

Announcements

Meetings:

- Board of Deacons: Sunday Jan. 12th @ 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
 - Take a tag(s)
 - List your name and the tag(s) number you took on the clipboard
 - Bring back your item....
 - Adopt a Family Instructions on the back of their tag(s)
 - Cross your name and the number(s) off the list when you have returned your donations
- Christmas Eve Offering - Veterans of the Cross
- Noisy Offering- Dec. 29th - Storcks Nest - Lent Offering for 2025

Church/Community Involvement:

- Quilting - **Thursday** - Dec. 19th - 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
- Help is needed: CHAT Food Pantry is seeking volunteers....
 - Help is needed during open hours - shifts include:
 - 9am to Noon and Noon to 3pm - Monday thru Saturday
 - Contact Toni Whannel to volunteer or ask questions
 - 319-231-2771

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 15th, 2024
Third Sunday of Advent



Welcome and Announcements

Prelude and Candle Lighting

"One Small Child," by David Meece,
performed by Fionn Coppoc and Laura Henrichs

Praise and Invocation (Philippians 4:4-7):

One: Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice.

Many: Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near.

One: Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be known to God.

Many: And the Peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus

One: Amen.

***Opening Hymn:** "This Is the Day" (black hymnal #84)

Advent Candle - Joy - Isaiah 12:2-6

There is joy in the promise of the coming of Christ. There is joy in the abundance of the world God created. There is also joy in watching our church grow, and a new generation begin the work Christ calls us to do. Today's Advent candle will be lit by Marley Scribner, with a reading by her grandmother, Joyce Scribner, to accompany.

Confession:

One: Our Gospel calls us to "bear fruits worthy of repentance," to live out the call by our works.

Many: We fail to act as we are taught

One: We fail to work for our salvation.

Many: The way of the Lord lies fallow.

One: Forgive us God, our sloth and ignorance.

Many: Teach us to live, love and serve 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 - "Down in My Heart"

Reading: Luke 3:7-8

Message: "Finding Joy"

Hymn: "O Little Town of Bethlehem" (Black Hymnal #133)

Offertory: "Hark The Herald Angels Sing," performed by Marley Scribner

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

***Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Prayers of the People

Lord's Prayer (debts/debtors)

***Closing Hymn:** "Joy to the World (Black Hymnal #132)

***Benediction**

Postlude

* Please stand, in body or spirit



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

Accompanist today was Laura Henrichs
Special Music by Laura Henrichs, Fionn Coppoc and Marley Scribner
Readers were Denis Winklepleck, Jr and Joyce Scribner
RE helper was Cindy Youel

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

jimatripley@gmail.com

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

Find us online at 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:

