Saviour's. This will be held again at the Village Green at 9:00 am. We'll add more details as we get closer to the date.
- Wednesday, July 17th, the American Fellowship of Church Musicians is holding an organ concert here at Our Saviour's and Jared Stellmacher will be playing. This concert is free to the congregation and our community. More details to follow.

Our search for a new Choir Director is ongoing. If you hear of someone who may be interested, please contact Barb Stracy at 920-229-1183.

Ministries and OSUCC Projects

Prayer Chain Ministry

IN OUR PRAYERS: Tara Koller, Terry Nitz, 24 unspoken, and all others, including the families and friends of Beverly Lawson, Kathy Luedke, and Kathy Ryan as they grieve the loss of their loved ones.



Feel free to use our prayer chain ministry by contacting Caroline Retzlaff at 920-748-2367.

Matthew 25: Ministries Pill Bottle Collection

2,246 Pill Bottles in 2024!

Thank you for all your donations! We are so grateful for the steady donation of pill bottles of every type and size. Sometimes we feel as if they are multiplying like bunnies in the closet when we aren't looking! It's all good though!

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.

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!



Pop Tabs for Ronald McDonald House

7,140 Pop Tabs in 2024!



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.

Other News at OSUCC

Helping Restoration at Moon Beach

This past April, Church Council had discussions on donating to the Moon Beach Cabins Foundation Restoration Campaign. We have sent numerous campers to Moon Beach camps over the years and it remains a favorite experience for members of our congregation.

Motion was made, and passed, to donate \$10,000 to the Foundation to support restoration of the other historic cabins as both Balsam and Hemlock cabins are now done. We've received a thank you letter from the Foundation that is posted on the bulletin board outside the conference room.

The Ripon Free Community Meals



The May 7th meal was provided by the Bob Lueck and Patti Schaalma families, and was the perfect comfort meal for the mild, rainy day we were experiencing. Diners really enjoyed their thick, rich Sloppy Joe's, fully loaded Pasta salad, Judy's amazing Orange Fluff salad, pickles, chips, and home-made desserts.

Thank you to Bob, Judy, Patti, and your families! It was great fun working with all of you including the young ones, who were very good workers! A total of 111 meals were served and very much enjoyed by all.

If your family, a group of families, or committees are considering sponsoring a meal this Fall, talk to Nancy Henning at 920-229-3486. She can help you work out what you want to do and how we can help to fill in the other pieces of the meal, so don't be worried!

In the East Narthex are volunteer sign-up boards for the summer months of June, July, and August. Each month has food prep needs specific to the menu being served, which you can see on the boards. June 4th's menu includes Shepherds Pie, Snicker Apple Salad, rolls, and home-made desserts.

The schedule for The Sharing Table meals is as follows:

- 1st Tuesday, 5 - 6 pm - Our Saviour's United Church of Christ - Fellowship Hall, elevator accessible
- 2nd Tuesday, 5 - 6 pm - Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church - Fellowship Hall
- 3rd Tuesday, 5 - 6 pm - Immanuel United Methodist Church - Fellowship Hall, elevator accessible
- 4th Tuesday, 5:30 - 6 pm - First Congregational Church of Ripon - Drive Thru on Ransom St. for boxed dinners
- 5th Tuesday, 5:00 - 6:00 pm, St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Parish, Parish Hall, lower level parking lot, handicap accessible.

Ripon Area Vacation Bible School

Our Saviour's is hosting the Ripon Area Vacation Bible School this summer and the theme is SCUBA, Diving Into Friendship with God. The dates are July 28th - August 1st. Online registration is now open at www.riponvbs.org. No walk-in registrations accepted!



There are many ways to help so if you enjoy volunteering, you can contact either Ricky Prellwitz at rpdeerhunter@charter.net or Debbie Prellwitz at debster60@gmail.com.

From Our Parish Nurse



Celebrated each year in June, Men's Health Awareness Month is a time to remind men of the health issues they face and what they can do to take charge of their health. Historically, men are significantly less likely than women to see a doctor or report symptoms to a health care provider. Reports show only about 60% of men go to the doctor yearly for a routine checkup and about 40% won't go until something is seriously wrong. Delaying or avoiding a checkup or screening could lead to a treatable situation turning deadly. Even if you're feeling healthy a yearly physical exam is a good way to validate your health or identify a problem in its early stages.

The following are the top 5 recommended screenings for men:

- Blood Pressure: Blood pressure screening at least yearly, more frequently if you have high blood pressure or are at risk of developing high blood pressure
- Cholesterol: Initial cholesterol screening at age 18, if numbers are normal screening every 5 years is then recommended. Men 45 or older, or those with family history of high cholesterol or heart disease should have more frequent testing
- Diabetes: Diabetes screening beginning at age 45, sooner for those with a BMI above 25
- Colon Cancer: Screening colonoscopy beginning at age 45, sooner for those that are high risk with a family history
- Prostate Cancer: Prostate cancer screening starting at age 50, sooner if family history

Below are some additional screenings that you may need:

- Mental Health Checkup: Discussing your mental health with your provider is important, if you are experiencing anger or irritability, mood swings, changes in sleeping habits or appetite, increased feelings of stress or anxiety or thoughts of harming yourself or others, see your provider right away
- Lung Cancer: Annual lung cancer screenings using low-dose CT are recommended for men age 50-80 with a 20-pack-year smoking history, those who currently smoke, or those who have quit smoking within the past 15 years
- Skin Cancer: Those at high risk of skin cancer, or those with personal or family history may be recommended to have a professional skin exam every 1-3 years.
- Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm: For men 65-75 who have smoked more than 100 cigarettes in their lifetime a one-time abdominal aortic aneurysm screening ultrasound is recommended, for Men over 60 with a family history of abdominal aortic aneurysm a regular screening should be considered

If you are wondering if you are up to date on your screenings, or if you are not up to date, contact your provider to discuss which screenings you may need.

Emily Burk, RN, OSUCC Parish Nurse



June Duties

Liturgist

June 2 Rick Stracy
June 9 Jamie Prellwitz
June 16 Heidi Schwanke
June 23 Jeremy Schouten
June 30 Rick Stracy

Gatekeepers

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

Audio Operator

June 2 Phil Manthei
June 9 Bob Meyer
June 16 John Kwiatkoske
June 23 Kelly Mundell
June 30 Phil Manthei

Coffee Hour

After 9:00AM Worship with Coffee and Juice - For those who feel comfortable, feel free to join us!

Usher/Greeters

June 2 Team 4
June 9 Team 5
June 16 Team 6
June 23 Team 1
June 30 Team 2

Altar Guild Monthly Committee

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

Van Drivers

June 2 Tom Carr
June 9 Bob Lueck
June 16 Ricky Prellwitz
June 23 Ricky Stracy
June 30 Jackie Bogucke

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

Bulletin Delivery

- Mailed out on Wednesday's
- Kay Quinn will deliver to Russell Manor
- Iona Altnau will deliver to Maplecrest Manor

Communion Servers

June 2 Bob Lueck and Rick Stracy

June 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2 9:00 am Worship Service, Communion 10:00 am Blood Pressure Clinic	3	4 5:00 pm Sharing Table Community Meal 6:30 pm Pack 3735 Parent/Leader Mtg	5	6 9:00 am Mind, Body, Soul Clinic 6:30 pm Worship Service	7	8 Kathleen Ryan - 9:30 am Visitation 10:00 am Memorial Service at OSUCC
9 9:00 am Worship 4:00 pm Den Meeting	10 6:30 pm Church Council Mtg	11	12	13 9:00 am Mind, Body, Soul Clinic 6:30 pm Worship Service	14 Flag Day	15 July Messenger Deadline 11:00 am Pack Party at Barlow Park
16 <i>Father's Day</i> 9:00 am Worship Service	17 4:30 pm Worship Committee	18	19 Juneteenth	20 9:00 am Mind, Body, Soul Clinic 6:30 pm Worship Service	21	22
23 9:00 am Worship Service <i>Voices ala Carte sings</i>	24	25	26	27 9:00 am Mind, Body, Soul Clinic 6:30 pm Worship Service, Communion	28	29
30 9:00 am Worship Service						