

OUR SAVIOUR'S UCC

343 SCOTT STREET

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OUR SAVIOUR'S
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

FAITH FAMILY FRIENDSHIP

THE MESSENGER

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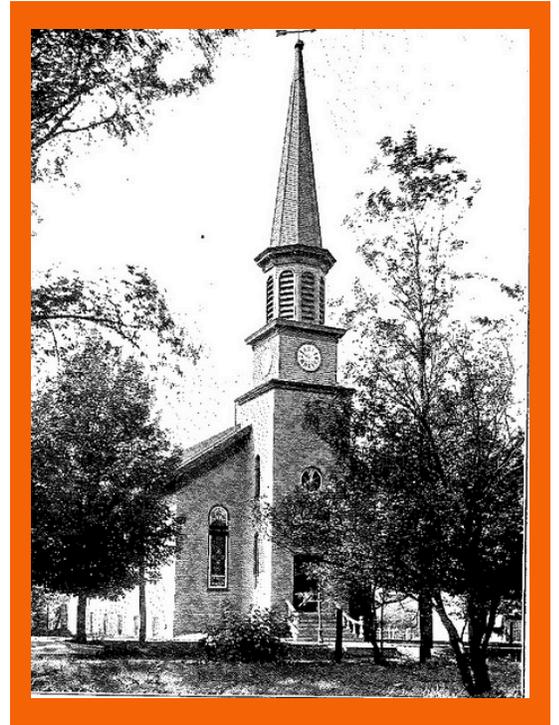
Ripon, WI.

October

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 November 2025 Edition of The Messenger:

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



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www.OurSavioursUCCRipon.com



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From the Pastor's Desk



Rev. Dr. Kevin Mundell

How do we sort through all the fear rhetoric and hate filled rhetoric permeating our culture? How do we understand what is happening to us politically, socially, and religiously as it feels like we are journeying through a major ideological class between two warring parties and God's church is completely enmeshed in the whole mess? I believe we start by remembering why Jesus came to us.

In Mark 1:15 and Matthew 4:17 Jesus begins his ministry by proclaiming, "The kingdom of God has come near." Jesus then uses many parables to explain what the kingdom is like and will become. He even makes the focus of the one prayer he teaches us to pray about the Kingdom of God, and it isn't our kingdom. Jesus' central mission was proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God. He calls us to seek the kingdom and says that as followers of him, through faith, we as Christians are now citizens in the Kingdom of God. He also says the kingdom is only partially realized and will not come in full until he returns to rule over all of God's humanity here on earth with the promise of resurrection and God making all things new through what he did on the cross.

If you look back to the second century when the persecution of Christians became significant within the Roman empire it was because they pledged allegiance to Jesus as their Lord and Savior, their one true King under the one true God. They denied the Greek and Roman Gods, their authority or power and they refused to recognize Ceasar as their king. They were a threat to social stability in the Roman world. They were killed for believing in Jesus and the Kingdom of God.

If you do a deeper dive into the kingdom of God, I believe you will find that it is gifted to us. We do not build God's kingdom; the church is not God's kingdom but is to bear witness to God's kingdom being present here and now. The church's job is to bear witness to God's kingdom as it will be with Christ at the head and to see where the spirit of God is showing us God's kingdom already present in the world around us ahead of the church.

Within all the tension in our culture and in the world, God's kingdom is already present. I get to experience it regularly when I show up at my grandson's house. I walk in and he sees me and his face lights up and he gets up and runs to me and wants me to immediately pick him up and once up, he melts his whole body into in a total hug of love. That is the kingdom of God. Or when I watch out my window as a squirrel climbs up to our bird feeder and begins scattering all the seed except for one kind out of the feeder onto the deck where fifteen to twenty birds wait eagerly for their breakfast representing at least five different species of bird; and two chip monks who all share the meal together while my cat watches salivating. That is God's kingdom already present for us.

During our life's struggles, remember the kingdom of God is near and Jesus is our Lord and Savior and King of all.

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, October 19th 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 about what Altar Guild does and the team approach we use, please feel free to contact Tammy Widlake at 920-517-1192 or Caroline Retzlaff at 920-748-2367.

Called to Care Committee

We are offering a Fall Learning Opportunity during coffee hour on Sunday October 19th. Nurse Emily will be teaching CPR and AED refresher training to us.

If you don't have one yet, pick up a Prayer Square or as Nurse Emily to bring some along when she visits so you can choose one for yourself! These colorful, comforting hand-knit squares are made here at OSUCC.

Purple Sunday is a way to raise awareness of Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia. Look for the digital change banks at the entry points to the East Narthex, Chapel, and Sanctuary to deposit any loose change in them. These will become part of an donation to the Alzheimer's Foundation to help with research.

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 next clinic is October 5th at 10:15 am.

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, would like to review your medications, or discuss any other health-related concerns or questions you might have. If you would rather schedule a visit from Nurse Emily, please call her at 920-748-2544 during office hours or email her at osuccnripon1@gmail.com.

The next Called to Care meeting will be held Thursday, October 9th, at 9:30 AM in the conference room.



Christian Education Committee

Our next committee meeting will be Monday, October 20th at 5:30 pm.

- **Adult Ed:** Sunday Adult Ed class meets from 10:30 am - 11:30 am, so do grab a coffee and treat beforehand.
- **Christian Ed Classes:** Sunday School classes meet from 10:15 am - 11:15 am.
- **Confirmation Class:** Confirmation class has begun, contact Rev. Mundell for more information.
- **Nursery:** We have a child/parent space available in the southwest corner of the West Narthex, adjacent to the back of the Sanctuary. There are restrooms nearby in the corridor leading to the Chapel that are outfitted with Koala Care changing stations for your convenience.

More Committee News

Evangelism Committee

We need still photos for the Church Directory, please! Currently we have 77 out of 206 member profiles (a profile is defined as a family or an individual). 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 3rd from 8 am - 2 pm we are hosting a brat fry at Hy-Vee in Ripon. Please come support our committee and enjoy a brat or two along with an item from our bake sale! Thank you to all those who donated baked goods for the event, we truly appreciate it.

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, October 20th, at 6:30 PM and we welcome new committee members!



Mission Committee

Missions Committee will meet Tuesday, October 21st, 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!

Operation Christmas Child Shoebox- For the month of October we will be collecting anything on full list of items. The list is on the nurse bulletin board across from the church office and the collection box for items is in the East Narthex. We'll also have the shoeboxes out for those that want to fill their own. 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 17-24th. 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

Rev. Dieter Tometten and Ute, his wife, are coming from Germany to visit in the United States in October. If you are not familiar with the name, Rev. Tometten was our exchange Pastor in 1986.

We are excited to share that they are planning to attend our October 26th worship service! You are invited to come say hello and catch up with them after the service during Coffee Hour. We thank the Senior Choir for hosting coffee hour that day, and Kathy Lang for helping get this set up.



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, October 20th, at 4:00 PM. Anyone interested in joining the committee is welcome to attend.

Ministries, Projects, and News

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 Ruby Brunet, and 17 Unspoken.

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



Matthew 25: Ministries Pill Bottle Collection

6,721 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

44,289 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!

Quote of the Month:

The quote "failure is not the falling down, but the staying down," is attributed to Mary Pickford. It means that experiencing setbacks or mistakes is a normal part of life and doesn't define you as a failure. Instead, true failure comes from a conscious decision to give up, stop trying, and refuse to get back up and learn from the experience. The quote emphasizes the importance of resilience, perseverance, and maintaining a positive mindset to keep moving forward after a setback or mistake.

More Ministries, Projects, and News

The Ripon Free Community Meals



September's Spaghetti dinner was well attended, with 130 meals served. The array of apple or pumpkin desserts were amazing, thank you to our bakers! We all enjoyed having a wonderful group of Rotarians from Peru helping serve and in the dining room. Thank you Rev. Kevin and Kelly for helping set the exchange up and including them at our dinner!

For our October 7th meal we'll be serving Brakebush chicken tenders, potatoes, vegetables, coleslaw, and our talented bakers will be making their choice of wonderful homemade desserts. Sounds amazing!

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 valuable ministry that is offered by five of our churches here in Ripon.

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.

October is a super busy month for the church kitchen, with the Sharing Table meal on October 7th, the Anniversary Sunday and member breakfast on October 12th, and the 23rd Annual Turkey Dinner on October 25th. If you, or someone you know, is interested in helping with any of these meals there are sign-up sheets in the East Narthex or you can call Nancy Henning at 920-229-3486. Help is greatly appreciated!

Anniversary and OSUCC Member Breakfast

On Sunday, October 12th, we celebrate Anniversary Sunday and honor our member couples who have been married for 50+ years. Traditionally, after the worship service we serve a breakfast down in Fellowship Hall for the Anniversary couples and all of our members. This year is no exception!

On the menu for breakfast this year is scrambled eggs, oven browned breakfast potatoes, bacon, sausage links, pancakes, sweets and beverages. We hope that all who are in church will come down to the breakfast to eat and enjoy conversations with others. A basket will be out if you wish to make a free will offering. Thank you!

Turkey Dinner Updates

This year's annual Turkey Dinner is Saturday, October 25th! This is our main fundraiser for the General Fund here at OSUCC, and this year we will donate 20% of the profit from the dinner to the Ripon Area Food Pantry and the Ripon Community Food Pantry.

Tickets are \$13 per person and are available at Hy-Vee, Ripon Drug, and our Church office. The meal is served family style for those who dine in from 4-7pm and children 5 and under eat free with their family. Delivery and Drive Thru is available from 11am-1pm and from 4-7 pm. Delivery must be scheduled by Noon on Thursday, October 23rd.

The donation board is up in the Sanctuary for those who would like to help in that way. Please have your donations at church by Monday, October 20th and thank you for helping!

Volunteer opportunities abound, and it takes a village to make this event happen. Please consider volunteering some time during the prep week or the day of the event. Even a few hours helps more than you realize! There is more information in the September 25-28 bulletin.



From Our Parish Nurse

October is Fire Prevention Month! The goal of Fire Prevention Month, and also Fire Prevention Week which is October 5th-11th this year, is to raise awareness about fire safety and help protect homes and families. In 1922 the National Fire Protection Agency or NFPA named the second week in October Fire Prevention week and in 1925 President Calvin Coolidge made Fire Prevention Month a national observance. All of this stemmed from the Great Chicago Fire of 1871.

Did you know?

- Almost 3 of every 5 home fire deaths resulted from fires with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms
- Carbon monoxide is a leading cause of accidental poisoning in the US
- Unattended cooking is the #1 cause of cooking fires
- A fire department responds to a fire every 24 seconds in America

What are some actions you can take this month and all year long to protect your home and family?

- **Test Your Alarms:** Ensure your smoke alarms, and also your carbon monoxide alarms, are working by testing them monthly, changing the batteries every 6 months, and replacing alarms at least every 10 years.
- **Have Functioning Alarms Throughout the House:** Having smoke and carbon monoxide detectors installed throughout your home is a vital piece of fire safety month and is your first line of defense. The recommendation is to have one smoke alarm on every level of the home and also one inside and outside of every bedroom. The recommendation for carbon monoxide detectors is to have one on every level of the home, especially in the basement, and one outside sleeping areas.
- **Be Prepared with Fire Extinguishers:** Fire extinguishers help stop small fires from causing more damage and should be kept in easily accessible areas. The recommendation is to have one on every level of the home along with having one in the kitchen and also in the garage.
- **Create an Escape Plan:** Develop a family escape plan with two ways out of the home and practice it regularly.
- **Practice Safe Cooking:** Be aware that unattended cooking is a leading cause of cooking fires, make sure to always remain present and attentive while you are cooking.
- **Stay Informed:** Follow the NFPA's annual themes and safety tips to learn about specific hazards. This year's theme they are focusing on is lithium-ion battery safety.
- **Educate Others:** Share fire safety information with your family, friends, and community.



Charge into Fire Safety!

This year's Fire Prevention Week™ (FPW™) campaign, October 5-11, "Charge into Fire Safety™: Lithium-Ion Batteries in Your Home," works to educate everyone about using these batteries safely. The campaign stresses how important it is to BUY, CHARGE, and RECYCLE safely when it comes to lithium-ion batteries.

Emily Burk, RN, OSUCC Parish Nurse

October Duties



Liturgist

- Oct 5 Kelly Mundell
- Oct 12 Jaime Prellwitz
- Oct 19 Heidi Schwanke
- Oct 26 Keith Mulder

Gatekeepers

- Oct 5 Dennis & Emily Burk, Sue Wrzinski
- Oct 12 Pat Gittens
- Oct 19 Keith & Becky Mulder
- Oct 26 Pete & Kathy Schieler

Audio/Visual Operators

- Oct 5 Keith Mulder, Judy Lueck
- Oct 12 Kelly Mundell, Phil Wepner
- Oct 19 Bob Meyer, Kelly Mundell
- Oct 26 John Kwiatkoske, Kelly Mundell

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

- Oct 5 Team 4
- Oct 12 Team 5
- Oct 19 Team 6
- Oct 28 Team 1

Altar Guild Monthly Committee

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

Van Drivers

- Oct 5 Jackie Bogucke
- Oct 12 Tom Carr
- Oct 19 Bob Lueck
- Oct 26 Ricky Prellwitz

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

Communion Servers

- Oct 5 Judy Maguire, Phil Manthei

Worship Bulletins

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

October 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
5 9:00 am Worship Service with Communion 10:00 am Blood Pressure Clinic 10:15 Sunday School 10:30 Adult Education 6:30 pm Lego Multiverse	6 6:15 Puppet Practice	7 5:00 pm Sharing Table Community Meal, OSUCC 6:30 pm Pack 3735 Den Meeting	8	9 9:00 am MBS Clinic 5:15 pm Sr Choir Practice 6:30 pm Worship Service 6:30 pm Lego Multiverse	3 9:00 am Evangelism Brat Fry at Hy-Vee	4 9:00 am Pack 3735 Brat Fry at Hy-Vee
12 9:00 am Worship Service 10:15 Sunday School 10:30 Adult Education 6:30 pm Lego Multiverse	13 6:15 Puppet Practice 6:30 pm Church Council Mtg	14 5:00 pm Sharing Table Community Meal, Grace Lutheran 6:30 pm Pack 3735 Den Meeting	15	16 9:00 am MBS Clinic 5:15 pm Sr Choir Practice 6:30 pm Worship Service 6:30 pm Lego Multiverse	17	18 November Messenger Deadline
19 9:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am Altar Guild 10:15 Sunday School 10:30 Adult Education 6:30 pm Lego Multiverse	20 4:00 pm Worship Mtg 5:30 pm Christian Ed Mtg 6:15 Puppet Practice 6:30 pm Evangelism Mtg	21 5:30 pm Sharing Table Community Meal, Immanuel UMC 5:30 pm Missions Mtg 6:00 pm Pack 3735 Den Meeting	22	23 9:00 am MBS Clinic 5:15 pm Sr Choir Practice 6:30 pm Worship Service 6:30 pm Lego Multiverse	24	25 23 rd Annual Turkey Dinner 
26 9:00 am Worship Service 10:15 Sunday School 10:30 Adult Education 5:30 pm Lego Multiverse	27 6:15 Puppet Practice	28 5:30 pm Sharing Table Community Meal, 1 st Congregational 6:30 pm Pack 3735 Halloween Party	29	30 9:00 am MBS Clinic 5:15 pm Sr Choir Practice 6:30 pm Worship Service 6:30 pm Lego Multiverse	31 Happy Halloween! 	