

OUR SAVIOUR'S UCC

343 SCOTT STREET

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# THE MESSENGER

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Ripon, WI.

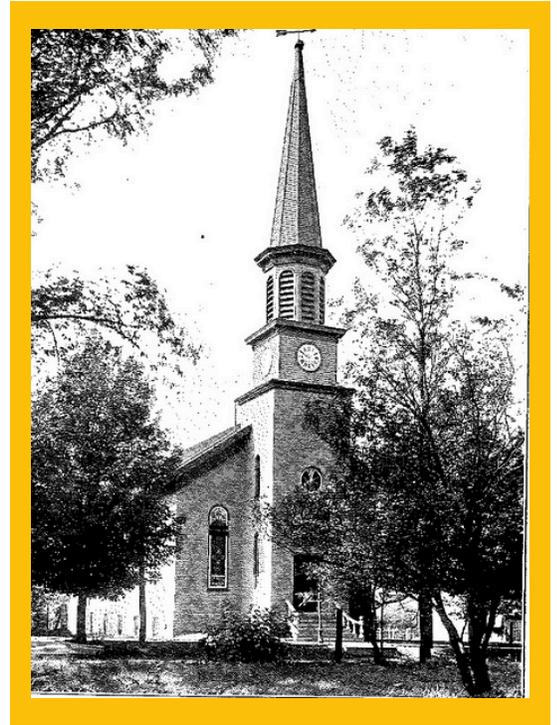


*September*

# 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 10:50 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 October 2025 Edition of The Messenger:

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



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**[www.OurSavioursUCCRipon.com](http://www.OurSavioursUCCRipon.com)**



<https://bit.ly/OSUCCFacebook>



<https://bit.ly/OSUCCYouTube>

# From the Pastor's Desk



For those of you who grew up using the Heidelberg Catechism, did you ever realize that it is set up with fifty-two days of questions and answers? It is set up so that on Sunday, we learn the questions and the answers for that day and then meditate on them for the rest of the week guiding us in our spiritual journey for a year.

And what is interesting to me is where the questions start, “What is your only comfort in life and in death?” and “What must you know to live and die in the joy of this comfort?” My question is do we see in these two questions that what God wants for us, is for us to live in God’s joy. Are you experiencing God’s joy in your life?

The simple answer to the first question is, “That I am not my own, but belong-body and soul, in life and in death-to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ.” Do you realize that this is the opposite of the dominant messages of our current US culture? Our message is that you are an autonomous self who should be allowed to pursue all your desires that lead you to your own personal happiness. What the catechism is saying is that I no longer dictate my life, but Jesus does through the spirit, so it is not about me and my happiness.

The answer to the second question is, “Three things, first, how great my sin and misery are; second, how I am set free from all my sins and misery; third, how I am to thank God for such deliverance.” Sometimes I think we miss that this is reminding us that we are forgiven. We pay attention to our rebellion against God to know how much God gave up for us. But the real power in this answer is that it directs what we do with our life, which is we live our life to thank God, we live a life of gratitude in all that we say and do toward and toward all that is God’s.

Jürgen Moltmann, in his book, “A Theology of Joy,” says it more profoundly when struggling with the question of what is the purpose or meaning for my life? He thinks the question is wrong because we tend to answer it from a utilitarian perspective by focusing on our career or what we obtained with our life. His answer is refreshing and a bit surprising. “(Humanity) is to give glory to the true God and rejoice in God and God’s own existence, for this by itself is meaningful enough. Joy is the meaning of human life, joy in thanksgiving and thanksgiving as joy (pg. 42).”

Moltmann reminds us that when God created the universe, our world and us in it, God didn’t do it out of necessity but because God simply wanted too. In Genesis when we read the creation stories, God repeats the phrase, “And it was good.” Our sin is a rebellion against God and not simply living in gratitude and joy but instead trying to show God with our achievements and failures that we are good enough for God. The point to the Heidelberg catechism’s first day of questions is to remind us that we are forgiven, we belong to Jesus, we were meant to live in gratitude and joy, and all of this is ours through faith.

**God’s Grace is Sufficient.      Rev. Dr. Kevin Mundell**

# 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 \$50 and Organ flowers are \$30 each. Radio Broadcasts are \$50 per sponsor & \$25 per sponsor per bulletin. All checks should be made out to OSUCC, with Altar Guild written on the memo line if you are sponsoring flowers, please. We no longer maintain a separate checking account.



Our next full meeting is Sunday, September 21<sup>st</sup> after the worship service. We invite anyone that would like to join Altar Guild to attend our meetings and learn more. If you have any questions, please contact Caroline Retzlaff at 920-748-2367.

## Called to Care *Committee*

Nurse Emily holds a Blood Pressure Clinic in her office that is open to all OSUCC members on the first Sunday of every month after the worship service. The September 7<sup>th</sup> Blood Pressure Clinic has been cancelled.

She holds the walk-in “Mind, Body, & Soul Clinic” in her office every Thursday from 10:00 am until Noon if you would like to stop in for a blood pressure check or would like to talk with her about your medications or any other health-related concerns or questions you might have. The September 18<sup>th</sup> MBS clinic has been cancelled.

If you would rather schedule 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). If you don't have one yet, ask her to bring some Prayer Squares along so you can choose one for yourself! These colorful, comforting hand-knit squares are made here at OSUCC.

Have you heard of Purple Sunday? It's an event to help raise awareness of Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia. We've scheduling a Fall event that ties into Purple Sunday, and so we decided to have loose change offerings on communion Thursdays and Sunday that will be donated to the Alzheimer's Association in the Fall. Save up your loose change and then look for the purple decorated digital bank jars at the entry points to the chapel and sanctuary. You can deposit your change in the bank, and see the bank's total increase as each coin drops through. It may not be just kiddos who get a kick out of using the digital change banks!

The next Called to Care meeting will be held Thursday, September 11<sup>th</sup>, at 9:30 AM in the conference room.



## *Christian Education Committee*

Our next committee meeting will be Monday, September 15<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm.

- **Adult Ed:** Sunday class will resume on Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup> after the worship service.
- **Christian Ed Classes:** Sunday School classes resume on Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup> after the worship service.
- **Confirmation Class:** Confirmation class start date to be determined, we'll post the date in the bulletin.
- **Nursery:** We have a child/parent space available in the Southwest Corner of the Sanctuary.

# More Committee News

## Evangelism Committee

We need your photo for the Church Directory, please! You can submit a non-copyrighted photo to the church office via email or drop it off, OR you can contact the office and set up a time for our volunteer photographers to take photos for you!



On Friday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> from 8 am - 2 pm we are hosting a brat fry at HyVee in Ripon. Please come support our committee and enjoy a brat or two!

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 meeting will be Monday, September 15<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 PM and we welcome new committee members!



## Mission Committee

Missions Committee will meet Tuesday, September 16<sup>th</sup>, at 5:30 pm. This is a very active committee so if you are interested in joining us, we would be happy to welcome you!

The collection for VBS's project, Kidsave Ukraine, raised \$250! Thank you for your generosity!

Operation Christmas Child Shoebox- For the month of September we will be collecting clothing and accessories for boys and girls. To see the full list of items we will be collecting throughout the year stop by the nurse bulletin board across from the church office. The collection box for these will be in the East Narthex again. Have fun with this and thank you!

This year we will be hosting a packing party where, as a church, we get together to fill the shoeboxes before the National Collection week of November 17-24<sup>th</sup>. In the meantime, we are accepting monetary donations to help cover the shipping for the boxes and also to supplement items collected as needed.

## Worship Committee

Thank you to all that came to enjoy the organ and piano concert with Jared Stellmacher on August 14<sup>th</sup>. The concert was to benefit the flood relief efforts in Southwest Texas and a total of \$700 was given as free will offerings. Thank you so much! The money is being donated to the Community Foundation of the Texas Hill Country, a 501(c)(3) public charity based in Kerrville, that will directly distribute funds to vetted local organizations providing rescue, relief, recovery services and flood assistance. The Fund will support impacted communities including Boerne, Hunt, Ingram, Kerrville, Center Point and Comfort.



Our search for a new Choir Director is ongoing and we have a post on Facebook that you can share. If you hear of someone who may be interested, please contact Barb Stracy at 920-229-1183.

The next meeting of the Worship Committee will be on Monday, September 15<sup>th</sup>, at 4:00 PM. Anyone interested in joining the committee is welcome to attend.

# Ministries, Projects, and News

## **Matthew 25: Ministries Pill Bottle Collection**

**4,814 Pill Bottles in 2025!**

Thank you for all your donations! We are so grateful for the steady donation of pill bottles of every type and size. Let's keep them multiplying in the closet like bunnies!

We are also grateful to several ladies here at OSUCC who volunteer their time to sort and pack the shipping boxes that we send out. Thank you, and you know who you are!

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 and supplies.



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 so much!

## **Pop Tabs for Ronald McDonald House**

**37,974 Pop Tabs in 2025!**



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. It's a win-win situation!

## **Prayer Chain Ministry**

In our Prayers: Jim Badtke, Sharri Dailey, Tara Koller, Emily McGuire, Sue Meyer, Mark Sabel, Barb Schultz, Joe Wrzinski, the family and friends of Sandra Badtke as they grieve her loss, the family and friends of Marilyn Hageman as they grieve her loss, the family and friends of David Wood as they grieve his loss, and 15 Unspoken.

Feel free to add yourself or a loved one to our prayer chain ministry by contacting Caroline Retzlaff at 920-748-2367.



# *More Ministries, Projects, and News*

## *The Ripon Free Community Meals*



August may have been the Dog Days of Summer, but there were no dogs present to lick the bones from the Country Style BBQ ribs everyone enjoyed at the August Community Meal! The meal was another that was well attended, with 130 meals served.

September is here which means Fall is coming with cooler temperatures, falling leaves, and the harvesting of crops underway. This calls for a hearty, sustaining meal! With that in mind, on September 2nd we'll be serving spaghetti and meatballs, salad, green beans, cheese filled breadsticks and your choice of wonderful homemade desserts made by our talented bakers that incorporates pumpkin or apples. Oh my, whatever will they make for you! Could it be cobblers, crisps, cookies, cakes, turnovers, or pies? You'll have to attend to find out!

These Sharing Table Free Community Meals are open to everyone in the community and all are welcome. Please help spread the word in the community so we can reach those new to the community who may not be aware of this ministry that is offered by five of our churches here in Ripon.

If you or someone you know is interested in helping with this meal in any way there are sign-up sheets in the East Narthex, or you can call Nancy Henning at 920-229-3486.

We could not do these meals without all of you who support this ministry by helping with prep, cooking, serving, cleaning, baking, etc. and we feel so blessed by the gift of your time and efforts! Thank you so much.

## *Welcome our New Intern*

The Wisconsin Conference of the United Church of Christ, in partnership with one of our German Ecumenical partner churches, has been given the opportunity to bring a young woman to the US to be an intern here in Wisconsin. Rev. Franz Rigert contacted Rev. Mundell and asked if Our Saviour's would like to share the intern and he said yes, with our Church Council's blessing.

The young woman is Sophie Moldenhauer, who lives in Berlin, Germany. She just finished high school and is in her gap year before college, and we are as excited to welcome her as she is for the opportunity to intern here. We don't know a lot about her yet, but we do know she likes to cook and is an avid swimmer. Ripon will be a big change for her, so when you meet Sophie please welcome her as a part of our church family!

Sophie will be arriving in the US on Thursday, September 4th, and will be living in the Parsonage with Kelly and Rev. Mundell. She will be helping at church, the conference center, and special retreats at the Daycholah Center.

In May 2026, she will move to Daycholah Center where she will intern as a lifeguard and camp counselor for the summer.

## *Save the Date*

Gobble, gobble! The date for this year's annual Turkey Dinner will be Saturday, October 25th! This is our main fundraiser for the General Fund here at OSUCC, and we do donate a percentage of profit from the dinner back to a non-profit in our community.

The donation board will be available by the end of September. Thank you!



# From Our Parish Nurse

September is National Fall Prevention Awareness Month. Falls are a leading cause of injury and hospitalization for older adults, and National Fall Prevention Awareness Month aims to educate individuals and communities on how to reduce fall risks. Here are some facts compiled from fall research.

Every 11 seconds an older adult is seen in an emergency department for a fall related injury.

- Fourteen million, or 1 in 4 Americans age 65+ falls each year
- In 2021, falls caused an estimated 38,000 deaths among those age 65+, and emergency departments reported 3 million visits due to older adult falls
- Among older adults who fall, over half receive care in a hospital; the average cost per inpatient visit for injuries related to a fall is \$18,658 and the average ER visit costs \$1,112
- In 2020, non-fatal older adult falls totaled about \$80 billion in health care costs, and that total is projected to increase to over \$101 billion by 2030
- Falling once doubles the risk of falling again

Falls, with or without injury, significantly impact an older adult's quality of life. Many older adults have a fear of falling, and as a result they limit their activities and social engagements. This can result in further physical decline, depression, social isolation, and feelings of helplessness. Many falls are preventable. Here are 6 steps you can take to prevent a fall.

- Find a good balance and exercise program: Exercise regularly and look to build balance, strength, and flexibility. Many local health departments offer programs to reduce fall risk. Find a program you like and take a friend.
- Talk to your health care provider: Ask for an assessment of your risk of falling. Share your history of recent falls. Stay on top of chronic health conditions. Monitor your blood pressure regularly.
- Regularly review your medications with your provider or pharmacist: Make sure side effects aren't increasing your risk of falling. Take medications only as prescribed, and make sure you're taking the right medications at the right time.
- Get your vision and hearing checked annually and update your eyeglasses: Your eyes and ears are key to keeping you on your feet. People with vision loss have almost twice the risk of falling as adults without visual impairment. People with hearing loss are nearly three times as likely to fall compared to those with normal hearing. Wearing a hearing aid however can reduce the risk of falling by 50%.
- Keep your home safe: Remove tripping hazards like clutter or cords from the floor, remove rugs or use nonslip mats beneath rugs, wear the right shoes, improve/increase lighting, make items easily accessible, implement home safety technology, make stairs safe by installing handrails, and install grab bars in key areas.
- Talk to your family members: Enlist their support in taking simple steps to stay safe and get help with household chores when needed. Falls are not just a seniors' issue.

For more information or to utilize their fall risk assessment tool please visit <https://www.ncoa.org/page/falls-prevention/>

Emily Burk, RN, OSUCC Parish Nurse

# September Duties



## Liturgist

Sept 7 Kelly Mundell  
Sept 14 Dianne Heyn  
Sept 21 Jeremy Schouten  
Sept 28 Rorie Nitz

## Gatekeepers

Sept 7 Pat Gittens  
Sept 14 Keith & Becky Mulder  
Sept 21 Pete & Kathy Schieler  
Sept 28 Rick & Barb Stracy

## Audio/Visual Operators

Sept 7 Keith Mulder, Phil Wepner  
Sept 14 Kelly Mundell, Judy Lueck  
Sept 21 John Kwiatkoske, Kelly Mundell  
Sept 28 Bob Meyer, Phil Wepner

## Coffee Hour

Everyone is welcome! Come enjoy coffee, juice, and baked goods after the 9:00 AM Worship Service.

Interested in hosting coffee hour? The signup book is on the counter by the microwave in the East Narthex.

## Usher/Greeters

Sept 7 Team 6  
Sept 14 Team 1  
Sept 21 Team 2  
Sept 28 Team 3

## Altar Guild Monthly Committee

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

## Van Drivers

Sept 7 Tom Carr  
Sept 14 Bob Lueck  
Sept 21 Ricky Prellwitz  
Sept 28 Rick Stracy

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

## Communion Servers

Sept 7 Bob Lueck, Rick Stracy

## Worship Bulletins

Bulletins are mailed out on Wednesday's and are also available in the North Narthex for pickup.

# September 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 5:00 pm Sharing Table Community Meal, OSUCC	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 9:00 am MBS Clinic 5:15 pm Sr Choir Practice 6:30 pm Worship Service with Communion 6:30 pm Lego Multiverse	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> 9:00 am Worship Service with Communion 10:00 am Blood Pressure Clinic 6:30 pm Lego Multiverse	<b>8</b> 6:30 pm Church Council Mtg	<b>9</b> 5:00 pm Sharing Table Community Meal, Grace Lutheran	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 9:00 am MBS Clinic 9:30 am Called to Care 5:15 pm Sr Choir Practice 6:30 pm Worship Service 6:30 pm Lego Multiverse	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> 9:00 am Worship Service 6:30 pm Lego Multiverse	<b>15</b> 4:00 pm Worship Mtg 5:30 pm Christian Ed Mtg 6:30 pm Evangelism Mtg	<b>16</b> 5:00 pm Sharing Table Community Meal, Immanuel UM 5:30 pm Missions Mtg	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 5:15 pm Sr Choir Practice 6:30 pm Worship Service 6:30 pm Lego Multiverse	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> October Messenger Deadline
<b>21</b> 9:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am Altar Guild 6:30 pm Lego Multiverse	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 5:30 pm Sharing Table Community Meal, 1 <sup>st</sup> Congregational	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 9:00 am MBS Clinic 5:15 pm Sr Choir Practice 6:30 pm Worship Service 6:30 pm Lego Multiverse	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 9:00 am Worship Service 6:30 pm Lego Multiverse	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 5:00 pm Sharing Table Community Meal, St. Catherine of Sienna				