

# Announcements

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## Meetings:

- Board of Deacons: Sunday Dec. 8th @ 10:00 am - Fellowship Hall
- Board of Trustees: Tuesday Dec. 17th @ 5:30 pm - Fellowship Hall
- Mission Committee: Wednesday Jan. 15th @ 6:00 pm - South Office

## Winter Mission Opportunities:

- Ripley Giving Tree
- Christmas Eve Offering - Veterans of the Cross
- Noisy Offering- Dec. 29th - Storks Nest - Lent Offering for 2025

## Church/Community Involvement:

- Quilting - Thursday Dec. 5th - Fellowship Hall
- No Soul Stitching on Saturday in December
- Order a Poinsettia in honor or memory of a loved one to adorn our altar.
  - **\$16.00 each** - See Patty to place your order.
    - 319-269-7286 or [pattycalderwood@gmail.com](mailto:pattycalderwood@gmail.com)
  - Poinsettias will arrive from Simply Blooming by Sun. Dec. 8th

## Religious Education

- Adult RE will begin in January with twice monthly topics at Ripley and at Pizza Palace (if open). Details TBD.
- Confirmation will be scheduled early 2025 for youth aged 13 and up. Please see Jim if you know a young person who might be interested.
- VOLUNTEERS NEEDED to help with Children's RE during future services. Please see Jim for details.



# Ripley United Church of Christ Celebration of Worship

December 1st, 2024  
First Sunday of Advent

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## Welcome and Announcements Prelude and Candle Lighting

### Praise and Invocation (excerpted from Psalm 25):

One: To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

**Many: In you I trust.**

One: Make me know your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths.

**Many: Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation.**

One: All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.

**Many: Amen.**

**\*Opening Hymn:** "Blessed Assurance" (black hymnal #473)

### Advent Candle - Hope - 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

This church is part of an unbroken chain of Christian love, grace, justice and inclusion reaching back more than 2000 years to the birth of Jesus Christ, and in many ways further, to the prophetic tradition he was born into. Although each of us has only one human life to offer, we place our hope in each new generation. This morning, the "Hope" candle will be lit by Kayce Hulme, our youngest member, with help from his family.

### Confession:

One: Our Gospel teaches that redemption is near, even in the darkest times.

**Many: Too often, we lose hope. Our faith does not sustain us.**

One: Our Gospel calls us to pray for strength.

**Many: We pray instead for escape from this world.**

One: Forgive us God, our fear and our faithlessness.

**Many: Teach us to live, love and serve in the world you created.**

### Silent Prayer

### Assurance:

One: Hear the Gospel! Our God is a gracious and loving God.

**Many: By His grace, we are forgiven**

One: By His love, we are set free

**All: Amen**

### Passing the Peace/ Children's Procession

Our scripture teaches that the Kingdom of God belongs to those who enter it like a child. As our children come forward, it is our custom to greet each other from our places, then sing the children to the front with the traditional song "This Little Light of Mine." If you are worshiping with us online, please feel free to say hello in the comments, so we know you are here.

### Children's Celebration - "Mary, Did You Know"

**Gospel:** Luke 21:25-36

**Message:** "Signs of Hope"

**Hymn:** "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" (black hymnal #116)

### Offertory

**\*Presentation of our Offerings:** Doxology (black hymnal #780)

**\*Prayer of Thanksgiving**

### Prayers of the People

**Lord's Prayer (debts/debtors)**

**\*Closing Hymn:** "Great is Your Faithfulness" (black hymnal #423)

### \*Benediction

### Postlude

\* Please stand, in body or spirit



Thank you for attending Ripley United Church of Christ.  
We're glad you came.

Song Leader today was Alex Bagenstos

Reader was Josh Youel

RE helper was Lindsey Christie

Accompanist/Special Music was Carston Calderwood

Bridge Minister Jim Coppoc is available to our community at:  
515-708-4343 (text is best)

[jimatripley@gmail.com](mailto:jimatripley@gmail.com)

[Facebook.com/jim.at.ripley](https://www.facebook.com/jim.at.ripley)

Find us online at [www.ripleyucc.org](http://www.ripleyucc.org), or connect to us in person over refreshments downstairs after the service.

Prayer requests can be submitted in person to Jim or any Deacon, or by following this QR code:

