



Immanuel United Methodist Church

401 W Fond du Lac Street
Ripon, WI 54971

open hearts... open minds... open doors...

the people of the United Methodist Church

Rev. Paul Nulton, Senior Pastor

Office Hours: Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m.– 4:00 p.m.

Telephone: (920) 748-6695 FAX: (920) 748-7572

E-mail address: riponumc@dotnet.com

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Rev. Nulton's cell phone number (920) 202-4420

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Traditional Worship Service: 8:00 a.m.

Sunday School/Coffee Hour: 9:15 a.m.

More Contemporary Worship Service: 10:30 a.m.

WEDNESDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Soup and Sandwich Supper: 5:00 p.m.

Praise 1 Service: 5:30 p.m.

Praise 2 Service: 6:30 p.m.

Beginning Wednesday February 21

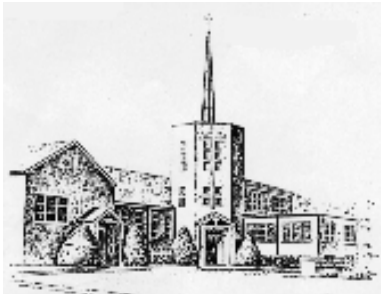
Soup and Sandwich Supper 5:45 p.m.

Lenten Service at 6:30 p.m.

The mission of Immanuel United Methodist Church is making and being disciples for Jesus Christ.

February newsletter

This newsletter is for the family and friends of the IUM Church of Ripon, WI. Everyone is welcome to worship and/or join this church. If this is your first time here, we hope that you enjoyed your time worshipping with us and will come back again soon.



The deadline for the **March** newsletter is ****February 18****



Up Front

Our recent worship services have been praising God for the Bible. The Bible shows how the God of creation entered into human history to undo evil. He restores his original plan of abundant life. The Bible is our ultimate authority containing what we need to know for faith and action.

Sermons are on the major themes of the Bible:

Dec. 31	God's Word for Me
Jan. 7	Creation
Jan. 14	Brokenness
Jan. 28	Redemption
Feb. 4	Justice for the Poor
Feb. 11	The Kingdom of God

These major themes of the Bible are not proclaimed in just a few places, but throughout the Old and New Testaments. The law, the history, the wisdom, the prophets, the gospel of Jesus, the early church and the Revelation all proclaim these themes.

Since we take the Bible seriously we need to know when God intends for us to take passages literally and when to take them figuratively. How we interpret it can lead to blessings or to mistakes. Therefore I've written an article "Responsible Biblical Interpretation" which is in a rack in the entry area. Several dozen of you have picked it up. Let me know your reaction. What's been helpful? What is still confusing?

Lent begins this month. What a great opportunity to put away the barriers to faith and emerge through Easter with spirits made fresh and clean by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Bible reading is necessary for Christians. Individual or group Bible study is as necessary for the spirit as healthy food is for the body. The 40 days of Lent is an excellent period to set a regular daily Bible time.

Rev. Nulton

Coming in February:

- Sunday February 4: Benjamin Cloyd brings music in both services.
- Wednesday, February 7: 6:15 pm Jeff Amend speaks on his time as a soldier in Iraq.
- Sunday, February 11: Ben Konecny speaks during both services on his learning of Christian faith during his semester in Turkey.
- Sunday, February 25: Chris Rydz, our Campus Ministry Coordinator, will speak at both services.

FAITH SHARING WORKSHOP FOR EVERYONE

On February 8, 2007 the adults who are involved with the leadership of their youth ministries will again be getting together for our youth Leaders Roundtable at Immanuel UMC from 6:30 – 8:00pm.

Due to the topic of our learning experience we have decided to open up the Youth Leaders Roundtable to parents, students and other adults who are interested in learning about how to share their Christian faith and also discover some of the evangelism resources that are available. This workshop will be led by Roger Kindschi.

This workshop will be an overview about prayer, and how to share your faith, and that of mentoring new Christians. It will be helpful if you could sign up for this free workshop, so that I can have enough materials available for everyone participating. To sign up just contact Carol at the church office or call me at my toll free telephone number (1-800-725-5276).

Ministering together,
Roger Kindschi
Director of Equipping Ministries

HONEST NEIGHBOR

Your neighbor's dog comes onto your lawn and leaves a deposit. You are upset and you don't want this to happen again. What do you do about it? Do you shout at your neighbor or throw it back on his lawn, or maybe both? This is a solution that may feel good at the time. But how effective will it be in solving the problem? What is the real problem in the first place? Isn't the real problem living peacefully with your neighbors?

When we get angry and retaliate, how effective are we in dealing with the bigger problem? Not very! But this is what we do all too often, in personal as well as international relations. We often don't even stop to examine the circumstances and find out exactly what happened, or why. Was it intentional, negligent, or unintended? We don't even know if our neighbor was aware of what happened. We immediately blame and dislike our neighbor regardless of the circumstances, even though our cat may be misusing their backyard.

Let's talk to our neighbor in a friendly way to bring attention to and resolve these kinds of problems. We will then find solutions that are compatible with the underlying problem of living together in peace.

Thanks to Dean Van Leuven who teaches quality of life issues. Contact him on the web at: www.DeanOfPeace.com



As an Outreach Project to our community, we continue to donate items to our local Food Pantry. We ask that you bring the following items as these items are in low supply at this time.

In February bring: Kleenex, toilet tissue, paper toweling, laundry detergent, dish washing liquid, shampoo, bar soap, powdered and condensed milk, non-frozen fruit juice concentrate, crackers, cookies, and potatoes (boxed or canned). Please place your donations in the shopping cart that is located on the main floor in the west (parking lot entrance) stairwell.

Youth News

A HUGE heart-felt thank you to all of the kind and generous people who helped to make our annual Pizza Fundraiser another success this year! Thank you to those of you who purchased pizzas! Thank you to all of you who helped make the 840 pizzas sold! Everyone's generosity and giving of time will enable our youth to make their mission trip dreams a reality this summer as we raised over \$1500! Thank you for making a difference in the lives of our youth!!!

The Circuit Youth "Lock-in" was Friday January 19th from 6-11PM. There were 22 youth and 6 adults who shared in a great evening of games, food, and fellowship! Then, on Wednesday January 31st, the youth can't wait to share a night with Sheltered Reality at Ripon High School. It is open to the entire community so bring your family to the High School at 6:30 pm and have a great time! Sunday, February 4, is our annual "Souper" bowl drive. Please bring cans of soup to church that morning and the youth will deliver them to the local food pantry. Over the past few years we have delivered over 200 cans to those in need. Thank you!

As always, the Senior High Youth meet on Wednesday evenings at Shannon Rogers house and the Middle School Youth meet on Wednesday evenings at church.

Blessed through the lives of Youth-
Krista Sperger and Shannon Rogers
Middle School and Sr High Youth Coordinators

MISSION PROJECTS

Heifer Project International

The Sunday School classes will begin collecting money for Heifer Project International on February 4. Each student will be given a calendar and plastic ark bank. Each day instructions are given indicating the amount of money that should be placed in the ark. On April 1, (and that's no April fool!) all money will be collected and sent to Heifer Project International. The ultimate collection would be \$5,000 which would purchase an entire ark of animals that would be given to deserving families all over the world! All church members will be given a chance to donate by emptying the change out of their pockets and placing in a fish bowl which will be placed in the narthex. Let's see if we can fill all of our arks!



TEACHER'S MEETING

All teachers, please mark your calendars for the next teachers meeting that will be held on Thursday, March 15th at 7 PM in the church lounge.

SUNDAY SCHOOL SINGING SCHEDULE

Once a month, the children in Nursery through Fourth grade will sing at the 10:30 AM church service. They will be singing songs that are sung during the opening of Sunday School each week. Noted below is the schedule:

- ❖ January 28, 2007
- ❖ April 29, 2007

I would love to be able to increase the number of children that sing at the church service.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

It may seem early to begin speaking about Vacation Bible School (VBS), but we are in need of someone, or several volunteers to organize this year. We will not only need volunteers to organize, but also to teach, make snacks and lead music. The theme of this year's VBS will be "Great Bible Reef, Diving into God's Word!"

Please let me know if you would like to look over the material, or better yet, if you are interested in filling one of the roles noted above.

Thanks so much for considering!

Deb Kaiser
Sunday School Superintendent

UNITED METHODIST MEN

The **United Methodist Men** will meet for breakfast at 8:00 am on Saturday, February 10, 2007 in the fellowship hall. Music will be provided and Rik Ridders will lead us in a Bible Study. The program will be "Scouting in Ripon" by Peter Sensenbrenner. Come and join us!

Tom Worrall, chairman, United Methodist Men

Weekly Bible Study for Men... led by Rik Ridders on Wednesdays, will meet weekly from noon to 1:00 pm at Ripon College. For more information, contact Rik at 748-6111(work) or 748-3185 (home)

BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS

A series of nonviolence workshops continues. They are scheduled and organized by the Wisconsin Conference Board of Church and Society. Rev. Nulton has the brochure

#2 The power of nonviolent love to bring about justice

Saturday, February 24, 2007

9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Green Bay: First UMC

#3 nonviolence skills for youth: how to respond to bullying.

This workshop is for youth and adults

Sunday, March 25, 2007

1:30 to 6:30 p.m. at Monona UMC



"SOUPER" BOWL SUNDAY

On February 4, which is the day of the Super Bowl, our youth will be collecting cans of soup for our local food pantry. Please bring cans of soup to donate, when you come to worship on that day. Last year we were able to supply over 200 cans of soup to those in need! Please place your donations in the "Souper" Bowl box in the foyer. Thank you for supporting this project.

FEBRUARY SUNDAY WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

USHERS-Coordinator, *Mike Wuest*

8:00

10:30

- | | |
|---|--|
| Feb. 7 Iver Leatherberry/Bob Burling
Randy & Gwen Steffen | Sue Thompson/Kathy Hilscher
Phyllis Huggett/Sandy Scamehorn |
| Feb. 11 Iver Leatherberry/Russ Skurr
Louie & Shelby Bock | Sue Thompson/Ann Mijatovich
Phyllis Huggett/Sandy Scamehorn |
| Feb. 18 Dave & Kathy Daye
Steve & Kim Michaelson | Sue Thompson/Kathy Hilscher
Phyllis Huggett/Sandy Scamehorn |
| Feb. 25 Tim Lubinsky/Daryl Bly
Dale Stephens/Keith Bock | Senior High Youth |

COFFEE HOUR-Coordinator, *Kathy Hilscher* *Between services*

8:00 Set-Up

10:15 Clean Up

- | | | |
|----------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Feb. 4 | Julie Bock | Julie Bock |
| Feb. 11 | Bob & Pat Henning | Beth Pugh |
| Feb. 18 | Kathy Hilscher | Kathy Hilscher |
| Feb. 24 | Kathy Daye | Kathy Daye |

The Worship Committee is grateful for your help.

Attention Parents:

At this time, we do not have nursery service during either service. Please feel free to use one of the quiet bags available in the foyer. **Or** You may also sit in the lounge with your child and listen to the service, as there are toys in the southeast corner of the lounge. ☺ ☺

February Sponsors

ALTAR FLOWERS - \$12

BULLETINS - \$10

Feb. 4	OPEN	OPEN
Feb. 11	OPEN	OPEN
Feb. 18	OPEN	OPEN
Feb. 24	Mary Ellen Grahn	Mary Ellen Grahn

RADIO BROADCAST - \$50

Feb. 4	OPEN
Feb. 11	OPEN
Feb. 18	Gary and Lori Hahn
Feb. 24	Mary Ellen Grahn

2007 sign up sheets to sponsor all items above have been posted on the bulletin board between the coatroom and restroom on the main floor. Please sign up today!

Radio Broadcast

Our Sunday 8:00 am service is broadcast on WRPN Radio, 1600 AM, at 9:30 am every Sunday.



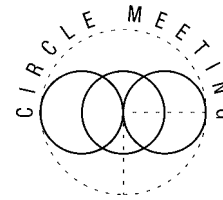
ACOLYTES-Coordinator, Carol Schwark

8:00

10:30

Feb. 4	Rachel Schulz Amanda Coehoorn	Michael Lauber Tim Hoffman
Feb. 11	Melissa Smit Megan Sperger	Colby Schultz Brad Arnold
Feb. 18	Rachel Schulz Krystal Tetzlaff	Tom Zimdars Emily Johnson
Feb. 25	Kyle Erdmann Tom Amend	Amy Lauber Kimi Kernen

United Methodist Women



The **Priscilla Circle** will meet in the church lounge on Tuesday, February 13 at 9:30 am. The leader will be Emilie Siegmann and the hostess will be Elaine Reilly.

The **Merry Friends Circle** will meet February 13th at 1:30 pm in the church lounge. Marge Burling will be the leader and Lorraine Wetzel will be the hostess.

Koinonia Circle will meet at church at 6:20 pm on Monday, February 12 to go visiting for Valentine's Day. Afterwards we'll go for coffee at Season's Coffee House.

United Methodist Green Team Environmental Tip of the Month:

Snow and ice can create beautiful winter scenery, but they also create the problem of removing them from your sidewalks and driveways. To avoid using hazardous snow removal chemicals this winter, try using clean clay cat litter, sand, or even ash from your fireplace as a non-toxic alternative.

The Resurrection Women's Retreat

All women are invited to attend this event held at the Green Lake Conference Center on April 27, 28, and 29. What an opportunity this will be, to enrich our lives so that we might continue to be in mission with our sisters in the local and global communities. Dee Klawitter and Olivia Pleggaen, both members of the Core Planning Group of the North Central Jurisdiction, will be leading this event. The retreat begins with dinner on Friday night April 27 and ends with lunch on Sunday April 29. Registration is \$25.00; meals are \$56.00. There is an addition charge for rooms if you plan to stay overnight. Please contact Lorraine at 748-3280 for more information.

We extend our sympathy to the family and friends of:

Aaron Schultz, passed away on Wednesday, December 27th. He is the father of Dawn (Randy) Hundt, and grandfather of Derek and Devon Hundt.

Mary Novitske who passed away on December 29. She is Dennis Valstad's friend and companion.

Agnes Hahn who passed away on January 10, 2007. She is related to Kathleen Estes and her daughters Jamilee Estes, Teresa Estes and Kayleen Page.

Lois Zimdars who passed away on January 20, 2007. She is the mother of Cheryl (Robert) Schrader, Rosemary Zimdars, the grandmother of Tom and Miclelle Zimdars, and the sister of Doris Smith.

Vallanee Hayes, wife of former Ripon Immanuel Evangelical United Brethren pastor Stanley Hayes, who passed away on January 21, 2007. She is the great aunt of Krista (John) Sperger.

Congratulations on the New Baby

Leah Marie Page was born on December 14, 2006 to Peter and Renee Page. Grandparents are Gary and Jane Page.

Avalon Sage Ziemba was born on December 15, 2006 to Edward and Amanda Ziemba. Grandparents are Steve and DeAnna Kunkel.

Thank You's

A huge heart-felt thank you from Shannon Rogers, Krista Sperger, and the youth to all of the kind and generous people who helped make our annual Pizza Fundraiser another success this year! Thank you to those of you who purchased pizzas! Thank you to all of you who helped make the 840 pizzas we sold! There were 42 people that helped make the pizzas. We could have never done it without YOU! Everyone's generosity and giving of time will enable our youth to make their mission trip dreams a reality this summer! Thank you for making a difference in the lives of our youth!!!

A sincere thank you from **the family of Duwayne Wichman** for all of your prayers, sympathy cards, food and visits following the passing of our beloved husband, father, and grandfather.

I would like to thank everyone who sent me Christmas greetings. It was good to hear from everyone. I miss my church!

Best wishes, *Joyce Benson*

HELP NEEDED SERVING FUNERAL LUNCHESES...

Would you be willing to be part of a team that would help at funeral lunches, headed by women who have experience? If so, please contact Alice Uecker AT 748-5731 or Lorraine Wetzal AT 748-3280. Thank you!

Beth Moore Simulcast Event – Straight Talk about God's Deliverance... The congregation and staff of Trinity Evangelical Free Church, 777 Harvey Street, Ripon, WI invite you to join them on Saturday, February 24, 2007 for a Beth Moore Simulcast event. As an author and speaker, Beth will bring you a personal, life changing message of deliverance and hope. Doors open at 9:00 am. The simulcast, live via satellite, is from 10:00 am – 3:30 pm. A Box lunch is included in the \$20.00 per person cost. A bookstore will be open from 9:00 am – 4:00 pm. For more information call Trinity Evangelical Free Church at 748-7100.

Sing Alongs...

The February **Sing-along** will take place on Tuesday, February 6th at Ripon care centers. Bring props like hats, bells, etc. to go with some of the songs. Folders are furnished. Join us at 1:30 pm at Michalene's; at 2:15 pm at Maplecrest Manor; at 3:00 pm at Fountainview Care Center; and at 3:45 pm at the Sheltered Village. Help us lift the spirits of the residents!

Ripon is having an **American Red Cross Blood Drive** on Monday, February 19 from 11:30 am to 5:30 pm at Mt. Zion Lutheran Church. Those who gave in November can participate. Appointments are very helpful, and speed up the process of giving, so please call 1-800-448-3543 to reserve a time.



The website of the people of the United Methodist Church has been revamped. You can find it at www.umc.org. There are unique tools to help you discover your spiritual gifts, to identify volunteer opportunities, and connect with people of faith around the world. Enjoy.

Staff of IUM Church

Senior Pastor	Rev. Paul Nulton
Administrative Assistant	Carol Schwark
Equipping Ministries Director	Roger Kindschi
Senior High Youth Director	Shannon Rogers
Middle School Youth Director	Krista Sperger
Visitation Ministries	Patti Quinn
College Ministry Coordinator:	Chris Rydz
Organist	Gen Stellmacher
Choir Director	Shelley Nulton
Custodian	Stan Brink

Marriage Encounter Weekends

February 16-18, 2007
Cedar Valley Retreat Center
West Bend, WI

October 5-7, 2007
Pine Lake United Methodist Camp
Westfield, WI

"Marriage Encounter is a positive experience for married couples seeking to deepen their relationships with each other and with God. It's a wonderful weekend for couples to get away from jobs, kids, chores, and phones to focus only on each other. If you would like greater depth, growth and enrichment in your relationship, Marriage Encounter will make a difference. For more information about the Marriage Encounter, visit the national website at www.encounter.org. Please contact Julie and Dale Shuster at 414-540-1408 or dshuster@wi.rr.com for registration and specific Wisconsin weekend information. Brochures are also available on the literature table in the lounge.

Engaged Encounter Weekend

March 30 - April 1, 2007
Byron Center
Fond du Lac, WI

October 5-7, 2007
Byron Center
Fond du Lac, WI

"Getting married or thinking about it? Spend a quiet weekend with your spouse-to-be and consider the essential issues for a lasting relationship. Hear married couples share their stories and learn from their experiences. Engaged Encounter will help get your wedding and marriage off to a great start. Contact John and Rosie Mitchell at 920-894-7177 or jdmitch@fdldotnet.com or visit www.encounter.org for more information on Engaged Encounter. Brochures are also available on the literature table in the lounge.

CAMPING IS FOR EVERYONE!

Even though it's still winter, now is the time to be thinking about registering to go to a summer camp that is offered by the Wisconsin Conference of the United Methodist Church. This summer families, children, youth, and adults can choose from over 80 camps that are offered. There are family camps for parents and children to attend together. There are mother/daughter, father/son, and grandparent/grandchild camps!

Younger elementary camps begin with camps for children entering grade 2 next Fall. There is a wide variety of older elementary, younger teen, and older teen camps available. Also offered are several camps for adults, including the Prime Timer's Retreat Camp that is for people 50 or over, that are married or single. As you can see, there are camps available for everyone!

Camp scholarships are available to Immanuel UMC children, youth and adults. These scholarships will finance 50% of the cost of the camp they attend. We are very fortunate to have scholarship money available that is made possible through a memorial that was left for this purpose.

Camp catalogs have been mailed to everyone that attended a camp last summer. Camp catalogs are located on the literature table in the church lounge and have been handed out in Sunday School classes. See the memo that is attached to the inside of the front cover of the camp catalog for registration and scholarship details. We ask that you bring your registration forms and your part of the camp fee payment to the church office. We will send them in to the camping office for you, along with the scholarship check, as full payment is required with registration. For questions about camps, for assistance in registering for camps, or in obtaining camp scholarships, contact Carol Schwark at the church office at 748-6695.

Camps fill up quickly, so register early!

Please join us on Sunday, March 11 as we have our annual Camping Sunday. We will be sharing past camping experiences and will give an update about the 2007 United Methodist Summer Camps.

Campus Ministry – Feeding the Spirit and the Body

Immanuel Church will sponsor a series of 3 Bible Studies for students at Ripon College. The discussion will be on the birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus. We need congregation members to provide their home and a simple dinner for those in attendance. Discussion will be student led. The main goal is to help students to know Jesus. It will be a chance for congregation members to get to know students and promote church participation. The dates are Thursdays, March 22, March 29 and April 5. If you are interested in hosting, contact Chris Rydz at rydzc@ripon.edu or see Rev. Nulton.

Ripon Area Choirs Festival

On Sunday February 11, 2007, our church will be hosting the annual Ripon Area Choirs Festival. It will be held in our sanctuary starting at 2:00 p.m. and ending at 4:00 p.m. This festival is organized by Jan Saecker and includes choirs from several of the area churches. The concert will feature songs by the individual choirs as well as a song performed by all the choirs together. Everyone is invited to attend!

Bereavement Group

A six-week grief group entitled "A Time to Mourn" is offered by Lutheran Homes of Oshkosh, in cooperation with Affinity Health System, Affinity Home Health & Hospice- Ministry Health and Evergreen Retirement Community.

The group will be co-led by professionals trained in grief support and is designed for those who have lost an adult loved one through death.

There is no charge for these sessions, but pre-registration is required. Sessions will be held on Tuesday evenings from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm. The sessions will run from February 6 until March 13. For more information and pre-registration, please call (920) 232-5274.

LENT BEGINS FEBRUARY 21

The season of Lent is the forty-day period which begins on Ash Wednesday and concludes at the day before Easter. Sundays are not included in this count because every Sunday is a joyful celebration of Jesus' resurrection.

Lent is 40 days long because 40 days is a traditional number of discipline, devotion, and preparation in the Bible. Moses stayed on Mt. Sinai 40 days when he received the Ten Commandments from God (Exodus 24:18); Israel wandered for 40 years in the wilderness after leaving Egypt; Elijah traveled 40 days before he reached the cave in Mt. Horeb where he beheld the "Still Small Voice" of God (I Kings 19); and Jesus spent 40 days in the wilderness praying and fasting (Matthew 4:1-11).

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

Wednesday, February 21st, 6:30 pm

Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent. On this day, Christians focus on their sinfulness and the necessity of Christ's suffering and death to insure their salvation. **Holy Communion** will be distributed at the altar. The choir will sing. We will offer the **imposition of ashes** at this service. Ashes are referred to many times in the Old Testament as signs of sorrow, mourning, humility, and repentance, and on Ash Wednesday they are used to remind people of their mortality – that "you are dust, and to dust you shall return" (Genesis 3:19). The ashes are the remains of palm branches used last Palm Sunday.

LENTEN SERVICES

Wednesday evenings, 6:30 pm

February 28, March 14, 21 and 28 at Immanuel Church
Soup and Sandwich Supper at 5:45 pm

March 7 at Berlin UMC at 7:00 pm

No communion; No child care

At each Lenten Service we examine a different facet of the story of the passion, suffering, death and resurrection of Christ Jesus. Our goal is to understand the sacrifice He made for us. During the 2007 Lenten Season the theme will be "This Lenten Road" and each week will explore a different road on the way to the cross. Pastors of four circuit churches will alternate services.

- February 28 Rev. George Groves "The Road to the Wilderness: Baptism and Temptation"
- March 7 will be a joint service with the four churches parishes participating at Berlin United Methodist Church at 7:00 pm rather than 6:30 pm. Rev. Dr. David Joyce will speak on "The Road to Jericho: The Good Samaritan". Dr. Joyce is President of Ripon College and an ordained United Methodist minister.
- March 14 Rev. Bob Blackburn "The Road to Jerusalem: Jesus' Commitment to God's Plan"
- March 21 Rev. Tom Moe "The Road to Damascus: Paul's Conversion"
- March 28 Rev. Paul Nulton "The Road Home: The Prodigal Son"

HOLY WEEK

Maundy Thursday, April 5

6:00 am to 6:00 pm Prayer Vigil in the sanctuary. Sign up for a half hour or hour to meditate, read, and pray.

Good Friday, April 6

1:00 pm - Five Ripon churches join together for a Union Service at Grace Lutheran Church

Easter Sunday, April 8

Sunrise Service 6:30 am

Breakfast 7:00 am

Traditional Worship 8:00 am

Sunday School 9:15 am

More Contemporary Worship 10:30 am