



## 9am Sunday Service

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



### CE Update!

Over the past three years, youth attendance at Ripley has gone from one child to 10 children, ranging from just a couple months old to a sophomore in high school. As the church continues to grow, we hope to see even more children in our

Sunday services. To welcome them, Deacons, Trustees and individual members have been planning a revamp of our Christian Education program over the past several months.

The curriculum we're now using is called "Godly Play" (<https://www.godlyplayfoundation.org/>). The basic idea is that instead of lecturing and drilling children on scripture and theology, we allow them to explore it using hands-on experiences and thoughtful reflection. When a Bible story has a desert, we have a sandbox. When the lesson is about patience and temptation, we have piles of marshmallows that grow the longer the children wait. To deploy this curriculum, we have recruited a team of trusted adult volunteers from the congregation that the children will build positive, supportive relationships with over the years. As they grow into adulthood, this will help them really feel like they always have a home at Ripley.

I am grateful for the enthusiastic support of the church in building this part of our ministry, and I'm looking forward to continue to grow our youth programming in the future. Please reach out to me any time you have questions, and please reach out to your neighbor any time you see a child who might enjoy the church experience. As they say, it takes a village.

See you at Church!



Bridge Minister Jim Coppoc is available to our community at:

515-708-4343 (text is best)

[jimatripley@gmail.com](mailto: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

March / April 2026 Vol 15

## Ripley In the Know

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From your Board Chairs.....

During this season of Lent, Join us Wednesday evenings for a meal to explore our Christian character while looking to scripture to uncover our "road map" to ultimate, long-lasting fulfillment in this life and the next.

### Board of Deacons Chair—Christy Flamme

Positions have been established and appointments have been made. Chair: Josie Hulme, Vice Chair: Tammy Jones, Secretary: David Calderwood. Josh Youel as Treasurer, Macey Calderwood as Memorial Committee, and David Calderwood as Investments. The Trustees have been discussing Christian Education needs and sound system needs.

### 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 [annetteatripley@gmail.com](mailto:annetteatripley@gmail.com) or text : 574-298-7949

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

## Ripley UCC Missions...

Thank you to everyone who completed the Mission Committee Survey this past month. Your input is greatly appreciated and helps guide our efforts as we continue to be a mission-centered church. Our committee met recently and is excited to share that plans are underway for the remainder of 2026.

Submitted by Patty Calderwood of Ripley Missions Committee

### Lenten Project: Tama County Maternal Health Program

Formerly known at The Stork's Nest, Tama County Maternal Health is a county-wide health initiative that supports pregnant women and mothers with children from birth to 12 months of age.

This ministry partner is familiar to Ripley, and we hope during Lent, that our church family will continue to contribute funds, donate supplies, and help with our quilters so that we can help provide much needed mother/baby items.



### Noisy Offering Recipient : Alive and Running Iowa

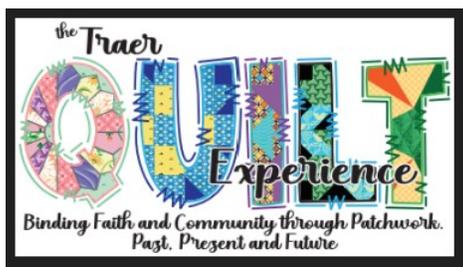


We have selected Alive & Running Iowa—Suicide Prevention as the recipient of our Noisy Offering for the first half of the year.

Founded in 2010, Alive & Running Iowa is a volunteer-led nonprofit dedicated to suicide prevention awareness and education. The organization uses 100% of funds raised to provide free suicide prevention training. Believing that education is key to saving lives.

Find out more by visiting Alive and Running Iowa website at

<https://www.aliveandrunningiowa.com/>



### Saturday March 21st "The Stories of those who Stitch at Ripley"

The Ripley Missions Committee is organizing concessions sales for lunch during the Ripley Quilt Show from 11am—2pm. The committee members reached out to our neighbors Traer United Methodist Church for their assistance. Both will benefit from the proceeds respectively.

Further details for the Quilt Show and Exhibits can be found in the **Looking Ahead** section of the newsletter.

Thank you for your continued support as we work together to live out our mission through service, compassion, and community outreach. Donations for Ripley Mission projects can be directed to the Mission Committee @ 400 S. Main S., Traer, IA 50675 or through the Ripley website donation page : <https://give.tithe.ly/?formId=1e066e15-3efd-42a4-8eb5-f80bfb36adf8>



**Special Event:**                    **In honor of National Quilt Day**  
**Ripley Stitchers will host a Quilt Show**  
**Saturday March 21st**  
**10am—4pm**  
**\*\* See next page for details \*\***

**Meetings:**

- Board of Deacons: Sunday Mar.8th @ 10:00 am S.Office
- Board of Trustees: Thurs. Mar. 19th @ 5:30 pm S.Office
- Mission Committee: TBD

**Church/Community/Missions Involvement:**

- Stitching Wednesday March 4th afternoon till Lenten Meal
- Gather to stitch Thursdays @ 9 am Fellowship Hall
- Soul Stitching 2nd Sat. Mar. 14th @ 9am Fellowship Hall
- Soul Stitching 2nd Sat. April 11th @ 9am Fellowship Hall
- Quilt Show Saturday March 21st 10am - 4pm  
    "The Stories of those who Stitch at Ripley"
- Noisy Offering March 29th : Alive and Running Iowa
- Noisy Offering April 26th : Alive and Running Iowa

**Your Help is Wanted:**

- Sign up in the Fellowship Hall to provide Fellowship or Be a Scripture Reader
- Sign up in the Fellowship Hall to assist with music
- Sign up for Lenten meal prep for Wednesday Lenten meals.
- Congregations help is requested on Sunday March 22nd to assist with taking the quilts and displays down from the Quilt Show.

**2026 Lenten Activities:**

- Lenten Project : Tama County Maternal Health Program
- Wednesday Night Meal & Reflections - Fellowship Hall  
    6pm Meal followed by 6:30 devotion
- Men's Lenten Breakfasts 7 am  
    March 4th - St. Luke's Lutheran Church  
    March 11th - St. Paul's Catholic Church  
    March 18th - Traer United Presbyterian Church  
    March 25th - Ripley UCC - David Calderwood organizer  
    April 1st - Clutier Community Church
- Maundy Thursday April 2nd—Details TBD
- Good Friday April 3rd—Details TBD
- Easter April 5th  
    Breakfast at 8 am followed by worship at 9am

## Let's Celebrate!

**March Birthdays**

- 1st—Denis Winkelpleck Jr
- 2nd—Josh Youel
- 11th—Laura Henrichs  
    David Jones
- 15th—Tanner Calderwood
- 17th—Cindy Youel  
    Andrea Ubben
- 20th—Jessica Ubben Lunde
- 27th—Fionn Coppoc
- 28th—Carissa Calderwood  
    Patty Calderwood
- 31st—Gayle Hanson



**April Birthdays**

- 4th — Luka Hulme
- 6th—Jhonny Watson
- 10th—Maryann Steffeny
- 24th—Verona Staker



**April Anniversaries**

- 3rd—Bill & Ruth Calderwood
- 5th—Jim & Lindsey Coppoc

**Keep up on What's Happening via the website!**

<https://ripleyucc.org/events/>

**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!*



## The Traer Quilt Experience! Saturday MARCH 21, 2026

**Quilt Show & Exhibits: \*Ripley United Church of Christ\* 10am-4pm**

Ripley UCC ,400 South Main Street, Traer

**“The Stories of those who Stitch at Ripley “**

**Ripley UCC Quilt Raffle**

Tickets on sale March 1st @ Reuman’s Clothing Store Traer

**The Quilt Block Coloring Experience ART PROJECT**

Area student art projects come alive

**Concessions available in the Fellowship Hall 11 am-2pm**

**Sewing Supplies Donation Drop Off** South Entrance

Let us help you downsize, reduce your stash or assist with a loved ones estate.

**Childrens Activities** Christian Ed room main floor

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**\*Traer Historical Museum\* Quilts of our Past 10am- 4pm**

Traer Historical Museum 514 2nd St, Traer

**Featured speaker at 1:30 pm Cherie Dargan**  
Author of the series **“Grandmother’s Treasures”**

**The Quilt Block Coloring Experience ART PROJECT**

Area student art projects on display

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**\*Traer Public Library\* Cynthia Drajna Quilt Collection 10am-12pm**

Traer Public Library 531 2nd Street, Traer

The Cynthia Drajna Collection honors the late Cynthia Sary Drajna, quilt enthusiast of Iowa Star Quilts was instrumental in starting the library’s Tuesday Quilting group.

**Quilt Block Decorating Contest - See Library for details**

Happy Birthday !



Celebrating Arlene's 94th!



Ruthie Ray is such a cutie!

We love our helpers!

Right around Ripley



February Birthdays!

Bob Steffeny, Christy Flamme, Nancy Calderwood, David Calderwood and Lindsey Coppoc



Valentines For the residents Of Sunrise Hill



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 annetteatripley@gmail.com

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

## Remembering When....

*This was our only form of staying cool in the sanctuary!*



*Love was in the air at Ripley! Presentation of all of those who have been married in the Ripley UCC Sanctuary. Display was created by Joan Reuman.*



## Sharing God's Given Talent

Is in the News! Check out the recent article!

### **NORTH TAMA TELEGRAPH**

February 27, 2026 | Submit News

**Ripley UCC Soul Stitching** pieces together day of history and heart... 'Traer Quilt Experience' unfolds March 21



<https://www.northtamatelegraph.com/news/local-news/2026/02/27/ripley-ucc-soul-stitching-pieces-together-day-of-history-and-heart/>

Mark your calendars!  
Grab a raffle ticket!

Annette Knoop organized a surprise Valentine's day luncheon for her mom Jane Knoop during February's Soul Stitching.



It's a Party! Soup and Salad were enjoyed by all.

Sometimes a talent is making memories....

we all have something we can do to make a memory....

Or a way to make someone feel special ....

What is your hidden God's Given Talent?

Share with Annette by email at [annetteatripley@gmail.com](mailto:annetteatripley@gmail.com)



Soul Stitchers did a great job keeping the lunch a secret!



## We could use your help in making the upcoming quilt show a success!

Do you have a quilt you would like to share with our community? Almost everyone we know has received a quilt made for them by the hands of a loved one. Or they have made a quilt with love for a cherished family member or friend. Stories about what makes the quilt special keeps the love alive. Will you share your quilt and its story with our community? We hope so! To submit the information for your quilt—you can fill out the form with this link <https://forms.gle/jfAyEEjMv7BFnfo79> or contact Jane Knoop or Becky Gaston for a physical form. All quilts will be recorded for ease in return after the show. Personal information will not be shared with the public.

### Props and display items needed:



Table top easels



Poster Easels



Assorted Quilt Stands

*If you would like to assist with a prop, please label with your name & info. Contact Jane K or Becky G for drop off info.*



Quilt Stand



Drying racks



Quilt Ladders

Prayers  
for all...



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.

