



## 9am Sunday Service

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

On Sunday, April 26th, sixteen members of the Ripley UCC church family travelled to an Ecclesiastical Council in Urbandale in support of my ordination. I talked about my spiritual journey and my connection to our church. I talked about how much I admire the way Ripley acts out its principles in a truly "embodied" theology. I then spent most of an hour answering questions from a number of other pastors and delegates who had already had the opportunity to review a thick packet of information about who I am, what I believe, and what credentials I hold that would qualify me to become a fully ordained Minister of Word and Sacrament in the United Church of Christ.

The result was a unanimous "yes" vote by the Council.

The final step toward ordination is now to match with a church for an "ordaining call". I have been in conversation with the Iowa Conference and Christy Calderwood, the current Chair of Deacons at Ripley, to work out a good process for making this happen.

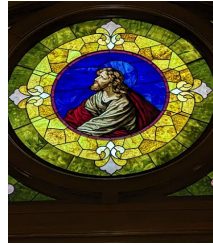
Thank you all for the support you've given me over the last 3.5 years, and for showing me how church should function. I'm grateful for every moment of our time together so far, and excited for everything to come.

Jim

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

May / June 2026 Vol 16

## Ripley In the Know

In this issue:

- \* Sharing the Lord's Word
- \* Ripley UCC Missions
- \* Celebrate
- \* Right Around Ripley
- \* From your Board Chairs
- \* Looking Ahead
- \* Prayers
- \* Gods Given Talent

From your Board Chairs.....

**Here's to strong women.** May we know them. May we be them. May we raise them. Happy Mother's Day and Lady's Day to ALL!

**Here in May** we are celebrating Cinco De Mayo, Mother's Day, wearing red to commemorate Pentecost and observe Memorial Day. In June we will celebrate Father's and Gentleman's Day.

**A gentleman** is one who puts more into the world than he takes out. Biology doesn't determine fatherhood, it's loving completely, giving quietly, teaching gently and inspiring deeply.

### Board of Deacons Chair—Christy Flamme

Trustees have had an uneventful spring. Minor details like new sound equipment was installed after purchase approval.

Please reach out with anything we need to address!

### 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](https://forms.gle/NsUDiMUXK8NafCyG8Ripley_Newsletter_Share_with_us)

## Ripley UCC Missions...

Thank you to all who contributed to our Lenten Project. Maternal Health through the Wednesday night meals or by bringing in infant products. These will be delivered with quilts in early May. The Noisy Offering is currently supporting Alive and Running Suicide Prevention. Stay tuned as the committee will meet in May to plan summer and fall projects.

We are also grateful to those who helped serve lunch for the Quilt Experience, and as always, we are thankful for the generosity of our Ripley Family.

Submitted by Patty Calderwood, Ripley UCC 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 are grateful for Ripley contributions of funds, supplies, and to those who helped our quilters so that we can help provide much needed mother/baby items.



**NT Maternal Health and Wellness** was invited to be represented at our recent Quilt show, during the Traer Quilt Experience in March. The goal was to raise awareness for all that this program has to offer Traer and surrounding communities. We are so glad they were able to join us!

### 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/>

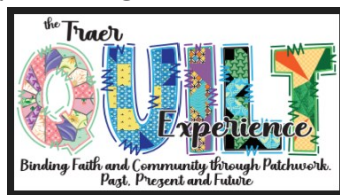
### The Traer Quilt Experience



### "The Stories of those who Stitch at Ripley"

The Ripley Missions Committee served lunch during The Traer Quilt Experience, Ripley Quilt Show and served quite a number of meals!

Assisted by our neighbors Traer United Methodist Church. Both groups benefited from the proceeds respectively.



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>



# Lenten Meals

@ RIPLEY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



PALM SUNDAY



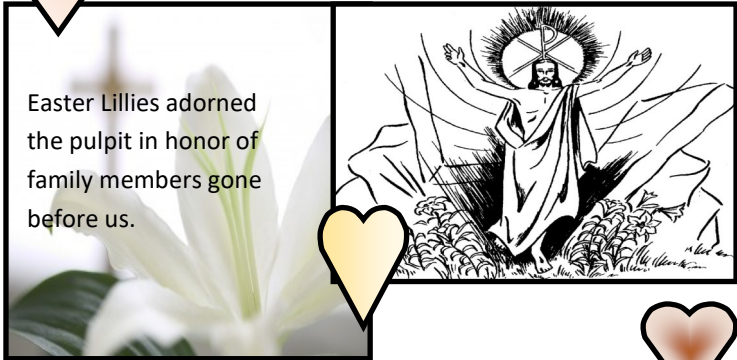
## The journey of Lent at Ripley



**Community  
Mens Lenten  
Breakfast**  
Wednesday's @ 7:00 am



## He Has Risen



Easter Lillies adorned the pulpit in honor of family members gone before us.



Thank you to our Christian Education helpers! Ruthie is learning through music from Grandpa Calderwood!



Ripley UCC of Traer welcomes Jhonny Watson as he is baptized into the Community of Christ.

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

# LOOKING AHEAD



Please update those special occasions with Annette :  
annetteatripley@gmail.com  
or text 574-298-7949

## Meetings:

- Board of Deacons: Sunday May 11th @ 10:00 am S.Office
- Board of Trustees: Thurs. May 21st @ 5:30 pm S.Office
- Mission Committee: Wed. May 13th @ 7:00 pm S. Office

## Church/Community/Missions Involvement:

- Gather to stitch Thursdays @ 9 am Fellowship Hall
- Soul Stitching 2nd Sat. May 9th @ 9am Fellowship Hall
- Soul Stitching 2nd Sat. June 13th @ 9am Fellowship Hall
- Noisy Offering May 31st: Alive and Running Iowa

## Your Help is Wanted! Sign up in the Fellowship Hall:

- Sunday Fellowship after service
- Be a Scripture Reader
- Assist with Sunday Service Music

## Mark you calendars now!

- Tama County Fair Food Service  
Volunteers needed! Tuesday July 14th  
10:00 am—3:00 pm
- Vacation Bible School  
Hosted by Ripley UCC August 3rd - August 6th
- Winding Stairs Festival August 7 - 8 - 9  
Saturday Morning Breakfast at UPC  
Sunday Morning Ecumenical Service with Salt Light Band

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

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

*"We show up. We serve, we support, we connect. We build Beloved Community. We do our best to embody the ministerial code. Along the way, our faith and our Spirit grow. "*

Jim Coppoc, Member in Discernment UCC  
Participating in Theological Praxis

*As I compile our newsletters, I constantly am reminded how involved the Ripley Family is in our community. I felt this part of Jim's Discernment paper described who we are at Ripley and I wanted to share.*

Annette Knoop, Ripley Deacon

**Did you know?** On line giving is available through Tithly.com? It's easy!

**We thank you for your continued support of Ripley UCC!**

One time or designated times :  
direct your donations to the area of your Choice—see the drop down options.

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.



## Let's Celebrate!



### June Birthdays

8th — Valerie Dinsdale

28th - Kathy Sivertson

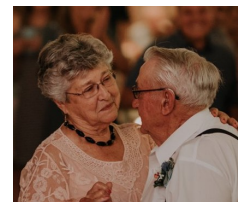


### June

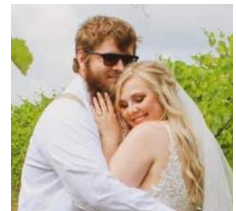
23rd - Josie & Dalton Hulme



24th - Marvin & Verona Staker



26th - Jessica & Parker Lunde



WELCOME HOME WILL!  
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!

Thank you to everyone who has been praying for a safe return for my soldier since May 28 of last year. As yesterday morning, his feet were once again on Iowa soil.



From all of us at  
Ripley UCC—  
Welcome Home !!  
We are so glad to  
have you safely  
back on Iowa soil!  
Thank you for  
your Service Will!

## Right around Ripley

Additional pictures will be added to website gallery. Stay tuned! We can always use more!  
Share with Annette via email :

[annetteatripley@gmail.com](mailto:annetteatripley@gmail.com)

Pastor Jim  
Iowa National Guard soldiers return home

It is official ! The UCC Ecclesiastical Council has voted unanimously authorizing the ordination of our very own Jim Coppoc



upon acceptance of the call to Ministry!  
All of us at Ripley UCC are so excited to be a part of this process for you!

Congratulations  
Pastor Jim Coppoc!



The Ripley UCC Cheering section was in place in the seats and on line! Way to go!! Woot ! Woot!

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](mailto:annetteatripley@gmail.com)

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

# Sharing God's Given Talent

It took a lot of God's given talent to pull off this community event! And it could not have come together without the support of the Ripley Family, The Traer Historical Museum and the Traer Public Library as well as the support of the entire community!

God blessed us with an absolutely beautiful day !  
The sun shone through our lovely stained glass windows as so many wandered every area of Ripley to read " The Stories of those who Stitch at Ripley".



## NORTH TAMA TELEGRAPH

February 27, 2026 | Submit News

**"Inaugural Traer Quilt Experience Exceeds Expectations"**

**In the News! Check out the recent article !**



Our resident artist Lesia Ubben designed our logos used in so many ways!



<https://www.northtamatelegraph.com/news/local-news/2026/03/27/inaugural-traer-quilt-experience-exceeds-expectations/>



We were blessed with representatives from those We serve: Americans for Independent Living



C.  
H.  
A.  
T.



Tama County Maternal Health

Cedar Valley Hospice  
Bobbins & Boards  
Sleep in Heavenly Peace



S  
H  
P

Ripley UCC received Certification of Recognition from Sleep in Heavenly Peace .



Children's Activities

Donations from Kelly Morrison Estate



And the Winner of the Raffle Quilt is.....Cassandra Gaston !!



Ripley Soul Stitchers out of town and out of state! Family!



NT & Hudson Art Projects

Special thanks to Soul Stitcher

Kim Coulter for her event reporting and creating our new Ripley Stitcher handout!