

# YOUTH NEWS

## The Way of the Child January Sunday School: Acts of Love

*You are the healing, the loving, the touching. You are the laughing, You are the dancing. Jesus, Verb of God. You are the moving—move in me.* (Marilee Zdenek, *God is a Verb*)

The 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade Sunday School classes began a new module entitled “Acts of Love.” The spiritual journey is an inward/outward growth process. As we seek to draw closer to God in quiet prayer, meditation, and reflection, we are drawn to express that closeness in word and deed. The sessions in this module give children an experience of becoming more aware of needs around them and in our world, using their imagination to develop empathy and compassion, listening to scripture, learning about organization and persons who serve others, becoming aware of their own opportunities for service, and seeing all of this as grounded in God’s abundant love shown in Jesus.

We will spend the **entire month of January involved in a service project.** We will be working with Interfaith Hospitality Network as they house families here at Orchard Ridge the week of January 13. During the entire month, the children will learn about homelessness and the issues that surround homelessness. The children will bake goodies, help take down the rooms and prepare them for the IHN families, collect items for IHN families, and be in prayer for this ministry and the families who will be staying at Orchard Ridge.

Children will collect the following items for IHN families:

**Toiletries including:** toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, soap, deodorant, (standard size, please), African-American hair grease (found at Walgreens)

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We have volunteers, WELCOME HELPERS, who assist those in wheelchairs, Scott Sneve and Lori Zenke and others as needed. This too, is a special welcoming ministry. It includes such things as helping the driver get them in the door, getting coats off, sitting with them in worship and holding the hymn book. Being sure they receive communion and assisting with that. Taking them to the Friendship Hall for coffee and conversation after worship. Being with them until the van comes to pick them up. Having 2 people working together is helpful so we welcome pairs as well as singles (whom we would try to pair with another single).

If YOU would like to volunteer in either of these special ministries please write it on the Friendship Pad or call or email Ree at the office at 271-7212 or rhale@orucc.org.

Come and join the fun of WELCOMING others at ORUCC.

### One-a-Week Club 2007 Final Report

With December donations from Bill Rewey, Sara Roberts, Josh Gormley, Beth Myers, Joyce binder, and Gail Ansheles, our 2007 blood donation total stands at 62!! We have met and exceeded our goal. Thank you to everyone who donated this year, especially from the 150+ people who received our blood products.

Don’t stop now. The need for blood grows by 8 percent a year. Roll up those sleeves and keep on giving. Bring a friend. The cookies are still free. Visit [givebloodgivelife.org](http://givebloodgivelife.org) to find a blood drive near you.

### Page Scholarship

Members of ORUCC are invited to apply for college scholarships for 2008-2009 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 and service to church and community, as well as demonstrated financial need. The application deadline is February 15, 2008. Contact the church office for a printed or electronic application. Questions? Contact Winton Boyd.



JANUARY, 2008 ISSUE 2

# Orchard Ridge United Church of Christ COMMUNION

**“Spiritually Alive, Joyfully Inclusive, Committed to Justice.”**

### Sunday Morning

#### January 27

**9 am** Education  
**10 am** Worship, Ree Hale preaching  
Senior Choir

#### February 3

**9 am** Education  
**10 am** Worship, Winton Boyd preaching  
TRU Function

#### February 10

**9 am** Education  
**10 am** Worship, Winton Boyd preaching  
Handbells

### Newsletters

#### February 6 and 20

Information to be included in the newsletters are due the Monday before by 9:00 a.m. Email items to [office@orucc.org](mailto:office@orucc.org), or drop them off at the office.

### Church Emails

Debbie Bauerkemper  
[office@orucc.org](mailto:office@orucc.org)  
Rev. Ree Hale  
[rhale@orucc.org](mailto:rhale@orucc.org)  
Rev. Tammy Martens  
[tmartens@orucc.org](mailto:tmartens@orucc.org)  
Winton Boyd  
[winton@orucc.org](mailto:winton@orucc.org)

### New Ministries and Leadership approved at Annual Meeting

#### Leadership Team

Moderator—John Lemke  
Past Moderator—Deb Holbrook  
Moderator Elect—Karen Falkner  
Clerk—Steve Sheets  
Treasurer—Doug Hendrix  
Ruth Ann Berkholtz  
Gary DeClute  
Ruthanne Landsness  
Lee Pray  
Ralph Petersen

#### Christian Service & Witness

Jan Christian (chair)  
Jim Frymark  
Jerry Nelson  
Dianne Stevens  
Joyce Pohl  
Carol Prugh  
Rosemary Stare  
Peggy Anderson  
Judy Winkel  
Brian Lancor

#### Resources

Harry Peterson (chair)  
Fred Fisher  
Doug Piper  
Jim Treichel  
Laurie Irwin  
Jane Ilgen  
Beth Myers  
J. McLellan  
Tim Frank

#### Nominating Committee

Karen Falkner  
Marilyn Arnold  
LuAnn Greiner  
Teri Hedges  
Vern Reed

#### Ex-officio

Barb Hummel  
Helene Nelson

#### Adult Faith Formation

Ginny Kruse (chair)  
Dave Allen  
Marylin Boyer  
Lori Miller  
Ann Kehl  
Pat Fellows  
Cheryl Diermyer  
Linda Hitchman

#### Other officers

Financial Secretary  
Joyce binder  
Hope Soroos  
Marge Wennen  
Historian—Meg Stevens

#### Congregational Life

Brad Carl (chair)  
Lynn Roethe  
Jill Sonntag  
Sarah Waddell  
Wanda Hoefle  
Gene Dyar  
Hope Soroos  
Elizabeth Strasma

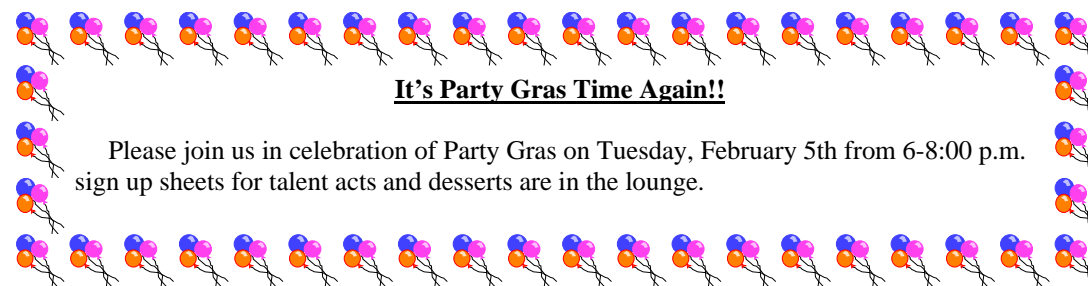
#### 2008 Ministries

#### Youth Faith Formation

Jeanne McLellan (chair)  
Amy Fewel  
Barbara Stretchberry  
Bob Ansheles  
Gretchen Forbes

The congregation approved the formation of 4 Explorer Teams as a part of our Next Generation Initiative. (the specific charge for these teams is at [www.orucc.org](http://www.orucc.org)). The Music and the Spirituality Explorer Teams will begin work in February. The Faith in Action and Children, Youth and Families Explorer Teams will begin in late spring. **If you would like to be on one of these teams, please contact the chair or Winton Boyd.**

Music – Karen Falkner and Ruthanne Landsness (co-chairs)  
Spirituality – Barb Hummel (co-chair)  
Faith in Action – Helene Nelson (co-chair)  
Children, Youth and Families -



### It's Party Gras Time Again!!

Please join us in celebration of Party Gras on Tuesday, February 5th from 6-8:00 p.m. sign up sheets for talent acts and desserts are in the lounge.

Tree of Life**Please pray:**

- For the people of Kenya undergoing ethnic and tribal violence. We are especially mindful of the Rev. Benson Kishoyian, a guest pastor with us in 2000, and his congregations.
- For ongoing violence in the Middle East.
- For Fue Yang, father of the Yang family that the church sponsored in 1980. Fue is dying of cancer in St. Paul, MN.
- For Riley, a 6 year old sister of a friend of Ali Blanchard, who had brain surgery last week.

If one member suffers, all suffer together, if one member rejoices, all rejoice together” (The apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians)

Family Prayer Cycle

It is important to pray for one another in times of special need or joy, and also in the “regular” times. We invite you to pray for these families. We invite you to make praying for one another a regular feature of your own prayer life.

- Elizabeth Strasma & Sohrab
- Barbara Stretchberry & Sam
- Harry & Mary Stroebe

Compassion Offering

Each month our Sunday cash offerings (change and bills) will be designated to a worthy mission cause. Each month a different cause or ministry will be highlighted. This is a voluntary contribution. If you would like credit on your church statement, you may also write a check with the cause listed in the memo line. While this will not count toward your annual pledge, we will acknowledge the contribution on your statement.

The Compassion offering for January will be the UCC Peace Campaign.

We urgently need “\$100,000 for Peace” to provide much-needed food, water, health care and education for war-affected Iraqi families displaced in Iraq, Syria, Lebanon and Jordan. More than 4 million people – 15 percent of Iraq’s population – have been forced from their homes because of war and bloodshed. Act now, in the name of peace.

A gift of \$40 can feed a family of four for two weeks. \$85 can provide warm coats and hats for 5 children. \$100 can provide medicine and testing for the chronically ill.

Save the date and hop on the bus!

Do you wonder about the places where our Compassion Offerings and mission dollars are used? Then join us on the family-friendly bus tour to a few of the sites ORUCC supports. Put Sunday, February 17, on your calendar. We’ll provide a light lunch right after church and then board the bus. We’ll be back by 2:30.

Sunday Mornings at 9:00 a.m.Java and Jesus**January 27—Breathe**

NOOMA is a set of short films that try to communicate faith issues in story form. Designed and produced by the Mars Hill Church in Grand Rapids, MI, these high quality DVD’s are designed to provoke discussion and thoughtful reflection. Here is what the producers say, “We can get anything we want, from anywhere in the world, whenever we want it. That’s how it is and that’s how we want it to be. Still, our lives aren’t any different than other generations before us. Our time is. We want spiritual direction, but it has to be real for us and available when we need it. We want a new format for getting Christian perspectives. Each NOOMA touches on issues that we care about, that we want to talk about...”

Heart & Soul

**January 27:** Sister Lynne Smith, an ordained Presbyterian minister, and a member of the Benedictine Women of Madison at Holy Wisdom Monastery (formerly St. Benedict Center) for the past seven and half year, will share her spiritual journey and her path to Holy Wisdom Monastery as well as background about the Benedictine tradition.

Java & Jesus and Heart & Soul combine for the month of February

**February 3 & 10:** Gayle Reed, PhD., from Department of Educational Psychology at the UW, will help us look at *personal transformation through forgiveness*. Dr. Reed has extensive experience working in the area of forgiveness, including with women who are emotionally abused, through her *Forgiveness Recovery* programs. Dr. Reed teaches at UW extension, New College Madison and has an ongoing practice of forgiveness recovery workshops. During her doctoral study, she worked closely with Dr. Bob Enright.

**February 17:** *The Power of Forgiveness*, a soon to be shown program on Public TV, will be our guide for a discussion of our own experience with forgiveness. The DVD features stories from Amish communities, survivors of the 9/11 attacks, Elie Wiesel, Thich Nhat Hanh and others.

**February 24:** *Quest Northern Ireland* is a group of college students traveling to Belfast in January under the auspices of The Crossing Campus Ministry. They will be interacting with local Protestant and Catholic school communities in Belfast that are a part of ongoing work in the area of forgiveness. We welcome them to ORUCC to share their experiences.

**After worship on February 24, the Quest Northern Ireland students will offer a breakfast/brunch as a fundraiser to help defray the costs of that exciting trip. We will have a free will offering.**

Women’s Breakfast Group

The Women’s Breakfast Group meets the first Friday of every month at 8:30 a.m. at Copper Top. The informal group is open to all women who enjoy conversation and connecting on many topics.

The Knit & Crochet groups

The daytime group will meet on Monday, February 4th from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. in the lounge (first Monday of each month). The evening group will meet on Tuesday, February 5th from 7:00-8:00 p.m. in the lounge (first Tuesday of each month). All are welcome to join either group. Instruction for knitting and crocheting will be offered at each group and supplies. Bring whatever you are working on.

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SAFE Dinner and Program

The SAFE dinner & program will be hosted by Ree Hale on Monday, February 18th from 6:30 to 8:30pm., at 4413 Tokay Blvd., in Madison. Please RSVP to 236-9983. Please bring your favorite casserole dish, salad, or dessert to pass; beverages will be provided.

SAFE gatherings are open to all ORUCC members and friends of ORUCC. SAFE is an ORUCC social group for Christian lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans-gendered individuals, families and friends - gay and straight. If you’d like e-mail announcements about future programs, projects and meetings, send your e-mail address to winton@orucc.org indicating that you want to be on the SAFE e-mail list.

Women’s Book Group

On February 14th, from 7-9 p.m., the book group will meet at the home of Ruth Ann Berkholtz, 6 Elmwood Court, to discuss the classic *The Age of Innocence* by Edith Wharton. Mary Piper will lead the discussion.

All women are welcome. Please let Ruth Ann know that you plan to attend (848-8761). Is there a book you have read that you’d like to discuss with others? Come and tell us about that good read so we can discuss it together.

Camp Sunday

February 10th is CAMP SUNDAY. Jeff Puhlmann-Becker, director of Pilgrim Center will be here to bring the Mission Moment, meet with the children after the Children’s Time and then be in the Friendship Hall during coffee hour time. Learn more about YOUR camp sites and the opportunity, as individuals or families, to have lots of fun and grow in your relationship with God and others.

New Directory Corrections

Pick up your copy of the updated directory at the church.

Email address: Bernie Treichel jbtreihe@chartermi.net

Email address: Lynn Roethe laroethe@wisc.edu

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## A Boydseye View

As we face the beginning of Lent in early February, I continue to think about that illusive concept of hope within a Christian community. During this season of reflection, we remind ourselves that even if our life or our world does not reflect God’s compassion and grace, one day it will.

Like many of you, I want the community of the church to be a haven from the culture around us. I want the church to always be a place of hope, where all our dreams can be realized, our prayers answered, and our love received. I want our depression and grief to be lifted, our pain to be abated. As one of your pastors, I want to be there at the right moment with the right word. I want you to be there for one another with just the right word, gesture or hug.

Unfortunately, it cannot be so. Despite our best efforts, despite our tenderness and respect and prayer – it cannot be so. It cannot be so because even if we are the body of Christ, even if we incarnate God’s love for one another, the realm of God has not fully come. We embody not only the grace of God, but also the brokenness of the world, and our families and our relationships. We carry pain and confusion with us, even when we are not aware of it.

But during this season of Lent, we celebrate the light of Christ breaking into the shadows and hidden areas of our lives. It is a time when we acknowledge with the church in all generations that while we are not there yet, the hope we have is eternal. It is rooted in God’s redemption of the world and the belief that God’s compassion, known in Jesus, will overwhelm all of the hate and hurt that we know in our lives.

We cherish the children of our church, and we seek to give the gift of human love and community. However, someday they, like all of us, will be confronted with hatred, bigotry, and discrimination towards someone they love. Someday, people of the Christian faith will hurt them, disappoint them, ignore them, or close the door on them. It does not matter who they are. At some point, humans do that to one another. We all have known it; we have all felt rejection.

I hope that children in this church experience not just a great community, but also the presence of the Living God. I hope that we point them not just to themselves, or the youth group, or their family. I hope we also point them to the God of grace and joy who will walk with them every step of their life. I hope that our children, and each of us, will know that what we wait for, ultimately, is the realm of God in our lives. Our redemption or our salvation is not about what we create within a congregation. Rather they come about because of God’s grace that breaks into our lives in spite of ourselves, in spite of our communities, in spite of our indifference.

In the face of discouragement and disappointment, we remain hopeful because we trust that each of us ultimately rests in the arms of an all loving, all graceful God. Thanks be to that God!



\*Winton will be doing continuing education from January 24-31 in Michigan and Indiana. If you have a pastoral need, please contact Ree Hale.

### DANE COUNTY UNITED

*Citizens and organizations uniting to work together across our differences to create a better life and a more just and inclusive community for all people of Dane County*  
**SAVE THE DATE, Thursday, January 31st, 7-8:30 p.m. at SS Morris AME Church, 3511 Milwaukee Ave.**

### **Action to Support Youth and Schools**

**Who Should come?** All those interested in supporting youth and schools. We encourage delegations of leaders from faith, community, education and business institutions to attend together.

### **Why come?**

**To learn more about the Volunteer African American Mentoring Program,/African Centered Pedagogy Project: why it is needed and its impact on students, teachers and the community.**

**To show broad community support for this specific program/approach to supporting our most vulnerable youth.**

**To take specific concrete steps towards reinstating this program in the Madison Metropolitan School District.**

**To learn about and get involved in DCU’s emerging K thru 12 School Campaign.**

Questions? Contact Matt Moreland-Gross at 843-6470 or [organizer@danecountyunited.org](mailto:organizer@danecountyunited.org)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS		
January		
Sunday 27	9:00 a.m.	Education for all
	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service
	11:20 a.m.	Meals Mission Team
Monday 28	6:45 p.m.	Handbell Rehearsal
Wednesday 30	7:00 p.m.	Christian Witness & Service
Sunday 3	9:00 a.m.	Education for all
	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service
Monday 4	1:30 p.m.	Knit/Crochet Group
	6:45 p.m.	Handbell Rehearsal
Tuesday 5	6:00 p.m.	PARTY GRAS
	7:00 p.m.	Knit/Crochet Group
Wednesday 6	9:30 a.m.	Quilting Group
	12:30 p.m.	Women's Bible Study Group
Sunday 10	9:00 a.m.	Education for all
	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service
	11:30 a.m.	Youth Cooke & Bar Sale
	1:00 p.m.	Dominican Republic Meeting

**COMMUNION**

**Ushers—Need 3 each Sunday unless specified**

**Jan. 27** Bob Ansheles, Phil & Judy Winkel  
**Feb. 3** Bob Ansheles ©, Barb Wolter, Bernie Treichel  
**Feb. 10** Rosemary Stare, Doug Piper, Jack Christian  
**Feb. 17** Helen Horn, Ralph Peterson, Jerry Nelson  
**Feb. 24** John Pray, Joyce Binder, Kathy Paulson

**Welcomers**

**January 27** Helen Atz, Ellen Fluck, Gail Ansheles  
**February need volunteers**

DATE	Sound schedule	Assisting Scott & Lori	Schedule for Coffee
<b>January 27</b>	Ken Psyck	Lynn Roethe	Tom Furan
<b>February 3</b>	J. McLellan	<b>NEED VOLUNTEER</b>	Doug Hendrix
<b>February 10</b>	Helen Horn	<b>NEED VOLUNTEER</b>	Jan Glaze
<b>February 17</b>	Mike Walsh	<b>NEED VOLUNTEER</b>	Leah Narans
<b>February 24</b>	John Gilbert	<b>NEED VOLUNTEER</b>	Tom Klossner

**Orchard Ridge United Church of Christ**

1501 Gilbert Road  
 Madison, WI 53711  
 www.orucc.org  
 office@orucc.org

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**SAFE Dinner and Program**

The SAFE dinner & program will be hosted by Ree Hale on Monday, February 18th from 6:30 to 8:30pm., at 4413 Tokay Blvd., in Madison. Please RSVP to 236-9983. Please bring your favorite casserole dish, salad, or dessert to pass; beverages will be provided.

SAFE gatherings are open to all ORUCC members and friends of ORUCC. SAFE is an ORUCC social group for Christian lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans-gendered individuals, families and friends - gay and straight. If you'd like e-mail announcements about future programs, projects and meetings, send your e-mail address to winton@orucc.org indicating that you want to be on the SAFE e-mail list.

**Women's Book Group**

On February 14th, from 7-9 p.m., the book group will meet at the home of Ruth Ann Berkholtz, 6 Elmwood Court, to discuss the classic *The Age of Innocence* by Edith Wharton. Mary Piper will lead the discussion.

All women are welcome. Please let Ruth Ann know that you plan to attend (848-8761). Is there a book you have read that you'd like to discuss with others? Come and tell us about that good read so we can discuss it together.

**Camp Sunday**

February 10th is CAMP SUNDAY. Jeff Puhlmann-Becker, director of Pilgrim Center will be here to bring the Mission Moment, meet with the children after the Children's Time and then be in the Friendship Hall during coffee hour time. Learn more about YOUR camp sites and the opportunity, as individuals or families, to have lots of fun and grow in your relationship with God and others.

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 AND ECONOMIC STATUS.  
 OUR CHURCH IS A SAFE SANCTUARY FOR ALL CHILDREN AND YOUTH.