

Welcome to **OUR SAVIOUR'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
343 Scott Street, Ripon Wisconsin (920) 748-2544  
[www.OurSavioursUCCRipon.com](http://www.OurSavioursUCCRipon.com)

Advent Four Year A December 21, 2025

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*\* All who are able please stand* *L: Leader; P: People*  
Prelude Accompanists: Nicole Burdick

Words of Welcome and Good News.

ADVENT VISUAL REFLECTION: Advent Story pt. 4 From the Skit Guys

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE: Love

L: Today we light the Candle of Love. Over the past few weeks, we have sparked the light of hope, peace, and joy. Now, we come to love, which binds all these together. Each strand is braided gently into an image of God who protects, encourages, and endures. We cannot look upon the face of God, but we can experience this love every time we experience hope, peace, and joy. We are not above suffering, but God promises, even during despair, love will pour down upon us. Just as we await the birth of our savior in the manger, God waits on us, watches over us, and sends us out into the world to do as Jesus did - to care for our neighbors, to give freely to those in need, to call out tyranny, to face down injustice - knowing that God is with us. We are loved. We are love. (Fourth candle is lit)

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

L: To love is the greatest gift bestowed upon us. It is a surrender to God's holy power.

**P: God loves us, despite all our mistakes, so we pray for the patience of hope!**

L: To be loved by God is the right of every living thing. This love is the sun and the rain, it is the beginning and end of all.

**P: God loves us even when we neglect our neighbors, so we pray for the strength to bring peace.**

L: God's love is always a promise and a responsibility, and we are given this love freely. God demands nothing from us yet knows we are capable of greatness.

**P: God loves us in the midst of destruction and despair, so we pray to share a vision of joy.**

L: Love is a sacred vow God has made to us, a rainbow in the sky, a baby in the manger.

**P: God loves us just as we are, and we give thanks and whisper amen.**

\*HYMN: "What Child is This" B148/Projected

**\*INVOCATION**

***ALL: Emmanuel, we come today with arms wide open, ready to meet your precious son. Your love for us is so full that you sent a fragile babe to share your holy word, knowing that he would face human pain. Open us, God! Prepare us for his coming, that we may be messengers of your abundant love, and act to ease the suffering of all. Amen.***

**\*RESPONSE & INVITATION: "Alleluia"**

by Jerry Sinclair

**Al-le-lu-ia, Al-le-lu-ia, Al-le-lu-ia, Al-le-lu-ia,  
Al-le-lu-ia, Al-le-lu-ia, Al-le-lu-ia, Al-le-lu-ia.**

**WITNESS OF FAITH: Isaiah 7:10-16**

**WITNESS OF FAITH: Psalm 80:1-7,17-19**

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

**L: John the Baptist called people to repentance, to prepare them for the coming of God's reign. Let us repent, to be ready for God who comes to us.**

**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

***ALL: Majestic Redeemer, in these last days before the birth of your son, we admit that we ask often for a sign. We put you to the test, beg for miracles, for mercy, for proof of your holy word. We doubt, even as we retell the old stories. We are like Joseph - shamed, questioning, fearful of the truth of Mary's dream - not wanting to be taken as fools for believing in something that seems too precious to be true. We are as afraid as the shepherds in their fields, sometimes as cowardly and cruel as Herod. You have given us the most sacred gift, yet we often lack the faith to accept it. Amen.***

**\*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

**L: God's love for us encompasses every doubt and disaster we will imagine. God did not turn from our ancestors when they fell short, and God will not turn from us. In Jesus' name our sin is forgiven.**

**P: Praise be to God. Come, Lord Jesus, Come!**

**\*Passing of the Peace [Let us bless one another as we are comfortable.]**

**WITNESS OF FAITH: Romans 1:1-7**

**GOSPEL LESSON: Matthew 1:18-25**

**A TIME OF LEARNING: "Fourth Sunday of Advent"**

Projected

**SPECIAL MUSIC: "Coventry Carol"**

With Voices Ala Carte

**\*STATEMENT OF FAITH: United Church of Christ (1957)**

Projected

**\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

**Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place**

I can feel God's mighty power and God's Grace  
I can hear the brush of angel's wings  
I see glory on each face  
Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place

#### CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

Prayer of Our Savior:

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts,  
as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power,  
and the glory, forever. Amen.**

HYMN: "Noel" with Chris Tomlin and Laura Dangle

Projected

MEDITATION: "LOVE"

Rev. Mundell

HYMN: "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

B127/Projected

#### PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

[Offering options by the sanctuary entrances/social media/mail/office.]

L: This is a week when we often feel the disparity between the haves and the have nots. Many will go into debt striving for a perfect holiday, while others cannot even imagine the ability to have such a day. God has told us many times and, in many ways, where love flows from - it comes from the hand we extend when we have enough and even when we do not. Let us bring forth the true joy of this season and give as much as we are able.

#### \*OFFERTORY RESPONSE

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below.  
Praise God above, you heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

#### \*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

***ALL: Love and Light of the world, we give you thanks for the privilege of generosity. We give you thanks for the ability to share your divine love in a tangible form. Help us to remember, as we await Christ's birth, to give more generously than we receive. Amen.***

#### \*BENEDICTION: "Go Now In Peace"

**Go now in peace. Never be afraid. God will go with you each hour of every day. Go now in faith, steadfast, strong, and true. Know he will guide you in all you do. Go now in love, and show you believe. Reach out to others so all the world can see. God will be there watching from above. Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.**

\*Postlude



**OUR SAVIOUR'S**  
 UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
 FAITH FAMILY FRIENDSHIP

**We welcome all visitors and guests and are glad you can join us for our services.**

*Large print bulletins and regular bulletins are available in the vestibule and online.*

**Join us for worship on Sunday at 9:00 am and Thursday at 6:30 pm**

Our Sunday Service is broadcast via radio at 10:50 am on WRPN, AM station 1600. If there is a problem with the broadcast, please let the Church Office know on Monday morning.

All worship services are livestreamed on our Social Media Platforms and are available to watch at your convenience. If you are viewing from one of our Social Media Platforms, please make sure to leave a comment or like our post to know you are worshipping with us! If there is an issue with the stream, or you have any feedback, please let the Church Office know.



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**Staff Contact Information**

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**OFFICE HOURS**

Our office hours are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 9:00 AM till Noon. There is a drop box adjacent to the office door if you need to drop off items when the office is not open, or you can use the mail slot in the North Narthex if the building doors are all locked.

**COPYRIGHT LICENSES:** CCLI #: 938092; CCS Perform #:9734; CCS Worship #: 9734; OL: A-729567



**Rodney Sommer Dec 19, Carol Ann Cate and Samantha Pomasl Dec 23**

**ATTENDANCE AND CONTRIBUTIONS FOR LAST WEEK**

Thursday:	In-Person: 6	Livestream: 158	Total: 164
Sunday :	In-Person: 115	Livestream: 288	Total: 403

General Fund: \$2,233.00                      OCWM: \$248.50                      Capital Improvements: \$1,186.50

*Thank you so much for your continued support of in-person, mailed in, and online contributions.*

**SUNDAY WORSHIP TEAM**

**A/V:** John Kwaitkoske/Kelly Mundell    **Liturgist:** Heidi Schwanke    **Musician:** Nicole Burdick

**RADIO BROADCAST SPONSOR**

The Sunday radio broadcast is given in Memory of Dave Lang by his family.

**BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE OF HEALING**

Our special ecumenical service of healing for anyone struggling with the holiday season is on Thursday, December 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM in the sanctuary here at Our Saviour's. The service will be livestreamed as well. This service is open to everyone in the community and is a collaborative effort between Our Saviour's UCC and Grace Evangelical Lutheran.

Please note there will not be a regular 6:30 PM worship service held in the Chapel that evening.

**THE CHRISTMAS FUND OFFERING**

On Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup> you'll have the opportunity to make an offering for The Christmas Fund, managed by the UCC's Pension Board, there will be an opportunity to do so on Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup>. There are special offering envelopes available in the bulletin.

The Christmas Fund has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ for over 100 years, providing emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, and Christmas "Thank You" gift checks each December to our denomination's lower-income retirees.

**PARISH NURSE HOURS DURING THE HOLIDAYS**

Nurse Emily will be holding her Mind, Body, and Soul Clinic (includes blood pressure checks) on Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> and Dec. 31<sup>st</sup> from 9:00 am until the church office closes at Noon. The church and office are closed on Christmas Day and New Years Day.

## PRAYER CHAIN MINISTRY



Are you in need of special prayers? Feel free to use our prayer chain ministry by contacting Caroline Retzlaff, 920-748-2367.

***IN OUR PRAYERS:*** Sharri Dailey, Tara Koller, Emily McGuire, Bonnie Mundell, Ron Prellwitz, Mark Sabel, Barb Schultz, and 16 Unspoken.

## MISSION BAKE SALE

Thank you, thank you to all who donated the wonderful variety of delicious baked goods as well as all those who purchased them. Our hearts are full of gratitude and appreciation! There was a steady line of children, parents, and other adults with big smiles on their faces as they checked out with bags of treats clutched eagerly in their hands!

## HOLIDAY MEAL BAGS

We are still accepting contributions to the Ripon Community Food Pantry's Holiday Meal Bag program for the Christmas meal if you are interested in helping. We'd like to be able to deliver a check to the pantry on December 23<sup>rd</sup>. Thank you!

## WWW REGISTRATION UPDATE

Registration opened at 9:00 AM on December 15<sup>th</sup> and the roster was full in 10 minutes! The good news is that if you didn't call Jackie at 715-479-8255 in time, you can still call and ask to be placed on the waiting list. She indicates that most of the waiting list will be able to get in because the camp is working on having some additional housing ready.

Don't forget that OSUCC offers scholarships to all of our members, which covers the cost of this camp. Make sure to tell Jackie that you are a member of OSUCC so that she includes you on the single invoice they send directly to us.

Women's Wild Winter Weekend is Friday, February 20 through Sunday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>, with an option to go up Thursday, February 19<sup>th</sup> for an additional fee.

## MISSIONS FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION

We provide donations to both the Ripon Area Food Pantry and the Ripon Community Food Pantry. The items you donate are divided between the two.



*Suggested items for December are:* Canned tuna, chicken, salmon; peanut butter; oatmeal; rice; pasta; single serve cereals, apple sauce, etc. (used in emergency food bags); boxed cereals; protein bars; breakfast shakes; canned vegetables, fruit, stew, chili; Hamburger Helper; Mac & Cheese; stuffing mix; shelf stable milk; flour; brown and white sugar; mayonnaise; mustard; ketchup; salad dressing. Thank you for your support of our local area food pantries!

## THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

- Thur. Dec 18 9:00 am - Mind, Body, and Soul Clinic with Nurse Emily  
5:15 pm - Sr. Choir Practice  
[6:30 pm - Blue Christmas Worship Service](#)
- Sun. Dec 21 9:00 am - Worship Service in the Sanctuary  
10:30 am - Adult Christian Ed  
6:30 pm - Lego Multiverse Team
- Mon. Dec 22 4:00 pm - Worship Committee - set up candles for Christmas Eve
- Tues. Dec 23 5:30 pm - Sharing Table Community Meal - 1<sup>st</sup> Congregational Church
- Wed. Dec 24 9:00 am - Noon - Mind, Body, Soul Clinic with Nurse Emily  
[4:00 pm - Candlelight Christmas Eve worship service with communion. All are welcome.](#)  
[9:00 pm - Candlelight Christmas Eve worship service with communion. All are welcome.](#)
- Thur. Dec 25 **Merry Christmas!** *The church and church office are closed.*

## NEXT WEEK'S EVENTS

- Sun. Dec 28 9:00 am - Worship Service in the Sanctuary  
10:30 am - Adult Christian Ed  
6:30 pm - Lego Multiverse Team
- Tuesday Dec 29 5:00 pm - Sharing Table Community Meal - St. Catherine's of Siena
- Wed. Dec 31 9:00 am - Noon - Mind, Body, Soul Clinic with Nurse Emily
- Thur. Jan 1 **Happy New Year!** *The church and church office are closed.*



### QR CODES FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE

Please feel free to use either of these two scannable QR codes with your Smart Phone.

