

OUR SAVIOUR'S UCC
343 SCOTT STREET
RIPON, WI 54971

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THE MESSENGER

Vol. 100, No. 5

May 2024

Ripon, WI.

May

HAPPY
MOTHER'S
DAY

Welcome to The Messenger

Published by Our Saviour's UCC since 1924

Page 2 From the Pastor's Desk

Page 3 Committee News

Page 4 More Committee News

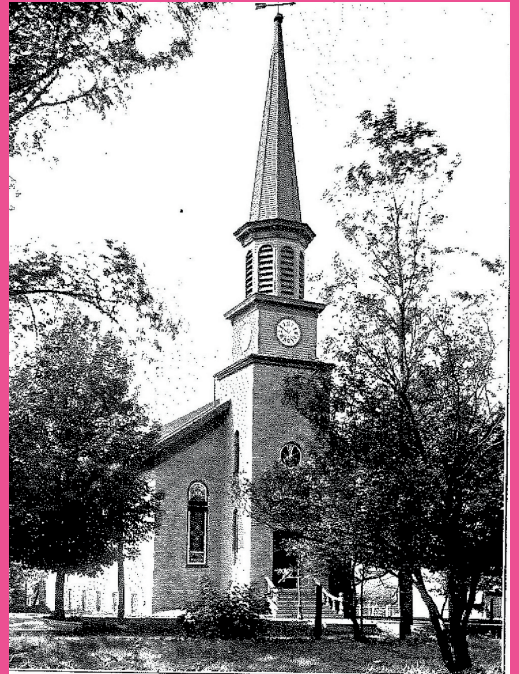
Page 5 Ministries and OSUCC Projects

Page 6 Other News in OSUCC

Page 7 From Our Parish Nurse

Page 8 May Duties Schedule

Page 9 May Calendar



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.

DEADLINE FOR THE June 2024 MESSENGER:

Events to be included on the calendar, committee updates, articles, etc. should be submitted to the office by **May 18th**.

Email these to the Church office at osuccrippon1@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



From the Pastor's Desk

I have been spending a lot of time lately thinking about guilt, especially at the cultural level where it affects most of us at an unconscious level, affecting how we think about ourselves and God. I am finding two very big and different guilts crushing different people differently, and I believe the gospel speaks to both-- but in very different ways.



The first guilt comes to us in an interesting way. Most of our distant ancestors were ruled kings and queens, who we were told were put in place by God according to the church, which the rulers then confirmed. Through a series of revolutions in the west we overthrew all the monarchies and replaced them with nation states ruled by people following a set of agreed upon laws.

For this new nation state system to work we needed most people following all the laws and enough police to stop the non-law followers from messing too many things up. So we said, "Good people follow the law and bad people don't." To get people to take the law more seriously we said our laws were built on God's laws, which make them even better, so good Christians and good people follow the laws and non-Christian bad people don't.

For this new nation state system to work we needed most people following all the laws and enough police to stop the non-law followers from messing too many things up. So we said, "Good people follow the law and bad people don't." To get people to take the law more seriously we said our laws were built on God's laws, which make them even better, so good Christians and good people follow the laws and non-Christian bad people don't.

What we didn't realize is that this would change the way people see God; for God to be as nothing but a judge wanting to punish us for acting badly and rewarding us for acting well, with our faith shifting to our moral actions. Guilt then became a tool to get people to behave a certain way and God became an idea to enforce the guilt.

The second guilt that has arisen is very different. It comes from a belief that at our core every one of us is magnificent and that living authentically to that in every part of our lives will enable us to become the best version of our self that we can be. Laws should only be guides to allow us to flourish, so long as we do no harm to others and allow them to flourish as well.

But to be authentic, we learned, requires feedback from others so we know we are being authentic and the best version of ourselves. As we moved toward a neoliberal version of our economy, we began turning all the aspects of our lives into a competition-- making even the feedback we need to be authentic a source of ongoing competition.

So the second guilt that we place on ourselves, as we struggle to live out so many choices while trying to show off our authenticity, is our failure to be the best version of ourselves that we can be. We ask things like, did I put enough effort into that relationship? Did I use my best ideas for that project at work? Was I a good enough friend for this person in my life? When we see other people around us being a better parent in this moment or that, we feel guilt for being so selfish and not putting forward our best effort in every moment.

What is amazing to me is that the gospel speaks to both guilts in two very different ways. The good news of Jesus' death and resurrection is that through our faith in Jesus our sins are forgiven, and that our moral actions do not save or damn us. Our faith sets us free to love freely for the sake of the other.

The good news also reminds us that God loves us, even before we try to be our authentic self. God doesn't ask us to show we are authentic, but rather asks us to be faithful to our God who loves us and to give ourselves in love to others through the authenticity that God made in us.

Committee News

Altar Guild

We are currently working on finding a source for our annual Pentecost Red Geranium flowers and have leads from Webster's who was kind enough to provide those for us. We will keep you updated as more information becomes available, including the order dates and costs.



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. Catch us at our next meeting on Sunday, May 19th, at 10:00 am in the Conference Room.

Christian Education Committee

Adult Ed: Meets at 10:30 AM after Worship Service. Christian Ed Classes: Sunday School meets at 10:15 AM after Worship Service through May 12th.



Confirmation Class: Sunday, April 28 is the Presentation of Faith Statements by the Confirmands and Confirmation is Sunday, May 5th.

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 Ladies restrooms and 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 May Blood Pressure Clinic will be held after worship service on May 5th. 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 Called to Care meeting will be held Thursday, May 9th, 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

Enhancement Committee

Do you ever wonder how it comes to be that our Chapel, Sanctuary, East Narthex, and pretty much everywhere else is decorated so beautifully throughout the entire year? This isn't done by the Altar Guild, though they are members of that group as well. What you enjoy seeing throughout the building happens through the talents, dedication, and just plain hard work of a small group of ladies who are the Enhancement Committee.

We thank you most sincerely, ladies, for what you do and for how very well you create the beauty that does truly enhance our spiritual life and fellowship time here at Our Saviour's! We are very blessed to have you here.

If you know who these four ladies are, please take a moment when you next see them to add your own personal thank you. And if you would like to become part of their team, let them know that also!

Evangelism Committee

You are invited to join the Evangelism Committee as we host a Brat Fry Fundraiser at Webster's Market on Friday, May 3rd. The event will run from 9:00 am till 3:00 pm and will be split into 2 hour shifts for those who would like to volunteers. Work as many shifts as you like! Proceeds go to Dolly Parton's Imagination Library for the Ripon area.



If you want to back bars or cookies, plan on doing a dozen unless you sign up for more. Bring in 1 container and we'll prep them for the sale. Please deliver the goodies to Webster's "Brat Spot" by 9:00 am on the 3rd or call Barb Stracy at 920-229-1183 to make other arrangements.

If you have questions or would like to sign up, please talk with Jennifer Klettke, Judy Lueck, or Barb Stracy. This is going to be a fun time! The sign up sheet is in the East Narthex.

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

We are holding a Diaper Drive in honor of Mother's Day! There is a diaper collection box in the East Narthex, as well as a monetary donation container, for those who would like to contribute to this effort. Donations will be distributed between our local Ripon Food Pantries.



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-stjude ranch.org/>

Our next meeting is Tuesday, May 14th. We are looking for at least one more member. Please speak to Julie Carr, Emily Burk, Phil Wepner, Phil Manthei, or Susan Wrzinski if you would like to join this committee.

Ministries and OSUCC Projects

Prayer Chain Ministry

IN OUR PRAYERS: Kathy Luedke, Tara Koller, 23 unspoken, and all others, including the families and friends of Bob Schouten, Edna Schwandt, Robert Sauer, and Janice Handrich 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

2,020 Pill Bottles in 2024!

Thank you for all your donations! We have caught up with counting and have already shipped four very full shipping boxes of pill bottles down to Matthew 25: Ministries.

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

6,120 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

Change to Church Security Effective May 1

Over the last several months, discussions have been held in regards to additional security for the Church. We are going to be contacting CEC (our current security company) for additional recommendations to increase our security.

We are going to take an initial step in limiting the number of exterior doors that will be unlocked for Church worship services and other church activities. The only doors that will be unlocked are the doors 1, 8, 9 on Scott Street and the door 2, the East Narthex entrance. Additionally for Thursday worship service in the Chapel, door 7 for the Chapel ramp will be unlocked.

The Ripon Free Community Meals



Mother Nature was stronger than we were in April, and we regretfully made the decision to cancel our meal on April 2 to keep both the volunteers and diners home safe where they belonged. It was the right thing to do and we will be back in force for our May 7th meal.

On May 7th, the meal is being provided by the Bob Lueck and Patti Schaalma families. The menu consists of Sloppy Joe sandwiches, chips, Orange Fluff salad, Macaroni Salad, Pickles and Brownies. Beverages will include decaf coffee, white milk, and water.

We should be set for volunteers in the dining room for the May meal, but if you would like to help with the June meal please contact Barb Stracy at 920-229-1183. If you would like to help Nancy Henning with food prep or in the kitchen for the June meal, please contact Nancy at 920-229-1183.

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.



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

From Our Parish Nurse

May is National Stroke Awareness Month

Every 40 seconds someone in the U.S. has a stroke. It is the number 5 cause of death and the leading cause of disability in the U.S. and up to 80% of strokes can be prevented.

A stroke occurs when blood to the brain is blocked by either a clot (called an ischemic stroke) or when a blood vessel ruptures (called a hemorrhagic stroke). Another type of stroke is a TIA, or mini stroke, which is caused by a temporary clot. Effects of a stroke depend on the region of the brain that blood can't reach and what particular body function that region controls.

Treatment is centered around removal of the clot or stopping the bleeding by either giving an IV medication to dissolve a clot or by surgical intervention to remove a clot or repair the vessel to stop the bleeding. In cases where stroke patients received the IV clot busting drug within 90 minutes of their first symptoms, they were 3 times more likely to recover with little or no disability. And in cases where a procedure is needed to remove the clot causing the stroke, 91% of stroke patients who were treated within 150 minutes of first symptoms recovered with little or no disability.

The faster a stroke is recognized and treated the more likely it is that the person is able to recover with little or no disability. Use the letters in F.A.S.T. to spot a stroke.

- F= Facial droop
- A= Arm Weakness
- S= Speech difficulty
- T= Time to call 911

Other stroke symptoms may include: numbness of the face, arm, or leg, especially on one side of the body, confusion, trouble seeing, trouble walking, or severe headache.

Some risk factors for stroke include: high blood pressure, smoking/vaping, diabetes, high cholesterol, physical inactivity and obesity, A fib or other heart/arterial disease, certain blood or clotting disorders, excessive alcohol use, illegal drug use, sleep apnea, and TIAs.

To learn more about strokes or to get a better understanding of controllable risk factors visit <https://www.stroke.org/en/>

Emily Burk, RN, OSUCC Parish Nurse





May Duties

Liturgist

May 5 Cal Fischer
May 12 Dianne Heyn
May 19 Phil Manthei
May 26 Keith Mulder

Usher/Greeters

May 5 Team 6
May 12 Team 1
May 19 Team 2
May 26 Team 3

Gatekeepers

May 5 Pete and Kathy Schieler
May 12 Tom and Julie Stellmacher
May 19 Rick and Barb Stracy
May 26 Sue Wrzinski, Emily & Dennis Burk

Altar Guild Monthly Committee

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

Audio Operator

May 5 Kelly Mundell
May 12 Bob Meyer
May 19 John Kwiatkoske
May 26 Phil Manthei

Van Drivers

May 5 Ricky Prellwitz
May 12 Tom Stellmacher
May 19 Rick Stracy
May 26 Jackie Bogucke

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

Communion Servers

May 5 Dianne Heyn and Keith Mulder

Bulletin Delivery

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

Coffee Hour

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

May 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2 9:00 am Mind, Body, Soul Clinic 5:15 pm Senior Choir 6:30 pm Worship Service	3 9:00 am OSUCC Brat Fry at Webster's	4
5 Confirmation 9:00 am Worship Service, Communion 10:00 am Blood Pressure Clinic	6 6:15 pm Puppets	7 5:00 pm Sharing Table Community Meal 6:30 pm Pack 3735 Den Mtg	8	9 9:00 am Mind, Body, Soul Clinic 9:30 am Called to Care 5:15 pm Senior Choir 6:30 pm Worship Service	10	11
12 Mother's Day 9:00 am Worship Service and Diaper Drive 4:00 pm Den Meeting	13 1:00 pm Science Club 6:15 pm Puppets 6:30 pm Church Council Mtg	14 5:30 Missions meeting 6:30 pm Pack 3735 Den Mtg	15	16 9:00 am Mind, Body, Soul Clinic 5:00 pm VBS Meeting 5:15 pm Senior Choir 6:30 pm Worship Service	17	18 May Messenger Deadline
19 Pentecost 9:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am Altar Guild Mtg 4:00 pm Den Mtg	20 4:30 pm Worship Committee 5:30 pm Christian Ed 6:15 pm Puppets 6:30 pm Evangelism	21 6:30 pm Pack 3735 Den Mtg	22	23 9:00 am Mind, Body, Soul Clinic 5:15 pm Senior Choir 6:30 pm Worship Service	24	25
26 9:00 am Worship Service 4:00 pm Den Mtg	27 Memorial Day 6:15 pm Puppets	28 6:00 pm Pack 3735 Rain Gutter Regatta	29	30 9:00 am Mind, Body, Soul Clinic 6:30 pm Worship Service, Communion	31	