

## Sharing the Lord's Word.

Sunday Service at 9am

Service provided by Jim Coppoc.

North Tama Telegraph: Pastor's Column: An Honest Apology 01/04/24



About 2000 years ago, an itinerant rabbi named Yeshua Bin Yusef (Jesus, son of Joseph) founded through his teachings the breakaway Jewish sect we now know as the Christian church. In contrast to the dominant theology of his place and time, Jesus taught a path of love, grace, inclusion and justice, rooted in the Hebrew Scriptures, framed by empathy for and solidarity with the oppressed.

On Jesus' death and after his resurrection, his disciples attempted to carry on the movement he began. We still do today. But we are far from perfect, and so much has been lost.

One of the many Jewish traditions I regret losing is the celebration of Yom Kippur, or the Day of Atonement. At the beginning of the calendar year, Jews everywhere undergo a period of reflection, repentance, atonement and forgiveness, in which they seek to make amends with God, with each other, and with themselves. Yom Kippur is also an opportunity to practice the virtue of forgiveness as others seek to make amends with you.

Although most Christians do still keep a theology and tradition of confession, and still see forgiveness as a virtue, we have lost a lot of the formal process of atonement Yom Kippur represents. In particular, we seem to have lost the focus on direct apology to those we have hurt and accountability to make the changes true repentance requires. In fact, for me, one of the main things missing in the progressive changes so many denominations are trying to make right now is an honest apology for the harm that came before.

So today, at the beginning of the Western calendar year, I would like to begin to bring that tradition back, and I would like to start with a direct apology to you.

Bridge Minister Jim Coppoc is available to the Ripley UCC and Traer community .  
Phone: 515-708-4343 (text is best). Email: [jimatripley@gmail.com](mailto:jimatripley@gmail.com)  
[Facebook.com/jim.at.ripley](https://www.facebook.com/jim.at.ripley) or in person on Wednesdays and weekends .



**Ripley United Church of Christ**  
**400 South Main Street**  
**Traer, IA 50675**

2024 February / March

## *In the Know with Ripley*

In this issue:

- Sharing God's Word
- From your Boards Chairs
- Ripley UCC Missions
- Celebrate!
- Right Around Ripley
- Remembering When...
- Power of God's Song
- \* Coffer's Report
- \* Looking Ahead
- \* God's Given Talent
- \* Food for the Soul
- \* Prayers for all-In Need

Your bi-monthly newsletter is compiled by The Board of Deacons.

Keeping Ripley's congregation "In the Know!" .

Available in paper or digital form. Follow Ripley UCC on Facebook!  
[#ripleyucctraer](https://www.facebook.com/ripleyucctraer)

Feel free to reach out with 'NEWS' ! Contact: Annette Knoop with questions or information to add to the newsletter. [anneteknoop81@gmail.com](mailto:anneteknoop81@gmail.com)  
574-298-7949 call or text.

## From the Chairs:

Christmas services were brought to us with Joyful noise of brass instruments and the ringing sound of the organ pipes! We rang in the new year with our neighbors from across the street, the Methodists and we look forward to Lent starting with Ash Wednesday Service on February 14th.

For 2024 our planning goals are to continue to provide faith based activities and services that will enhance the membership of our church with the theme Refresh, Renew, Regrow.

**\*\* Board of Deacons Chair - Christy Flamme \*\***

The New Year shines bright as we move forward with a new website design through Traer's own Rubline Marketing. Year end financials were determined in anticipation of our Annual Church meeting scheduled for February 11th. We anticipate much in our year to come as we embrace "Refresh - Renew - Regrow" !

**\*\* Board of Trustees Chair - Cindy Youel\*\***

## Coffers Report

December 2023 –

Income \$ 5896.56

Expenses \$ 3690.76

Treasurers note: Income includes large year end donations/pledges.

January 2024 –

Income \$ 5551.88

Expense \$ 5471.22

Treasurers note: Income 2 large year end donations. Expenses include \$1500 paid to Our Church's Wider Mission.



On line Giving now available through

TITHE.LY

Register at [Make a Donation \(tithe.ly\)](https://tithe.ly)

## Ripley UCC Missions...

**What an impact we made in 2023 ! The Ripley family donated \$15,076.04 to local and national projects! Well done all! The Ripley congregation mission highlights include:**  
Seed funds to NT Schools for Student Health & Hygiene –Laundry Facilities Project  
Our contribution paved the way to help secure a grant for additional funding!

- Our Lenten projects continued support for the Tama County Storks Nest by providing not only financial support but donations of supplies. Ripley has impacted lives of infants, toddlers and mothers.
- Souper Bowl of Caring and Noisy Offerings touched the lives of many through monies given to local food pantries.

**Ripley is rolling on in 2024! Be a part of making a difference in your community, your county and your nation!!**

- **Feb 11th** Superbowl of Caring for **local Food Pantries**. Soup Kettle is out!
- **2024 Lenten Project** supporting **Tama Co. Storks Nest**, financially & in supplies.

Contact Missions: Sherman Ubben, Laura Henrich or Patty Calderwood for more info.

## Looking Ahead.....

- Soul Stitching Saturdays Feb. 10th 9am Fellowship Hall
- **Annual Meeting** Feb. 11th following service
- **Baked Potato Lunch to follow meeting**
- **Annual Meeting back up** Feb. 18th following service
- Board of Deacons Meeting Feb. 12th 6:30pm Cry Room
- Board of Trustees Meeting Feb. 21st 5:30pm Cry Room
- Quilting Wednesdays 9 am Fellowship Hall
- Search Committee TBD Cry Room

### Looking Ahead

- Noisy Offering Feb. 25th for Storks Nest
- Soul Stitching Saturday Feb 10th & Mar. 9th 9am Fellowship Hall

Birthdays: February 6th Christy Flamme **CELEBRATE!**

9th David Calderwood

25th Carston Calderwood

March 2nd Josh Youel

11th Laura Henrichs & David Jones

17th Cindy Youel

21st Denis Winkelpleck Jr

28th Patty Calderwood & Carissa Calderwood





## Right around Ripley

Women's Fellowship  
celebrate the Holidays  
over dinner.



Jane Knoop, Arlene Schmidt, Sharon Finzen, Ruth Calderwood,  
and Bridge Minister Jim Coppoc.

2023 Giving Tree  
Grows and Grows with  
love from the hearts of  
the Ripley family. Rip-  
ley helping to provide  
for our community!

Share your event with the Ripley  
family! Contact Annette at [annette-  
knoop81@gmail.com](mailto:annette-knoop81@gmail.com) with your event!

Jane Knoop celebrates the Big 8-0 !  
With Family in Indiana!



Many Birthday Wishes came  
Arlene Schmidt's way for  
her birthday in January!



Special delivery to Tama Co.  
Storks Nest by Bridge Minister  
Jim . Warming babies with love  
from Ripley!

## Right around Ripley



Candle Light Service Christmas Eve 2023



## Remembering When....

Peddling through life with Ripley!

**Winding Stairs Parade**

Can you name  
the Peddlers? ?



Thank you Josh & Patty  
for the pictures!

YEAR ???



Do you have pictures from Ripley's past? Please share them with the Newsletter! Memory Lane is always a fun path to journey!! Pictures can be sent to [annetteknoop81@gmail.com](mailto:annetteknoop81@gmail.com) or brought to a Deacon to copy.

**Don't forget to name the peddlers!**

Place the following ingredients in a slow cooker.

Cook on low until cheese melts and soup is heated through.

2 cups Minute Rice

1—2 cups of chicken broth

2 large cans of cooked chicken drained / or Rotisserie Chicken

1 can of diced tomatoes

1 can of small chopped chilis

16 oz sour cream

3/4 block of Velveeta cheese/cubed

Mexican seasoning to taste (can use taco seasoning)

\*\*Add more chicken as desired \*\*if too thick—thin with more broth

Top with : Tortilla Strips / Pico de Gallo

Mexican Cheese /Green onions

## Enchilada Chicken

## Food for the Soul....

## Sharing God's Given Talent

Ripley's God's Given Talent Auction piece donated by Berwyn Johnson, now a testament to our history. Remembering Ripley's own Berwyn Johnson.....so much talent.....

**Berwyn Barrett Johnson**, 92, of Cedar Falls, died Monday, January 8, 2024, at The Deery Suites at Western Home Communities.

He was born October 10, 1931, in Cedar Falls, the son of Oscar and Eva (Comer) Johnson. Berwyn served in the US Army as a paratrooper from 1951-

1954, attaining the rank of sergeant. He graduated

from Iowa State University and spent his career as a mechanical engineer originally at Titus Manufacturing in Waterloo, before moving to the University of Northern Iowa in 1976. Berwyn was united in marriage to Delores Prohaska on May 5, 1962, in Iowa Falls. She preceded him in death in 1975. On May 30, 1981, Berwyn married Marlys Bohnstengel in Traer. She preceded him in death on September 10, 2014. Berwyn is survived by his son, Lewis (Kimberly) Johnson of Cedar Falls; his daughter, Amy (Greg) Proctor of Traer; two stepdaughters, Linda (Tom) Kuzmerz of Hawthorne Woods, IL, and Julie (Sean) Hurt of Texas; two stepsons, Lloyd (Joni) Bohnstengel of Texas and James Bohnstengel of Ames; ten grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by two wives, three brothers, one sister, and baby daughter in infancy.

Memorials may be directed to the family.

### Quilting starts again!

**Wednesdays** at 9am Fellowship Hall

**Soul Stitching Saturdays** Fellowship Hall

**\*\* Feb 10th at 9am \*\*March 9th at 9am**

No experience necessary! All are welcome!!



What Talent has God given you to share?

Submit your recipes and /or talent shares to Annette Knoop at [annetteknoop81@gmail.com](mailto:annetteknoop81@gmail.com)

# Power of God's Song....

## The Congregation Speaks (and Sings!)

At the end of December, we asked for congregational feedback on our music in worship. For those unable to attend in person, please feel free to text or email your responses to Bridge Minister Jim Coppoc at:

Phone: 515-708-4343 Email: [jimtriple@gmail.com](mailto:jimtriple@gmail.com)

### 1. The hymns at Ripley are:

a. too modern b. too traditional c. just right

### 2. The accompaniment tracks are:

a. too loud b. too soft c. just right

Based on the feedback to date: the congregation feels our hymns are slightly too traditional and the accompaniment is slightly too soft.

### 3. The best musical experience I've had at Ripley was:

Favorite musical experiences involve live instrumentation (piano, organ, brass, woodwinds, guitar and cello) as well as a live band (Salt Light); the service we put together for Christmas Eve (FOURTEEN congregants were involved!); choir; and the focus on our youngest members during the Children's Celebration portion of our liturgy.

### My favorite hymns (up to 3) are:

Favorite hymns of the congregation include the following:

*Amazing Grace \* I'll Fly Away \* The Old Rugged Cross \* Whispering Hope \* Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee \* Precious Lord, Take My Hand \* There's a Song in the Air \* Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing \* They'll Know We Are Christians (By Our Love) \* Jesus, Jesus, Jesus \* The King is Coming \* The Ivory Palace \* Lord I am Coming Home*

As we move forward in this year of **Refresh, Renew, Re-grow**, we hope you will continue to share your feedback on how to shape our worship and our ministry in the months to come.



## Prayer for all—in need

For The Peggy Drinovsky family as they grieve Charlie's loss.

For Don and Tammy Jones as they grieve for the loss of Don's sister.

For the family of Berwyn Johnson, our member who passed this January.

For Laura Henrichs - as she continues to get stronger. We are glad to see you!

For all of our members recuperating from illness this winter season. Know we miss you and look forward to seeing you soon!



## Annual Church Meeting Sunday February 11th 2024

Following service

Annual Reports available in print and in digital form. Contact Annette Knoop Email: [annette-knoop81@gmail.com](mailto:annette-knoop81@gmail.com) or by text at 574-298-7949

Potluck follows meeting.

Prayer requests can be submitted on line at

<https://tinyurl.com/3n324nvk>

In person to Bridge Pastor Jim Coppoc.

To a Deacon or by utilizing the following QR code.

