

Sharing the Lord's Word.



Ripley United Church of Christ

9am Sunday Service

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



Recently, one of our former pastors asked ChatGPT to reflect her theology back to her. ChatGPT searched the Internet, and offered her a summary based on her public work. I saw her results, got curious and did the same. Then I got even more curious, and asked ChatGPT what the theology of Ripley United Church of Traer, Iowa might be. Here is what came up:

1. Inclusive and Welcoming Christianity
2. Scripture Interpreted Through Love and Justice
3. Local Faith, Global Responsibility
4. Open Minded, Non-Dogmatic Theology

In addition, ChatGPT found that our culture includes "traditional small-town values like community, service and care for neighbors, " and "progressive theological commitments to inclusion, justice and humility."

I cannot imagine a better reflection of who we are as a congregation. Loving, serving, welcoming, open. I am honored to be part of it, and part of you.

Here's to many more years building on this amazing thing we have.

In Christ,
Jim

NORTH TAMA TELEGRAPH

Pastor's Column

Bridge Minister Jim Coppoc is the featured columnist.

June 2025 " Half Truths from The Bible"

<https://www.northtamatelegraph.com/opinion/local-columns/2025/06/06/half-truths-from-the-bible/>

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)



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

July/August 2025 Vol 11

Ripley In the Know

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From your Board Chairs.....

Board of Deacons Chair—Christy Flamme

In July members and friends of our congregation will be volunteering to serve food at the Tama Co. Fair Food stand! The proceeds will be going towards Mission Projects. Other community events and volunteer opportunities coming up are Traer's ecumenical Vacation Bible School . Aug 4-7 5-7pm. Join the kids Thursday night to hear what they have learned! On August 10th Ripley will be hosting the Community Church Service at 10:30am at the Memorial Building. Service features the Christian Band Salt Light. Come and join in musical worship.

Board of Trustees Chair—Josie Hulme

With the making of our website, interest has been generated in Ripley for those in our community who are not members of the church. The Trustees have been working on a rental agreement for our facilities in order to share the beauty of Ripley for interested parties. The Trustees are also looking into the options for getting a new copier.

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 anneteknoop81@gmail.com or text : 574-298-7949

<https://forms.gle/NsUDiMUXK8NafCyG8RipleyNewsletter-Sharewithus>

Ripley UCC Missions...

Missions Opportunity!

Your time can help Missions funding!

Tuesday **July 15th** - Volunteer
- Tama County Fair Food Stand-



The Ripley Mission Committee needs your help and is providing a volunteer opportunity for Ripley Folks, our friends and family to get involved with. (Upper Element Kids with Supervision and HS kids are welcome.

The Tama County Fair Food Stand needs volunteers everyday to show up, have direction from the Food Stand Manager and help prep, prepare and serve the crowd. Each day of the fair a different group of volunteers share their time and in return that group receives a considerable stipend for working. Ripley assisted with this effort in 2024 and after receiving a stipend of \$668 we were able to send those funds on to the Tornado Victims of Greenfield. We are volunteering again this year and after we receive our stipend, a destination for the funds will be chosen. We encourage you to wear your Ripley T-shirts to provide recognition to our group.

Pies and sweets along with time are needed. All proceeds from pie/sweets sales are go to the Food Stand. Christy or Patty will gladly pick up and take your "sweets" donation to the Food Stand.

Your contacts:

Patty Calderwood pattycalderwood@gmail.com 319-269-7286

Christy Flamme 319-269-0625



**NO KID SLEEPS
ON THE FLOOR
IN OUR TOWN!**

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/>

Unfortunately due to the high temperatures and humidity, the build day at the Ames chapter SIHP was cancelled. The plans are to go in September on the 13th. Mark you calendars now! And join us in making beds for kids!



The Quilters continue their mission efforts every Thursday and one Saturday a month. Please consider joining their efforts if you have a chance.

Contact: Jane Knoop janekoop@gmail.com 319-478-8156



Noisy Offering



June marked the end of our Lenton/Noisy offering project for the first half of 2025. Ripley parishioners have donated \$770 in noisy offerings for the North Tama Stork's Nest. The organization provides assistance, support and needed supplies to mothers, infants and children. Diapers and formula are always high on their needs list, so our donation will most likely go to purchase supplies.

The Quilters have quilts and burp cloths to share with The Stork's Nest patrons and our delivery will also include a large number of donated wipes.



The 2nd half of 2025 Noisy Offerings will support those right here in Traer through the Traer Utilities office. "PS" : **Project Share** is a program that assists needy households in with monetary assistance towards their winter energy bills.

LOOKING AHEAD



Summer Meetings:

- Board of Deacons: August 3rd 10:00am South Office
- Board of Trustees: July 15th @ 5:30pm South Office
- Mission Committee: August 27th @ 6:30pm South Office

Fishing and Fellowship

- Sunday, **July 20**, 11:00 am, Union Grove State Park
- Denis, Jr. will be on hand for expert advice

Church/Community Involvement:

- THURSDAYS - Gather to stitch starting @ 9:00 am
 - Soul Stitching Saturday July 12th @ 9:00 am
- Stitching in the Fellowship Hall—enter at the North Door

Your Help is needed:

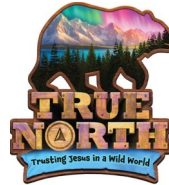
It's summer and we are all enjoying a little R&R some weekends. Help is needed to run music and the live stream. Please sign up in the kitchen. The Deacons appreciate everyone's help!! Training is available if you'd like.

Did you know?

*On line giving is available through 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!*

Vacation Bible School

Less than 2 months until True North VBS! VBS will be held Aug 4-7 from 5:00-7:45 at St Paul Catholic Church. All are welcome, regardless of church affiliation. Register today so your kids don't miss the fun!



TEVBS will be supporting the following local organizations: North Tama Food Pantry: Food, Hygiene Products, School Supplies CHAT (Spare change) Sunrise Hill Nursing Home (craft done during VBS)

Winding Stairs Festival Ecumenical Service

Sunday, August 10th, 2025 at 10:30am
Ecumenical Church Service Led by Salt Light
Traer Memorial Building - Refreshments to Follow

Keep up on What's Happening via the website!

<https://ripleyucc.org/>



[About Us](#) [Our Beliefs](#) [Our History](#) [What's Happening](#) [Gallery](#) [Contact Us](#)

Let's Celebrate!



July Birthdays

7th Luann Schmidt Hatton
11th Ruth Calderwood
14th Sherman Ubben
24th Will Coppoc

August Birthdays

15th Moses Coppoc
19th Don Jones
Landon Calderwood
21st Kathy Schmidt
23rd Astrid Lunde
24th Tammy Jones
Leisa Ubben



On June 24th, 2025,
Marvin & Verona Staker
Celebrated 73 years!

August

4th Joan & Mike Reuman
26th Christy & Nick Flamme
31st Tammy & Don Jone

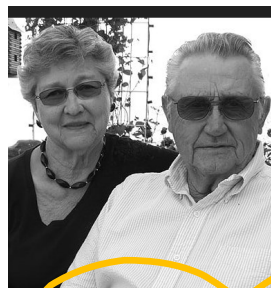
Please update those special occasions with the Deacons!

319-478-2482

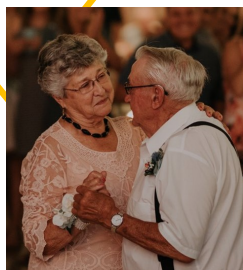
Sunday Service 9am



The first slate of eligible Our North Tama Girl Scholarship athletes pictured with scholarship representatives. From left, Carissa Calderwood, Christy (Calderwood) Flamme, Patty Calderwood, 2024 nominees Ava Breakenridge and Ava Monat, 2024 recipient Briar Blake, and 2024 nominee Faith Dvorak. PHOTO COURTESY OF PATTY CALDERWOOD



The Stakers,
Marvin and Verona
Celebrated 73 years
On June 24th!



Right around Ripley

Organized by our very own Calderwood girls as reported in The NT Telegraph:

North Tama supporters have a new way to rally behind our community's female athletes. Community members have been actively contributing to the Our North Tama Girl Scholarship, a fund dedicated to recognizing and rewarding outstanding student-athletes.

Community support helps ensure that North Tama female athletes are recognized and encouraged to achieve great things beyond high school.

For more information, stay connected with North Tama athletics and upcoming fundraising efforts, or contact North Tama Athletic Director Andrew Knaack (andrew.knaack@n-tama.k12.ia.us), or Patty Calderwood, Our NT Girls Scholarship Representative.

Read full article in The NT Telegraph!



Siblings and North Tama alumni (l-r) Carissa Calderwood (2019), Christy (née Calderwood) Flamme (2013), and Carston Calderwood (2010) volunteer in the basketball concession stand on Feb. 8, 2025. PHOTO COURTESY OF PATTY CALDERWOOD



Family affair in moving Carissa Calderwood to Pittsburg! Best Wishes from RUCC!

Patty, David and Carston Calderwood also helped out Ripley Stitchers with transport of fabric donated to the group by Sew Unique by Jackie in Granger IN.

Annette Knoop was able to join the Calderwood trio for dinner at Yesterdays in Granger on their way back to Traer.



Sunday Service June 29th at Pilgrim Heights

Faith—Fellowship—Fun and Good Food!

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 anneteknoop81@gmail.com

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

Sharing God's Given Talent

The Ripley Stitchers are an amazing group. They gather most every Thursday, listed on the Ripley Website Calendar as "Patchworks Warms Hearts. On the 2nd Saturday they gather to "Soul Stitch". Both groups get their day started at 9am by entering through the North door to the Fellowship Hall in the Church Basement.

Setting up sewing machines for quilt tops that need to be stitched, cutting pieces for colorful designs, laying out quilt tops to match to battings and backs. Sorting quilts by size to go to Cedar Valley Hospice, Black Hawk Veterans, AFIL, Mercy One, Salvation Army, Iowa Veterans Home in Marshalltown, The Stork's Nest, and Sleep in Heavenly Peace.....just to name a few of the recipients of their work!

Not only do they stitch fabric pieces, but they stitch meaning through fellowship. We invite all to pop in, and see what they are up to. Grab a needle, pull a stitch and bring joy to those who are covered in the warmth of a quilt loving constructed by the Ripley Stitchers.

Questions? Downsizing ?

Donations are welcome!

Contact: Jane Knoop

319-478-8156

jane-knoop13@gmail.com



AFIL Americans for Independent Living



Black Hawk Veterans



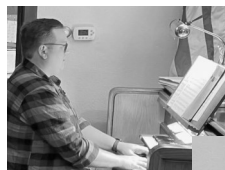
We at Ripley have many hidden talents!



Another purpose for hymnals of our past. Lovely centerpieces that keep on giving of their beauty!



Catherin's Creations made by Catherin Dinsdale



Our keyboardist! Landon Calderwood

Our brass section!

Christy Flamme, Carston Calderwood, Carissa Calderwood



Food and Fellowship!

Prayers
for all...



As we continue on the journey of life, it may take us, our family and our friends on many paths. On each path, we experience many different emotions. Know that your Ripley Family is here to support you in prayer. Whether it is a joy or a sorrow. Whether you are near or far, we hear your prayers and are with 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.



The Power of Music
At Ripley's Own:
"The Parsonage"!



Follow The Parsonage on Facebook!

Next event Open Mic Night:

July 9th @ 6:30

Next up at the Parsonage is :
Uncle Chuck!

July 9th, 2025



The Parsonage

Latest Music Craze at Ripley's Parsonage!

Monthly Music Venue in Traer!



Our girl Katie has the honor of being the featured songwriter at The Parsonage in Traer, Iowa! Stop by, say hi, eat some amazing homemade goodies, and enjoy the music! I will also have a limited amount of copies of our unreleased album, "Ain't No Shame" for sale. It's going to be a good time! Family friendly!
#singersofinstagram #singersongwriter
#openmic #featuredsongwriter #parsonage
#rootbeerfloats #originalmusic #womeninbands
— in Traer, IA.



TRAER — It may not be a honky-tonky dancehall, but on Wednesday, June 25, Traer Ripley United Church of Christ's The Parsonage pulled out all the steps — root beer floats included — to welcome Tama County native Katie (née Wedmore) Sires of Katie and the Honky Tonks (KTHT) as part of the music venue's 2025 summer lineup.

Courtesy of North Tama Telegraph

Read the full article <https://www.northtamatelegraph.com/news/local-news/2025/07/03/heres-to-the-women-of-country-music/>



Jim at Ripley

★ Favorites · 5 days ago · 🌐

Thanks to everyone who came out tonight. And to the performers who made it amazing. Moses thinks we should have you all over again sometime real soon.

So mark your calendars for July 9. And stay tuned for details. 😊



July 9, 2025

Uncle Chuck

Cedar Valley songwriting legend

All shows will start at 6:30pm with Open Mic

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61560369864076>

We are thankful to Jim and Lindsay Coppoc as they open their home—The Ripley Parsonage—to the community! Open Mic night features local artists and local talent along with treats and of course, Moses! All scheduled events can be found on the Ripley Website : <https://ripleyucc.org/events/> and on Face Book. Take a night off with the family , sit back and enjoy!