



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

CE Volunteers!

As we start to attract more children and families, our Christian Ed. ministry becomes more and more important all the time. We still need volunteers to help. So much more than child care—this is a chance to engage and guide and support—to “be the church” our children grow to love. Please talk to Pr. Jim if you are interested in learning more.

Ripley Mission/Church/Community Involvement:

- Quilting: Thur. Feb. 19th @ 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
- Ash Wednesday: Feb. 18th, 2026 - imposition of ashes @ 6pm
- 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. Lukes 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

Ripley United Church of Christ Celebration of Worship



February 18, 2026
Ash Wednesday



*Opening Hymn and Candle Lighting

"What Wondrous Love Is This" (NCH #223)

Confession (adapted from Psalm 51)

One: Have Mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.

Many: Have mercy on me

One: You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart. Hide your face from my sins, and blot out my iniquities.

Many: Have mercy on me.

One: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.

Many: Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit. Amen.

Invocation

Today we gather with Christians across the world to mark the beginning of the holy season of Lent. Today marks an acknowledgement of our mortality, our humanness. It offers us the

opportunity to begin a journey of repentance, forgiveness and healing.

Gracious and loving God, we come before you with myriad sins on our heart. We acknowledge our time on this earth is brief, and the need to reconcile urgent. We seek your presence, your comfort and your guidance as we reconcile with ourselves, with our fellow humans, with your Holy Spirit, and with the world you have created. We ask this using the words Christ taught us to pray...

Lord's Prayer (debts/debtors)

Silent Meditation

Gospel: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Homily: "Dust to Dust"

Imposition of Ashes

***Closing Hymn:**

"Just As I Am" (NCH #207)

***Benediction**

* 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."

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