

Backpack Blessing is Today for our school-aged children!

- If you know or are aware of a child in our community who might benefit from feeling connected to a local church, please feel free to invite them. Christian Ed (CE) continues each week.
- It's not too late to get a child started off on the right foot. If you know of a child who cannot otherwise afford a backpack or school supplies, please reach out to Pastor Jim for help navigating resources.

Ripley Mission/Church/Community Involvement:

- Quilting: Thursday, Aug. 27th @ 9:00 am
 - Saturday Soul Stitching - Saturday Sept. 12th @ 9:00 am
- Noisy Offering - August 30th - ThreeHouse Collaborative Campus Ministries

September/October Newsletter Deadline - Aug 25th annetteatripley@gmail.com

Ripley Church Meetings:

- Board of Deacons: Sept. 13th @ 10:00 am - Office
- Board of Trustees: Sept. 15th @ 5:30 pm - Office

Fall Sleep In Heavenly Peace Field Trip - Friday Sept. 11th

- Leave Ripley @ 7:30 AM - Car Pool sign up in the Kitchen
- Work from 9 to 11 AM - Picnic Lunch on Site for all participants
- Return to Ripley around 2:00 pm
- Something to do for all - Bed Building, Watching, Quilt Tying, Fellowship

Our Four-Year Bible Journey

On Sunday, September 13, Ripley will change from the *Revised Common Lectionary*, which has been choosing our scriptures the past several decades, to the *Narrative Lectionary*. The new structure starts at Genesis, then follows the main throughlines of the Hebrew Bible, the Gospel, and the New Testament that follows. Each year of this four-year cycle restarts at the beginning, takes a different path, and explores a different Gospel. Join us, as we dig deep into our most sacred scriptures, and engage the Message therein.

Faith Opportunities in our Area:

- Women's Retreat, Dysart Methodist, M & T Sept. 20/21 @ Hickory Hills Lodge
 - Invitations with details are on the back table
- ThreeHouse Collective Campus Ministries - Block Party, Sun. Aug. 30th 5 to 7
 - Flyer with more details on the back table



Ripley United Church of Christ Celebration of Worship

August 23rd, 2026
Proper 16



Welcome and Announcements
Prelude and Candle Lighting

Praise and Invocation (Excerpted from Proverbs 3):

One: Trust in the LORD with all of your heart
Many: In all your ways acknowledge him

One: Then you will walk in your way securely, and your foot will not stumble
Many: For the LORD will be your confidence

Call to Worship:

One: Let us worship in the presence of a gracious and loving God.
Many: Amen

***Opening Hymn:** "Little Children Welcome" (black hymnal #323)

Confession

One: Our scripture teaches us that children "are indeed a heritage from the LORD."

Many: We fail to build the future we should for them.

One: Our Gospel calls us to become like children, to open the path to Heaven

Many: We do not approach the world with the wonder and reverence to which we are called.

One: Forgive us, God, our failings.

Many: Help us to see your creation through the eyes of a child—to make all things new.

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 worshipping with us online, please feel free to say hello in the comments, so we know you are here.

Children's Celebration: "We're Going to Be Friends"

Backpack Blessing (insert)

Reading: Matthew 18:1-5; 19:13-15

Message: "To Become Like Children"

***Response:** "I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry" (black hymnal #351)

Offertory:

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

***Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Prayers of the People

Lord's Prayer (debts/debtors)

***Closing Hymn:** "Jesus Loves Me" (black hymnal #327)

***Benediction**

Postlude

* Please stand, in body or spirit

CCLI license number: 22384815, Size A; 22384822, Size A



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 David Calderwood

***Reader was

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



Gratitude...worth repeating

Over the past few weeks, we have asked a lot of this congregation. VBS, Saltlight, county fair, pancake breakfast, and Ordination/Installation—just to name a few. And that's not even mentioning all our regular, ongoing ministries. This church continues to rise to every call, and YOU have worked to make Ripley one of the most active and impactful congregations in the area. So thank you, to each and every one of our volunteers, for all the amazing work you do.



Backpack Blessing

One: Our scripture teaches that children are a blessing from God.

All: We are *all* God's children

One: The infant reminds us of new life—full of potential and formed in God's image. The toddler is the embodiment of wonder. Our children teach us to grow, to wonder, to see the world and those we share it with anew.

All: Blessed be the child, the new life unfolding.

[to the children]

One: May the gifts you've received today remind you that you are loved, and never alone. As you go into this year, learning and growing and becoming, know that God goes with you.

All: Blessed child of God, know that you are loved.

[to the educators]

One: Your community has entrusted you with the care of our most precious resource. May the gifts you've received today remind you that you too are loved, and never alone. As you go into this year, learning and growing and becoming, know that God goes with you.

All: Blessed Child of God, know that you are loved. Amen.



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