



Meetings:

- Board of Deacons: Monday Feb. 10th @ 7:00 pm - Fellowship Hall
- Board of Trustees: Tuesday Feb. 18th @ 5:30 pm - Fellowship Hall
- Mission Committee: Wednesday March 26th @ 6:30 - Office

Mission/Church/Community Involvement:

- Quilting - Thursday Feb. 13th @ 9:00 am
 - Soul Stitching is Mar. 8th @ 9:00 am
- Noisy Offering-Feb. 23rd - Storks Nest - Lent Offering for 2025

Annual Meeting & Luncheon - TODAY - Please Join Us!

Announcing/Notice:

- Worship Feb. 16th will be **AT the United Methodist Church** across the street!
 - UMC has a special worship hosted by the Gideons. Worship starts at 9:30 am with Fellowship to follow.
 - Calling all Singers! We are invited to join their Choir for the workshop. They will be singing familiar hymns, no advanced practice. For more information contact Linda Lyons @ 319-404-2900.

Religious Education

- Today - After the annual meeting on **February 9**, Ripley will host a special event to celebrate Bill Douglas, a friend and attender of our church, as he reads from his new book, *The People Are Kind: A Religious History of Iowa*.
- "Jesus Said What?" series continues the afternoon of **March 2** (time and location TBD) with a discussion of Jesus' message and promise at the Last Supper.
- 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.



Ripley United Church of Christ Celebration of Worship

February 9th, 2025
Fifth Sunday After Epiphany



**Welcome and Announcements
Prelude and Candle Lighting**

Call to Worship (excerpted from Psalm 138):

One: I give you thanks, O LORD, with my whole heart; before the gods I sing your praise...

Many: On the day I called, you answered me; you increased my strength of soul.

One: For though the LORD is high, he regards the lowly, but the haughty he perceives from far away.

Many: Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve me against the wrath of my enemies; you stretch out your hand, and your right hand delivers me.

One: Let us worship in the presence of a just and loving God.

Many: Amen.

***Opening Hymn:** "I've Got Peace Like a River" (Black Hymnal #478)

Confession:

One: Our scriptures teach us to trust in God, and persevere.

Many: Too often, we lose faith in the face of adversity.

One: The Spirit is ours in good times and in bad.

Many: We neglect its comfort and guidance.

One: Forgive us, God, our failings.

Many: Teach us to stand firm in our resolve.

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 - "Fishers of Men"

Reading: Luke 5:1-11

Homily: "Keep Going"

***Hymn:** "There Is a Balm in Gilead" (black hymnal #553)

Offertory

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

***Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

***Closing Hymn:** "When Peace, Like a River" (black hymnal #438)

***Benediction**

Postlude

* Please stand, in body or spirit



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

Reader today:
CE helper was Lindsey Christie

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:

Prayer requests can be submitted online at
<https://tinyurl.com/3n324nvk>, in person to Jim or any Deacon

No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.



A recent letter from our church leaders to the immigrant community...

January 20, 2025

To our migrant siblings in Christ:

As we celebrate the life and witness of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr, and his call to beloved community, we stand with our Catholic colleagues in extending to you our prayers, our solidarity and our witness in these trying times. We are aware of the uncertainty, fear and threat you face as migrants, immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers. We want you to know that you are loved and valued by God and by us. You are not alone.

We are neighbors, friends and colleagues. Together, we are part of the household of God. Despite the harmful rhetoric we hear, we are all made in God's image and precious and honored in God's sight (Isaiah 43:4). We recognize and are thankful for the immense gifts contributed to the collective culture and shared experience.

As members of the Body of Christ, we stand together, reminding our nation of its historic commitments to human rights. We will renew our commitment to live out God's second greatest commandment, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself" (Matthew 22:39). We will work to protect inherent dignity and insist on fair, lawful and compassionate treatment of everyone.

All of us in the Church of Jesus Christ are sojourners, "For here we have no lasting city, but we are looking for the city that is to come," (Hebrews 13:14). We invite all people of Iowa to join us in sojourning with you in

ways that are just and respectful of our shared humanity. May God bless you and give you peace as we walk together this common journey.

In Christ,

Rev. Kennetha J. Bigham-Tsai, bishop of the Iowa Annual Conference and Illinois Great Rivers Conference of the United Methodist Church

Rev. Amy Current, bishop of the Southeastern Iowa Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

The Rt. Rev. Betsey Monnot, bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Iowa

Rev. Roberto Ochoa, conference minister of the Iowa, Nebraska and South Dakota Conferences of the United Church of Christ

Rev. Kendy Miller, associate conference minister of the Iowa, Nebraska and South Dakota Conferences of the United Church of Christ

Rev. Lorna H. Halaas, bishop of the Western Iowa Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Rev. Ian McMullen, executive presbyter, Presbytery of Des Moines, Presbyterian Church (USA)

Elder Amgad Beblawi, ministry and mission executive, Presbytery of Des Moines, Presbyterian Church (USA)

Rev. Kevin Jones, bishop of the Northeastern Iowa Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

