Sharing the Lord's Word.

Ripley United Church of Christ

9am Sunday Service



In person and on line via Face Book Live .

Pastor Jim Coppoc leading worship.

Pastor Jim Coppoc is available to our community at: 515-708-4343 (text is best) jimatripley@gmail.com
http://facebook.com/jim.at.ripley

As I write this, I am working with three other pastors in our community (Mark, Brice and Alan) to plan a joint Thanksgiving Eve Service at the Presbyterian Church. Yesterday, I agreed to help with technology needs for the Catholic living nativity this December. Earlier this week, Lindsey and I helped a homeless traveler, using the CHAT food pantry. Last week, the Traer Ecumenical VBS voted on a theme for next year's adventure.

Can you think of any other town where churches work so closely and so well together to build up the Kingdom of God right here on Earth?

By the time you receive this newsletter, a very contentious election will have ended. Iowa will have a new governor. America may or may not have a new Congress. Along the way, wounds that were already open have been torn open even further, and our nation has continued to grow more divided by the day.

Our church is one of the last places in America where Republicans and Democrats can worship side by side. When progressives and conservatives can break bread together. Where we can all set aside our differences, roll up our sleeves, and get down to the real work of loving and supporting the most vulnerable--the "least"--among us.

As this election winds down, let us remember who we are, and why we come together every Sunday morning. Let us remember what we were put on this Earth to do--in the words of the prophet Micah, "to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with [our] God".

Amen.



Ripley United Church of Christ
400 South Main Street
Traer, IA 50675

November / December 2026 Vol 19

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From your Board Chairs.....

As we look forward to gathering with friends and family to give thanks this holiday season, let the spirit of generosity flow through you. Go out and spread love and joy!

Board of Deacons Chair—Christy Flamme

Trustees have continued looking into replacing electrical boxes to acquire a lower insurance rate. With the holidays soon approaching we have also started to plan for end of year giving.

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
Newsletters available on the Ripley UCC website:
https://ripleyucc.org/newsletters/

Feel free to reach out with "news" via the link below or to Annette at annetteatripley@gmail.com or text : 574-298-7949

https://forms.gle/NsUDiMUXK8NafCyG8
Ripley Newsletter – Share with us

Ripley UCC

Missions...

Submitted by Patty Calderwood



September found Ripley Congregation members on a field trip to Ames, IA and a day building beds for kids with the local Sleep In Heavenly Peace Chapter.

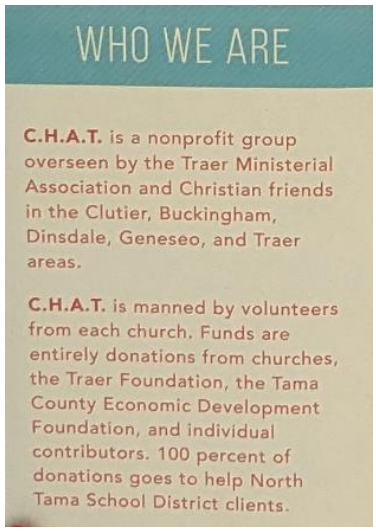


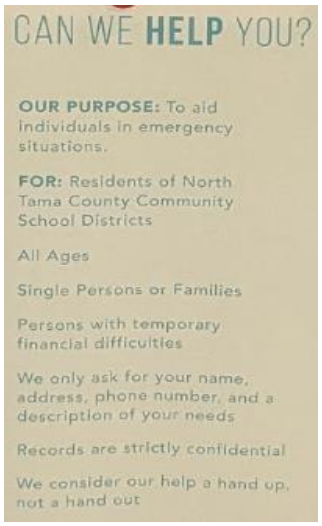
Next on September 20th a lay lead worship was held with guest speaker Troy Belmer from Alive and Running. Sherman Ubben from the Mission committee was able to present Troy with the proceeds from our Noisy Offering from the first half of the year.

Our Noisy Offering recipient for the 2nd half of 2026 will be ThreeHouse Collaborative which is a UNI campus ministry organization. Our Noisy Offering is taken the last Sunday of each month.

Home | ThreeHouse Collaborative Campus Ministries

November will find Ripley members participating in the Adopt-a-Family project







Ripley UCC's Becky Gaston, left, poses for a photo while donating a stack of quilts to Toni Whannel with C.H.A.T. this past Valentine's Day. C.H.A.T. (Christian Hands Across Traer) is a nonprofit group overseen by the Traer Ministerial Association and Christian friends in the Buckingham, Clutier, Dinsdale, Geneseo, and Traer areas. PHOTO BY RUBY F. MCALLISTER



organized by **CHAT.**

The Giving Tree will go up in church on November 15th with tags for the families Ripley will adopt. Gifts for the recipients must be returned by Nov. 29th to Ripley so they can be delivered to the Food Pantry on Monday the 30th. The Giving Tree will stay up through the Advent season with tags for items that can be donated for the Food Pantry. If you would like to support this ministry and cannot get to the Sanctuary to pick up a tag please contact Patty Calderwood at 319-269-7286 for assistance and suggestions of ways you can help.



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**

LOOKING AHEAD

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

Meetings:

- Board of Trustees : November 10th @ 5:30pm S. Office
- Board of Deacons : December 13th @ 10:00am S. Office

Church/Community/Missions Involvement:

- Gather to stitch Thursdays @ 9 am Fellowship Hall
- Soul Stitching 2nd Sat. November 14th
- Soul Stitching December – TBD
- Ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve Wed. Nov. 25th at UPC
- Decorating the Church for Advent Nov. 29th after service
- Caroling - Dec. 13th Time TBD organized by UPC
- December Cookie Swap Dec. 20th – Details coming soon!
- Christmas Tea – Dec. 27th after service

Children's Concert and Pizza Party!



- Saturday, November 21st, at 11:30 am
- Pastor Jim will sing and play for the children of our community.
- Ripley will provide pizza.

Celebrate!

November Birthdays

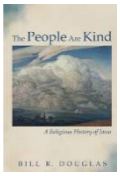
- 8th Mike Reuman
- 9th Josie Hulme
- 10th Mike Calderwood
- 30th Catherin Dinsdale

December Birthdays

- Ruthie Rae Flamme
- 29th Jane Knoop

November Anniversaries

- 4th Leisa & Sherm Ubben
- 11th Patty & David Calderwood
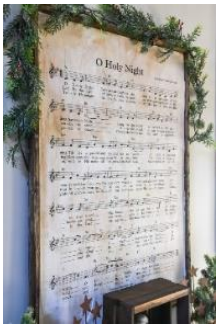


Friend of Ripley Speaking Bill Douglas, friend of Ripley, will be speaking at the Grout Museum on Tuesday, November 17th, at 7:00 pm as part of his book tour for *The People Are Kind: a Religious History of Iowa*. More details forthcoming



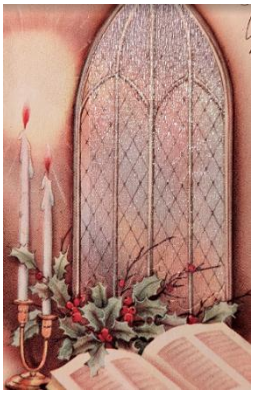
Advent Display! *"Songs of the Season"* The last couple years, we have collected memories of our congregants to share with the church during the season of Advent in the form of nativities (2024) and angels (2025). This year, we'd like to continue that tradition by asking you to name a seasonal hymn or song that holds meaning for you, your family or a community you hold dear, and writing a brief reflection on why that hymn matters to you. We'll print and display the hymns and stories as part of our Christmas decor.





Please get them to Jim or any deacon on or before November 22nd.

There are many ways to share that special Christmas hymn:
It may be in the form of a hymnal book opened to your favorite or the cover of an antique book explaining the story of the hymn. Or maybe it is a Christmas card . Stories shared keep the generations of Ripley family alive for years to come.



Right Around Ripley ….

Missions Trip 2026



Jane Knoop enjoys time in Indiana!





Sleep in Heavenly Peace





Pictures provided by Becky Gaston



Someone was enjoying their milk and cookies at fellowship!

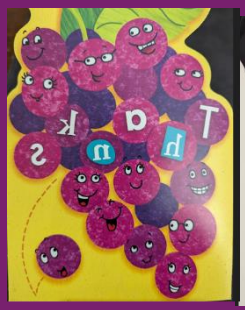
“NO KID SLEEPS ON THE FLOOR IN OUR TOWN!

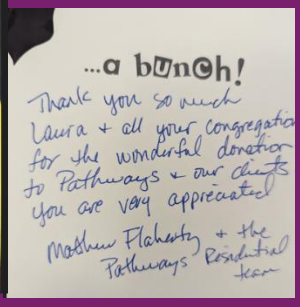






We learn from Pathways !











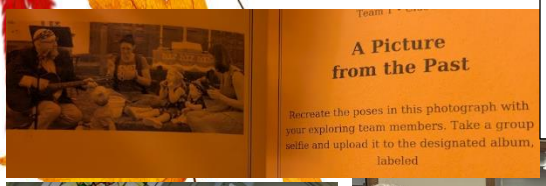
Annette Knoop shares annual event. It is 1976 at the Mystery at the Mansion!

Fall Gathering at Ripley ....









2026
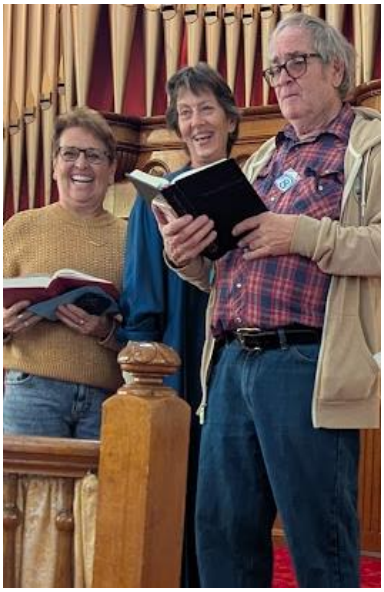
















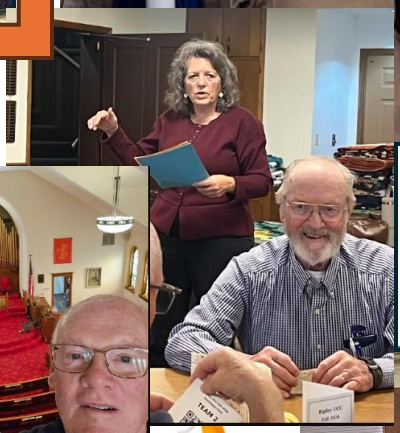




Food –
Fellowship
And
A Whole lot of
FUN!

Fall Gathering at Ripley ....









Thank you everyone for all the fun pictures!!!









Team 3 • Clue 3

A Window Still Shining

Into the sanctuary, make your way,
Find a window that needs help to shine today.
In 1991, an elevator came,
And daylight through this glass was never the same.





Clues – Treasures – Upstairs to the Balcony – Choir Room – Pulpit – CE Room – Sanctuary – Scavenger Hunt!





Team 2 • Clue 1

A Room with a Past

Leave the hall where meals are shared,
Find where little ones once were cared.
Behind the glass at the church's rear,

Sharing God's Given Talent

















Ripley Stitchers warm hearts on Thursdays and Souls on 2nd Saturdays 9am

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.