

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE: Members of Orchard Ridge UCC are invited to apply for college scholarships for 2016-2017 from the Frank E. Page Scholarship Fund. Applicants should be planning to begin or continue education at any accredited 2- or 4-year college or university, and should have a record of academic achievement, service to church and community, and demonstrated financial need. The application deadline is February 15, 2016; contact scholarships@firstcongmadison.org for an electronic application. Questions? Contact Peter Fabian, 236-9983, fabian@edgewood.edu.

Ongoing Groups

Women's Breakfast NEW location! The Women's Breakfast group meets the first Friday of every month. We will meet at the Pancake House at 728 S. Gammon Rd. (near Watts Rd) at 8:30. This is an informal gathering to chat on many subjects and interests. Many men have also been joining in at their "guys" table and are welcome as well."

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ORUCC Men's Group: The Orchard Ridge UCC men's group meets in the Oscar Romero Gathering Room on the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month at 7:15 pm. If you are interested in joining the group or have questions, please contact Dave Myers at 274-0381 or 547_5698@msn.com.

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We will discuss the novel HOMER AND LANGLEY by E. L. Doctorow. This 2009 NY Times best seller is the fictionalized story of two actual eccentric brothers who live a (mostly) reclusive life in their boyhood NY home. Their story starts in the early 1900's. The library system has many available copies, and it is also available as a recording or e-book.

If you plan to come, please let Sandra know, either at church or at 271-2409.

OVER 55: The next meeting will be on January 12th. We meet the 2nd Tuesday of every month September through May, gathering at 11:30 and begin our delicious catered meal at 11:45, followed by our program.

Our chefs will plan a great meal for us and the cost is \$7.00 per person.

Our presenter will be Jerry Erdmann from Verona. He is/was a professional photographer with UW Photo Media Center. "Travel with a Purpose" is the title of the program. JERRY says, "with the program, I embedded 3 sub programs. One is on Germany, the 2nd. is on Scotland and the 3rd is about a semi truck touring with September 9/11 high lights of the attack IN THE WORK OF THE FIREFIGHTERS!"

Jerry says, " these programs are all photo tours designed to help people remember trips they made. I love taking pictures, photography was my life and still is."

Movie Group Continues in 2016: The Movie Group at ORUCC is open to all folks interested movies and talking about them. We will meet at 7 p.m. on Friday, January 22nd in the Music Room at church. Dessert and beverages will be provided, there are lots of good films in theatres now, see one or more of your choosing and be ready to report on your opinions. Please RSVP to Steve Sheets, im1042@tds.net.



Orchard Ridge United Church of Christ
COMMUNION

"Spiritually Alive, Joyfully Inclusive, Committed to Justice."

Sunday Morning

January 10

9 am Java & Jesus

10 am Winton Boyd preaching
Handbell Choir

January 17

9 am NO Java & Jesus or Sunday School

10 am Ken Pennings preaching
Orchard Ridge Choir

January 24

9 am Java & Jesus

10 am Tammy Martens preaching
TRU Function

January 31

9 am Java & Jesus

10 am Winton Boyd Preaching
Orchard Ridge Choir

Newsletters:

January 20

Articles due:

Information to be included in the newsletter is due the Monday before the above dates by 9:00 a.m. Email items to office@orucc.org, or drop them off at the office.

Church Emails

Debbie Bauerkemper
office@orucc.org
Tammy Martens
tmartens@orucc.org
Ken Pennings
ken@orucc.org
Winton Boyd
win-



Coming up in the life of our congregation:

January 15-17 — All Church Retreat at Pilgrim Center (no Java and Jesus or Sunday School)

January 31 after worship - ORUCC Annual Meeting

February 9 — Partygras All Church Social (see note inside)

February 10 at 7:00 p.m. — Ash Wednesday Service in the Friendship Hall

March 20th — Palm Sunday worship

March 25th — Good Friday service at 7:00 p.m.

March 27th - Easter

Annual Meeting is Sunday, January 31, 2016: We'll meet as a congregation after worship Sunday, January 31. In the UCC, large scale decisions are made by the entire congregation and this annual meeting is one opportunity for us to act on important issues. In addition to electing our Ministries and Officers, we'll adopt our 2016 budget. **The Annual Report will be available online by January 20th (www.orucc.org) and available on the table in The Crossroads Sunday, January 24th.**

ORUCC Communion Newsletter to go electronic:

Beginning this month, we will be sending our Newsletter electronically. For now, it will be the same style, just as a PDF document sent via email. Over the next few months, we expect to revamp all of our 'news' outlets to improve efficiency and consistency. If you do not have email copies will be on the table in The Crossroads. If you would prefer a paper copy sent to you, please call Debbie Bauerkemper at 271-7212.

SUNDAYS

January Compassion Offering is The Crossing Campus Ministries

The Crossing is a progressive campus ministry and student organization at UW-Madison, in partnership with the United Church of Christ, the United Methodist Church, and the American Baptist Churches, which draws on many of the world's faith traditions to nurture a faith community of students that embodies the radical inclusiveness, extravagant welcome and compassionate living illuminated in the life and teachings of Jesus.

The Crossing welcomes students of diverse spiritual, religious, and non-religious backgrounds, and strives to create a safe space where students can celebrate life's greatest joys as well as wrestle honestly and openly with their biggest questions and doubts.

In the midst of a campus culture that tends to place value on students for what they have or what they achieve, The Crossing offers students a community where they can experience what many have found at ORUCC: a community of faith where all members are free to safely express their truest selves; a place where all are loved for who they are and are met wherever they may be on life's journey."

Each week cash offerings (change and bills) are designated to a worthy mission cause. Each month a different ministry is highlighted. For credit on your church statement, on your check write the ministry in the memo line. While this will not count toward your annual pledge, we will acknowledge the contribution on your statement.

Prayers of Concern:

For a family of 7, friends of our congregation through the Southwest Partnership, seeking to find an apartment when their lease ends on Feb. 1st.

For Deb Joseph's son Austin and his wife Jenna, whose friend Wilke died in a tragic accident at age 27.

For Marjorie Irwin who is having carpal tunnel surgery this week.

For Kasey DeWitt's father who has had a series of mini strokes.

For the Ruder family who lost a ten year old boy in their extended family.

For Helene Nelsen and her extended family after the death of her aunt Myrtle.

For Ann Avery whose sister Kay lost her husband Steve two weeks ago.

Prayers of Joy:

For Roger Pohlman – Cancer treatment is reducing the tumors.

For Jennifer & Paul Eggerling-Boeck's niece Marika who has been released from the hospital following successful surgery.

Participate in a 9-week class on Monday evenings beginning Jan. 25th!

Financial Peace University - This life-changing class taught by Dave Ramsey and the FPU teaching team on video will help you achieve your financial goals by showing you how to eliminate debt, save for the future, and give like never before. Class starts Jan 25th, runs for 9 weeks, and ends on March 21st. Sign up online: daveramsey.com/fpu/classfinder

Need information? Contact Jarrett.Gersten@gmail.com

ORUCC Youth are on a mission to collect used books, music, movies, computer and board games.

Do a clean sweep of shelves, closets and tabletops –peek under beds if you dare—and gather your collection. Spread the word to family, friends, neighbors and co-workers. Drop off @ ORUCC on Sunday 1/10 from 11 to 1. Sale date is Saturday, January 23. All proceeds will help us meet our fundraising goal of \$9,500 for the 2016 Youth Mission Trip to Birmingham AL. Contact Angie Schoeneck with questions angelaschoeneck@gmail.com or 608-333-2351.

Services Exchange (Yth Mission Trip Fundraiser):

If you'd like to help raise funds for the youth mission trip, but want to get something in return, you might be interested to hear this. We've decided to have a "services exchange." "Services" will be decided and offered by the youth.

Ideas we have are, shoveling snow, grocery shopping, babysitting, lessons on baking, texting, facebook, video editing, and computer. Adult supervision will be used where necessary.

You can purchase "services" on Sunday, January 10th in Friendship Hall. We'll have a sheet listing the services so you can take your pick.

Pilates Group Mat Class: a Fundraiser for the

Summer 2016 Mission Trip: We'll meet for six consecutive Wednesday evenings @ 5:45 - 6:45pm (January 20 - February 24) in the Bonhoeffer Room, lower level of the church building. Wear comfortable (stretchy) clothes and bring **two** yoga mats (one to stack on top of the other—you need the extra cushioning). All other material and equipment will be provided. Suggested donation: \$75.00. Make your check payable to Orchard Ridge United Church of Christ and mention "Pilates fundraiser" on the memo line OR pay online with a credit card—go to the Orchard Ridge website and find "Pilates Fundraiser." The instructor is Susan Watson. Call Susan: 608/698-5061 (cell) or email: susanjanepilates@gmail.com with any questions you have and to let her know you're signing up. Pilates is a series of non-impact exercises focused on core strength, overall flexibility, proper alignment, and breath. Pilates works to educate and balance the different muscles of the body so that they work efficiently as a unit, thereby easing joint and muscular pain, improving posture, and increasing strength and awareness in your body.

Love Over Fear – you are welcome to pick up bracelets, bumper stickers or yard signs as part of our ecumenical effort to be a collective voice standing against hateful or fearful rhetoric. Donation requested: Bracelets (\$1), Bumper Stickers (\$5), Yard Signs (\$20).

Coffee Fund for Sunday Mornings and all Other

Church Events: Many of us enjoy a good cup of Fair Trade coffee after worship on Sunday mornings. If you can help out by donating to the coffee fund, that would be appreciated.



Party Gras All-Church Social: Please join us for Party Gras on Tuesday, February 9, 2016, 5:30-7:30 pm, at ORUCC, in the Friendship Hall. We'll don our beads, have plenty of pizza, and a Cajun style recipe for supper, activities for younger youth, and games and mixers to entertain the whole church family. John Gilbert will MC this night of fun for the whole church family. Of course, we'll sing the traditional "When the Saints Go Marching In," and conclude with a ritual prayer and burning of last year's palm branches. A night you won't want to miss! Anyone who can help decorate come early, and if you can help with cleanup please stay. Families whose names start with A-G please bring dessert, H-P please bring fruit, and Q-Z please bring cut up veggies (dip will be provided). Any questions please contact Ken Pennings at 271-7212 or ken@orucc.org

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Misc. Things that are Important to Know



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A Boydseye View - Two Meditations on Incarnation

Two seats away from me on Christmas Eve, John Stevens began his slow, haunting rendition of "O Holy Night" on the melodica. It is the only time of year I hear this instrument. For years, he has graced this late night service with his sacred fingering. The lights inside were low, the moon outside bright.

Across the way I saw a family of four – one child in college and one recently graduated. For years, they've journeyed as a foursome – through sports, school, hardship, and faith. There was something sacred emanating from them, a bond that includes family but transcends it.

To my right sat two women, recently married in this same. In a way I've rarely seen, the glow in their eyes has not dimmed. They walk, laugh, cry, and converse with a 'pinch me' look on their face; the very definition of gratitude.

My own memories flooded into my heart, memories of previous years in this same sanctuary praying before this same mystery. I remember my own children in younger years, families that have come and gone, and faithful stalwarts who have passed on.

Year after year I partake in this ritual of gathering, singing, connecting and recommitting. In the midst of the hassles of finals, travel, shopping, cooking and grieving – we've created this hour in our life to sit in darkness, to sing old and new songs, to listen to stories retold and reinterpreted. We mark the season not just with resolutions, commitments, and promises – but with gratitude.

In this hour we sit with some of our loved ones while missing others.

We honor old memories while creating new ones.

We praise the God of our childhood who has seen us through adolescence and now adulthood.

Incarnation, indeed, is an ever present part of the journey.

Her left leg never stops moving. To the untrained eye, it looks like she's trying to get out of the oversize wheel chair. To those who know her, it's yet one other sign of a brain slowly losing connections. It's one more way in which a woman we have known for decades is changing before our eyes. The trouble is that we can't predict either the changes or when they will show up. The ravages of Alzheimer's disease have begun their slow erosion. For those 'of right mind' it is often seen as the worst way 'to go.'

"In sickness and health, in good times or bad," this husband said decades ago when this couple was much younger. While they couldn't have known what the future would bring, they made that promise earnestly. In love and hope, they set out on a journey they thought they understood, but that emerged more and more as a mystery.

Incarnation, God becoming flesh, might look this way too: the manageable life that evolves into a mystery beyond our wanting; certainly beyond our knowing. God made known in the details of life; the ones we want and the ones we cannot escape.

And there, in the chair, sits the child of God, the chosen and beloved One. Where she once knew this about herself, we think she has now forgotten it. Where she once had words for her gratitude, she now cannot form them. But we, we who sit with her, laugh with her, and feed her - we can know this. We can honor this child of the Most Beloved. We can see sacredness, we can honor God known in the ravaged pathways of the brain, the thoughtful attention of her caregivers, the often silent and invisible tears of the one who has taken her across so many of life's thresholds. Like so many in the past, this transition reveals the mystery of God in surprising and unimaginable ways.

Went

Orchard Ridge United Church of Christ

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Madison, WI 53711
www.orucc.org
office@orucc.org

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Are you still interested in receiving our newsletter? If not, please mail the back (which includes your name and address), call the church office at (608) 271-7212, or contact office@orucc.org requesting us to remove you from our mailing list.

OUR CHURCH IS OPEN AND AFFIRMING OF ALL PEOPLE REGARDLESS OF AGE, RACE, CULTURE, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, GENDER EXPRESSION OR IDENTITY, AND ECONOMIC STATUS. OUR CHURCH IS A SAFE SANCTUARY FOR ALL CHILDREN AND YOUTH.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS		
January		
Thursday 7	8:30 a.m.	Meditation/Spirituality Discussion
Sunday 10	9:00 a.m.	Java and Jesus
	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service
Monday 11	6:30 p.m.	Handbell Choir Rehearsal
	7:15 p.m.	ORUCC Men's Group
Tuesday 12	11:30 a.m.	OVER 55
Wednesday 13	7:00 p.m.	ORUCC Choir Rehearsal
Thursday 14	8:30 a.m.	Meditation/Spirituality Discussion
Sunday 17	9:00 a.m.	Java and Jesus
	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service
Monday 18	6:30 p.m.	Handbell Choir Rehearsal
Tuesday 19	7:30 p.m.	Adult Bible Study
Wednesday 20	11:00 a.m.	Progressive Christianity Group
	5:45 p.m.	Pilates Class Mission Trip Fundraiser
	7:00 p.m.	ORUCC Choir Rehearsal
Thursday 21	8:30 a.m.	Meditation/Spirituality Discussion
	6:00 p.m.	Care of Creation Meeting
Friday 22	5:30 p.m.	Yth Book Sale Set-up
	7:00 p.m.	Movie Group
Saturday 23	9:00 a.m.	Yth Book Sale Mission Trip Fundraiser
Sunday 24	9:00 a.m.	Java and Jesus
	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service
Monday 25	6:30 p.m.	Handbell Choir Rehearsal
	7:15 p.m.	ORUCC Men's Group
Wednesday 26	5:45 p.m.	Pilates Class Mission Trip Fundraiser

Ushers—Need 3 each Sunday unless specified

Jan 10 Jon Blanchard, Jarrett Gersten, Jerry Nelson
Jan 17 Bob & Carol Prugh, Marilyn Arnold
Jan 24 Jerry Nelson, Bob & Carol Prugh
Jan 31 Phil & Judy Winkel, Joyce Binder
Feb 7 Jon Blanchard, Dick & Lois Rossmiller
Feb 10-Ash Wed. Peter Fabian, Joyce Binder
Feb 14 Bob & Carol Prugh, **NEED VOLUNTEER**
Feb 21 Jerry Nelson, Carolyn Carlson, Jarrett Gersten

Welcomers

Jan 10 Doug & Mary Loving, Leah Narans
Jan 17 John & Donna Lillethun, Barb Hummel
Jan 24 Dick & Lois Rossmiller, Jan Christian
Jan 31 **NEED 2 VOLUNTEERS**, Kim Kaspar
Feb 7 Joyce Pohl, Bob & Carol Prugh
Feb 14 Charlene Gallagher, Marilyn Arnold, Leah Narans
Feb 21 Dick & Lois Rossmiller, Jack Schairer

Sound Coffee

Jan 3	Chuck Kaspar	Greg & Barb Loudon
Jan 10	Ken Psyck	Dolores & Paul Gohdes
Jan 17	John Gilbert	Phil & Judy Winkel
Jan 24	Paul Hedges	Chuck Kaspar & Jane Glaze
Jan 31	Ken Psyck	Annette & Brian Porter
Feb 7	Jarrett Gersten	Steve Yeazel & Chris Thomas
Feb 10-Ash Wed	Chuck Kaspar	-
Feb 14	Paul Hedges	Tom & Char Klossner
Feb 21	John Gilbert	Rich Hoard & Dan Stevens

Financial Secretary

Jan 10	Gene	Jan 17	Meg	Jan 24	Peter
Jan 31	Peter	Feb 7	Meg	Feb 14	Gene
Feb 21	Peter	Feb 28	Meg	Mar 6	Gene

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