

OUR SAVIOUR'S UCC

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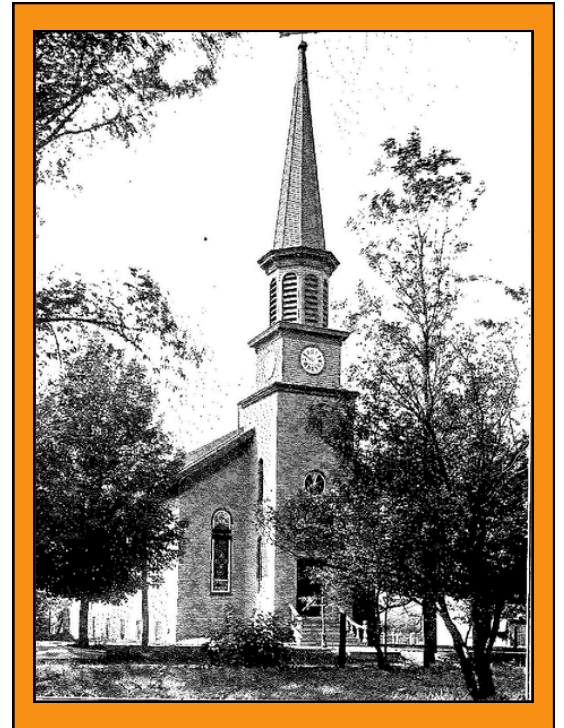


April

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 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 May 2026 Edition of The Messenger:

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



Our Saviour's United Church of Christ
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www.OurSavioursUCCRipon.com



<https://bit.ly/OSUCCFacebook>



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From the Pastor's Desk



Rev. Dr. Kevin Mundell

I just finished reading a book that I found challenging, fascinating, at times uncomfortable, and at times uplifting. The book is by Daniel K. Williams, “The Politics of the Cross: A Christian Alternative to Partisanship.” The author is an evangelical reformed historian who challenges Christians, in their political activity

to keep their Christian faith front and center placing Jesus and the cross before all political action we undertake. Easter is the celebration of Jesus’ death and resurrection and is also a revelation of how sinful our human politics can be when we lose sight of the kingdom of God.

What Williams does in the book is encourage Christians to be involved in politics but with the cross first in how they think and how they evaluate policies. As Christians, we need to keep the understanding that all people are made by God and God has placed God’s image in each person. This leads to a respect for all human life and a listening to concerns of all human life as Christians. We make our political decisions on whether this or that policy will put people in a better position to hear and receive the good news. It also means no simple answers to issues.

What Williams does in the book is give a concise history of the republican party and then the democratic party focusing on Christians within both parties and then walks through the complexity of four key issues: abortion, marriage and sexuality, race, wealth and poverty. He tries to not give a direct as to how to vote but to show how complex the issues are and how we as Christians need to not run to over simple answers. So, for example, to say, “I believe abortion is murder and all abortions should be made illegal,” and then only work to change the law does not stop abortions. The number one cause of abortions is people not having enough income to care for another child. So, if we want the number of abortions to decrease, alleviating poverty will drop the number of abortions faster and more effectively than changing the law. So, where should a Christian put their efforts? Which paths show a greater love for neighbor?

Williams’ conclusion is this, “True Christian politics is not about passing a litmus test or embracing a particular partisan identity. It is not even about subscribing to a particular political agenda. Instead, true Christian politics comes when we as individual followers of Jesus prayerfully make a determination to submit our voting choices to the lordship of Christ by sacrificing our own agenda for the sake of others and showing love to our neighbor through our policy choices. Regardless of the political choices that we ultimately make, we know that when our choices are shaped by a selfless reflection of Jesus’s love for others, we will catch a glimpse of what it really means to bring the cross into politics (Williams, pg. 256).”

Heading into the season of easter, if you would like to challenge your political thinking from a strong Christian perspective focused on the cross of Jesus, give this book a try. The season of easter is about our political sin, economic sin, and social sin all being addressed by God through Jesus for us.

Committee News

Altar Guild

The 2026 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 \$80 for 2 arrangements and Organ flowers are \$50 for 1 arrangement. 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. That makes the bookkeeping a whole lot easier!



Thank you for getting your Easter flowers orders in on time, that is much appreciated. A total of 28 plants were ordered in a variety of colors and types so our altar should look just beautiful! Please don't forget to pick your plant(s) up after service is over because we are not able to donate them to places like we used to.

Our next full meeting is Sunday, April 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*

If you don't have one yet, pick up a Prayer Square or ask 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.

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. Due to Easter, the next clinic will be May 3rd at 10:00 am.

Called to Care will be sponsoring a Spring learning opportunity on Sunday April 12th at 10:15 am during coffee hour in the East Narthex. Representatives with Comfort Keepers will be coming to present on "Understanding Home Care Options". To see the topics that will be covered take a look at the flyer on Nurse Emily's bulletin board outside the church office.

Just a reminder that Nurse Emily holds a Mind, Body, & Soul Clinic for our members every Thursday morning from 9:00 am until noon. She can check your blood pressure then also. If you would like a home visit from Nurse Emily please call 920-748-2544 during office hours or email her at osuccpnripon1@gmail.com.

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



Christian Education Committee

Our next committee meeting will be Monday, April 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

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.



We have rolled out the new online church directory, Instant Church Directory! One of the great things about this directory is that it is a real-time directory that we can update with new photos and information at any time, and those changes are immediately visible to anyone who accesses it online.

There are two ways to access it online. One is through the mobile app, Instant Church Directory, available to download for free for both iPhone and Android phones in your App Store. This app works on tablets also. For laptops, open a browser and go online at www.members.instantchurchdirectory.com. Your login is your email address that we have in the directory. Please let the church office know if you have login problems. Thank you!

For those who don't have an email address or don't want online access, we will have printed copies of the directory available to you. There is a sign up sheet in the East Narthex if you'd like to have a copy.

Our next meeting will be Monday, April 20th, at 6:30 PM and we welcome new committee members!



Mission Committee

Missions Committee will meet Tuesday, April 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!

Thank you again to all who donated to UCC's One Great Hour of Sharing collection.

For Lent again this year we are collaborating with 3 other churches in the area and with United Way in Fond du Lac on their "Ripon Food for Thought" initiative. Thank you all for being so generous in your support of this wonderful program that helps ensure children in Ripon whose families struggle with food insecurity go home with enough food to keep them from being hungry during the weekend when they aren't in school. A total of \$2,801 was donated!

We will again be doing a Operation Christmas Child shoebox packing party in November, so we are going to start collecting items now to help fill our boxes. For the month of April we will be collecting personal care items. There is a box in the East Narthex available to drop off your donations. To see a full list of suggested items take a look at Nurse Emily's bulletin board outside the church office.

Worship Committee

We hope you will attend the Living Last Supper at Grace Lutheran on Maundy Thursday, April 2nd at 6:30 pm. We are partnering with Grace Lutheran and a number of our members are in the production which is based on Da Vinci's iconic Last Supper painting. Communion will be served.

The April 3rd Good Friday Ecumenical worship service is held at Immanuel UMC this year and starts at 6:30 pm. Communion will be served. The livestream link to watch the service on Good Friday is <https://youtube.com/live/7VwSes4FcFo?feature=share>



Our next regular committee meeting is Monday, April 20th, at 4:00 PM.

Ministries, Projects, and News

Matthew 25: Ministries Pill Bottle Collection

1,599 Pill Bottles in 2026!

And we begin again! 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

11,999 Pop Tabs in 2026!



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!

Spring Cleanup!

The Buildings and Grounds Committee is hosting our annual Spring Cleanup on Tuesday, April 21st at 9:00 AM. You are invited to help to the level that you are comfortable with. Thank you!

Easter Morning Members Breakfast

Don't bother to cook Easter breakfast at home this year, come and enjoy a wonderful breakfast feast and the fellowship of our member family down in Fellowship Hall between the Early and Late Easter worship services!

On the menu are scrambled eggs, ham, bacon, breakfast potatoes, pancakes, egg bake casserole, sweets, juice, coffee and milk. Surely there's somethings there that you will enjoy? Hope to see you!

More Ministries, Projects, and News

The Ripon Sharing Table Free Community Meals



Our March 3rd meal was well attended, with 130 meals being served. Our diners enjoyed the option of a hot Leprechaun Lime punch and the amazing array of dessert choices, which always back the line up at the dessert table!

Everyone enjoyed having the Scott Street Puppets perform at our March meal. Thank you to Amy Borgardt and her team for making that happen!

For our Tuesday, April 7th meal we'll be serving a delicious blast from the past, Beef Stroganoff over noodles, glazed carrots, bread, coleslaw, and, of course, amazing desserts provided by our very talented bakers here at OSUCC. Think hard of all the amazing spring flavors you enjoy and maybe our bakers will "hear" you!

All are welcome to join us for our Sharing Table Free Community Meals. "March is God's promise of new beginnings" and so we hope to see you at 5 pm down in Fellowship Hall.

Thank you so much to all who continue to volunteer the time and talents supporting this mission project. You are so very appreciated!

WCUCC Annual Meeting 2026

Have you wanted to attend our 2026 Annual Meeting of the Wisconsin Conference before but just didn't for what ever reason? Perhaps this is your year! The conference is being held earlier this year on April 10th and 11th at the Green Lake Conference Center. The agenda is still under construction, but you can follow it's progress at <https://wcucc.org/annual-meeting/>.

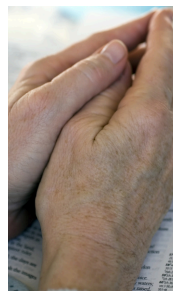
OSUCC is allowed to send 2 voting delegates to the convention and will pay for your meals. We have 1 going now, but let Rev. Kevin know if you are interested or have questions about what is expected as a delegate.

If you would rather get your feet wet first by volunteering at the conference there are many opportunities to do that, including helping at the Registration Desk, Hospitality, Ushers, Workshop Ushers and Golf Cart Drivers. To learn more about these opportunities and to sign up online, go to <https://wcucc.org/annual-meeting/volunteer-opportunities/>

Prayer Chain Ministry

In our Prayers: Sharri Dailey, Nancy Henning, Tara Koller, Emily McGuire, Elaine Mortenson, Ron Prellwitz, Mark Sabel, and 16 Unspoken.

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



Quotes for April

"If I cannot do great things, I can do small things in a great way." -- Martin Luther King Jr.

"The elimination diet: Remove anger, regret, resentment, guilt, blame and worry. Then, watch your health and life improve."-- Charles F. Glassman



From Our Parish Nurse

April is celebrated as Earth Month, and annually April 22nd is recognized as Earth Day. Since its start in 1970, Earth Day has been used to raise awareness about environmental issues, promote sustainability, and demand action for a cleaner, healthier planet. Now let's take a closer look into how this important day started and what we can do this April to help our planet.

Earth Day Origin

Earth Day began on April 22, 1970, when a Wisconsin Senator by the name of Gaylord Nelson organized a nationwide "teach-in" to protest environmental degradation following a massive 1969 oil spill in California. The event drew 20 million participants, and it led to the creation of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in December of 1970 along with the Clean Air, Clean Water, and Endangered Species Acts. In 1990, with the help of hired activist Denis Hayes, Earth Day events went global to promote environmental awareness worldwide.

Ways to Celebrate Earth Month

- Participate by reducing, reusing, and recycling- The amount of waste generated in the US is around 4.9 lbs per person per day. Reducing consumption and reusing items is the most effective way to reduce individual waste. Before purchasing new items look around to see if you can reuse or try to buy second-hand first.
- Reduce energy consumption by unplugging unused electronics- Save money and energy at home by unplugging phone chargers, DVRs, printers, computers, and rarely used TVs when they're not in use. These electronics still consume energy when left on and plugged in and can add an extra 10% to your monthly utility bill.
- Fix water leaks- 3% of the nation's energy is used to pump and treat water, and the average household leak can account for nearly 10,000 gallons of water wasted every year. Check for leaks at home in the kitchen, bathroom, and outside. They are often easy to fix and can save homeowners about 10% on their water bills.
- Plant a tree- More than 1 million acres of National Forests are in need of reforestation. Trees not only provide important wildlife habitat, but they help our watersheds and absorb carbon dioxide to help offset greenhouse gas emissions.
- Organize or participate in local clean up events- Participating in local clean up can be as simple as taking an afternoon walk with a trash bag, picking up litter as you go.
- Switch to reusable products- Replace plastic water bottles with reusable ones or use reusable bags at the grocery store. Both are great ways to reduce the number of plastics in our environment.
- Reduce food waste by starting a backyard composting bin- The average US household throws away nearly 1/3 of the food they buy every year. When that food goes into a landfill, it produces harmful methane gases that contribute to climate change. Instead of throwing food out, compost it in your backyard.
- Use barrels to capture rainwater- Rain barrels can help you save on your water bill, and they help protect your local watershed at the same time.
- Become an advocate for the Earth- Educate yourself on environmental issues and support eco-conscious businesses in order to drive change to prioritize energy efficiency, waste reduction, and reduce overall consumption.

For more information or to further explore ways in which you can help the Earth this Earth Month please visit <https://www.nationalforests.org/blog/eight-ways-to-celebrate-earth-month>

Emily Burk, RN, OSUCC Parish Nurse

April



Liturgist

7 am, Apr 5 Rick Stracy
9 am, Apr 5 Jamie Prellwitz
Apr 12 Heidi Schwanke
Apr 19 Rick Stracy
Apr 26 Keith Mulder

Gatekeepers

Apr 5 Tom & Julie Stellmacher
Apr 12 Rick & Barb Stracy
Apr 19 Dennis & Emily Burk, Sue Wrzinski
Apr 26 Pat Gittens

Audio/Visual Operators

7 am, Apr 5 Keith Mulder/Phil Wepner
9 am, Apr 5 Kelly Mundell/Judy Lueck
Apr 12 Bob Meyer/ Kelly Mundell
Apr 19 Keith Mulder/Judy Lueck
Apr 26 John Kwiatkowske/Phil Wepner

Communion Servers

7 am, Apr 5 Keith Mulder
9 am, Apr 5 Judy Maguire & Buck Kwiatkowski

Worship Bulletins

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

Duties

Usher/Greeters

7 am, Apr 5 Team 2
9 am, Apr 5 Team 3
Apr 12 Team 4
Apr 29 Team 5
Apr 26 Team 6

Van Drivers

Apr 5 Tom Stellmacher
Apr 12 Rick Stracy
Apr 19 Dennis Burk
Apr 26 Jackie Bogucke

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

Altar Guild Committee for April


Iona Altnau, Bev Garro, Judy Lueck,
Marge Mundt, Patti Schaalma

Coffee Hour

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

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

April 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
			1		2 9:00 am MBS Clinic 5:15 pm Sr Choir Practice 6:30 pm Living Last Supper Service-Grace 6:30 pm Lego Multiverse	3 6:30 pm Good Friday Ecumenical Service-Immanuel UMC	4
5 <i>Easter</i>  7:00 am Worship Service - Communion 7:45 am Breakfast 9:00 am Worship Service - Communion 10:15 Sunday School 10:30 Adult Education	6 6:15 Puppet Practice	7 5:00 pm Sharing Table Community Meal, OSUCC 6:30 pm Pack 3735 Leader Meeting	8	9 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	10	11	
12 9:00 am Worship Service 10:15 Sunday School 10:30 Adult Education 6:30 pm Lego Multiverse	13 6:30 pm Church Council Mtg 6:15 Puppet Practice	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 May Messenger Deadline	
19 9:00 am Worship Service 10:00 Altar Guild Meeting 10:15 Sunday School 10:30 Adult Education 6:30 pm Lego Multiverse	20 4:00 pm Worship Comm 5:30 pm Christian Ed Comm 6:30 pm Evangelism Comm 6:15 Puppet Practice	21 5:00 pm Sharing Table Community Meal, Immanuel UMC 5:30 pm Missions Comm 6:30 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	
26 9:00 am Worship Service 10:15 Sunday School 10:30 Adult Education 6:30 pm Lego Multiverse	27 6:15 Puppet Practice	28 5:00 pm Sharing Table Community Meal, 1st Congregational 6:30 pm Pack 3735 Den meeting	29	30 9:00 am MBS Clinic 5:15 pm Sr Choir Practice 6:30 pm Worship Service 6:30 pm Lego Multiverse			