



Ripley Mission/Church/Community Involvement:

- Quilting: TBD @ 9:00 am
 - Saturday Soul Stitching - Saturday Oct. 10th @ 9:00 am
- Noisy Offering - Sept. 27th - ThreeHouse Collaborative Campus Ministries

Ripley Church Meetings:

- Mission Committee: Sept. 22nd @ 6:30 pm - Office
- Board of Deacons: Oct. 11th @ 10:00 am - Office
- Board of Trustees: Oct. 13th @ 5:30 pm - Office

Alive and Running!

Today's guest speaker is Troy Belmer from Alive and Running (<https://www.aliveandrunningiowa.com/>), a nonprofit dedicated to raising awareness around suicide prevention. Our Noisy Offering the first part of this year was collected to support them. Because this can be a difficult and complex topic, all speakers outside of the sanctuary will remain off during the service. If you need to be elsewhere during the message, the Fellowship Hall downstairs is available.

Thank you to Alive and Running for providing this very needed service in our area, and for being willing to come out and educate us.

Gratitude

Thank you to the Mission Committee and others who have put today's service together, and who keep our church mission-oriented, year in and year out.

Mark your Calendars - Ripley's Fall Gathering - Oct. 25th

Enjoy a celebration of Fall and Ripley followed by Fellowship that includes Trivia Activities and Brunch. More details to follow.



Ripley United Church of Christ Celebration of Worship

September 20th, 2026
Alive and Running / Abraham's Call



Welcome and Announcements Prelude and Candle Lighting

Praise and Invocation (Excerpted from Psalm 34):

One: I will bless the LORD at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth
Many: O magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together.

One: O taste and see that the LORD is good; happy are those who take refuge in him.
Many: The LORD is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit.

Call to Worship:

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

***Opening Hymn:** "Be Now My Vision" (black hymnal #451)

Confession

One: Our faith calls us to trust in God's plan, to find comfort in his goodness and grace
Many: Too often, our lives overwhelm us. We despair. We lose sight of the hope that is promised.

One: Our scripture calls us to love our neighbor as ourselves,
and to love each other as Christ has loved us.
**Many: We see our neighbor struggle, and do not reach out
our hand. We fail to share the love our savior has so
freely given.**

One: Forgive us, God, our failings.
**Many: Help us to become more like Jesus. To love God, love
our neighbor, and love each other as our Gospel
demands.**

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

Children's Celebration: "Father Abraham"

Reading: Genesis 12:1-9

Message: Alive and Running

***Response:** "Precious Lord, Take My Hand" (black hymnal #472)

Offertory:

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

***Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer (debts/debtors)

***Closing Hymn:** "God Be With You ('Til We Meet Again)" (black hymnal #81)

***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 Denis Winklepleck, Jr.

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





Ripley Family,

As I write this, I am preparing to leave town for several days to attend the Joint Annual Meeting of the Iowa, Nebraska and South Dakota Conferences of the United Church of Christ. I'll spend part of the weekend learning and growing with my peers, and part of the weekend doing the work of the Conference- and TriConference-level committees I serve on. I'll also represent our church in all voting matters.

Unfortunately, this means it is very unlikely I'll be back in time for worship Sunday. I would have loved to share the story of Abram/Abraham's call with you. Instead, I sent out a link via email to insightful commentary by Prof. Song-Mi Suzie Park, so we can all stay connected to this moment in our lectionary.

I won't try to type a whole sermon here, but one of the aspects of Abram/Abraham's journey that I feel is most relevant to today's guest presentation is that even when it was hard for Abram and Sarai to see, God was working in their lives. There is always hope.

If you know someone who is losing hope, resources are available. Some will likely be shared today. I am also always available to our community. My personal go-to resource for mental health and other community resources anywhere in Iowa is 211.org.

Let's work together to be the church that—as the old Psalm says—binds up the brokenhearted.

See you next week,

Pr. Jim



Ripley Family,

As I write this, I am preparing to leave town for several days to attend the Joint Annual Meeting of the Iowa, Nebraska and South Dakota Conferences of the United Church of Christ. I'll spend part of the weekend learning and growing with my peers, and part of the weekend doing the work of the Conference- and TriConference-level committees I serve on. I'll also represent our church in all voting matters.

Unfortunately, this means it is very unlikely I'll be back in time for worship Sunday. I would have loved to share the story of Abram/Abraham's call with you. Instead, I sent out a link via email to insightful commentary by Prof. Song-Mi Suzie Park, so we can all stay connected to this moment in our lectionary.

I won't try to type a whole sermon here, but one of the aspects of Abram/Abraham's journey that I feel is most relevant to today's guest presentation is that even when it was hard for Abram and Sarai to see, God was working in their lives. There is always hope.

If you know someone who is losing hope, resources are available. Some will likely be shared today. I am also always available to our community. My personal go-to resource for mental health and other community resources, anywhere in Iowa, is 211.org.

Let's work together to be the church that—as the old Psalm says—binds up the brokenhearted.

See you next week,

Pr. Jim