

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.

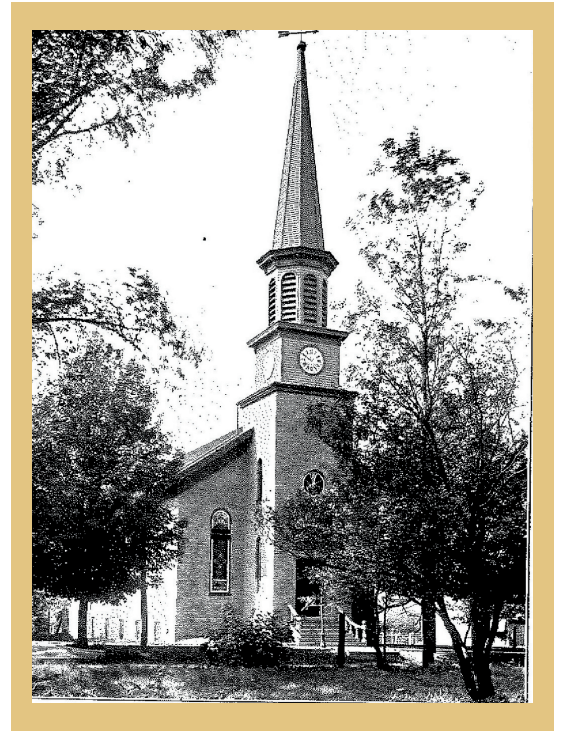
AUGUST

Perseid Meteor Showers peak August 11 - 13, 2024

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 11:00 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 2024 Edition of The Messenger:

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



Our Saviour's United Church of Christ
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www.OurSavioursUCCRipon.com



<https://bit.ly/OSUCCFacebook>



<https://bit.ly/OSUCCYouTube>

From the Pastor's Desk



Rev. Dr. Kevin Mundell

I got to hold my first grandchild, Fergus, on the day he was born; what an amazing gift! It was almost like he wasn't there, weighing a whole seven pounds and all. He didn't open his eyes and only occasionally would twitch or stretch; I'm guessing he was still tired from the move. His warmth, his steady breathing and his tiny little heartbeat continually reminded me that he was an amazing gift of life as I held him against my chest.

They told us that he was pretty long at nineteen and a half inches, but he wasn't interested in showing off his length. I think he just wanted to stay curled up in a little ball and sleep. I don't blame him for wanting to sleep; he will need all the energy he can get to embrace this amazing world that God has created and is sustaining.

Martin Luther used to say that when the world seems dark and grim and life feels like it is closing in all around you, have a baby. Now he knew that not in every circumstance was that possible or even advisable, but rather he wanted us to remember that a newborn baby is God's way of reminding us of beauty and wonderment, and whose world this really is that we are blessed to be in. It is also God's way of reminding us that we are never in this world alone. Without community that baby would never survive, grow, learn, and become who God made it to be.

While holding Fergus I noticed something that really struck me. Whenever he needed something he asked for help, not with words, but with a cry. When that first cry came it amazed me to realize how hard I have worked to get myself to a place of forgetting to ask for help.

I have been trained, but also worked hard to train myself, to be as self-sufficient as possible. I even almost avoid asking for help, especially when I really do need it. I can't wait for the first time I fall and can't get up off the floor, and call out for Kelly, "Help, I need you to help me get back up." She's going to grab me a pillow and say, "Make yourself comfortable because there's no way I'm going to get you back up."

My grandson, in his weakness, already knows to ask for help. I, in my strength, am often too prideful to ask for help when I need it--which makes me the fool for wanting to do everything myself when God made us for each other.

It is still a hard lesson to learn, and I am pretty sure the older I get, the more stubborn I might become and really will refuse to ask for help because I don't want to impose on anyone. Or maybe it is just that I am not good at receiving the gift of help as a gift. Maybe this is what Jesus discovered when he offered us forgiveness for free at his expense and we often respond, "I don't really need the help, I will be good enough on my own."

Every time I hold Fergus and look at his face and into his open eyes and realize how much he will grow and learn and experience, I am in awe. His place in life makes me look back from my own place and I can't even comprehend all that I have learned and experienced to be where I am--holding my grandson.

And the real amazing thing to me is that I would give all my experience up for him, just let it go and fade away, if my gesture would help him experience love and joy to its fullest in his life. And I don't even really know him yet, I just know that he is a part of me already in many ways. Despite that, and without even knowing how it happened, I already have a dresser at my house filled with stuff for him, a highchair, a stroller and many other things. He even has his own bookshelf mostly filled with books already!

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.



Our next meeting is September 17th at 10:00 am. 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. 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 is truly hoping to revive our Prayer Shawl Ministry, which was very appreciated by all those who received one of the handmade shawls in the past. For anyone who would like to donate a shawl, we have a book of easy patterns for both knit or crochet shawls 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. New members are always welcome to join us to help provide fellowship and support for members of our congregation. If interested please talk to Rev. Mundell, Iona Altnau, Julie Stellmacher, Dianne Heyn, Caroline Retzlaff, Pat Gittens, or Kathy Lang.



Christian Education Committee

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.

Our next committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 19th, at 5:30 PM.

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 is scheduled for Monday, August 19th, at 6:30 pm.



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.

We are still running the personal hygiene products collection 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.

The most needed items are 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 for the District Student Needs Fund can be left at our Church Office.

Missions Committee will meet next on Tuesday, August 20th, at 5:30 pm. Anyone interested in joining the committee is welcome to attend.

Worship Committee

Thank you to the Voices ala Carte singers and all the church members who helped plan and make happen our joint worship service with First Congregational church in the Ripon Green space.

We worshiped under the new pergola where the concrete was smooth and dry after the heavy rainstorm and had a wonderful time. The Mueller boys had their lemonade stand and all the free will offering went to help our local police with obtaining a new police dog.

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.

The next meeting of the Worship Committee is Thursday, August 22nd, at 6:30 pm. Anyone interested in joining the committee is welcome to attend.

Other News

Rev. Mundell Heading to Berlin, Germany

Rev. Mundell is part of a delegation representing the Wisconsin Conference that will be heading over to Berlin, Germany for a Theological Colloquy focused on Innovation with the Christian Church. He will be leaving on August 16th and will be returning to the office on August 28th.

There will be German pastors present and pastors from the Wisconsin Conference and the Pennsylvania Conference present. The Colloquy will be the first part of the week and the during the later part, each pastor will spend a weekend within a local parish sharing in their community life.

If you have a pastoral emergency while Rev. Mundell is away, please contact the church office, our parish nurse or a church council member and they will be able to put you in contact with the minister on call.

Ministries and OSUCC Projects

The Ripon Free Community Meals



Despite the rain, our July 2nd meal was very successful with 115 meals served. The roasted turkey smothered in rich gravy served over home-made mashed potatoes, vegetables, and salads were a big hit, as were the Ice Cream Sundae's. What's not to like?

Thank you to all of our wonderful volunteers who helped with food prep and cooking; those who helped serve the meal; those who helped in the dining room; those who kept the dishwasher well occupied; those who served at the ice cream sundae bar; and to Barb Stracy and Nancy Henning for their leadership and talents. Well done, all!

The menu for the August meal sounds amazing! We're serving Lasagna, a lettuce salad with choice of dressings, fruit salad, garlic bread, and an apple dessert to top it all off. Yum!

There are volunteer sign-up boards in the East Narthex for July through 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.

FABM Organ Recital

On Wednesday, July 17th, Our Saviour's hosted the Fellowship of Baptist Musicians 2024 Organ Recital, featuring our own Jared Stellmacher. It was an amazing concert, concluding with an encore of "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" with the entire audience singing along! So uplifting!



More Ministries and Projects

Matthew 25: Ministries Pill Bottle Collection

3,132 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 July we sent 3 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!



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.

Prayer Chain Ministry

IN OUR PRAYERS:

Tara Koller, Bob Krueger, Keith Mulder, 21 unspoken, and all others.

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





From Our Parish Nurse

National Immunization Awareness Month

National Immunization Awareness Month (NIAM) is an annual observance held in August to highlight the importance of routine vaccination for people of all ages. Vaccination is critically important and one of the best tools we have to prevent disease and severe illness. Widespread immunization has led to the eradication of smallpox worldwide, the elimination of polio in the United States, and the prevention of debilitating and sometimes deadly infectious diseases like measles. Despite this though global vaccine administration has plateaued within the last decade, partly because of the spread of misinformation.

Some common Immunization myths:

- **Natural Immunity or Herd Immunity will keep me safe** - Vaccination is much safer than trying to develop natural immunity from a disease because some diseases can have lasting, damaging effects on your body which can be completely avoided by getting vaccinated instead. Getting immunized protects you and those around you by limiting the spread of disease. The more people who are vaccinated, the less likely a major outbreak will occur which is key to creating Herd Immunity.
- **Many diseases for which we immunize for don't exist anymore** - That's not true. Diseases like polio or measles are rare because generations of people were immunized against them, but outbreaks do occur all over the world today and with so many people able to travel frequently, exposure can happen.
- **Vaccines make you sick** - Vaccines help our immune systems to fight infection faster and more effectively. Vaccines are made of very small amounts of weak or dead germs, so they won't make you sick. The vaccines spark an immune response so some people experience mild side effects such as low grade fever, malaise, or soreness at the injection site. Also, vaccines go through rigorous testing by the FDA before they can be released to the public, so they are safe.
- **Vaccines cause Autism** - The idea that vaccines cause autism came from a long-since-discredited and retracted study that incorrectly linked the measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine to autism. This connection has never been accurately confirmed.

Immunizations play an important role in keeping your family and your community healthy. Immunization helps protect those who are the most vulnerable to illness, such as infants, elders, and those with weakened immune systems. If you would like to learn more about immunizations, find out which vaccines you may need, or even find low or no cost sites to receive vaccines you can scan the QR code below or visit www.cdc.gov/vaccines/tool/adult.html



Emily Burk, RN, OSUCC Parish Nurse



August Duties

Liturgist

August 4 Jeremy Schouten
August 11 Jamie Prellwitz
August 18 Heidi Schwanke
August 25 Keith Mulder

Gatekeepers

August 4 Rick & Barb Stracy
August 11 Sue Wrzinski, Emily & Dennis Burk
August 18 Pat Gittens
August 25 Keith & Becky Mulder

Audio Operator

August 4 Phil Manthei
August 11 Kelly Mundell
August 18 Bob Meyer
August 25 John Kwiatkoske

Coffee Hour

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

Communion Servers

August 4 Patti Schaalma & Rick Stracy

Usher/Greeters

August 4 Team 6
August 11 Team 1
August 18 Team 2
August 25 Team 3

Altar Guild Monthly Committee

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

Van Drivers

August 4 Rick Stracy
August 11 Jackie Bogucke
August 18 Tom Carr
August 25 Bob Lueck

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

August 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 9:00 am Mind, Body, Soul Clinic 5:30 pm VBS Final Day No 6:30 Worship Service	2	3
4 9:00 am Worship Service with Communion & Schultz Family Singers 10:00 am Blood Pressure Clinic 4:30 pm Pack Committee Meeting	5	6 5:00 pm Sharing Table Community Meal 6:30 pm Pack 3735 Den Mtg	7	8 9:00 am Mind, Body, Soul Clinic 9:30 am Called to Care 6:30 pm Worship Service	9	10
11 9:30 am Worship Service 4:00 pm Den Meeting	12 6:30 pm Church Council Mtg	13 6:30 pm Pack 3735 Den Mtg	14	15 9:00 am Mind, Body, Soul Clinic 6:30 pm Worship Service	15	17 September Messenger Deadline
18 9:00 am Worship Service	19 4:30 pm Worship Mtg 5:30 pm Christian Ed Mtg 6:30 pm Evangelism Mtg	20 5:30 pm Missions Mtg 6:30 pm Pack 3735 Den Mtg	21	22 9:00 am Mind, Body, Soul Clinic 6:30 pm Worship Service with Communion	23	24
25 9:00 am Worship Service	26	27 6:30 pm Pack 3735 Pack Mtg	28	29 9:00 am Mind, Body, Soul Clinic 6:30 pm Worship Service with Communion	30	31