

# **Our Saviour's United Church of Christ**

**343 Scott St. Ripon, WI 54971**

**920-748-2544 / E-MAIL: [osuccripon@charter.net](mailto:osuccripon@charter.net) / WEBSITE: [www.OurSavioursUCCripon.com](http://www.OurSavioursUCCripon.com)**

**Reverend Dr. Kevin Mundell**

**Reverend Harley Tretow, Pastor Emeritus**

## **From the Pastor's Desk**

**October 2018**



I have been blessed with many great teachers in life, probably, the smartest I was blessed to learn from was Prof. Gerhard Forde at Luther seminary in St. Paul, MN. When I studied under him he was considered one of the four top scholars on Luther in the world. His office was a corner office in a tower with books from the floor to ceiling and a ladder on wheels that rolled around the entire room. He had read every book in his office and could remember what was in most of them. He was amazing and touched me with profound insights that shaped my faith.

He had retired from teaching between the first and second time I studied at Luther. And while I was there for the second time, he sadly died between two of my visits on campus. What saddened me even more was that he died from dementia. One of the greatest minds I ever encountered died not remembering who his friends were and barely remembering who his wife was at his side when he passed. It hurt to think that God let that brilliant man forget everything he had taught me and thousands of others.

I struggled with the reality that the brilliant Forde died not remembering much of anything. But then one day I found myself laughing at his passing and his dementia as I suddenly realized how profoundly God was present in Forde's death. You see, at the heart of everything Gerhard Forde preached and taught was the radical grace of God seen in the cross of Christ.

The change came over me one day while I was meditating on scripture. Forde's voice suddenly whispered into my head one of the most profound things he ever said to me in class, "We humans do not want and do not like God's grace. What we want is to self-justify and the cross of Christ negates all of our attempts." What he understood at the deepest level was that the only response to grace is gratitude.

As Forde would put it, we come into this world by grace into a situation of grace where we need others to make it. We then grow up trying to erase the need for grace and do everything for ourselves. We then try and prove to the world and ourselves our value and worth, which in reality is our self-justification or as he bluntly put it, our sin. And when life goes sideways putting us in positions where we need help, we either seek help and respond with gratitude or we try and pay back or return to self-sufficiency as quick as possible, which again is often self-justification. And it really shows up when we get sick or older and our bodies and mind start to betray us, and we need the help of others. When we understand the grace of God, we ask for help and are grateful when it is given. If

we don't understand God's grace, we don't ask for help when needed and we try to do things for ourselves when we shouldn't. And we are upset that we are dependent upon others, because secretly, we still want to self-justify.

For Gerhard Forde, as one of my professors, who was his closest friend, shared with me, he was grateful to the end for everyone who helped him remember who he was and had been, for everyone who helped him with day to day things as his mind broke and his body followed. He was grateful for everyone who simply spent time with him and loved him as he slowly passed away. He was grateful because with every ounce of his being he trusted in God and God's grace for him.

God's Grace is Sufficient

Rev. Dr. Kevin P. Mundell

### October: National Breast Cancer Awareness Month:

Breast cancer is the second most common kind of cancer in women. About 1 in 8 women born today in the United States will get breast cancer at some point. The good news is that most women can survive breast cancer if it's found and treated early. A mammogram – the screening test for breast cancer – can help find breast cancer early when it's easier to treat. National Breast Cancer Awareness Month is a chance to raise awareness about the importance of detecting breast cancer early. Make a difference! Spread the word about mammograms, and encourage communities, organizations, families, and individuals to get involved. How can National Breast Cancer Awareness Month make a difference? We can use this opportunity to spread the word about steps women can take to detect breast cancer early. Here are just a few ideas: -Ask doctors and nurses to speak to women about the importance of getting screened for breast cancer. -Encourage women ages 40 to 49 to talk with their doctors about when to start getting mammograms. -Organize an event to talk with women ages 50 to 74 in your community about getting mammograms every 2 years.



Our Saviour's office hours will be: M-T=9-12 & 1-3 pm/ W=10-12 & 1-3 pm/ TH-F= 9-12 pm. Please call (920) 748-2544 if you need to make arrangements for the office to be open after hours.

**\*\*DEADLINE FOR NOVEMBER MESSENGER** - Please submit your events/articles electronically to the office by **October 25th** to [osuccripon@charter.net](mailto:osuccripon@charter.net). **in word format only. Please, no PDF's.** Replying by the deadline really helps...**Thank you!**

## **COMMITTEE NEWS**

### **ALTAR GUILD**

**ALTAR & ORGAN FLOWERS** – Sign up in the church office for Sunday altar or organ flowers in Memory of a loved one OR Celebration of an occasion. Altar flowers are \$25 and organ flowers are \$16. Checks should be payable to the Altar Guild. Please pick up your fresh flowers after the church service, on the day you want them on the altar. They will be available in the Altar Guild room. Thank you!

**Anniversary Sunday:** October 14<sup>th</sup>, couples will receive roses with baby's breath.

Looking Ahead...-Next meeting-Sunday October 21<sup>st</sup> at 10:15 am.

### **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

Meets the 3rd Monday of the month at 6:15 pm. Do you have questions or concerns? Please join us at one of our meetings. There are 13 Sunday School students and 5 Confirmands presently enrolled.

Sunday October 14th the Sunday School students will be performing "Father Abraham". Sunday October 21st the Sunday School students will perform with the "Puppets". Sunday November 11th the Sunday School students will go shopping for "Harvest In Gathering".

Looking Ahead... Next Meeting-Monday October 15th at 6:15 pm.

### **SENIOR CHOIR**

*Kathy Schieler is retiring from the leadership role. Thank you, Kathy, for all your hard work and dedication with serving the Senior Choir!*

### **EVANGELISM COMMITTEE**

**2018 FRIENDSHIP TIME:** Sign-up sheets are located outside of the office on the bulletin board.

Coffee and juice are supplied by the Evangelism Committee.

**WEBSITE:** When you have any committee information or news that you would like on the website, please e-mail it to [osuccripon@gmail.com](mailto:osuccripon@gmail.com) or hand it to Judy Lueck. We would like to have information easy to access for members and our website can be the source. Pictures will be published once permission from the people in the picture has been granted. Permission slips will be coming shortly. Thank you!

**UPPER ROOM** -The September/October issue is available for purchase in the East, North and South Narthex. They are \$1.00 each. Please put the money in the boxes located by these and not in the collection plate. Thanks for your help!

Looking Ahead... Next Meeting - October 15<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 pm

### **MISSIONS COMMITTEE**

**"OPERATION SHOEBOX for CHILDREN":** Yes! The boxes are ready to hold your donations of socks, underwear, shoes, sandals, school supplies, toys, a personal note or photo of yourself/family, handmade crafts such as finger puppets, hairbows, or friendship bracelets & personal hygiene items, such as bar soap or washcloths! Find a detailed list in the East Narthex! Did you know that our church family kids fill their own boxes from our donations and they get excited doing so, especially with the holidays coming up? Remember this outreach as you go shopping!

**DO NOT INCLUDE:** Candy; toothpaste; used or damaged items war-related items such as toy guns, knives, or military figures; chocolate or food; fruit rolls or other fruit snacks; drink mixes (powdered or liquid); liquids or lotions; medications or vitamins; breakable items such as snow globes or glass containers; aerosol cans.

**NEED BAKERS AND COOKS:** The Missions Committee is holding a bake sale at Russell Manor on October 6th from 9 am to 10 am and Willowbrooke on October 6th from 10:30 am to 11:30 am. We need single portions please. Drop off your items in the church kitchen. Thank you!

Looking Ahead... Next Meeting - October 15th, 5:30 pm

**Gideon Bible Presentation is October 21<sup>st</sup>**

### **STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE**

**STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY** will be November 11<sup>th</sup>. We will sponsor the breakfast that day as well.

**Loose Coin Update:** We are still using the loose coins in the offering plate for special projects.

Here is a list of outreach initiatives:

January - Student Scholarships \$78.28

February - Solutions Center \$63.00

March - Pilgrim Camp \$104.00

April - K-9 Unit of Ripon \$92.00

May/June - Vacation Bible School

July-Shoe Box Project \$116.73

August - Back to School \$82.40

September - Diverse Options

October - Salvation Army

November - Ripon Food Pantry \$92

December- Anti-Crime Education of Ripon (ACE)

*Thanks for your continued support!*

### **\*\*FROM THE COUNCIL\*\***

**"CAMP"ITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE:** Our July total was \$605. Our August total was \$10. Only \$1,385 left to reach our 3-year goal of \$30,000. Let's cross the finish line in style!

**NEW SIGN FUND** - We have established a new sign fund to begin fundraising for the replacement of the exterior sign of the Church, currently located on the lawn between the north porch and the chapel sidewalk. Our goal is to raise \$20,000 before we move further on the project. (Sign cost is around \$10,000, but this does not include expenses like electrical, any additional concrete work, landscaping and other incidentals). Looking Ahead... Next Meeting Monday- September 10<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 pm

### **BLOSSOM SCHOOL!**

The Blossom school will be using the downstairs conference room and two rooms attached. Because our building is not locked during church office hours the school will need to lock off that section of the building during public school hours and there will be a buzzer to ring to access that space for the protection of the children. When the school is not in session the doors will be unlocked and the rooms available for church use and other organizations. At times we may be asked to lock our entrance doors due to safety issues and or drills that the children need to practice. In this event, please call the church office to be let in. We look forward to this opportunity to use our building to serve a need in the Ripon community.



### *Our sympathy and Prayers*

To the family of Fern Wagner, 92, who passed away on September 4th, at Prairie Place in Ripon. The grave side service was held on September 12th, with Rev. Kevin Mundell officiating. Memorials may be directed to Agnesian Hospice Hope, 745 South St. Suite 4, Green Lake, WI 54941. To the family of Betty Retzlaff, 83, who passed away on September 16th. The memorial and funeral services were held on September 22nd, with Rev. Kevin Mundell officiating.

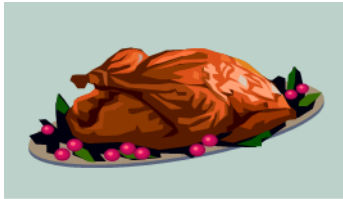
Memorials may be directed to either The American Cancer Society, N19W24350 Riverwood Dr, Waukesha, WI 53188 or Our Saviour's United Church of Christ, 343 Scott St, Ripon, WI 54971.



## **OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **BREAKFAST NEWS:**

It is that time of the year again. School has started, football season is here, Sunday School is in session and with that it means it is time to have breakfast on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month. We are looking for church committees or groups of church members to be sponsors for breakfast. Anyone interested is to please contact Nancy Henning. This is always a great time for fellowship and food. And to see what will appear on the menu!



### **16<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL TURKEY DINNER!!!**

Saturday, October 27, 2018 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM

The temps are getting cooler. The apples, squash and pumpkins are ready. We need to get ready for the annual turkey dinner. The money made from this dinner goes to the general fund of the church. 10% of the profit made

will be donated to the RIPON UNITED WAY. The dinner is served family style and will consist of Roasted turkey, Mashed potatoes, Dressing, Gravy, Vegetables, Squash, Sauerkraut, Cranberry relish, Dinner rolls, Dessert and Beverage. **HOME DELIVERY IS AVAILABLE!** In the Ripon city limits. Noon delivery is at 11:30 AM and evening delivery is at 5:00 PM. You may sign up for the home delivery in the church office or by calling the church office by Thursday, October 25<sup>th</sup> at Noon.

Tickets will be available to purchase in advance at RIPON DRUG, BMO HARRIS BANK AND THE CHURCH OFFICE! Tickets will also be available at the door the day of the dinner. **CARRY OUTS** are only available from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM. **TICKET PRICES:** ADULTS: \$10 SENIORS: \$9 (65 AND OLDER) CHILDREN: \$5 (AGE 4-10) CHILDREN UNDER 4 EAT FREE! Any questions please feel free to contact Nancy Henning at (920) 398-3535 or (920) 229-3486. Hope to see you all there! Look for the donation board and take a slip for two or more for the supplies needed to make this dinner happen. Please sign the clip board with your name and the number on the slip you took. Donations of food need to be at the church kitchen by **MONDAY, OCTOBER 22<sup>ND</sup>**! Also, there are people making calls to find people to work for the dinner and to help prep the food. This is a week-long effort to get everything done. Hopefully you can say yes if asked. If for some reason you are not asked but would like to help please contact Nancy. Many hands make light work! It is a lot of work, but there is fun, food, fellowship and memories made each day! Turkey to roast and debone, squash to bake, bread to cut for dressing, onions and celery to chop, cranberry relish to make, desserts to make, turkey to cut, dressing to make, dining room to set up and much more. We **NEED** everyone's help to accomplish all of this!

Please contact Becky Mulder at (920) 960-0879 or Julie Stellmacher at (920) 369-0044 or Debbie Hahn at (920) 960-7929 or Nancy Henning at (920) 398-3535 or (920) 229-3486 to volunteer to help! Please respond as soon as possible. We appreciate your willingness to volunteer!