

OUR SAVIOUR'S UCC

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OUR SAVIOUR'S  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

FAITH FAMILY FRIENDSHIP

# THE MESSENGER

Vol. 101, No. 1

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Ripon, WI.

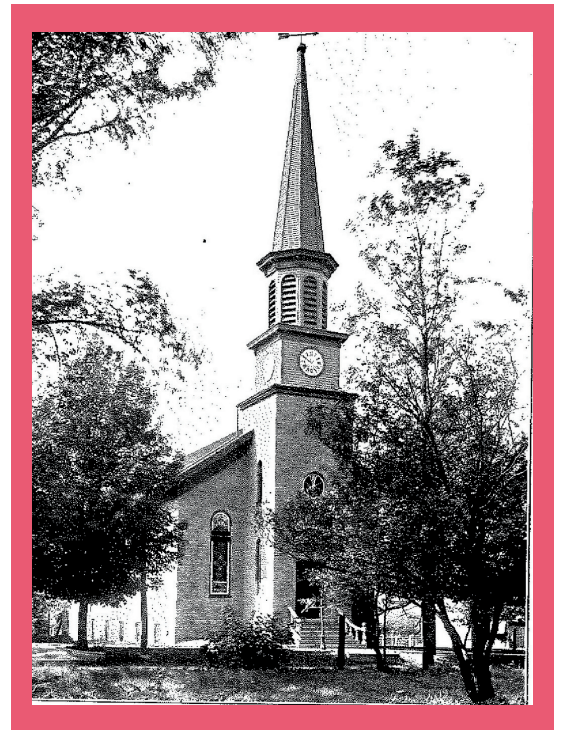


# JANUARY

# 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 February 2025 Edition of The Messenger:

Events to be included on the calendar, committee updates, articles, etc. should be submitted to the office by **January 18th** via email to the Church office, [osuccripon1@gmail.com](mailto: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**  
**343 Scott Street, Ripon, WI 54971 | 920.748.2544**  
**[www.OurSavioursUCCRipon.com](http://www.OurSavioursUCCRipon.com)**



<https://bit.ly/OSUCCFacebook>



<https://bit.ly/OSUCCYouTube>

# From the Pastor's Desk

For many of us, New Year's Day marks the beginning of the new year and the end of the holiday season, even though the Christian Liturgical season of Christmas (12 Days) is still happening through January 5th.



Our US culture seems, to me, to want Christmas to be a nostalgic season of shopping from Thanksgiving on, or for some now, from Halloween on. I was chaperoning a Rotary Club high school exchange student trip in downtown Chicago in early December and sat in on an interesting conversation with some of the students. The European students were talking to the American students about how weird it was that we already had our decorations up. Most of them said they didn't get a tree or decorate their houses until a couple of days before Christmas eve and sometimes not until Christmas eve. They couldn't get over how decorated all downtown Chicago was, but they also noticed how little of it reflected Jesus.

I thought about that conversation much of the way home and realized that for me, Christmas simply points to Easter and that without Easter, there really is no Christmas. God with us happened all throughout the stories of Israel's history, whether God came in a burning bush, or pillar of fire, or as the angel of death, or as three travelers, or to give wisdom or strength to God's faithful. God with us is found throughout the Old Testament scriptures.

God dying for us because God loves us is a very different story and changes the meaning of Christmas. It gives Christmas a more profound meaning as Jesus' death and resurrection changes our relationship with God and God's relationship with us.

The season of Epiphany follows Christmas, starting with the baptism of Jesus and God declaring that he is special. It ends with the transfiguration of Jesus, showing us a glimpse of the hope we have in the resurrected Jesus for when he returns to bring God's beloved Kingdom fully into being.

This makes January a fascinating month every year as we start in Christmas, celebrate Jesus' baptism, and at the same time our own baptism into what Jesus is doing for us; and then ends on the journey to get to know Jesus through his acts of ministry.

What changes everything is Jesus' willingness to lay down his life in love for us. What changes everything is Jesus' suffering becoming a part of God; Jesus' death, death itself becoming part of God. Jesus living completely faithful to God, trusting in God alone for his sense of who he was even as we put him to death on the cross. God through the spirit raising Jesus from the dead changes everything for us.

What is it like to realize that God has done this for you because God loves you? It is like when my new grandson's face lights up with a smile at seeing and discovering something new and amazing. It's like when he giggles uncontrollably with joy at water being poured on him while taking a bath, creating an amazing sensation for him. It's like when his eyes light up and he shakes uncontrollably in recognition of one of the people he knows loves him with everything.

Jesus experiences the spirit of God in his baptism and starts his ministry, which is one of sharing, caring, forgiving, healing and loving. Jesus gives that spirit to us in our own baptism and that spirit brings the Joy of knowing God loves us. Let us enter this Epiphany being filled with God's spirit of Joy and sharing that Joy with those around us.

# Committee News

## Altar Guild

The 2025 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. Thank you!



Our next meeting is Sunday, January 19th 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 a Blood Pressure Clinic the first Sunday of every month after the worship service. This month that date is January 5th. She 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](mailto:osuccpnripon1@gmail.com).

Called to Care has started planning our next community learning event for Spring 2025. We'll be sharing more details in the future months.

The next Called to Care meeting will be held Thursday, January 9th, 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*

Our next committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 20th, at 5:30 PM.

- **Adult Ed:** Meets at 10:30 AM after Worship Service.
- **Christian Ed Classes:** Sunday School meets at 10:15 AM after Worship Service.
- **Confirmation Class:** We have a class underway. Contact Rev. Mundell if you would like to join the class.
- **Nursery:** We have a child/parent space available in the Southwest Corner of the Sanctuary.

## *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, January 20th, at 6:30 pm.

# More Committee News

## Evangelism Committee

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Our next committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 20th, at 6:30 pm.



## Mission Committee

We are so appreciative of all who donated their baked goods to the church's Holiday Bake Sale on December 15th. Thank you so much!

We also thank you very much for your generous support of the Ripon Santa Club. This year we received beautiful hand-knit hats, gloves, and even adorable little socks; books; games; gloves; gift cards; and the free will offering from the "Christmas is in the Air" concert. All total, the monetary donations came to \$907! That's wonderful!



As you recall, we continued support of Traded Treasurers Community Food Pantry's Holiday Meal Program through December 18th to help provide family Christmas meals. At the time of this newsletter, we've received \$200 in donations from our members and a generous donation from our Women's Guild of \$450. Thank you all for helping those in need in our community!

Missions Committee will meet next until Tuesday, January 21, 2025, at 5:30 pm. Anyone interested in joining the committee is welcome to attend.



## Worship Committee

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 Monday, January 20th, at 4:30 pm. Anyone interested in joining the committee is welcome to attend.

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## OSUCC Church Council

The date for our Annual Meeting is scheduled for February 16, 2025. The 2024 Annual Report will be available for members to review on February 2nd, two weeks prior to the meeting.

In order to hit that February 2nd date, we will need all committee reports submitted to the Church Office in electronic format by no later than noon on Thursday, January 23rd so they can be added to the report. Please email those to [osuccripon1@gmail.com](mailto:osuccripon1@gmail.com). Thank you!

# Ministries, Projects, and News

## The Ripon Free Community Meals



Happy Anniversary to us! On January 2, 2024 we served our very first Sharing Table Free Community Meal, with 75 meals served. Fast forward 12 months, and we now regularly serve around 120 meals per month and have been seeing more families attending.

Financially, the program is self-sustaining thanks to both the grants we have applied for, and received, and the generous free will donations that are left by the diners each month. That's wonderful!

We are very appreciative of all our of volunteers who help prep, serve, and cleanup after the meal each month, and all of our very talented bakers, who really helped cement OSUCC's reputation for not only serving tasty meals, but also serving THE BEST home-made desserts! We are so blessed. A heartfelt thank you to all of you for helping this program succeed. We couldn't do this without you!

The menu for our January 7th meal is chili with a choice of toppings, grilled cheese, and fruit salad. For dessert, we're asking our talented bakers to make a 9x13 pan of a bar dessert--brownies, blondies, lemon bars, brown sugar pop tart bars, cheesecake bars, the opportunities are endless... Your know how well your desserts excite and delight our diners, keeping them indecisively hovering over the dessert table. It's fun to watch!

Look for the volunteer sign-up boards in the East Narthex again for the next three months of meals. Each month has food prep needs specific to the menu being served. As volunteers there are different ways to be involved and your time is very much appreciated.

## Women's Wild Winter Weekend!

Registration opens for the February 21-23, 2025 Women's Wild Winter Weekend on December 16th! There is an option to go on February 20th as well. The theme for camp will be Kindness, and the Saturday dinner theme will be "Tailgate Party" so make sure to pack your favorite team wear and accessories!



While you can register online, we highly recommend calling 715-479-8255 instead. OSUCC generously provides scholarships to all our ladies who attend this wonderful event, so make sure to tell the registrar that when you call so that you don't pay the camp fee yourself. The camp will bill the church for our entire group at the close of registration.

WWWW offers moments of personal reflection, singing, crafts, group activities, and enjoying fellowship time. Indulge in self-care at the Comfort Corner, browse the Silent Auction, savor the delights of the fabulous Saturday night banquet (featuring a chocolate fountain bar), join in uplifting worship, and, of course, relish ample time to immerse yourself in the quiet yet wild beauty of Moon Beach in winter.

Please join the many ladies from our Saviour's who will be going, and be prepared to meet more ladies from other UCC churches in Wisconsin also. If you'd like to talk to someone about camp, you can ask Boni Jensen, Judy Heitman, Becky Mulder, Debbie Han, Jackie Bogucke, Kelly Mundell, Pat Gittens, or Debbie Cluppert.

# More Ministries, Projects, and News

## Matthew 25: Ministries Pill Bottle Collection

**4,845 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 2024, we sent 12 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

**20,884 Pop Tabs in 2024!**



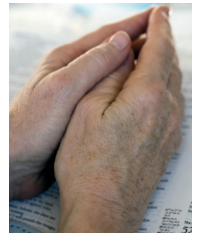
Tabs can come from a variety of cans such as pet food, beverage cans, soup cans, tuna cans, etc. We appreciate all of those who have already donated their tabs, or are still working on their collection jar at home! We understand that even friends of friends have begun collecting and donating too, how 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: *Sandra Badtke, Cattibree Dailey, Tara Koller, Sue Meyer, 12 unspoken, and all others.*

*The Family and Friends of Diane Miller, sister of Arnie Dahlke and Carol Grandt, who passed away on December 9th.*



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



## From Our Parish Nurse

### *7 Tips to Keep Your New Year's Resolutions*

For many making a New Year's resolution is a yearly tradition, although some of us fall short of reaching our goals. Here are seven tips to help you make and stick to your New Year's resolutions.

1. Be picky about your resolutions- You may want to lose weight, eat more vegetables, quit smoking, volunteer more and spend more time with family. Experts recommend picking one, maybe two things to focus on. This sets you up to achieve specific goals instead of feeling like a failure for achieving none of them.
2. Plan your resolution- Think through and research how you want to accomplish your resolution and how long it might take to reach your goal. Proper planning will help ensure you can see it through to the end.
3. Set very specific goals- Many of us say our resolution is to "exercise more", but what does that really mean? Be detailed with your resolution, it could be "exercise 30 minutes daily", this gives you a measurable goal to reach each day.
4. Don't take on too much- Start small and avoid setting an overly high expectation of yourself. For example, if your resolution is to lose weight, pick a small but realistic weight loss goal such as 5 pounds in two months. Once you reach that goal, you can think about losing another 5 pounds. Setting small goals to start can help you achieve big results in the end.
5. Choose a new resolution- Avoid picking a resolution you've tried in the past and failed to accomplish. Pick something different where you can plan and set yourself up for success.
6. Identify accountability partners for support- We function better with community around us, motivating and supporting us and reminding us why we chose that New Year's resolution in the first place. Find and lean on people for support, such as a friend to keep your exercise resolution on track, or a spouse to help with healthier eating habits.
7. Give your resolution time to become a habit- Studies show it takes on average 66 days to form a new habit, new routines don't just become habit overnight. Be patient with yourself.

If you have minor setbacks or don't hit your goal one week, pick it back up the next week, just keep working at your goal and eventually it will become second nature. If you are having difficulty coming up with a New Year's Resolution, January is National Walk Your Dog Month. It's a perfect way to kickstart your year by establishing healthy habits for both you and your dog!

For more information you can visit: <https://health.ucdavis.edu/blog/cultivating-health/7-tips-to-keep-your-new-years-resolution/2022/12><https://nationaltoday.com/walk-dog-month/>

*Happy New Year!*

Emily Burk, RN, OSUCC Parish Nurse



# January Duties

## Liturgist

January 5 Dianne Heyn  
January 12 Cal Fischer  
January 19 Rorie Nitz  
January 26 Jamie Prellwitz

## Gatekeepers

January 5 Rick & Barb Stracy  
January 12 Sue Wrzinski, Dennis & Emily Burk  
January 19 Pat Gittens  
January 26 Keith & Becky Mulder

## Audio Operator

January 5 Bob Meyer  
January 12 Keith Mulder  
January 19 Phil Manthei  
January 26 Kelly Mundell

## Coffee Hour

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

## Usher/Greeters

January 5 Team 1  
January 12 Team 2  
January 19 Team 3  
January 26 Team 4

## Altar Guild Monthly Committee

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

## Van Drivers

January 5 Rick Stracy  
January 12 Jackie Bogucke  
January 19 Tom Carr  
January 26 Bob Lueck

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

## Bulletin Delivery

Bulletins are mailed out on Wednesday's

## Communion Servers

January 5 Buck Kwiatkowski & Patti Schaalma

# January 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 9:00 am Mind, Body, Soul Clinic 5:15 pm Sr Choir 5:45 pm Lego Club 6:30 pm Worship Service with Communion	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> 9:00 am Worship with Communion 10:00 am BP Clinic 4:30 pm Pack 3735 mtg 6:30 pm Lego Club	<b>6</b> 6:15 pm Puppets	<b>7</b> 5:00 pm <b>Sharing Table</b> <b>Community Meal</b> 6:30 pm Pack 3735 Den Mtg	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 9:00 am MBS Clinic 9:30 am Called to Care 5:15 pm Sr Choir 5:45 pm Lego Club 6:30 pm Worship Service	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> 9:00 am Worship Service 10:15 am Sunday School 6:30 pm Lego Club	<b>13</b> 6:15 pm Puppets 6:30 pm Church Council Mtg	<b>14</b> 6:30 pm Pack 3735 Den Mtg	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 9:00 am MBS Clinic 5:15 pm Sr Choir 5:45 pm Lego Club 6:30 pm Worship Service	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> <b>February Messenger Deadline</b>
<b>19</b> 9:00 am Worship Service 10:15 Sunday School 10:00 am Altar Guild 6:30 pm Lego Club	<b>20</b> 4:30 pm Worship Mtg 5:30 pm Christian Ed Mtg 6:15 pm Puppets 6:30 pm Evangelism Mtg	<b>21</b> 5:30 pm Missions Mtg 6:30 pm Pack 3735 Den Mtg	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 9:00 am MBS Clinic <b>Noon 2024 Committee Reports Due</b> 5:15 pm Sr Choir 5:45 pm Lego Club 6:30 pm Worship Service	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> 9:00 am Worship Service 10:15 Sunday School 6:30 pm Lego Club	<b>27</b> 6:15 pm Puppets	<b>28</b> 6:30 pm Pack 3735 Den Mtg	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 9:00 am MBS Clinic 5:15 pm Sr Choir 5:45 pm Lego Club 6:30 pm Worship Service with Communion	<b>31</b>	