



The SPIRE



First Congregational Church of Ripon • 220 Ransom Street • Ripon, Wisconsin 54971
☎ 920-748-5898 • office@riponcongregationalucc.org • www.riponcongregationalucc.org

May 2022

“I am the resurrection and the life.”
— John 11:25



On Easter Sunday I entered the sanctuary before anyone else had arrived at the church. The sunrise sparkled golden through the old and beautiful stained glass windows. In a couple of hours the pews would be filled with our members and friends. But for that moment it was just the awak-

ening sun and me. I loved how the pews lit up and the light sang “Alleluia” as it brightened the room.

Resurrection is the work of something new “breaking” into the world. The word denotes an uprising, like tectonic plates colliding and lifting up the ground underneath our feet. A resurrection changes the landscape and shifts the way we need to look at the world.



A resurrection is both a reorientation to the world, and a welcoming of new life. I drew in a breath in the sanctuary as I looked at the windows, thanking God for this new experience, this new day, this new Easter. During the worship service hours later with Easter flowers, brass ensemble, and singing and children, I sat among the children and told them to share their “Alleluias” with a burst of joy, with excitement, with a sense of resurrection. They unburied their Alleluia banners and shouted with spirit, “Alleluia!” That moment was both a change in the landscape and a sign of new life!



This season of Easter our church is celebrating many of the ways we see “new life” emerging in our faith community. The biggest highlight was a return to in-person worship in the sanctuary for our Easter worship service on Sunday, April 17. We were delighted to have over 100 people come for worship! Our gratitude for all those who helped with the service to make it meaningful and special:

Sarah Joy and Seiler Solberg, and Ashley Dodson for helping with our liturgical dance; Kurt Dietrich, Tim Lyke, and Gary Scholtens for playing with the brass ensemble; Deanna Boone for being our Lector; Gary Scholtens and Erik Dietrich for assisting in the Tech Booth; Lydia Wiley Deal for directing the children’s choir and handbells and all our children of the church for singing and sharing their Alleluias with the church; Kurt Dietich for directing our chancel choir and all our choir members for sharing a joyful choral anthem; Maria Dietrich for providing incredible music on piano and organ; Janis and Cal Edwards, Tony Reilly and Scott Henke for serving as Ushers; Kaitlyn and Michael Boscaldon for providing treats after worship; Our Children’s Ministry Staff, Bri Cada, Abi Buksa, Lydia Wiley Deal, Morgan Krogh, Aliber Garcia, Mackenzie Gibson, Karisa Wiese, and Ian Oakley for helping with our Children’s Easter Egg Hunt; and all the volunteers who helped in the kitchen with the Easter Breakfast: Andy Lyke, Cal and Janis Edwards,

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Prayers for health and healing...

Aya V. (heart & lungs); **Piper B.** (teeth); **Van Smith** (stroke, heart issues); **Loren Boone** (cancer); **Nate Berndt** (stomach surgery); **Brent Woyke, Janis & Cal Edward's son** (health); **Don Amsden** (health); **Lisa Reber, Maria's mom** (cancer); **Grandmother Cindy from the Berndt/Selz's family** (cancer); **Julie Mathias' sons, Dan and Stewart**, as they care for their father Ron who is in hospice

For the **Afghan family** our church is sponsoring.

For the people of **Ukraine**. For the people of **Russia**. For **peace**.

For **Rose Marie Freeman**, 88-year-old sister of Al Jarreau. Kurt Dietrich is in frequent contact with her as he works on a biography of Al Jarreau. Although her own health is remarkably good, she is going through challenges with friends and relatives, including two recent deaths.

Gratitude for the 45 + pairs of shoes we collected during Lent to donate.

Celebration of performances:

- **Lydia Wiley Deal** senior flute recital at Ripon College
- Middle School musical Mary Poppins: **Alyss M.** as Mary Poppins, and **Gregory S.** helped backstage
- **Paul Dietrich** directed the spring Jazz Concert at Ripon College

Please note: If you wish to see your prayer request listed in next Sunday's bulletin or The Spire, please notify the church office.

Welcome!

We've been anticipating your arrival! It's true, because we believe that every person who comes to join us for fellowship was sent by God. If you've been thinking, praying, searching, or hoping for a place to belong, we would like, again, to say Welcome! We're glad you found us.

Congratulations

... to those celebrating new births:

Aldo Quercus Stindt, born on March 31, grandnephew to Janet Vossekuil

Calvin Robert Dodson born to Shannon and Ryan Dodson (Jeffrey Dodson's brother) on March 31

Evelyn Scholtens, born to Chris and Kelsey Scholtens (Dawn and Gary Scholten's son) on March 27

Cecilia Susan Sarin, born to Jessica Sarin and Huck Sock, granddaughter of Susan Lyke, sister to Tim Lyke and Andy Lyke, born March 1.

Carson Richard Minch, born to Samantha and Kyle Minch on December 16, 2021

Zoey Elizabeth Pugh, the daughter of Maggie and Adam Pugh, and granddaughter of Marguerite Parks, who arrived on April 20th in Madison Wisconsin. She joins Mom, Dad, and big sisters Ella and June

Spire Deadline

Our next Spire newsletter will be for June, 2022. The deadline is Wednesday, May 18, at noon. Please submit materials to the church office, or email to Maria Dietrich at dietrich.maria@gmail.com. Please mark your calendars.



- Pastor *Jeffrey Dodson*
- CE Director *Jeanne Williams*
- Moderator *Erin Ter Beest*
- Vice-Moderator. . . *Michele Wittler*
- Clerk *Justus Paul*
- Treasurer *Andy Lyke*
- Choir Director *Kurt Dietrich*
- Faith Formation . *Barb Splittgaber*
- Finance. *Judy Neill*
- Historian *Robin Patzlaff*
- Maintenance Officer *Lyle Mathias*
- Membership. *Deanna Boone, B. Christ, M. Lyke, A. Dalziel*
- Nominating. . *J. Christ, T. Konecny*
- Organist. *Maria Dietrich*
- Outreach *Dawn Scholtens*
- PPRC *Michele Wittler*
- Women's Fellowship *Susan Osteen*
- Worship *Kathleen Hones*

Church Contact Info

Office manager Ashley Dodson: 920-748-5898 or office@riponcongregationalucc.org
If not in the office, Pastor Jeffrey Dodson can be reached at ...
Cell: (719) 330-8549 or by email, at jeffrey@riponcongregationalucc.org
Jeanne Williams, CE Director jeanne@riponcongregationalucc.org
Rod & Peggy Freeman – Church Custodians - Cell: 920-896-2152

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Dawn and Gary Scholtens, Bev and Jack Christ, Gerry Nelson, and many others who stepped-in to help; and our Confirmands who led the Sunrise Service, Sarah Joy Solberg and Gregory Selz.

This is a season of walking in the ways of the Risen Christ, who beckons us to not just trace his steps (as we did in Lent) but to create new trails of God's love. We had a terrific time in Lent looking at the artwork of Vincent Van Gogh, exploring his masterpieces and tying them into the final teachings and life of Jesus. Today we look and marvel at what Van Gogh painted, but the Great Artist of our lives does not intend for us to just marvel at the work of others. We are invited to paint our own masterpieces, to share with the world our gifts and palate, and to inspire others to do the same.

May this Easter you go about the work of resurrection, allowing God's light, and God's word in the world, to change you and help you give voice to the "Alleluias" in your life.

With resurrection in our hearts, we will find new ways to be the church for the Ripon community.

Alleluia!

—Pastor Jeffrey



May 2022 Worship Schedule

Sunday, May 1 | Third Sunday of Easter | Communion

John 21:1-19 Feed my sheep

10:30 am Worship IN-PERSON | 4:00 pm Worship ONLINE

Sunday, May 8 | Fourth Sunday of Easter | Mothers' Day

John 10:22-30 My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me

10:30 am Worship IN-PERSON | 4:00 pm Worship ONLINE

Saturday, May 14 | Ripon College Baccalaureate Service 8 p.m.

Sunday, May 15 | Fifth Sunday of Easter | Ripon College Commencement

John 13:31-35 I give you a new commandment, that you love one another

10:30 am Worship IN-PERSON | 4:00 pm Worship ONLINE

Sunday, May 22 | Sixth Sunday of Easter | Children's Ministry Sunday

The Story of King David

10:30 am Worship IN-PERSON | 4:00 pm Worship ONLINE

Sunday, May 29 | Seventh Sunday of Easter | Memorial Day Weekend

John 17:20-26 That they may all be one

10:30 am Worship IN-PERSON | 4:00 pm Worship ONLINE

Sunday, June 5 | Pentecost Sunday | Communion | Summer Worship Schedule

Acts 2:1-21 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit

9:30 am Worship IN-PERSON | 4:00 pm Worship ONLINE

Have you been feeding your pig?



Coins for **HEIFER International** collected
May 15!
(Bills gladly accepted, too.)

Donations will be TRIPLED so we can buy 3X as many animals!

New Office Manager

We are thrilled to welcome Ashley Dodson as our new office manager. Ashley brings considerable experience and knowledge of both the technical aspects of the job and the workings of the church to the position. Her first official day of work was April 7th.

Ashley has a Master of Divinity degree from Chicago Theological Seminary and a B.A. in Religion from Viterbo University. She has been an executive Director at Covenant Hills UCC/UMC camp, and served as Office Manager at First Congregational Church UCC and the Episcopal Church of the Nativity, both in Grand Junction, CO.

We're happy to have a friendly face greet visitors to the church throughout the week once again. You'll find Ashley in the office Monday 8-2, Tuesday-Thursday 8-11:20, and Friday 8-12. You can contact her by calling the church office or emailing office@riponcongregationalucc.org.

Thank you, Ashley, for joining our church staff!

— Erin Ter Beest, Moderator



**Building Up
the Beloved
Community**



Wisconsin Conference UCC Annual Meeting

Join us at the 2022 Annual Meeting of the Wisconsin Conference, to be held June 10 to 12 at the Green Lake Conference Center. This year's theme "Building up the Beloved Community," will recognize the toll that the pandemic has taken on congregations, pastors and lay leaders. We will focus on tending to both individual and congregational wellness, lift up best practices and good strategies for fostering healthy church dynamics and challenge ourselves to think in fresh ways about the Church.

For more info including agenda-at-a-glance, schedule of workshops, registration, volunteer opportunities and more, visit

<https://www.wcucc.org/about-wcucc/annual-meeting/>



**RAMA's National Day
of Prayer Breakfast**

Thursday, May 5th

7am-8am

\$10 per ticket



**RSVP at 920-748-2544
or purchase tickets at
Our Saviour's**



Hosted at

Our Saviour's

343 Scott Street Ripon, WI

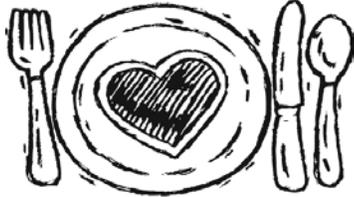


**OUR SAVIOUR'S
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**
FAITH FAMILY FRIENDSHIP

From the Outreach Committee

Spring is here, and summer is right around the corner! Flowers are blooming and gardens are starting! With that in mind, fresh produce is something that the food pantry desperately needs. As we prepare our gardens for delicious produce, please consider adding a few extra plants and bring the surplus with you to church so we can donate it to the food pantry this summer! If you have any further questions, please contact anyone on the outreach committee!

—Mike Boscaljon



COMMUNITY DINNER

Our Community Dinners, held on the fourth Tuesday of every month, are temporarily in a drive-through format due to COVID-19. Our next dinner will be held on May 28.

Help Stock the Pantry

During the month of May, the food pantry would appreciate your donations of boxed cereal, boxed meals such as mac and cheese, hamburger & tuna helper, and noodle-roni. Ongoing needs include paper grocery bags, peanut butter, and personal toiletry items such as a deodorant, soap, and feminine hygiene products. Cash donations are always very much appreciated as well. Donations may also be dropped off at the church and will be delivered to the pantry. Thank you for your help!



...to the family of **Ardis Mitchell**, who passed away on April 24. We hold the Mitchell family in prayer: Sue Conant, Bette, Teri, Barb Mitchell, Garrett, and other grand and great-grandchildren. A memorial service is scheduled for July 9, 2022, at 1:00 pm in the Vesper Circle, at Green Lake Conference Center.

**Women's Sharing Table,
Wednesday, May 18, 2022
7 PM - Fellowship Hall**



**Speaker : Mary Pleiss
Education Coordinator
The Paine Art Center and Gardens**

Ubuhle Women: Beadwork and the Art of Independence

Learn about a new form of bead art, the "ndwango," developed by a community of women living and working together in rural KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa.

Presentation, Conversation,
and a Beadwork Activity

From the Outreach Committee

Hello again dear friends! I think Spring is about to commit to our calendars, and to our patient waiting for more than a tease now and then.

Spring is finally springing! Alleluia!

I want to update everyone with our One Great Hour of Sharing collection. So far we have collected \$908! If anyone didn't have a chance to add to this great cause, you can still write a check to church with OGHS on the memo line, and it will get to where it belongs. One Great Hour began with a few churches in the U.S. wanting to help with Europe's restoration after WWII. This was a huge challenge, Europe was just shredded, much bombed into dust...This idea of churches sending help in many forms began as a tiny seed, and has over the years produced a heavy crop. Where disaster hits, our churches still try to fill the gap, to get survivors on their feet and moving forward again. THANK YOU ALL for your desire to help those who have been overcome and need a hand up.

We also have some fun summertime projects that our young ones can help with: First, we have just heard the Heifer Project will for a short time triple the money sent in for purchasing baby animals!! This is where our piggy banks come in! The children pick the village or town where they want to send the (?) babies (with the help of Sunday school teachers), what kind of babies, chickens for eggs, or a real baby goat, or baby cow to give milk when it grows up, or fish for their pond, animals that they can shear the wool from for clothes...these helpful creatures can make life much better for people living in a poor area. And even though you have never met these people, you can imagine how getting baby animals will make them smile. Bring your BANKS in on May 15, so Pastor can bless them, we can count the coins to find out WHAT, and how many animals we can send WHERE? We will try to get it all done by May 22 (Children's Sunday).

We are also planning to plant a Children's garden for the Food Pantry, so we can give people fresh produce, right out of our little garden here at Church.

Our refugee family in Oshkosh is doing very well. Dad and his oldest son have jobs now, which makes them happy to be a bigger part of the community. There has been a request from the new mosque in Oshkosh at which our family attends services, for help in a need for a Koran, and prayer rugs. Outreach will be looking into helping with this project. Blessings for now.

—Janis Edwards, Outreach



What you need:

- Clean cardboard egg carton
- Scissors
- Acrylic paint and paintbrush
- Flat cardboard
- Photo, drawing or note
- Small pom-poms
- Hot glue
- Adult help

What you do:

1. Bend, stretch and cut the carton cups to make 3-D flower shapes. Also cut leaf shapes from the carton top.
2. Paint the flowers and leaves. Let dry.
3. Cut the flat cardboard to a size and shape you desire. Leave a border at least 2 inches larger than your photo, drawing or note.
4. With hot glue, attach the photo, drawing or note to the cardboard.
5. Arrange and glue flowers and leaves around the border. Attach pom-poms for more color and texture.
6. Present the gift to your mom or a special woman in your life.



Faith Formation

Sunday School - Countdown to Children's Sunday - We are going to wrap up our learning about the Old Testament with four stories about King David. You will see the children perform skits based on these stories during our Children's Sunday Service on Sunday, May 22nd. A light lunch will be served after the service with outdoor activities for the children.

Save the Date - Confirmands and Sunday School children will gather at the church on Saturday, May 21st from 9-11:30 a.m. to prepare for our Children's Sunday service. We will provide snacks and activities in addition to our practice time.

Parents and other adults are invited to the church at the same time to help with some playground clean-up and upgrades, as well as preparing our garden containers for planting. Look for further information about this project day in our weekly emails and announcements during our services.

Books of the Bible Project - Our elementary school children are learning a rap that will help them name the 39 books of the Old Testament. As they are learning to name the books of the Bible, the children are also learning some of the history of Judaism and Christianity, main characters in the story of our faith, and some pretty cool stories. This is a year-long project, and we hope to show you the results of this work at our Children's Sunday celebration in the Spring.

VBS - Children of the Old Testament - Children ages 4-12 will learn stories from the Old Testament that feature children like themselves. With music, arts and crafts, games, and skits, this will be an active week that will culminate in a show for families and a picnic. Mark your calendars for July 18 - 21, 9-11:30 a.m. and July 21, 5:30 p.m.

Graduating Staff - Five of our Sunday School staff will be graduating from Ripon College on May 15th—Abby, Aliber, Bri, Lydia, and Morgan. We will honor their service to our children at our May 8th service. Happily, Miss Lydia Wiley Deal will continue with us as Children's Music Director through fall semester while she completes her student teaching.

—Jeanne Williams, Faith Formation



We Celebrate our 2022 High School Graduates

This Spring we have 2 seniors graduating from High School: Xavier Manuel and Callie Biza. Congrats on your accomplishments! We will recognize our High School seniors in worship on Sunday, May 22.

Easter Flowers Given By ...

*Tammy Kenton
Debbi and Tom Konecny*

In Memory of:

Doug and Audrey Lyke	<i>Mary and Tim Lyke</i>
Murray McNair	<i>Mary and Tim Lyke</i>
Dan Mitchell	<i>Barb and Garrett Mitchell</i>
Jeanette Klappauf	<i>Ruth, Chris, Grace, Ben, and Nick Retzlaff</i>
Donald Retzlaff	<i>Ruth, Chris, Grace, Ben, and Nick Retzlaff</i>
Cordilia Davis	<i>Tony Reilly and Scott Henke</i>
Our family members that have passed	<i>The Berndt family</i>
Jackie Howery (mother)	<i>Susan Osteen</i>
George Champlin Salisbury, Jr.	<i>Anne S. Flasch</i>

In Honor of:

Our new granddaughter: Evelyn Auri Scholtens born 3/27/22	<i>Gary and Dawn Scholtens</i>
Our children: Rachel and David Minch;	
Jennifer and Brian Carroll; Stuart Berger; Daniel Berger	<i>Lyle and Julie Mathias</i>
Ardis Mitchell	<i>Barb & Garrett Mitchell</i>
Cindy Berndt's fight with cancer	<i>The Berndt family</i>
Dorothy Hasegard (mother)	<i>Susan Osteen</i>

In Celebration of:

Ainslie, Eleanor, and Frances Dodson	<i>Ashley and Jeffrey Dodson</i>
Nate's healing	<i>The Berndt Family</i>
Our 42nd Wedding Anniversary on 3/29	<i>Cal and Janis Edwards</i>
Don Amsden	<i>Jeanne Williams and Bob Amsden</i>

Worship Volunteer Schedule

Date	Lector	Ushers/Greeters	Worship Slides	Coffee Fellowship Hosts
May 1	Preston Osteen	Grace & Ruth Retzlaff	Katie Del Ponte	Dodson & Williams families
May 8	Michele Wittler	Tony Reilly/Scott Henke	Tim Lyke	Capelle & Manuel families
May 15	Mike Boscaljon	Erin & Casey Ter Beest	Marguerite Penick	Vossekuil & Penick families
May 22	Deanna Boone	Aelwyn Tumas/Dan Volkmann	Erik Dietrich	Prellwitz & Solberg families
May 29	Justus Paul	Penny & Jim Allard	Sarah Seidler-Halwas	Neill & Grout-Paul families
June 5	Ed Scholtens	Rachel & Dave Minch	Tim Lyke	Iserman and Konecny
June 12	Katie Grady	Carolyn and Braimer Capelle	Erik Dietrich	Mitchell and Kenton
June 19	Bev Christ	Katie & Ben Grady	Katie Del Ponte	TBD and TerBeest
June 26	Loren Boone	Volunteers needed	Dan Volkmann	Boone and Christ

Thanks
for your participation

- Please try to meet this schedule. If you cannot help on the Sunday assigned...
- Please switch Sundays with someone else and then notify the church office (748-5898 or office@riponcongregationalucc.org) of the change.
 - We all appreciate your participation!

MAY 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
9 am Sunday School 10:15 am Nursery 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship 12 pm Worship Committee	6-7 pm Daisy Troop meeting	11 am Campus Christian Fellowship	5:30 pm Youth 5:30 GS Brownie meeting	6 pm NA meeting	9 am Coffee at Mugs	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
9 am Sunday School 9:45 am Outreach Committee 10:15 am Nursery 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship	6-7 pm Daisy Troop meeting	11 am Campus Christian Fellowship 5 pm Sharing the Table at Grace 6:30 pm Cabinet meeting	5:30 GS Brownie meeting 5:30 pm Youth	6 pm NA meeting 6-7:30 Girl Scouts Troop 6238	9 am Coffee at Mugs	8 pm Ripon College Baccalaureate Service
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
9 am Sunday School 10:15 am Nursery 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship	6-7 pm Daisy Troop meeting		11:30-3 PEO meeting 12 pm Spire deadline 5:30 pm Youth 7 pm Women's Sharing Table event	6 pm NA meeting 7 pm Membership Committee	9 am Coffee at Mugs	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
9 am Sunday School 10:15 am Nursery 10:30 am Worship - Children's Sunday 11:30 am Fellowship	6-7 pm Daisy Troop meeting	5:30 pm Community Dinner	5:30 pm Youth	6 pm NA meeting 6-7:30 Girl Scouts Troop 6238	9 am Coffee at Mugs	

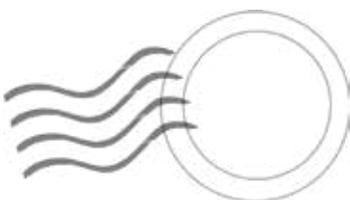
Future Events:

July 18-21 Vacation Bible School



Get Connected on Facebook

Want to learn more about what is going on at the church? Wish you could get updates and see photos about community outreach and other church events? It's easy! "Like" us on facebook at www.facebook.com/RiponCongregationalUCC.



Paper and ink and postage - oh my! If you're getting a hard copy of this Spire and would prefer an electronic version, please give the church office your email address. Send it to office@ripcongregationalucc.org. Thanks!

First Congregational Church of Ripon

A Congregation of the United Church of Christ

220 Ransom Street • Ripon, Wisconsin 54971

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Enter to Worship—Go Forth to Serve

