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As the other participants on our trip can attest – the juxtaposition of her hope and my growing despair caught me off guard. On the one hand, I thought she was crazy. Even the evidence all around her seemed contrary to her hope; there is increased violence on both sides of the border, increased push back to undocumented people and it increasingly difficult for those here to find work.

On the other hand, I thought I was crazy to not believe her. I would be crazy to give in to the powers of fear and death, walls and barriers. I was crazy to submit to powers that sow despair with their corrupt money, shortsighted politics, or imbedded hypocrisy.

Why not look for, work for, and believe in hope? Why not follow those who’ve been proclaiming life against greater odds than I’ll ever know for longer than I’ve been alive. The way of self-offering.

Easter is claiming the new worlds being born. Today. Now. In the face of terror and amazement.

Maybe our choice this Easter will be new for us – the moment or season when we choose life. Maybe our choice will be a renewal, when we return to what we know, however long its been buried in our despair. Maybe our prayer this season is for clarity as to how we can grasp onto a new world being born in our sphere of life and influence.

All around us worlds are dying and new ones are being born.

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When asked what the volunteers meant to her while staying in shelter, one mom who has now been in her own apartment for almost nine months said, "The staff and volunteers made what could have been a spirit-crushing experience so much easier. The care and respect we received made all the difference for our family. I am so glad that programs like The Road home exist to help families through such rough times."

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APRIL, 2015 ISSUE 1

*Orchard Ridge United Church of Christ*  
**COMMUNION**

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

**Sunday Morning**

**April 12**  
9 pm Sunday School  
10 pm Winton Boyd preaching  
Handbell Choir  
**April 19**  
9 am Sunday School  
10 am Border Links Group Sharing  
Orchard Ridge Choir  
**April 26**  
9 am Sunday School  
10 am Tammy Martens preaching  
TRU Function  
**May 3**  
9 am Sunday School  
10 am Winton Boyd preaching  
Orchard Ridge Choir

**Newsletters:**  
**April 22 & May 6**  
**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](mailto:office@orucc.org), or drop them off at the office.

**Church Emails**

Debbie Bauerkemper  
[office@orucc.org](mailto:office@orucc.org)  
Tammy Martens  
[tmartens@orucc.org](mailto:tmartens@orucc.org)  
Ken Pennings  
[ken@orucc.org](mailto:ken@orucc.org)  
Winton Boyd  
[winton@orucc.org](mailto:winton@orucc.org)

**Borderlands Immersion Trip to share**

In late February, 8 members of ORUCC and Salem UCC Verona traveled to Tucson and the surrounding areas to learn about immigration issues. We were hosted by an organization named Borderlinks. In the process, we realized that like most difficult ‘issues’ in our national consciousness, there are people at the center of all these competing questions and opinions. While the ‘issue’ of immigration is inherently political, we want to reflect with others in the congregation on questions of faith, humanity, and politics in ways that help us connect to these questions more deeply as individuals and as a congregation.

**Sunday, April 12**  
**9 a.m.**

The group of 8 will present a slide show with highlights and short reflections during our education hour. A reading by Marv Beatty will be sent out ahead of time.

**10 a.m.**

Winton Boyd will preach on “Borders and the Layering of History” Rooted in some historical insights our group learned, we’ll explore the complexity of not only our national borders but also the borders of our own personal and social lives.

**Sunday, April 19**  
**10 a.m.**

“Honoring the Voiceless” - Members of our travel group will share reflections, insights, questions and passions that emerge as people of faith.



Backpack found in desert near US/Mexican border



**SUNDAYS****Compassion Offering**

Each month our Sunday cash offerings (change and bills) are designated to a worthy mission cause. Each month a different ministry is highlighted. This is a voluntary contribution. 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.

**April Compassion Offering is Haiti Medical Mission of Wisconsin (HMMW),**

who Haiti Medical Mission of Wisconsin (HMMW) serves the rural, mountainous town of Thiotte, Haiti in the southeast corner of Haiti near the Dominican Republic. There is only one full time doctor, Dr. Jean Judeson, and one nurse midwife, Azore Guerda, for the area with about 60,000 people. HMMW has been working in Thiotte since 1997 and is a 501(c)(3) based in Baraboo, WI. Dr. Judeson's and Azore Guerda's salaries are completely supported by HMMW. Other funds are used for medical equipment, medications, and the salaries of the translators. 1,125 patients were treated in 2014 --42 general surgeries, 37 eye surgeries, 461 vision screenings, and 456 pairs of glasses. In 2015 (with one more trip in May to come) 1,738 patients have been treated-- 47 general surgeries; 46 eye surgeries; 57 dental with 143 extractions, and 132 school-aged children receiving sealants; and 477 vision screenings and 362 pairs of glasses. For 2016 four trips are planned--1 eye, 1 dental and 2 general surgery. Recruiting now! Volunteers pay their own travel and living expenses for the mission trips.

**Prayers of Concern:**

**For** the Frueh family grieving the loss of Rich's step-father Mike, who died last week.

**For** Cherie Olsen's mother Connie who was hospitalized last week with heart problems, and is now at home.

**For** Lois Rossmiller, whose cousin passed away last week.

**For** the homeless families who were our guests last week as they seek permanent & affordable housing.

**For** the families who grieve the loss of their loved ones in the massacre at Garissa University College in Kenya.

**For** those struggling with depression.

**Prayers of Joy:**

**For** the lovely services during Holy Week and Easter.

**For** the many volunteers who made it possible for us to house homeless families in our building last week.

**For** Jennifer & Paul Eggerling-Boeck who are visiting their son Theo's birth-family this week.

**Wider Church Family:** 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.

- Robert & Carol Prugh
- Ken Psyck, Jackie Eveland-Psyck & Family
- Chris Radtke

**New Events and Opportunities**

**Confirmation Sunday, April 26:** Youth will be offered the rite of Confirmation on Sunday, April 26 during 10:00 worship.

**New Members/Seekers Series** If you are brand new or fairly new to the church, you are invited to our **New Members/Seekers Series** with the Pastors and Leadership Team of Orchard Ridge United Church of Christ.

Sunday, April 19, 9:00-9:50 a.m. -- Informational Class @church

Sunday, April 26, 9:00-9:50 a.m. -- Informational Class @ church

Sunday, May 3, 9:00-9:50 a.m. -- Informational Class @ church

Sunday, May 10, 4:30-6:30 p.m. -- Appetizer Social in a home

RSVP to Ken Pennings at [ken@orucc.org](mailto:ken@orucc.org), or 271-7212. At the Informational Classes, you'll learn more about Orchard Ridge and the United Church of Christ (UCC). We'll discuss our history as a local church, ministries within the congregation and the wider community, and some of the church's views on important issues of faith. In preparation for this series, you may wish to browse ORUCC's website: [www.orucc.org](http://www.orucc.org).

**Great Learning Opportunity!** April 18, 9 am – 2:30 pm, Lyons Lecture by Dr. Hal Taussig (Visiting Professor of New Testament at the Union Theological Seminary in New York) – "Re-Thinking How Christianity Began" and "A New New Testament: Why?" – at First United Methodist Church, Madison. \$55 per adult, #20 per student. Box lunch included. Registration forms on the table in the Crossroads, or register online at <http://goo.gl/YD9i9V>.

**Spiritual Enrichment! Contact Ken Pennings at [ken@orucc](mailto:ken@orucc.org) if you'd like to carpool to this event!**

**Thursday, June 11, 2015**

**10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Green Lake Conference Center Gifts of the Dark Wood Retreat with Rev. Eric Elnes, Ph.D**

Do you sometimes feel a bit empty or lost in your struggle for justice and peace? Do you ever experience uncertainty, ambivalence, or downright exhaustion in your ministry ... or your life? Welcome to the Dark Wood – a place explored, if feared, by the medieval poet Dante, but which generations of Christian mystics and biblical sages knew as one of the surest places to meet God. In the Dark Wood, you don't need to be a saint or spiritual master to experience profound awakening and live with God's presence and guidance. All you really have to be is struggling! Your greatest assets on the journey may be the very "gifts" you're seeking to be rid of, such as failure, uncertainty, emptiness and temptation.

Join us as Rev. Eric Elnes, Ph.D., leads us on a provocative and inspiring journey designed for anyone – clergy or laity – who feels awkward in their search for God, who seeks to find holiness amidst their holy-mess, who desires real, concrete reasons for hope in a Christian landscape that often seems bleak or barren.

**The retreat will be comprised of presentations and small and large group discussions.**

Register online at [www.wcucc.org/annualmeeting](http://www.wcucc.org/annualmeeting)

Registration \$50 includes lunch

**A Boydseye View: The Way of Self Offering**

We are living in a culture increasingly skeptical or unconcerned about religion; a culture that decries the hypocrisy, shallowness, and the pettiness of the church. These criticisms have some basis in fact, in history, and the lived experience of so many. But on Easter we gather not to lift up the church, religion, or even spirituality per se. We gather to claim life in the midst of death. Regardless of creed.

The assigned text for Easter this year was from Mark's gospel. The women are told he is alive, *Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him.* While this is good news, there is also a great deal of mystery and ambiguity. The women are instructed to go and tell Peter and the disciples that Jesus has been raised from the dead. Then the original story concludes, *"So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid."* (NRSV)

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To claim life is not to deny death. It is know the power of death in the cycle of life. Indeed the essential and transforming power that comes in no other way.

"The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified," Jesus is reported to have said in John's gospel account of Jesus' last week. "Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit," he said.

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Continued on page 4...

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## Ongoing Groups

**Tuesday Evening Adult Bible Study:** All are welcome to join us during this spring as we study Paul's letter to the Romans. The group meets at the church on the first and third Tuesdays of the month at 7:30 p.m. If you have questions, please call Sandra Dyar at 271-2409.

**OVER 55:** The next Over 55 meeting will be on April 14th. Our speakers will be Paul Patenaude and Ann and Roger Avery. They will tell us about their work in Haiti. As usual, we will gather at 11:30 and begin our delicious catered meal at 11:45. Our chefs have planned great food for us and the cost is \$6.00. The program about Haiti will begin around 12:30. Helen Horn and Ralph Petersen are in charge this month so if you have any questions, contact one of them. We encourage people to attend and enjoy good food, friendship and an informative program. It will give us a chance to hear about some of the good work that is being done by people in our congregation.

**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.

**Knitting & Crafts Group:** The group will meet on the first Monday of the month at 1:30 pm at the church. All are welcome to bring some handwork and join us! If you have questions, please call Sandra Dyar at 271-2409.

**Women's Bible Study at Church September through April:** Please join us at the church at 1:00 p.m. the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month. If you would like to join us or have questions call Mary Lou Peterson at 238-2380.

**Weekly Meditation Group:** We meet at the church on Thursday mornings, from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m., for a shared time of silent meditation and reflections on our spiritual journeys. Contact Helene Nelson (259-2546 or [helenemargaret@gmail.com](mailto:helenemargaret@gmail.com)) or Sara Roberts (273-1114 or [sarie914@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sarie914@sbcglobal.net)) for more information.

**Women's Breakfast Group:** We meet the first Friday of every month at 8:30 a.m. at Copper Top Restaurant off Whitney Way. The informal group is open to all women who enjoy conversation.

**Women's Book Group:** On Thursday, April 9, from 7 - 9 p.m., we'll discuss the novel ME BEFORE YOU by Jojo Moyes. This fiction involves Louisa, who takes a needed job working for a man injured in a cycle accident, although she has no experience in this realm. Despondent about this huge change in his life, he has a plan to deal with it. These two very different people have unexpected influences on each other.

We'll meet at the home of Nancy Wynn, 2106 Harley Drive. Any woman who thinks, "I wish I could talk to somebody about this book" is encouraged to join us. Nancy would appreciate hearing from you at [nancy6763@att.net](mailto:nancy6763@att.net) or 441-1446 if you plan to join us.

**Movie Group:** Friday, April 17th, join The Movie Group in Friendship Hall at 7:30 pm. Come with a review of the movies that are playing now, offer insights with films from the past, and preview trailers for looking forward. Or simply relax from your week with an evening of friendship and fun! RSVP's to Jim & Bernie Treichel ([jbtreichel@charter.net](mailto:jbtreichel@charter.net)) helpful, drop-ins welcomed. See you? A movie to consider is "The Longest Ride," based on a novel by Nicholas Sparks, author of "The Notebook," that starred James Garner. "The Longest Ride," is due in theaters April 10, starring Scott Eastwood, Britt Robertson, and Alan Alda.

## Misc. Things that are Important to Know

**Please make following changes in the church directory:** Change email for Monica Weiss to: [monicaweiss37@gmail.com](mailto:monicaweiss37@gmail.com)

**One-A-Week Club:** Thanks to the following members gave blood in March: Joyce Binder (double red cell) and Wendy MacArthur. Our total stands at 15. Keep up the good work. Lives depend on us.

**THE CROSSING annual Spring Gala Dinner – April 24, 2015 at Monona Terrace:** THE CROSSING Campus Ministry, an ecumenical and mission-focused ministry for UW students--ORUCC's presence on the UW-Madison campus--has one major fundraiser, the Spring Gala.

The evening promises to be filled with good fellowship, good food, good music, and inspiration. Crossing students will share transformational stories from their recent experiences traveling on Quest mission trips to Cuba, Sri Lanka and Costa Rica. For more information about THE CROSSING and its mission, visit the website at [www.crossingministries.org](http://www.crossingministries.org)

The Spring Gala **starts at 5 P.M. with social time**, followed by **dinner and a program from 6-9 P.M.** This year's music will be provided by "Malodua," an acoustic guitar duo.

Tickets are \$60 per person (\$30 tax deductible). Or your contribution can "Sponsor a Student" (\$60 tax deductible). Please join other ORUCC members for an evening of inspirational stories and good fellowship.

*To make reservations or ask questions,* please contact: Bruce Olsen, 274-6299, or [olsens.madison@gmail.com](mailto:olsens.madison@gmail.com). OR contact THE CROSSING directly and speak to: **Jessie Steinhauer** at 608-257-1039 x2 or [jessie@crossingministries.org](mailto:jessie@crossingministries.org)

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Continued on page 4...

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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		
<b>April</b>		
Friday 10	6:00 p.m.	Dinner Group at Church
Sunday 12	8:45 a.m.	New Member Brunch
	9:00 a.m.	Adult and Youth Programming
	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service
	11:00 a.m.	TRU Function Rehearsal
Monday 13	7:15 p.m.	ORUCC Men's Group
Tuesday 14	11:45 a.m.	OVER 55
	6:30 p.m.	Leadership Team Meeting
	6:45 p.m.	Youth Mission Trip Pilates Class
	7:00 p.m.	Care of Creation Meeting
Wednesday 15	6:00 p.m.	Congregational Life Meeting
	7:00 p.m.	ORUCC Choir Rehearsal
Thursday 16	8:30 a.m.	Meditation/Spirituality Discussion
	6:30 p.m.	TRU Gumption Rehearsal
Friday 17	7:00 p.m.	Movie Group at church
Sunday 18	9:00 a.m.	Adult and Youth Programming
	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service
	11:00 a.m.	TRU Function Rehearsal
Monday 19	6:30 p.m.	Handbell Rehearsal
Tuesday 20	6:45 p.m.	Youth Mission Trip Pilates Class
	7:30 p.m.	Tuesday Night Adult Bible Study
Wednesday 21	7:00 p.m.	ORUCC Choir Rehearsal
Thursday 22	8:30 a.m.	Meditation/Spirituality Discussion
	6:30 p.m.	TRU Gumption Rehearsal
Sunday 26	9:00 a.m.	Adult and Youth Programming
	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service
	11:00 a.m.	TRU Function Rehearsal

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

**Apr 12** Phil & Judy Winkel, Carolyn Carlson  
**Apr 19** Dick & Lois Rossmiller, Peter Fabian  
**Apr 26** Jon Blanchard, Jim & Bernie Treichel  
**May 3** Jon Blanchard, Peter Fabian, **NEED VOLUNTEER**  
**May 10** Matt & Julie Logan, Carolyn Carlson  
**May 17** Phil & Judy Winkel, Jerry Nelson  
**May 24** Jim & Bernie Treichel, Peter Fabian

#### Welcomers

**Apr 12** Barb McLeod, Doug & Mary Loving  
**Apr 19** Julie Logan, Marilyn Arnold, Leah Narans  
**Apr 26** Charlene Gallagher, Jack Schairer, Sharon Goss  
**May 3** Sharon Goss, Barb Hummel, Ruthanne Landsness  
**May 10** Heather Stevens, Joyce Pohl, Scott Ringen  
**May 17** Barb McLeod, Carol & Bob Prugh  
**May 24** Charlene Gallagher, John & Donna Lillethun

#### Sound

#### Coffee

<b>Apr 12</b> Matt Logan	Greg & Barb Loudon
<b>Apr 19</b> Jarrett Gersten	Phil & Judy Winkel
<b>Apr 26</b> Chuck Kaspar	Jerry Hagen & Jane Glaze
<b>May 3</b> Ken Psyck	Annette & Brian Porter
<b>May 10</b> John Gilbert	Brian & Rachael Lancor
<b>May 17</b> Paul Hedges	Tom & Char Klossner
<b>May 24</b> Paul Hedges	Dolores & Paul Gohdes

#### Financial Secretary

<b>Apr 12</b> Gene	<b>Apr 19</b> Linda	<b>Apr 26</b> Peter
<b>May 3</b> Linda	<b>May 10</b> Gene	<b>May 17</b> Linda
<b>May 24</b> Peter	<b>May 31</b> Hope	