

OUR SAVIOUR'S UCC

343 SCOTT STREET

RIPON, WI 54971

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OUR SAVIOUR'S
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

FAITH FAMILY FRIENDSHIP

THE MESSENGER

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Ripon, WI.

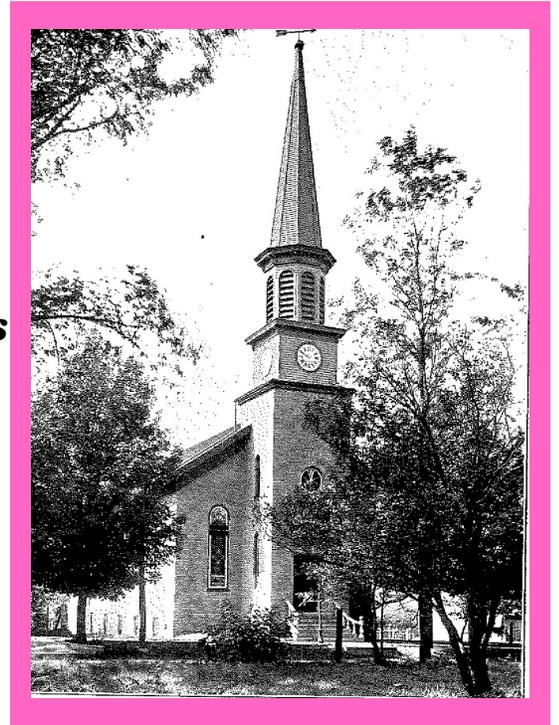


hello
April

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'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 MAY 2024 MESSENGER:

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

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 just learned that someone I have known for as long as I have been a minister was just diagnosed with Parkinson disease, and I was saddened for both them and their spouse. What saddened me was remembering the grief I had to bear as I slowly watched my own father, who had Parkinson disease, slip away from me one small bit at a time until he was just a shell, postponing the grief that I couldn't feel until his body finally died and I knew his journey in this life was now complete.



The memories of my grief opened me to wonder if my grief was parallel to what people grieved when Jesus, the person they believed to be God's Messiah, began telling them that he was going to die, and die in an awful way as part of the path to becoming the Messiah?

Did Jesus' predictions about his death bring on grief for them? When they saw his tortured body walking to the gate of Jerusalem with a cross, did they grieve more? When they saw him nailed to the cross hanging above the crowd in a row with other political agitators and slowly dying along a busy path to and from Jerusalem-- did that add to their grief? When he breathed his last breath, did that set free all their grief in not only in losing Jesus, but all the things he represented such as the restored Israel, the reclaimed Jerusalem and its temple, a place that should honor their faithfulness to God through Jesus?

When the disciples first saw and touched the risen Jesus as their Messiah, did the encounter stop all their grieving? Or did they still grieve the Kingdom they thought he was bringing, even as they tried to understand and accept that his own death was required to bring the kingdom into being?

Easter is the celebration:

- that the war between God vs sin, death, and the devil has been won, but there will be many battles between now and the end, even though they will not change the final outcome.
- that death has no power over God and God's promises given through Jesus. It is the realization that through Jesus as the incarnation of God, both fully human and fully God, that our temptations, weaknesses, suffering, pain, and death are now a part of God.
- that in our faith as we live our lives, no matter how sideways they go, God is with us loving us and we are forgiven all through our faith in Jesus.

Easter is the embracing of the constant death and resurrection of our lives while always trusting in Jesus and his spirit gifted to us. In that trusting we let God continually transform our lives so that we live in a cruciform way, setting aside our personal desires for the sake of others hoping for Christ's return in person to our present time and place.

Easter is not a get out of this world or this life "free card" but rather being set free from all the things that keep us from God so that we can give ourselves to God's creation and the people God brings into our lives, sharing the love God has and continues to form in me.

My hope for the person I know who now has Parkinson disease is that on their journey, with all of its ups and downs and sideways turns, that they and the people who share it with them will find it a journey of love and forgiveness and God's presence as they laugh and cry about the things that go right, and the things that go wrong, never forgetting that God is with them and loving them the whole way.

Jesus told us that he did not come to judge us but to set us free so that we could truly walk with each other loving God and loving each other as ourselves.

Committee News

Altar Guild

Thank you to all who placed an Easter Spring flower order this year! We had a great response with a total of 59 plants being ordered. The clear winner, as far as number ordered, goes to the Easter Cactus which was a new option we were able to offer this year. Please feed back to the committee if you'd like to see it again next year.



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, April 17th, 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.

Confirmation Class: We have a class underway. Contact Rev. Mundell if you would like to join the class.



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*

Great news! The Mind, Body, & Soul Clinic has resumed and is held every Thursday from 9:00 am until Noon. The Blood Pressure Clinic is held after worship service on the 1st Sunday of each month.

Come see Nurse Emily in her office or feel free to reach out to her by email at osuccpnripon1@gmail.com if you would like her to visit.

The Called to Care team meetings are held every 3rd Thursday at 9:30 am. 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

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!



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 will be 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.

Calendar: Please call or email the Church Office about any added events and meetings, or if changes are needed to an existing event.

Mission Committee

Mission Committee currently meets at 5:30 pm every third Tuesday of the month.

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.



Stewardship Committee

Do you have loose coins that you don't have plans for? Have you heard about the Stewardship Loose Coin program?

If you would like to donate, please make sure the coin is in an envelope marked for that purpose and just leave it in the collection plate as you depart worship. Many thanks!



Worship Committee

Our search for a new Senior Choir Director continues! Please help by watching, listening and talking it up with friends and neighbors. You never really know who knows who and as the circle widens, we may find someone who is looking for such an opportunity.

Questions, suggestions on searching, or recommendations can be directed to Barb Stracy at 920-229-1183.



Ministries and OSUCC Projects

Prayer Chain Ministry

IN OUR PRAYERS: Kathy Luedke, Tara Koller, Bob Schouten Edna Schwandt, 23 unspoken, and all others.

Feel free to use our prayer chain ministry by contacting Caroline Retzlaff at 920-748-2367.



Matthew 25: Ministries Pill Bottle Collection

1,096 Pill Bottles in 2024!

Thank you for all your donations! Don't worry, we are catching up on the counting of all the bottles that have been donated and will have an updated total to date for next month. The closet is overflowing, so it will be a goodly number!

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 beneath the table in the North Entrance (vestibule). Thank you!



Pop Tabs for Ronald McDonald House

5,270 Pop Tabs in 2024!



We started 2024 strongly with 5,270 pop tabs donated for Ronald McDonald House! Wow! We so very thankful to those who have already donated their tabs, or are still working on their collection jar at home. so please ensure all your friends have begun collecting too. Thank you 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

The Ripon Free Community Meals



Our March Community Meal was ham, hashbrown casserole, baked beans, pistachio salad and, as a nod to St. Patrick's day, a Reuben appetizer. There was a wonderful array of amazing home baked desserts that backed up the serving line at the dessert table. Decisions, decisions, so difficult to do quickly when everything looks so good!

A huge and heartfelt thank you to everyone who is supporting this community project's success by volunteering your time and talents. We couldn't be doing this without you, and we appreciate both your kindness and generosity.

Attendance continues to increase each month. In January we served 75, in February we served 85, and in March we served over 100 people. The word is definitely getting around that everyone, including families with any age children, are welcome to come enjoy great fellowship and food! We expect we'll see a continued rise in attendance.

This month we will be serving Shepherds Pie, which is hamburger and vegetables in a savory brown gravy topped with real mashed potatoes, Snicker Apple Salad, dinner rolls, and a delectable array of homemade desserts. Beverages include decaf coffee, white milk, and water.

Our April meal is April 2nd and will be served from 5:00 pm till 6:00 pm. Any volunteers who would like to come help are very welcome, and would need to be there at 4:00 pm to help set up. This month again we had everything cleaned up by 7:00 pm and had a great time helping while visiting with diners. Please join in the fun!

If you would like to help Nancy Henning in the meal prep during the day, feel free to call her at 920-229-3486. If you'd prefer to be a 4:00 volunteer helper, you can let Barb know by calling her 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.

OSUCC Easter Morning Breakfast

Easter breakfast will be served in the Fellowship Hall from 7:45 am until 8:45 am on March 31st. The menu will include scrambled eggs, sliced ham, sizzling hot bacon, Ron's Hoppin Blueberry Pancakes, oven browned potatoes, and all the sweets you can eat. Oh my goodness!

Thank you to all that are donating their time and all of those scrumptious sweets. The whole breakfast sounds amazing!

From Our Parish Nurse



April is known as National Stress Awareness Month to highlight the negative impact that stress can have on mental and physical health. Stress is a physical and emotional response people experience when they encounter challenges in life.

Occasional stress is a normal coping mechanism, but long-term stress may contribute to or worsen a range of health problems including digestive disorders, headaches, sleep disorders, and other symptoms. Stress may also worsen asthma and has been linked to depression, anxiety, and other mental illnesses.

Although there is no cure for stress there are ways to learn what causes or triggers your stress and coping techniques that can work to help reduce stress and anxiety to improve your daily life. Some ways to help manage stress may include:

- Take breaks from news stories or social media
- Take care of your body by eating healthy, getting enough sleep, and exercising regularly
- Limit your alcohol intake
- Avoid using illegal drugs or prescription drugs in ways other than prescribed
- Avoid smoking, vaping, or using other tobacco products
- Make time to unwind
- Keep a journal
- Connect with others
- Practice relaxation techniques, meditation, or yoga

It is also important to recognize when you need more help. Sometimes stress can feel overwhelming and if unmanaged it may lead to anxiety disorders. If the symptoms of your stress interfere with your everyday life, cause you to avoid doing things, or seem to always be present it may be time to talk to a professional. Talk therapy and medication are the two main treatments for anxiety and are often used in combination with great benefit.

If you are in immediate distress or are thinking of harming yourself you can call or text 988 which is the Suicide & Crisis Lifeline. They offer 24/7, free and confidential support for people in distress and also prevention and crisis resources for you and your loved ones.

To learn more or to utilize their Stress Screener tool visit:

<https://hr.nih.gov/working-nih/civil/national-stress-awareness-month>.

Emily Burk, OSUCC Parish Nurse





April Duties

Liturgist

April 7 Jamie Prellwitz
April 14 Heidi Schwanke
April 21 Rick Stracy
April 28 Keith Mulder

Usher/Greeters

April 7 Team 2
April 14 Team 3
April 21 Team 4
April 28 Team 5

Gatekeepers

April 7 Barb & Rick Stracy
April 14 Sue Wrzinski, Emily & Dennis Burk
April 21 Pat Gittens
April 28 Keith & Becky Mulder

Altar Guild Monthly Committee

Iona Altnau, Peg Buelow, Bev Garro,
Marge Mundt, Barb Schouten

Audio Operator

April 7 Kelly Mundell
April 14 Bob Meyer
April 21 John Kwiatkoske
April 28 Phil Manthei

Van Drivers

April 7 Rick Stracy
April 14 Jackie Bogucke
April 21 Tom Carr
April 28 Bob Lueck

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

Communion Servers

April 7 Patti Schaalma & Rick Stracy

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!

April 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 6:15 pm Puppets	2 5:00 pm Sharing Table Community Meal 6:30 pm Pack 3735 Parent Leader mtg	3	4 9:00 am Mind, Body, Soul Clinic 5:15 pm Senior Choir 6:30 pm Worship Service	5	6
7 9:00 am Worship Service, Communion 10:00 am Blood Pressure Clinic	8 1:00 pm Science Club 6:15 pm Puppets 6:30 pm Church Council Mtg	9 6:30 pm Pack 3735 Den Mtg	10	11 9:00 am Mind, Body, Soul Clinic 9:30 am Called to Care 5:15 pm Senior Choir 6:30 pm Worship Service	12	13 9:00 Visitation 11:00 Funeral for Bob Schouten
14 9:00 am Worship Service 4:00 pm Den Meeting	15 4:30 pm Worship Committee 5:30 pm Christian Ed 6:15 pm Puppets 6:30 pm Evangelism	16 5:30 Missions meeting 6:30 pm Pack 3735 Den Mtg	17	18 9:00 am Mind, Body, Soul Clinic 5:00 pm VBS Meeting 5:15 pm Senior Choir 6:30 pm Worship Service	19	20 April Messenger Deadline
21 9:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am Altar Guild Mtg 4:00 pm Den Mtg	22 6:15 pm Puppets	23 6:30 pm Pack 3735 Den Mtg	24	25 9:00 am Mind, Body, Soul Clinic 5:15 pm Senior Choir 6:30 pm Worship Service, Communion	26	27
28 9:00 am Worship Service 4:00 pm Den Mtg	29 6:15 pm Puppets	30 6:30 pm Pack 3735 Pack Mtg				