

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.

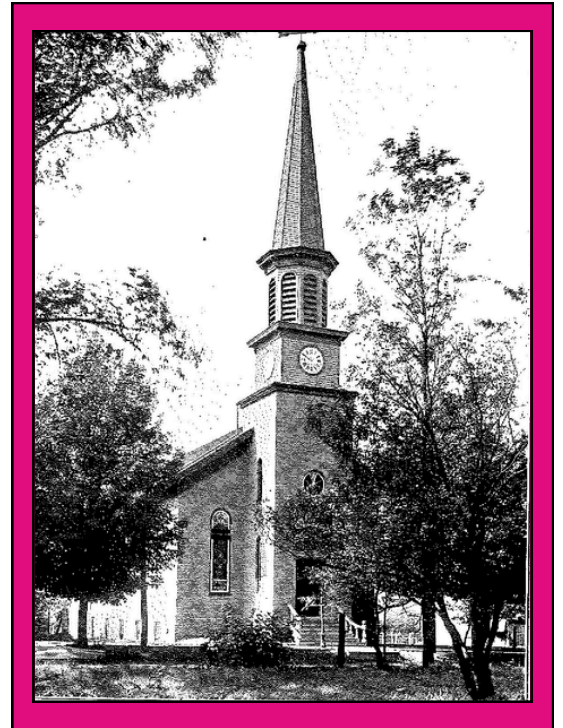


May

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 June 2026 Edition of The Messenger:

Events to be included on the calendar, committee updates, articles, etc. should be submitted to the office by **May 16th** 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
343 Scott Street, Ripon, WI 54971 | 920.748.2544
www.OurSavioursUCCRipon.com

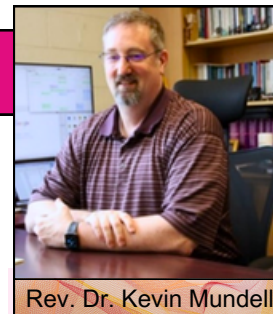


<https://bit.ly/OSUCCFacebook>



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From the Pastor's Desk



Rev. Dr. Kevin Mundell

I have found myself gravitating to one of the Psalm for this season of Easter, Psalm 116, specifically verses 12-15 which read as follows:

“What shall I return to the LORD for all his bounty to me?
I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD,
I will pay my vows to the LORD in the presence of all his people.
Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his faithful ones.”

How do I give back to God when God has given to me way more than I can ever return? My very salvation is a gift. What I can do is to love my neighbor as myself and work this out afresh each day. It is amazing that God takes to heart the life and death of all of us who are faithful to God.

So how do I begin to pay my vows to the Lord? I was reminded of three ways while we were down in Florida with family. Our first morning there Kelly and I tried to take our grandson Fergus for a walk on the beach, which we like to do every morning and evening. He was excited to walk with us, one on each side for about thirty to forty feet but as the waves gently washed up on the shore the temptation became too great, and he had to run over and begin slapping the water to great delight. When we redirect him, we would get another ten feet before he saw a seashell large enough to dig with and had to stop again. When he noticed the birds on the sand near him, he needed to give each of them a hug, but he was never quit fast enough to catch them even with good effort. What he taught me was the need to re-open my curiosity for the world in which I walk and the people around me.

I also realized the importance of the time with people and how much that matters. In the evenings, once Fergus was asleep, we would sit around and talk, tell stories, and play games. The best part of the games was when someone said something that spontaneously brought laughter to everyone that had them almost falling out of their seats with tears of joy from the moment. I believe somehow our living of our vows to God has to do with spending enough time with other people to have the space to laugh with tears of joy.

We were at a container food court in Tampa Bay and everyone else was still eating so Fergus and I went for a walk. We were near the middle area when Fergus noticed a dog on a leash sitting under a table with a family of four waiting for their food. Fergus started saying his word for dog, pointing and trying to drag me to the dog. I slowed him down and asked the family if he could pet their dog. The son turned the dog around to see Fergus, and he stepped up with both hands out so they could be sniffed and then began to gently pet the dog. It only took a few moments, and they were both sitting together on the concrete kissing and snuggling each other as if they were best buds sharing a moment of love.

The family was in awe of their dog and at Fergus as they snuggled together in their own world while we stood around and watched. Living our vows to God is sharing in spontaneous moments of love.

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!



We will again be offering red geraniums for members to purchase to decorate the altar on Pentecost Sunday. The cost for a 4.5" pot will be \$7 and order forms will be in the bulletin and around in church beginning the week of May 4th. Please have your order form and payment to the office by Thursday, May 14, thank you!

Our next full meeting is Sunday, May 17th 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*

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 will be May 3rd at 10:15 am. Just a reminder that Nurse Emily also 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.

Thank you to all of those who attended Called to Care's Spring Learning opportunity. On Sunday April 12th representatives with Comfort Keepers presented on "Understanding Home Care Options". If you were unable to attend but would still like information, Comfort Keepers left several great handouts and also business cards which are available for pick up outside the church office

Keep an eye on the upcoming bulletins for additional education opportunities being offered including a CPR/AED refresher with Nurse Emily.

The next Called to Care meeting will be held Thursday, May 14th, at 9:30 AM in the conference room.



Christian Education Committee

We will not be having a committee meeting in May.

- **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 adjourn May 17th for the summer.
- **Confirmation Class:** Confirmation class has concluded for the summer.
- **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.



Our committee is having a Brat Fry fundraiser on Friday, May 1st starting at 9 am at HyVee in Ripon. We are going to be offering dessert items such as cookies, brownies, bars, etc. for sale also and, while we are baking, we could use help with donations of baked goods. We have found fluffy frosting to be a problem when we are individually wrapping items for sale, so if you can avoid using that it would be helpful!

You can drop your donation off in the East Narthex during church office hours on Thursday, or bring it to us at HyVee by 8:45 am on Friday, May 1st. We'll take care of cutting and wrapping items, so no need to do that beforehand. Thank you to all who can help with donations!

We will not be having a committee meeting in May, but we always welcome new committee members!



Mission Committee

Missions Committee will meet next on Tuesday, May 19th, 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!

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 May we will be collecting personal care items. There is a box in the East Narthex available to drop off your donations.

To see the full list of suggested items, take a look at Nurse Emily's bulletin board outside the church office.

Scholarship Committee

The Scholarship Committee and the Church Council are pleased to announce that all three applicants this year have been awarded scholarships. Congratulations to you all!

Spencer Conlon: \$5,000

*Fox Valley Technical College -
Cyber Security*

Harley Langenfeld: \$5,000

*Ripon College -
Elementary Education*

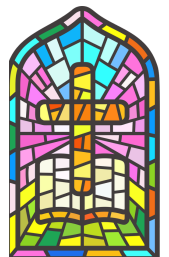
Carmen Rohl: \$5,589

*Academy of Beauty
Professionals - Nail Technician*

Worship Committee

Our wonderful and talented accompanist, Nicole Burdick, will be leaving us in July when she and her husband relocate to Minnesota while he attends pharmacy school. We are happy for them, and wish them all the best, but are still sad to see them go.

We have an employment ad set to start running in the local papers, on the website, on various other internet sites, here at church and ask you to do what you can to help spread the word as well. The details of the position are on the ad, also posted on the bulletin boards.



Our next committee meeting will be Monday, May 18th, at 4:00 pm.

Ministries, Projects, and News

Matthew 25: Ministries Pill Bottle Collection

2,586 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

18,314 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!

Congratulations to our Confirmands!

We are very happy to welcome our 2026 Confirmands, Leighton Boers and Philip Michael Busse, who have completed their studies and have been confirmed, as full members of Our Saviour's church family. Congratulations to you both!

Summer Office Hours

We will be starting Summer Office Hours on May 1st again this year. The office will be open as follows:

Monday: 9 am till Noon - Deadline for items to be included in the bulletin is Noon.

Wednesday: 9 am till Noon

Thursday: 9 am till Noon

If you are here after hours you can deposit items in the lockbox outside the office door or the mail slot in the North Narthex entrance. Thank you!

More Ministries, Projects, and News

The Ripon Sharing Table Free Community Meals



Our April 7th meal was well attended, with 135 meals being served. Our diners really enjoyed our "Blast from the Past" menu and who could begin to resist the luscious desserts that covered 2 entire tables! The raffle baskets were also a very big hit!

For our Tuesday, May 5th meal we'll be serving a tasty Chicken Breast Tenders, homemade Macaroni and Cheese, Baked Beans, probably Cole Slaw, and delicious desserts provided by the Lueck Family. Whatever will they make will be wonderful, we know that!

All in our community are welcome to join us for these Sharing Table Free Community Meals and families are welcome. We do have highchairs available for those with "Littles". We'll be serving from 5 pm till 6 pm.

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

Living Last Supper

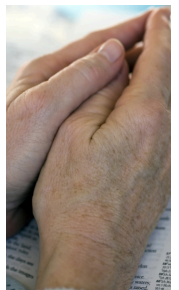
Thank you to everyone who attended the joint production of the Living Last Supper done with Grace Lutheran on Maundy Thursday! It was wonderful to see such a good turnout on such a not so nice evening. Everyone in the cast and crew were deeply appreciative of your support.

We would also like to thank our members and friends of the church who donated their talents and time to be part of the production. Well done, all of you!

Prayer Chain Ministry

In our Prayers: Emily McGuire, Rev. Kevin Mundell, Ron Prellwitz, Mark Sabel, the friends and family of Mary Albright, the friends and family of Jean Luskey, and 11 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 May

"If you want to be rich, count the things that you have that money can't buy." -- *Robin Sharma*

"Life is not about how fast you run or how high you climb, but how well you bounce."-- *Tigger, A.A. Milne's character*

"If you find serenity and happiness, some people may be jealous. Be happy anyway."-- *Mother Teresa (1910-1997)*

"Old Age - later than you think and sooner than you expect"-- *Unknown*

Thank you to Sharon Wegner for sharing some of her favorite quotes! Who else has some to share for next month?



From Our Parish Nurse

May is Skin Cancer Awareness Month, and those 31 days are used to shine the spotlight on how to reduce your risk of developing skin cancer and how to find skin cancer early when it is highly treatable. Skin cancer awareness month is so important because it is estimated that over 5 million cases of skin cancer are diagnosed in the United States each year. Skin cancer is America's most common form of cancer, but fortunately it is also one of the most preventable cancers. Here are 5 tips from dermatologists to help reduce your risk for developing skin cancer.

1. **Practice Safe Sun:** To reduce your risk for skin cancer and developing early signs of skin aging like deep wrinkles and age spots, seek shade, wear sun protective clothing, and apply sunscreen (broad spectrum, SPF 30 or higher, and water resistant) every time you go outdoors.
2. **Reapply sunscreen:** Every 2 hours, after swimming, after sweating, or after toweling off. It is essential to reapply sunscreen because it wears off over time, which reduces its ability to protect your skin from harmful rays.
3. **Forget about indoor tanning:** Studies have shown using indoor tanning devices, such as tanning beds, sun lamps, and tanning bulbs can increase the risk of developing melanoma and other skin cancers. They all emit harmful UV rays in similar or sometimes even higher amounts to that of the sun.
4. **Skip getting a base tan:** Tanning is not a safe way to protect your skin from a sunburn. Every time you tan, you damage your skin, and as the damage builds up, you increase your risk of developing skin cancer.
5. **Use a self-tanner:** If you like the look of a tan, a self-tanner doesn't expose your skin to harmful UV rays. It also does not protect your skin from harmful UV rays, so you should also Practice Safe Sun.

Another key component to Skin Cancer Awareness Month is Melanoma Monday. What is Melanoma Monday? It is a national day of awareness devoted to educating people about melanoma (the most serious form of skin cancer), reducing the risk of developing melanoma, and helping people find melanoma early through skin self-exams. In 2026, it is estimated that about 104,960 melanomas will be diagnosed and around 8,430 people will die of melanoma. The American Academy of Dermatology encourages everyone to begin a lifelong habit of checking their skin by performing skin self-exams. These exams are important because:

- If caught early, melanoma is highly treatable
- Melanoma can develop anywhere on the skin, including skin with a lot of sun exposure and skin that is normally protected from the sun
- Melanoma can develop under or around a fingernail or toenail
- You can find melanoma early by examining your skin for the ABCDEs of melanoma and checking your nails.

This year Melanoma Monday takes place on Monday, May 4th.

If you would like to learn more about the ABCDEs of melanoma and how to complete a skin self-exam please view the handouts on the nurse bulletin board outside the church office, or you can visit <https://www.aad.org/public/public-health/awareness-campaigns/skin-cancer-awareness-month>.

Emily Burk, RN, OSUCC Parish Nurse

May



Liturgist

- May 3 Confirmation
- May 10 Dianne Heyn
- May 17 Rorie Nitz
- May 24 Jackie Bogucke
- May 31 Kelly Mundell

Gatekeepers

- May 3 Keith & Becky Mulder
- May 10 Pete & Kathy Schieler
- May 17 Rick & Barb Stracy
- May 24 Dennis & Emily Burk, Sue Wrzinski
- May 31 Pat Gittens

Audio/Visual Operators

- May 3 Kelly Mundell/Phil Wepner
- May 10 Keith Mulder/Kelly Mundell
- May 17 Kelly Mundell/Judy Lueck
- May 24 Bob Meyer/Phil Wepner
- May 31 John Kwiatkowske/Judy Lueck

Communion Servers

- May 3 Patti Schaalma & Rick Stracy

Worship Bulletins

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

Duties

Usher/Greeters

- May 3 Team 1
- May 10 Team 2
- May 17 Team 3
- May 24 Team 4
- May 31 Team 5

Van Drivers

- May 3 Bob Lueck
- May 10 Ricky Prellwitz
- May 17 Rick Stracy
- May 24 Dennis Burk
- May 31 Jackie Bogucke

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

Altar Guild Committee for May

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

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.

May 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 Evangelism Committee Brat Fry 9 am at HyVee	2
3 Confirmation 9:00 am Worship Service - Communion 10:15 Sunday School 10:30 Adult Education	4 6:15 Puppet Practice	5 5:00 pm Sharing Table Community Meal, OSUCC	6	7 9:00 am MBS Clinic 9:30 am Called to Care 6:30 pm Worship Service 6:30 pm Lego Multiverse	8	9 Jean Luskey Funeral 9:00 am Visitation OSUCC 10:00 am Memorial Service, Inurnment following, Luncheon at OSUCC
10 9:00 am Worship Service 10:15 Sunday School 10:30 Adult Education 6:30 pm Lego Multiverse	11 1:00 pm Science Club 6:30 pm Church Council Mtg	12 5:00 pm Sharing Table Community Meal, Grace Lutheran	13	14 9:00 am MBS Clinic 6:30 pm Worship Service 6:30 pm Lego Multiverse	15	16 May Messenger Deadline
17 9:00 am Worship Service 10:00 Altar Guild Meeting 10:15 Sunday School 10:30 Adult Education 6:30 pm Lego Multiverse	18 4:00 pm Worship Comm	19 5:00 pm Sharing Table Community Meal, Immanuel UMC	20	21 9:00 am MBS Clinic 6:30 pm Worship Service 6:30 pm Lego Multiverse	22	23
24 9:00 am Worship Service 10:30 Adult Education 6:30 pm Lego Multiverse	25	26 5:00 pm Sharing Table Community Meal, 1 st Congregational	27	28 9:00 am MBS Clinic 6:30 pm Worship Service 6:30 pm Lego Multiverse	29	30
31 9:00 am Worship Service 10:30 Adult Education 6:30 pm Lego Multiverse		6:30 pm Pack 3735 Den meeting				