



Ripley United Church of Christ Celebration of Worship



February 22, 2026
First Sunday of Lent



Ripley Church Meetings:

- Mission Committee: Tuesday - Feb. 24th - 6:30 pm - Google Meet
- Board of Deacons: Monday - March 8th @ 10:00 am - Office
- Board of Trustees: Tuesday - Feb. 19th @ 5:30 pm - Office

Ripley Mission/Church/Community Involvement:

- Quilting: Thur. Feb. 26th @ 9:00 am
 - Saturday Soul Stitching - Saturday March 14th @ 9:00 am
- Noisy Offering - Feb. 22nd: Project to be Announced
- Ripley Quilt Show - March 21st

Lenten Plans 2026 - More details to come:

- Lenten Project: Maternal Health - Tama County
- Wednesday Night Meal and Reflections - Fellowship Hall
 - Feb. 25, March 4, 11, 18 and 25
 - 6:00 meal followed by 6:30 devotion
 - Sign up for meal prep in the kitchen.
- Men's Lenten Breakfasts - Details TBD
 - Feb. 25: Traer United Methodist
 - March 4: St. Luke's Lutheran
 - March 11: St. Paul Catholic
 - March 18: United Presbyterian
 - March 25: RUCC
 - April 1: Clutier Community
- Maundy Thursday April 2nd - TBD
- Good Friday April 3rd - TBD
- Easter: April 5th - Details TBD
 - Breakfast at 8:00 am followed by worship at 9:00 am

Welcome and Announcements Prelude and Candle Lighting

Praise and Invocation (excerpted from Psalm 32)

One: Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered...

Many: Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to you; at a time of distress.

One: You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with glad cries of deliverance. Selah.

Many: Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.

Call to Worship

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

Many: Amen

***Opening Hymn:** "Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling" (black hymnal #59)

Confession:

One: We are called to rely on you, LORD, in times of trouble.

Many: We foolishly rely on ourselves instead, and become prey to the temptations of this world.

One: Temptation was with us from the beginning. It will be with us until the end.

Many: We fail to resist as you have taught us.

One: Forgive us, Lord, our failings.

Many: Teach us to see, serve and love as we are called.

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: "Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning"

Reading: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

Message: "Nachash the Tempter"

***Response:** "My Hope is Built on Nothing Less" (black hymnal #403)

Offertory: "The Garden's Whisper" Music For Jesus

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

***Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Prayers of the People

Lord's Prayer (debts/debtors)

***Closing Hymn:** "For the Healing of the Nations" (black hymnal #576)

***Benediction**

Postlude

* Please stand, in body or spirit

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Thank you for attending Ripley UCC. We're glad you came.

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

*CE helper today was Josie Hulme

*Reader was Johnny Watson

Find us online at www.ripleyucc.org, or by searching "Ripley United Church of Christ" on Facebook. Or join us for refreshments downstairs after the service. An elevator is available by the south door for those who need it.

Pr. Jim is available to the community at 515-708-4343 (text is best) or jimatripley@gmail.com