



The SPIRE



First Congregational Church of Ripon • 220 Ransom Street • Ripon, Wisconsin 54971
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October 2022

“For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.”

+ 1 Corinthians 12:12

You are the Body of Christ.

As we enter October, we continue in our fall worship series which gets us back to the basics of faith. In September we looked at The Elements of Faith which provide a foundation for our spirituality (truth, growth, love, and forgiveness). Now we turn to The Anatomy of a Christian.



Elizabeth and Matthew Myer Boulton reflect on this topic in their blog saltproject.org, noting that lots of people have noticed the parallels between a single human body and many humans gathering together to cooperate. A high school’s drum and bugle corps, the Marine Corps, the Peace Corps: all use the French word for “body” (corps) to highlight the complex ways their individual members work together as one. Then, of course, there’s Saint Paul, who could think of no better way to think about Christians working together as “one body.” And not just any body: when Christians are together, we become the body of Jesus, the Body of Christ.

This fall, we invite you to spend some time thinking about that Body, because if you haven’t noticed, it’s actually in pretty rough shape. Imagine a body with one hand that gets a new manicure every week, and one hand that doesn’t even have all its nails any more from working so hard. How bizarre would that be? Imagine going to the salon for a blowout while someone is actively stabbing your foot. How out of touch with your own pain would you have to be to do that? That’s how it is in the Body of Christ these days.

And here’s where it can get even trickier. Sometimes we experience an advantage in relation to one aspect of life, and at the same time experience disadvantage in relation to another. For example, we might be poor and also white, or male and also have a disability. This is sometimes called “relative privilege” — and it’s good to keep in mind that all of this can be pretty complex and mixed-up.

Still, Paul’s metaphor of the body can help us think it through. Which hand are you and your family, the one that’s manicured, or the one that’s overworked? Or a bit of both? What should the two hands be doing for each other? Which is our church: the pampered hair, the hurting foot, or a mix? And what should we all be doing about it?

There are lots of answers to that last question. But one way or another, they all start with this: a little corps, a little community, reflecting, praying, and talking together. That’s what we’re inviting you to do.

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What does it mean to be the Body of Christ? What are this body's parts and what do they do? Which receive greater honor and respect, as Paul puts it, and which receive less — and why? Which parts are in pain? What should the other parts be doing about it? And what exactly is this body for?

Our hope is that as we go on this journey, we'll grow closer to each other because of the conversations we have, and learn how to experience a richer and fuller life with the rest of the body of Christ — so that the whole body can thrive.

See you on Sunday!

—Pastor Jeffrey

Let's Stay in Touch

Moved, new phone number or email address? Name change? Don't forget to inform Ashley Dodson, Office Manager, at office@riponcongregationalucc.org or by phone at 748-5898. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

October 2022 Worship Schedule

Sunday, October 2 | World Communion | Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost | Neighbors in Need Special Offering

Respect, Honor, and Privilege + 1 Corinthians 12:22-25

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

Sunday, October 9 | Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

How to be an Ally + 1 Corinthians 12:14-16

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

Sunday, October 16 | Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost | New Members Joining | Ripon College Family Weekend Blessing

Difference and Unity + 1 Corinthians 12:12-13

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

Sunday, October 23 | Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

Muscles + 1 Corinthians 12:21-23

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

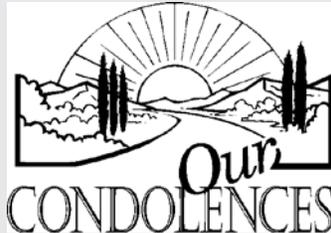
Sunday, October 30 | Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost | Trunk or Treat

What About the Knees?: Suffering and Rejoicing Together + 1 Corinthians 12:26

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

Sunday, November 6 | All Saints Sunday | Communion Sunday | Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost

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



...to those who have experienced a recent loss:

Katie Del Ponte whose cousin BJ Dahlke passed away September 21.

Michael Boscailon shared that two members of a co-worker's family passed away in an automobile accident.

Those who have experienced a loss due to suicide, especially a young family in Ripon who lost their mother in September.



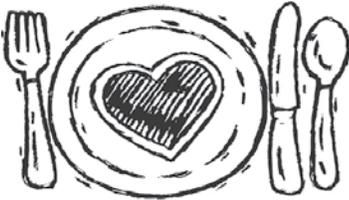
Congratulations

... to **Tom and Debbi Konecny** for the birth of their newest grandchild, **Claire Maeve**, born to **Dan & Kolleen Konecny** in Colorado on September 22. Everyone is doing well!

October 2022 Food Pantry Calendar

				1 Canned Fruit		
2 Dried fruit	3 Beans	4 Rice	5 Coffee	6 Chips	7 Crackers	8 Flour
9 Tuna	10 Peanut Butter	11 Soup	12 Canned Veggies	13 Honey	14 Pet Snack	15 Personal Hygiene
16 Boxed Potatoes	17 Juice	18 Canned Meat	19 Pasta	20 Jelly/jam	21 Cereal	22 Cookies
23 Tea 30 Stew	24 Hot choc. 31 Chili	25 Pasta Sauce	26 Cake Mix	27 Sugar	28 Frosting	29 Pet food

Play the Food Pantry game! Bring your daily items to church each Sunday; they will be delivered to the Food Pantry.



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 October 25.

Help Stock the Pantry

During the month of October, the food pantry would appreciate your donations of peanut butter and jelly. 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!

—Outreach Committee

From the Outreach Committee

Are you a gardener? Do you have knowledge about native plants? The church is looking for a few individuals who are interested in looking into installing a native plant and/or pollinator garden at the church. We have the opportunity to apply for a **Kairos Creation Care grant** from the Wisconsin Conference to fund the project. The ad hoc committee would look at the grant application, determine if it is appropriate to apply, and then make a garden plan to submit to the grant committee. If this is something you would be interested in helping with or you know someone whose skills and knowledge could be of assistance, please contact Erin Ter Beest at erin.terbeest@gmail.com or 920-344-6758.

Now is Our Time to Recommit to Generosity

This year, as we begin our work to secure our ability to continue and expand the work of our church, we will consider together how our generosity can put Grace into Action. In November, we will come together as a church to ensure that we have the resources to continue our support of both our local and wider missions. Our church has a strong culture of generosity. We need only look to the work of our pastor, along with the Outreach, Faith Formation, and Worship Committees to see visible evidence of our good work. We also can recognize the significant efforts to ensure our viability and vitality in the work of our Membership, Buildings and Grounds/Technology, Finance, PPRC, Executive, and Nominating Committees. In addition, there is the “quiet” ministry when our pastor or church members respond to personal needs – and there are many.

Our wider mission, carried out by our Wisconsin Conference and the wider United Church of Christ, engages us in broader ministries of justice and provides resources for faith formation, outdoor ministries, and many more “good works.”

November is also budget month. Our committees are currently preparing and submitting their budgets projecting what resources they need to carry out our mission and our good work. In addition, our budget also will include the funds that support our wider mission conducted by our Wisconsin Conference and the broader United Church of Christ.

As the Finance Committee drafts the details of our First Congregational budget to be acted on by the Cabinet, we will look to our pledges as the most accurate estimate of the resources to which we as a church can commit. In early November, when you receive your pledge card in the mail, please consider making your commitment to support our church’s commitments. If you have questions about pledging or giving, please contact Andy Lyke or Bill Neill.

Counting on your generosity,

Judy Neill on behalf of the Finance Committee

From the Outreach Committee

In 2022, the Neighbors in Need “BEHOLD!” offering focuses on an economic justice. With inflation impacting all of our households, we wanted to provide a way to discuss this through a faith lens. Join us by promoting this year’s NIN “Behold!” campaign at your church. As you may recall, one-third of the offering supports Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds are used by Justice and Witness Ministries to provide grants to UCC churches and organizations as well as supporting a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects.

Our church will collect the offering on October 2, 2022 as part of World Communion Sunday.





Faith Formation

A New Sunday School Year. New Classes. New Schedule.

New Schedule - We will use a church school model for the fall in which preschool-4th grade children will attend their Sunday School class after the children's moment in the worship service. Older children will have their classes beginning at noon with Pastor Jeffrey (confirmation) and Miss Jeanne (pre-confirmation), and the youth group will meet at 1 o'clock.

Our Sunday School staff will supervise free play time during coffee hour. Children will be allowed to go outside as weather permits. Otherwise, they will go to the classrooms. One classroom space will be designated for quiet activities

New Classes - The fall curriculum for **Sunday School** (preschool-4th grade) will feature the parables of Jesus.



Groups of children will cycle through storytime, arts & crafts, and music stations. The two-week cycle for each story will conclude with a game or other activity to reinforce learning.

Youth in grades 5 and 6 will meet as a **pre-confirmation class** at noon and will study world religions this year through a variety of activities.

The **confirmation class** is preparing for their confirmation. They will meet with Pastor Jeffrey at noon on Sunday and will be choosing their mentors soon.

Family Activities for Fall Semester

1. Sunday, October 2nd - Noon - Fellowship Hall. Listening session to discuss the future of the Christian Education program and the hiring of a new Education Director. Child care will be provided by the CE staff until 1 p.m.
2. Sunday, October 30th - Trunk or Treat at noon. Trick or Treat in Ripon is 3-5 p.m.
3. Friday, December 9th - Parents' Night Out - 5:30-8:30 p.m. Snacks, games, and other activities will be provided.
4. Wednesday, December 14th - Pageant Practice, Recording, and Pizza Dinner - 4:00 p.m.
5. Sunday, December 18th - Christmas Pageant and Family Lunch

— Submitted by Barb Splittgaber, Faith Formation Committee Chair, and Jeanne Williams, C.E. Director



Plastic Recycling

Our church is involved in two recycling programs for the next six months. The Trex program involves collecting plastic film products (grocery and produce bags, bubble wrap and plastic mailers, product overwraps for paper products and water bottles, and bags from salt. We have handouts that list the projects to be collected available for you to take home. Our goal for the Trex program is to collect 500 pounds of plastic film by January 31, 2023. In return, the Trex corporation will give us a bench made from recycled plastics for our playground.

In addition, during the same time we will collect...

- mechanical pencils
- Glue stick tubes and caps
- Markers and caps
- Highlighters and caps
- Stick pens and caps
- Watercolor containers

Packaging from these products will be recycled by the Bic corporation. Look for containers by the church entrances and in the Fellowship Hall.



Sunday, October 30th

How to Host Coffee Fellowship, in Six Easy Steps

1. Make the coffee. (20-30 minutes ahead of time, get those pots a-goin.' We put up a sign in the kitchen to help with the measurements: 1/2 cup coffee grounds for every 10 "cups" of coffee, or 1.5 cups for a full 30-cup pot.)
2. Heat water for tea.
3. Put out cups, napkins, plates, spoons/stir sticks, tea bags, cream and sugar. (Disposables are OK; let the office know if we're running low on any supplies.)
4. Provide juice and/or a jug of water for kids.
5. Provide light snacks. We're not expecting a catered meal! Please try to include something that's gluten-free; some folks need that option.
6. Clean up. Put garbage in bins. Drain and wash coffee pot and any non-disposable dishes. Wipe down counters and table-tops and put the Fellowship Hall back in order.

Thank you for hosting!



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.

“Who assigned me to do coffee hour?”

“Why am I a lector?”

“I didn’t sign up to be an usher.”

Such sentiments have been expressed lately, particularly by folks who are relative newcomers to our church.

On behalf of the Worship Committee, I apologize that we haven’t made a better effort to share with you how we all participate in serving our church during worship time. Or that you weren’t told when you joined the church that membership in a Congregational setting includes responsibilities to help out on an occasional Sunday morning.

Many years ago we had sign-up sheets for folks to volunteer to be ushers, lectors or bring “coffee-hour” eats. That didn’t work very well as the sheets had many vacancies.

So about 8-10 years ago we created an “opt-out” system where we signed folks up to help out, without their permission, with the understanding that they could “opt out” of those tasks for which they felt unqualified or uncomfortable. This has worked well and assured that no burden falls too heavily on any one individual or family.

So while we are grateful for your continued help on Sunday mornings, please be assured that should you have a task you’re not comfortable doing or are not available to do during a particular stretch of time, you can let church administrative assistant Ashley know so that she doesn’t include you on future volunteer charts. The corollary also is possible: If you’d like to do something not on the chart, please let Ashley know, too!

Reminder that if you are signed up to help out on a Sunday, please find your own substitute if you are unable to serve.

Thanks all, for recognizing that “many hands make light work” (Nehemiah 3:8).

— Tim Lyke on behalf of the Worship Committee



Worship Volunteer Schedule

Date	Lector	Ushers/Greeters	Worship Slides	Coffee Fellowship Hosts
Oct. 2	Debbi Konecny	Tom Moniz/Mike Boscaldon	Dan Volkmann	Capelle and Manuel families-
Oct. 9	Dan Volkmann	Seidler-Halwas Family	AVAILABLE	Kenton and AVAILABLE
Oct. 16	Janis Edwards	Amber Dalziel/Ashley Dodson	Tim Lyke	Prellwitz and Solberg families
Oct. 23	Andy Prellwitz	AVAILABLE	Tim Lyke	Neill and Grout-Paul
Oct. 30	Penny Allard	Barb Mitchell/M&S Wittler	Sarah Seidler-Halwas	Grady and Dalziel families
Nov. 6	AVAILABLE	Mary & Tim Lyke	Erik Dietrich	Mitchell and AVAILABLE
Nov. 13	Judy Neill	Dawn & Gary Scholtens	Katie Del Ponte	AVAILABLE
Nov. 20	Dawn Scholtens	Susan & Preston Osteen	Tim Lyke	Boone and Christ
Nov. 27	Erik Dietrich	Bev & Jack Christ	AVAILABLE	Volkmann and Hones

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!

OCTOBER 2022

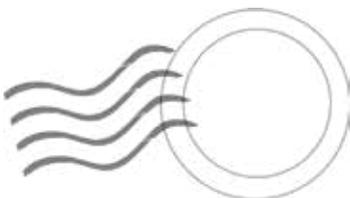
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25	26	27	28	29	30	1
10:30 am Worship - Day-cholah Center 10:45 am Sunday School 11:30 am Fellowship		4 pm CCF Men's Small Group 5:30 pm Community Dinner	5:30 pm Youth	6 pm NA meeting 7 pm RC Choral Union	9 am Coffee at Mugs	Mental Health First Aid training
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
10:30 am Worship 10:45 am Sunday School 11:30 am Fellowship 12 pm Confirmation 12 pm CE Listening Session		4 pm CCF Men's Small Group		6 pm NA meeting 7 pm RC Choral Union	9 am Coffee at Mugs	5:30 pm Ripon Area Community Theatre auditions
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
10:30 am Worship 10:45 am Sunday School 11:30 am Fellowship 12 pm Confirmation 12 pm Worship Committee 5:30 pm Ripon Area Community Theatre auditions		4 pm CCF Men's Small Group 5 pm Sharing the Table at Grace 6:30 pm Cabinet meeting	12 pm Spire deadline	6 pm NA meeting 7 pm RC Choral Union	9 am Coffee at Mugs	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
10:30 am Worship 10:45 am Sunday School 11:30 am Fellowship 12 pm Confirmation 1 pm Youth Group		4 pm CCF Men's Small Group		6 pm NA meeting 7 pm Membership Committee 7 pm RC Choral Union	9 am Coffee at Mugs	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
10:30 am Worship 10:45 am Sunday School 11:30 am Fellowship 12 pm Confirmation 1 pm Youth Group		10 am STRIVE 4 pm CCF Men's Small Group 5:30 pm Community Dinner		5 pm South Woods Park meeting 6 pm NA meeting 7 pm RC Choral Union	9 am Coffee at Mugs	
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
10:30 am Worship 10:45 am Sunday School 11:30 am Trunk or Treat! 12 pm Confirmation 1 pm Youth Group	Happy Halloween! 			6 pm NA meeting 7 pm RC Choral Union	9 am Coffee at Mugs	

Future Events:

Nov. 13 Stewardship Sunday

Nov. 20 172nd Anniv. of FCUCC

Nov. 27 First Sunday of Advent



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@riponcongregationalucc.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

