

OUR SAVIOUR'S UCC

343 SCOTT STREET

RIPON, WI 54971

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JULY

Welcome to The Messenger

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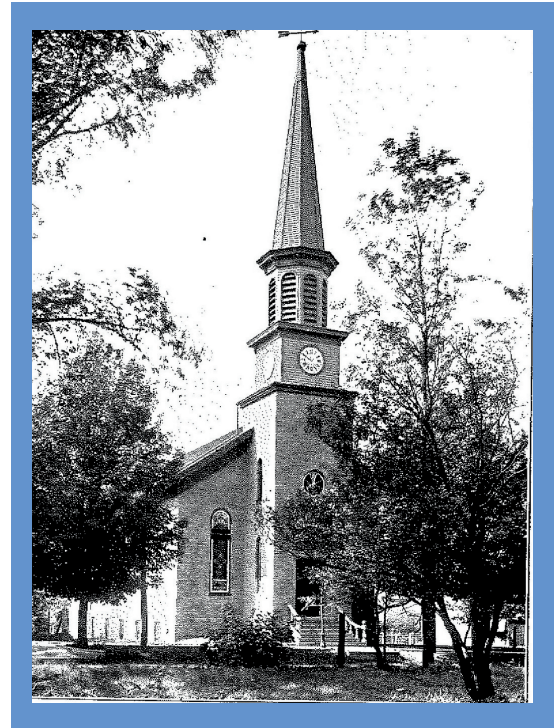
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Deadline for the August 2024 Edition of The Messenger:

Events to be included on the calendar, committee updates, articles, etc. should be submitted to the office by **July 20th.**

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

At the deepest sense of our being is a story. We are shaped by the stories we live, sometimes for the better and sometimes for the worst--but all our stories shape us and give us our sense of being, our “ontological” being at the center of who we are as a person.

The United States gives us many stories to use in shaping who we are. These are called norming stories. One of the most common norming story is the underdog story, which we celebrate all the time. A more impactful norming story is that when they come of age, every male and female should be attracted to someone of the opposite sex, fall in love, get married and birth a child created out of that loving relationship. To not fit this norming story is to be an outlier in our US culture.

I don't fit this story, and it has caused me much pain in my life. As an adult and a parent, I am part of the norming story for my own children, yet still I struggle with some of the pain from losing my norming story when I was a child myself.

I don't remember when I first learned that I was adopted, but I remember the pain it created by breaking what I thought was my own norming story. I was no longer a product of two people coming together in love, marrying and bringing me into being as an act of love. In the moment of learning that I was adopted, I realized I was broken because my birth parents didn't keep me. The far scarier implication of my realization was that love doesn't always overcome everything.

What happened for me was that two good people who were in a loving relationship wanted a child to love and chose to adopt me. While wonderful, it wasn't the norming story I had believed to be true. Therefore, at an ontological level, I am defective by my culture's standards since my story is not “the” norming story.

Every question I got growing up about being adopted all started with the assumption of the norming story. I realize that my friends weren't trying to hurt me with their questions about my adoption, but what they didn't realize is that their questions always assumed the cultural norming story which implied, “being defective have you ever...”

This is why all divorces hurt the children of divorce. Once the divorce happens, the child loses the norming story because their birth parents love relationship ended. This puts into question their identity and leaves them with the haunting question, “If my parents love for each other can end, then can their love for me as their child end as well?”

Maybe this is why I have always been fascinated with the Apostle Paul's writing more than anyone else's in the New Testament. Paul had a clear norming story as a Jewish Pharisee of high rank with a Roman citizenship. But then he met Jesus on the road to Damascus and threw away his identity to know only Christ crucified.

I remember working as a delivery van driver in the Twin Cities while I was between schools. I was struggling with my faith and my future as well as with my past and my present. One day I was driving north on the bypass loop around Minneapolis, and I suddenly couldn't stop thinking about Jesus and his death on the cross. I started having juxtaposed images and feelings of both Jesus dying on the cross, and at the same time images of all the pain I have felt in knowing I was abandoned by my birth parents without ever knowing why.

As these images collided, I kept hearing a voice press in on me from all around assuring me with, “I love you. I love you. I love you.” I found myself in tears almost to the point where I couldn't drive and thought about pulling over.

For me in that moment, Jesus and his cross cut through my identity questions and my pain like nothing else. It is not that all my pain was gone, but more that Jesus' love is just way more important and meaningful to me. I am someone God loves, and so are you.

Committee News

Altar Guild

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.

Called to Care *Committee*

Nurse Emily holds the Mind, Body, & Soul Clinic every Thursday from 9:00 am until Noon. The July Blood Pressure Clinic has been cancelled but the BP clinic will resume in August. If you would like a visit from Nurse Emily, please call her at 920-748-2544 during office hours or email her at osuccpnripon1@gmail.com.

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.

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.

Evangelism Committee

Worship on the Village Green is July 14th at 9:30 am. The service will be relocated to First Congregational Church if the weather does not want to cooperate that day. We are looking for volunteers to help with Coffee Hour.



Our next committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 19th, at 6:30 pm.

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. Starting in July there is a large print size and a small size available.

More Committee News

Mission Committee

Thank you to all who have brought in cards for St Jude's Ranch for Children in Boulder City, NV! We are still collecting the front of any card except those from American Greetings, Disney, Hallmark due to Copyright. St. Jude's uses the cards to help provide work and life skills to teens who have been victims of sex trafficking.

A quick update on the Mother's Day Diaper Drive - you donated 408 diapers and \$20! Thank you again!

In July we'll be collection hygiene products to support students in the Ripon Area School District. The hope is to be able to fill the District's Student Needs Closet for the year. Last year their Student Needs Fund was not able to to sustain needs for the entire school year.

These are the most needed items: male and female deodorant, hand/body lotion, face wash, face wipes, body wipes, Febreze fabric spray in travel size bottles to discreetly fit in lockers or backpacks, hair ties (fabric scrunchies or spiral cord style preferred), tampons (regular, super, and super plus), feminine pads (thin ones preferred).

Monetary donations are also welcome for the Student Needs Fund, and can be left at our Church Office.

Worship Committee

Sunday, July 14th is the ecumenical worship service with First Congregational Church and OSUCC at the Village Green at 9:30 am. If it rains the service will be at First Congregational Church.

Wednesday, July 17th, is the American Fellowship of Church Musicians organ concert here at OSUCC. 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.

Other News

Ripon Area Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School begins July 28th and runs through August 1st. The hours are 5:30 pm until 8:30 pm. Online registration closed June 24th and there are no walk-ins.



The room looks absolutely amazing with all of the SCUBA underwater decor! If you haven't had a chance to see it yet, it's well worth the trip downstairs to experience it all. Wow! The kiddos are going to love it!

Contact either Ricky Prellwitz at rlpdeerhunter@charter.net or Debbie Prellwitz at debster60@gmail.com if you would like to volunteer some time to help. There are many different things to do.

Ministries and OSUCC Projects

The Ripon Free Community Meals



Our June 4th meal was very successful with 100 meals served. The Shepherd's Pie was a big hit with the diners, as was the luscious assortment of homemade desserts and the Pink Lemonade. Guess we never outgrow our enjoyment of Pink Lemonade!

Thank you to all of our wonderful volunteers who helped with food prep and cooking; all those who made the luscious desserts; those who helped serve the meal; those who helped in the dining room; those who kept the dishwasher well occupied; and to Barb Stracy and Nancy Henning for their leadership and talents.

The menu for the July meal includes roast turkey and gravy over real mashed potatoes, vegetables, coleslaw, Jello Banana Split salad, and ice cream sundaes with the diner's choice of toppings. Sounds like an amazing Summertime meal!

There are volunteer sign-up boards in the East Narthex for the summer months of July and August. Each month has food prep needs specific to the menu being served. Your time is much appreciated, plus you'll have fun!

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.

Turkey Dinner Thank You

We made time during our June 2nd worship service to recognize and thank the Lego Multiverse Team, Pack 3735, and Troop 6737 for the help they provided working our 2023 Turkey Dinner. In appreciation, portion of the proceeds was donated to each of the three organizations. Thank you for your help!



More Ministries and Projects

Matthew 25: Ministries Pill Bottle Collection

2,490 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. In June we sent 4 full shipping boxes of bunnies, make that bottles, down to Blue Ash. Let's keep them multiplying in the closet!

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

7,774 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.

Prayer Chain Ministry

IN OUR PRAYERS: Tara Koller, Bob Krueger, 19 unspoken, and all others, including the family and friends Kathy Ryan as they grieve her loss.

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





From Our Parish Nurse



Keep Cool to be Heart Healthy

As we enter the hottest part of summer, the American Heart Association urges people to take extra steps to protect their hearts. Precautions are especially important for older adults and people with high blood pressure, obesity, or a history of heart disease and stroke. Heat and dehydration cause the heart to work harder and require it to pump more blood putting it under significantly more stress. While heat related deaths and illnesses are preventable, more than 600 people in the United States are killed by extreme heat every year. It is important to know the signs and symptoms when you are experiencing too much heat.

Symptoms of Heat Exhaustion:

- Headaches
- Heavy sweating
- Cold, moist skin, chills
- Dizziness or fainting
- A weak and rapid pulse
- Muscle cramps
- Fast, shallow breathing
- Nausea, vomiting or both

If you experience symptoms of Heat Exhaustion, move to a cooler place, stop exercising and cool down immediately by dousing yourself with cold water and re-hydrating. You may need to seek medical attention.

Symptoms of Heat Stroke:

- Warm, dry skin with no sweating
- Strong and rapid pulse
- Confusion and/or unconsciousness
- High fever
- Throbbing headache
- Nausea, vomiting or both

If you experience symptoms of Heat Stroke, call 9-1-1 and get medical attention immediately.

The American Heart Association suggests that everyone follows these top 5 hot weather precautions:

- Watch the clock - Avoid the outdoors between noon-3 as the sun is usually at its strongest.
- Dress for the heat - Wear lightweight, light colored clothing in breathable fabrics. Add a hat and sunglasses. Apply water-resistant sunscreen.
- Drink up - Stay hydrated! Hydration helps the heart pump blood more easily. Drink a few cups before, during, and after going outside in the heat or exercising. Avoid caffeinated or alcoholic beverages.
- Take regular breaks - Find some shade or a cool place, stop for a few minutes, hydrate, and start again.
- Follow the doctor's orders - Continue to take all medications as prescribed. Some medications for blood pressure can deplete the body of sodium and can exaggerate the body's response to heat, but don't stop taking your medications. Talk to your doctor about any concerns and learn how to keep cool and hydrated.

Emily Burk, RN, OSUCC Parish Nurse



July Duties

Liturgist

July 7 Cal Fischer
July 14 Dianne Heyn
July 21 Phil Manthei
July 28 Rorie Nitz

Usher/Greeters

July 7 Team 2
July 14 Team 3
July 21 Team 4
July 28 Team 5

Gatekeepers

July 7 Pat Gittens
July 14 Keith & Becky Mulder
July 21 Pete & Kathy Schieler
July 28 Tom & Julie Stellmacher

Altar Guild Monthly Committee

Iona Altnau, Peg Buelow, Bev Garro,
Marge Mundt, Barb Schouten

Audio Operator

July 7 Alex Lee
July 14 John Kwiatkoske
July 21 Kelly Mundell
July 28 Alex Lee

Van Drivers

July 7 Tom Carr
July 14 Bob Lueck
July 21 Ricky Prellwitz
July 28 Tom Stellmacher

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

Coffee Hour

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

Bulletin Delivery

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

Communion Servers

July 7 Dianne Heyn and Keith Mulder

July 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2 5:00 pm OSUCC Sharing Table Community Meal	3	4 Happy 4 th of July! Office Closed. No 6:30 pm Worship Service. 	5	6
7 9:00 am Worship Service with Communion	8	9 6:30 pm Pack 3735 Den Mtg	10	11 9:00 am Mind, Body, Soul Clinic 6:30 pm Worship Service	12	13
14 9:30 am Worship on the Village Green 4:00 pm Den Meeting	15 6:30 pm Church Council Mtg	16 6:30 pm Pack 3735 Den Mtg	17 7:00 pm FABM Conference for Church Musicians Organ Recital	18 9:00 am Mind, Body, Soul Clinic 6:30 pm Worship Service	19	20 August Messenger Deadline
21 9:00 am Worship Service	22	23 6:30 pm Pack 3735 Den Mtg	24	25 9:00 am Mind, Body, Soul Clinic 6:30 pm Worship Service with Communion	26	27
28 9:00 am Worship Service 5:30 pm VBS SCUBA	29 5:30 pm VBS SCUBA	30 6:30 pm Pack 3735 Den Mtg 5:30 pm VBS SCUBA	31 5:30 pm VBS SCUBA			