

Announcements

Meetings:

- Board of Deacons: Sunday Jan. 12th @ 10:00 am - Fellowship Hall
- Board of Trustees: Tuesday Jan. 14th @ 5:30 pm - Fellowship Hall
- Mission Committee: Wednesday Jan. 15th @ 6:00 pm - South Office

Winter Mission Opportunities:

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

Church/Community Involvement:

- Quilting is on break for the holidays! See you in 2025
- 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 the discussion series, "Jesus Said What?", which imagines a Christianity built on the actual words of Christ, as represented in the Gospels. Time and place TBA
- Confirmation will be scheduled Spring/Summer 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.

Upcoming Events:

- Christmas Eve Services @ Ripley - Tuesday Dec. 24th @ 7:00 pm
 - Join us for a traditional and musical Christmas Eve worship.
 - Offering to "Christmas Fund - Veterans of the Cross"
- 12th Day of Christmas Fellowship - Sunday Jan. 5th after worship
 - Join the Deacons for a special 12th Day of Christmas Tea in the Fellowship hall after worship.



Ripley United Church of Christ Celebration of Worship

December 22nd, 2024
Fourth Sunday of Advent



Welcome and Announcements Prelude and Candle Lighting

Praise and Invocation (from Psalm 80):

- One: Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel!
- Many: Shine forth—stir up your might, and come to save us!**
- One: Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.
- Many: Restore us, O God of hosts... that we may be saved.**
- One: Amen.

***Opening Hymn:** "They'll Know We Are Christians" (red hymnal #429)

Advent Candle - Love - Colossians 3:12-15

As Christians, above all, we are called to love. Love of God. Love of neighbor. Christ commands us to love each other as he loved us. Today's advent candle, celebrating this most basic Christian virtue, will be lit by Ripley's youth.

Confession:

- One: Our Gospel calls us to "magnify the Lord," to live out his call by our works.
- Many: We fail to love as we are taught.**
- One: Love opens the path to a peace which surpasses all understanding.
- Many: We do not share the love we are given.**

One: Forgive us, God, our failings.

Many: Teach us to love. Teach us to serve. Give us your peace.

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 - "Oil in my Lamp"

Reading: Luke 1:39-55

Message: "Light, Love and the Mystery of Christmas"

Hymn: "In the Bleak Midwinter" (Black Hymnal #128)

Offertory

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

***Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Prayers of the People

Lord's Prayer (debts/debtors)

***Closing Hymn:** "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear" (Black Hymnal #131)

*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
Song Leader was Alex Bagenstos
Reader was Lindsey Christie
RE helper was Josh 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:

