



Ripley Church Meetings:

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

Ripley Mission/Church/Community Involvement:

- Quilting: Thursday, Aug. 20th @ 9:00 am
 - Saturday Soul Stitching - Saturday Sept. 12th @ 9:00 am
- Noisy Offering - August 30th - ThreeHouse Collaborative Campus Ministries
- Sleep In Heavenly Peace Field Trip - FRIDAY Sept. 11th
 - Mark your Calendars - Details to follow.

Backpack Blessing!

- On Sunday, August 23rd, we will recognize our school-aged children with a “Backpack Blessing.” The children are encouraged to bring their backpacks to receive a special gift and a prayer.
- 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.
- 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.

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.

Gratitude...

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.



Ripley United Church of Christ Celebration of Worship

August 16th, 2026
Proper 15



Welcome and Announcements Prelude and Candle Lighting

Praise and Invocation (Excerpted from Psalm 67):

One: May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us, Selah

Many: ...that your way may be known upon earth, your saving power among all nations.

One: Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

Many: Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon earth. Selah

Call to Worship:

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

Many: Amen

*Opening Hymn: “Sanctuary” (insert)

Confession

One: Our Gospel teaches us to welcome the stranger, to honor all creation.

Many: We fail to welcome our neighbor, to break down divisions, to open new seats at our table.

One: Our faith is one of love, grace, justice and inclusion.
Many: We do not open our hearts as our faith demands.

One: Forgive us, God, our failings.
Many: Help us to become your hands and your heart, at work in the world.

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: ""

Reading: Matthew 15:10-28
Message: "Unclean"

***Response:** "In Christ There is No East or West" (black hymnal #395)

Offertory:

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

***Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Prayers of the People

Lord's Prayer (debts/debtors)

***Closing Hymn:** "Softly and Tenderly" (black hymnal #449)

***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 Dalton Hulme

***Reader was Denis Winckelpleck, Jr.

The congregation of Ripley UCC extends its deepest condolences to the Staker/Youel/Hulme family, who have lost two cherished members in a very short time.

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





Sanctuary

by John Thompson and Randy Scruggs (CCLI #24140)

Chorus:

Lord prepare me to be a sanctuary
Pure and holy, tried and true
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living
Sanctuary for you

Verse 1:

It is you, Lord, who came to save
The heart and soul of every man
It is you, Lord, who knows my weakness
Who gives me strength with thine own hand

(chorus)

Verse 2:

Lead me on, Lord, from temptation
Purify me from within
Fill my heart with your Holy Spirit
Take away all my sin

(chorus x2)



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