



9am Sunday Service

In person and on line via Facebook Live .
Bridge Minister Jim Coppoc leading worship.



Momentum !

Last year, the theme for Ripley UCC was "Renew, Refresh, Regrow" . And Ripley, we did. Attendance is up. Giving is up. Quilting and Missions are as strong as ever. We have enough children for a Christian Ed. Program now and Adult education is starting up again. Through a second year of Salt Light and first year of Parsonage shows, our community engagement is flourishing, and our ecumenical outreach through shared services and VBS keeps us close to the rest of the Traer Christian community. Improvements in our website, audio and streaming technology are also allowing us to share church with more people than ever before.

This year, the theme we have chosen is "Momentum". To build on and stabilize our growth. To continue welcoming new members and welcoming back old friends. And of course, this effort needs you.

As we enter the new year, Ripley is at an inflection point. We need our members active, in and out of Sunday worship. We need you to reach out to anyone in need of a church family, and let them know that we are here. That they are wanted, and that we can all continue to thrive together. We need you in the pews and on line, growing together. Most of all, we need your prayerful support, discernment and feedback as we plot this new course together.

See you on Sundays, Jim

NORTH TAMA TELEGRAPH

Pastor's Column

Bridge Minister Jim Coppoc is the featured columnist.
Pastoral Column links available on our website under
"Publications" <https://ripleyucc.org/publications/>

January Column : The Dandelion Dilemma
<https://www.northtamatelegraph.com>

Bridge Minister Jim Coppoc is available to
our community at:

515-708-4343 (text is best)

jimatripley@gmail.com



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

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Ripley In the Know

In this issue:

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From your Board Chairs.....

Looking back over the last year of refreshing renewal and growth we're taking the positive energy and progress we've experienced into the new year with hope of continued momentum. See you online and in the pews.

Board of Deacons Chair—Christy Flamme

The Trustees have been reviewing the budget for next year and preparing for the annual meeting in February. We've also been working on improving the look and safety of the south east stairwell.

Board of Trustees Chair—Josie Hulme

Your bi-monthly newsletter is brought to you by
The Board of Deacons.

Keeping Ripley's congregation **"In The Know"!**

Available in paper or digital form.

Follow Ripley UCC on Facebook! #ripleyucctraer

Feel free to reach out with "news" via the link below or to Annette at annetteknoop81@gmail.com or text : 574-298-7949

<https://forms.gle/NsUDiMUXK8NafCyG8Ripley Newsletter - Share with us>

Ripley UCC Missions...

The Ripley Missions Committee rounded out 2024 and the holiday season by organizing the Giving Tree. Tags were made for items to support two families for CHAT's Adopt a Family Program and toiletries for the Veterans Home. Items for our adopted classrooms were secured by tags on the Giving Tree or funded by the Missions Educational Assistance fund.



The Food Pantry

Sponsored by:

CHAT, North Tama Schools and the churches of Traer

Ecumenical Service 2024

"Thanksgathering"

Items collected for The Food Pantry with CHAT



Our Mission is "NO KID SLEEPS ON THE FLOOR IN OUR TOWN!" We are an organization that builds and delivers beds to children in need of a bed and a safe place to sleep.

<https://shpbeds.org/chapter/ia-ames/>

Thank you to the volunteers for SHP!



The Stork's Nest

Lenten Project



2024 Noisy Offerings

Coffee for Troops \$561.83

Stork's Nest \$387.89

LOOKING AHEAD

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

Summer Meetings:

- Board of Deacons: Feb. 10th @ 10:00 am - Fellowship Hall
- Board of Trustees: Feb. 18th @ 5:30 pm - Fellowship Hall
- Mission Committee: Mar. 26th @ 6:30 pm - South Office

Church/Community Involvement:

- THURSDAYS - Gather to stitch starting @ 9:00 am
- Soul Stitching @ 9:00 am
Second Saturday of the Month
Follow schedule on Facebook or the Ripley UCC Website.

Your Help is Wanted:

- Sign up in the Fellowship Hall to provide Fellowship or be a Scripture Reader.
- Seeking volunteers to help with Children's Christian Education during future services. Please see Jim for details.

Adult Religious Education

- Adult Religious Education will begin soon. "Jesus Said What?" Which imagines a Christianity built on the actual words of Christ, as represented in the Gospels. Time and place to be determined.

Keep up on What's Happening via the website!

<https://ripleyucc.org/>

Did you know?

On line giving is available through [Tithly.com](https://tithly.com)? It's easy!
One time or designated times - direct your donations to the area of your
Choice—see the drop down options.

We thank you for your continued support of Ripley UCC!

Let's Celebrate!

January Birthdays

4th-Arlene Schmit

7th-Bill Calderwood

8th - Cody Jones

11th-Annette Knoop

16th - Heather White

23rd - Joan Reuman

February Birthdays

6th -Christy Flamme

8th—Bob Steffeny

9th—David Calderwood

14th Charles Dinsdale

21st—Denis Winkelpleck Jr

25th—Carston Calderwood

Please update those special occasions with the Deacons.



Right around Ripley



“ThanksGathering”
Ecumenical Services



Breaking Bread with our
neighbors, Traer United
Methodist Church at
Ripley's Fall Celebration.



Hosted by Ripley
with TUMC & TUPC

Catching up with Pastor Bob Fread



Christmas Eve Candle Light Service



Have you impacted someone's life? Shared your talents with others? Thankful for what others have done?

Whatever the occasion may be—we want to hear your stories!

Please share via the link below, through a Deacon or by emailing Annette at annetteknoop81@gmail.com

<https://forms.gle/NsUDiMUXK8NafCyG8Ripley> Newsletter - Share with us

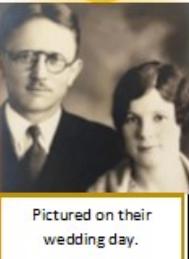
A Guest from our past...



Otto F. Moede
Ripley Congregational
Minister
1935-1936

Otto married Katherine Etzel on November 20th, 1928

She was a registered nurse from Fort Dodge



Pictured on their wedding day.



We were blessed with a visit from the family members of Rev. Meade and his wife Katherine. Visiting were his daughter Louise Moede Lex and granddaughter Andrea Lex. Andrea has written a book about her mother and both enjoyed their visit at Ripley and in Traer.

Earlier in the year Ripley had the honor of guests Louise Moede Lex and her daughter Andrea Lex. The story of Louise Moede Lex is now available on Amazon!

God's Given Talents.....

Shouts of Praise for the Ripley Family members who bring their many



Josh Youel
checking
the wreath
lights.

It takes two to hang our lovely wreath!



shows thru in so many ways!



Talents to the the sanctuary as they bring every-thing together for all of us to enjoy through Advent and beyond.



How does it look?



A Visionary's Road Map Louise Moede Lex

This is her story—written by her daughter, Andrea Lex

"You could never say 'no' to Louise!"
Susan Pohl

Louise Moede Lex was born in 1929 and grew up in the Upper Midwest during the Great Depression of the 1930s and World War II in the 1940s. Her family was poor, living from pillar to post.

Louise knew she had to become financially independent at an early age. She began to see her life as having a road map and she set goals for herself.

On her journey, Louise earned a Ph.D., found the love of her life, and adopted two children.

Louise was a feminist before the word was created and she fought for herself, her family, and every underdog she ever met.

Today, at the age of 94, she is still employed by the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services and is probably the oldest state employee in the nation.

This is her story, written by her daughter, Andrea Lex.

A Visionary's
Road Map
Louise Moede Lex



By Andrea Lex



Cindy Youel
fluffs—David
Calderwood
tops the tree
while Christy
Flamme looks
on.



Fluffing...
is an art!



Thank you to
all who partici-
pated!



Remembering When....

Cloth Nativity shared by Bill & Ruth Calderwood.



The cloth nativity was made by Ruth Calderwood so that the children in her home could play with it. Our youngest parishioners hands can now use it to explore the story of Christ's birth.

Nativity shared by Denis Winkelpleck



Senior. The Nativity pieces were purchased at a secondhand store, which helps put people to work, keeps items out of the landfill and of course, one man's junk is another man's treasure.

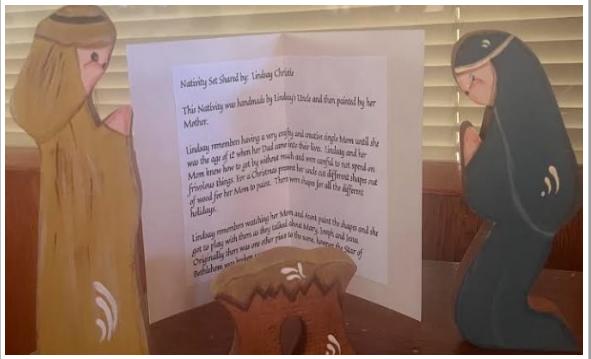
This year the Ripley sanctuary was decorated with precious memories through nativity scenes displayed by members of the Ripley Family. Each nativity holds a story—as those who shared remember those stories, let us now learn why they are special.

Calderwood Family Nativity handmade by Rhea Calderwood for her son, Hugh Jrs (Bill) family.

Shared by Ruth & Bill Calderwood,



Their children; Michelle, David & Michael would rearrange the figurines. Consequently, the donkey is missing an ear. It is one of Bill and Ruth's most treasured possessions.



Wooden Nativity handmade by Marvin Dinsdale shared by Jane Dinsdale Knoop.

This nativity, and many like it, were hand crafted by Marvin Dinsdale, father of Jane Knoop and grandfather of Jane Knoop. Marvin was a gifted craftsman who made many wood projects over the years for the Ripley God's Given Talent Auction.

"Little Town of Bethlehem" Nativity shared by Jane Knoop



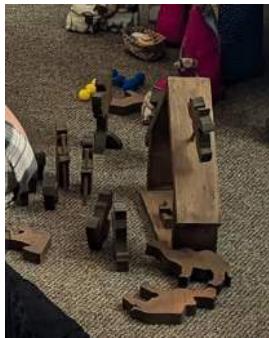
The village was purchased at Christmas circa 2006 by Roger & Jane Knoop. They appreciated that it was the "village" of Bethlehem and was so unusual.

Kober Family Nativity shared by Bill & Ruth Calderwood



This nativity was on display all year at the Kober Family home. It was handmade by Ruthal Fleming for the Kober Family. Each piece is labeled with RF and has a number. The year of creation is unknown. It was purchased by Hugh Jr (Bill) and Ruth Calderwood on the Kober Family Estate Auction on August 21st, 1990. The Kober and Stoakes families were relatives. Millie Kober was a sister of Minni Stoakes. Minni would be Ruth (Stoakes) Calderwood's Grandmother. Ruth chose to put this Nativity on display in the south window at Ripley in 2024 as this is the stained glass window sponsored by the Kober Family during the window refurbishing project in 2014.

Wooden Nativity Set Shared by Pastor Jim Coppoc



This Nativity was handmade by Jim with his Father who was a carpenter and taught Jim how to use tools in his woodshop. Jim won a prize at the county fair with this project.

Pastor Jim shared the story of this Nativity with the children on the First Sunday of Advent 2024. They talked about Jesus and that his Mommy was Mary, a very special woman of the Bible.

The children were able to take this wooden nativity to their Christian Education room after their message that morning and have it in their room to play with during Advent.

Christmas Caroling

Sunday, December 8th

Thank you to Carri Holst with Traer United Presbyterian Church for organizing Christmas Caroling in the community.



***The Power
of
God's Song***

CHRISTMAS EVE Candlelight SERVICE

Thank you to our talented musicians!



A Musical Nativity shared by Ruth & Bill Calderwood uniquely plays God's Song as the figures bow to honor the Christ Child.



Follow details on the Ripley Website :<https://ripleyucc.org/events/>

Subscribe to the calendar and never miss an event!

The Parsonage

2025 Series is starting!

Latest Music Craze

in Traer is at:
**Ripley's
Parsonage!**

Save these Dates!
Wednesdays at
6:30 pm
All are welcome!

May 14th
June 25th
July 9th
August 13th
September 10th
October 8th
November 12th

Prayers for all.....



For those families who are grieving for the loss of a child, friend, loved one... May they find peace in the memories of the ones that were touched so deeply by the love for their loved one.

For our Ripley family members and their families and friends as they battle health concerns. May they know the love and compassion of those who surround them in their time of need.

Through this journey we share praises for those reuniting and beginning a life as one. For those celebrating another year on the anniversary of their birth. For the joys of new family members either in matrimony or in the birth of a child.

Know your Ripley Family is here for all as your journeys in life continue - knowing your community in Christ is here to lift you

Prayer requests can be submitted on line at :

<https://tinyurl.com/3n324nvk> in person to Bridge Pastor

Jim Coppoc or to a Deacon or by utilizing the following QR code.

