



MAY, 2015 ISSUE 2

Orchard Ridge United Church of Christ

COMMUNION

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

Sunday Morning

May 24

9 am Java and Jesus

10 am Winton Boyd

Preaching

Special Music-Kythie

Boyd

May 31

9 am Sunday School

10 am Winton Boyd

Preaching

TRU Function

11 am Tailgate Party

June 7

9 am Sunday School

10 am Roberta Felker

preaching

June 14

10 am Tammy Martens

Preaching

Newsletters:

June 17 (1 in June) &

July 15 (1 in July)

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

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Ken Pennings

Language and Love – A Boydseye View

This Sunday is Pentecost Sunday and I’m thinking about the power of love to help us cross boundaries in our lives.

I’m remembering Pentecost in the Bible, where people gathered in Jerusalem *all heard the gospel in their own language* – a clear symbol that this faith of Jesus had no boundaries.

I’m remembering our Southwest Partnership mantra – *being good neighbors means developing relationships with neighbors*. Another way of saying this is that when Jesus tells us to ‘love your neighbor’ we also have to come to know that neighbor as a person created and shaped by Holy Love in specific, particular ways.

I’m remembering the words of Brandi Grayson, co-founder of the Young, Gifted and Black in Madison, speaking this past Sunday at First Unitarian Society on the *need to build cross racial relationships of love and trust*.

I’m celebrating that for the third time since last fall, ORUCC will host a legal, same sex wedding this weekend. These weddings remind us of the power of legal recognition for all people who’ve committed their lives together. At the same time, holding such a service in the church reminds us that the *power of God’s love and grace transcends and supersedes any legal recognition*. Both the civil and the religious aspect of the ceremony are important, of course. But, as the church, we never give up the ultimate promise that shapes our lives – *each of us is created in the image of God*.

I’m remembering the lovely quote from Scott Dewey that I used in last week’s sermon. “The story of God in the world, because it is a love story, moves ever toward intimacy, toward oneness. As with all love stories, obstacles abound - comical and tragic misunderstandings, turnings away, outright betrayals, and faltering reaches toward the other. There are risks of disclosure and perils of shame.” (*Street Psalms* blog, Scott Dewey)

And I’m also exploring how we might use author Gary Chapman’s classic ‘love languages’ (designed for marriage conversations) as part of our approach to transcending the borders of our lives that keep us separate from others. The languages he identifies are gifts, quality time, words of affirmation, acts of service, and physical touch.

If we can name that which separates us from people of other incomes, backgrounds, political views, or races – might looking at the ‘language’ of God’s love, and the methods of embodying that love, be helpful? We are often faced with the daunting question of how to connect with people seemingly so different from us. Might breaking the feeling of being overwhelmed into smaller but more possible steps be a way forward? Might we look for ways to think, not just about what we need to cross borders, but the ‘language’ of the other?

Our experience raising three very different children shares commonalities with other parents. We learned, over time, that each of our children has a different way in the world and a different set of needs and desires. Different children often hear the same words and receive the same actions in radically different ways. Shortsighted parenting asks all children to learn the language of parents. Parenting for the long haul involves learning the language of each child and finding ways to connect through that language. For reasons none of us know but all of us experience, one child’s language is often more difficult, more nuanced and more awkward for us as parents. But, we make the effort to connect, to express love, and to find common ground.

I hope you’ll join me in pondering how these experiences and inputs from so many sources might continue to inform your spiritual journey as peacemakers, agents of reconciliation, and bearers of love.

See you in church.

Wint

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.

May Compassion Offering is Habitat for Humanity Dane County

A home is more than four walls and a roof. A home helps children do better in school, helps families achieve financial stability and helps residents feel safe and secure.

For our families in Dane County, a home is safe, affordable and can change lives. Our families are making positive changes in their lives and for their community because of a house.

For Amanda, a home brought her tremendous pride and a place where she could finally paint the walls. For Manuela and Misael, a home shows their three children that when you have a dream, if you work hard, you can achieve it.

For Lulu, a home means moving from her parent's cold, damp basement to a place where her three children can invite their friends over for birthday parties. For Rose and Red, a home means a place to host family dinners, an opportunity to get to meet their neighbors and a chance to explore the neighborhood park. For Tourya, a home means a backyard for her daughters and a place to play with the puppy they have always dreamed of having.

The best thing about Habitat is how it changes the lives of children. This year, because of Habitat, there are 27 more children in Dane County now living in a home.

Orchard Ridge UCC has supported Habitat throughout its 27 years. This has included:

- We were charter members when the organization was formed.
- We co-built a home in 2006-07 in the Twin Oaks Development.
- We co-sponsored a condo rehab on Russet Road near the church.
- We have organized work teams for both the Dane County chapter and the Brooklyn-Oregon chapter.
- We send groups of up to 30 people to the Dominican Republic (twice) and El Salvador between 2007 and 2010.

Prayers of Concern:

For Judy Winkel who is going through radiation treatments for cancer.

For Marion Rewey as she faces the final hours of her life, surrounded by her husband Bill of 68 years, and their sons.

For Marcia Sheets recovering from hip replacement surgery at St. Mary's Care Center.

For Brian Lancor's cousin and wife, who lost their newborn baby.

Prayers of Joy:

For the ministry of all our choirs and bands which are completing a fabulous ministry year.

For the ritual blessing of Dave Myers' grandson, Robin Daniel, last Sunday during worship.

For the many who helped spruce up our building and grounds at "Worship & Work" last Sunday. Thanks to Barb and John Olsen and Chuck Kaspar who organized the work and for the Ministry of Congregational Life which provided the great lunch.

For the women who participated in the monthly "Women's Bible Study" which met for the last 43 years, which has just disbanded.

For ORUCC members Rich & Sally Finger who were with us for four great years, and have relocated to Kansas.

For Robert Prugh who was able to be in worship last Sunday following months of cancer treatment.

For the first car donated to ORUCC to be used by a needy neighbor.

For Connie Botos' new home – an efficiency apartment in Oregon.

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.

- Baxter Richardson & Susan Watson
- Ron Riese & Christine Kuske-Riese & Family
- Scott Ringen & Family



THANKS To ALL who assisted in any way with the huge congregational effort made on Worship and Work Sunday, May 17th. Whether you mulched, pruned, weeded, planted, transplanted, brought and/or sold plants and garden tools and/or accessories, provided the delicious lunch, or helped where needed, indoors or outside, your efforts were greatly appreciated. The results are truly inspirational. Special thanks to Mother Nature for the timing of the rain just AFTER the event. Freshly planted plants were watered rather than volunteers!

Congratulations to Maya Kaspar. She is a 2015 Page Scholarship winner and is attending UW-Milwaukee majoring in Early Adolescent Education. The Page Scholarship is awarded to students of character from six Madison area United Church of Christ congregations.

New Events and Opportunities

Help Wanted in the Church Office (Respond by May 26 if you can help): The office manager, Debbie Bauerkemper, will be on vacation **June 1 through June 10.** We are in need of volunteer(s) to help in the office. Tasks needed are: answer phone primarily, computer work (if comfortable), and copying. **Half days, either mornings (9-noon) or afternoons (noon to 3) for Wednesday, Thursday and Friday June 3, 4 and 5.** If you can help please contact the office at 271-7212 for more details.

The youth are putting together a Tailgate Party for **Sunday, May 31 from 11:00 to 1:00 p.m. at ORUCC.**

There will be awesome food!! Grilled brats, hamburgers, veggie burgers, salads, watermelon, desserts. All proceeds go to support their mission trip.

All the youth will be leading games for kids that include— Fishing game, Cupcake walk, Baseball Toss, Ring Toss, Whiffle Ball Home Run Derby, Spoon race, Pinata, Sausage Race, Face painting, Art Station

And lots of baseball trivia fun!

So bring your lawn chairs, enjoy a yummy meal, play some games and help support the Youth Mission trip to Roanoke, Virginia this summer.

Leadership Team authorizes fundraising for two worthy projects

Late this spring, a small mission team will be conducting a limited fundraising effort in hopes of securing additional funds for our Southwest Partnership. As we continue in this partnership, we've been successful in gathering funds from other sources (Madison Community Foundation, as well as City of Madison and Dane County funds). Some of these are contingent on matching funds from other sources. If we can raise approximately \$30,000, we will be able to help ensure the partnership funds through 2016. If you interested in more information, please contact Winton Boyd.

Late this summer, a small mission team will be hosting a Camp Night in our Friendship Hall as a kickoff for what's known as the Campital Campaign - a large, Wisconsin Conference wide effort to raise up to \$8 million for our two Outdoor Ministry sites. Our mission team has set a goal of \$100,000 from ORUCC. To be clear, this is just a goal. More details and information will be forthcoming. If you have questions, please feel free to contact Tammy Martens, Winton Boyd, Barbara Stretchberry or Leah Narans.

We undertake both campaigns with a deep respect for the generosity of this congregation over the last 5 years. Each of these campaigns will try to focus invitations rather than offer blanket requests to the whole congregation. First and foremost, we ask members and friends of ORUCC to consider their commitment to the ongoing ministries of ORUCC in our annual pledge drive held in October and November. If you have further questions, feel free to contact moderator Kim Kaspar or moderator elect Paul Hedges.

SW Partnership Opportunities: Interested in volunteering with our SW Partnership (a ministry working among people who live in close proximity to the church who are experiencing poverty)? Visit the table in the Crossroads after worship on May 24th or June 7th. Or contact John Lemke at jlemke1@charter.net

ORUCC to accept Car Donations to aid Southwest neighbors

Transportation remains one of the biggest hurdles to stable work, housing and school attendance. In addition to providing bus vouchers and rides, Orchard Ridge United Church of Christ is partnering with Joining Forces for Families and Work N Wheels to solicit donated or inexpensive cars for neighbors. All recipients must meet financial viability criteria.

The process is simple and based on other successful programs around the state. All donations are tax deductible. ORUCC will provide a vehicle inspection through a licensed mechanic. We ask that cars need less than \$500 in repairs.



If interested or curious – please contact Baxter Richardson or Winton Boyd at 271-7212

Ongoing Groups

Tuesday Evening Adult Bible Study Summer Break: The Bible study group is taking a break for the summer. On September 15th the group will begin discussing the Apocrypha, a biblical section usually not included in our Protestant Bible. Please consider joining the group then, with our study of the first four chapters of First Macabees. The group meets at the church on the first and third Tuesdays of the month at 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. If you have questions, please contact Gene or Sandra Dyar at 271-2409.

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 helenemarga-ret@gmail.com) or Sara Roberts (273-1114 or sarie914@sbcglobal.net) for more information.

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 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.

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.

Misc. Things that are Important to Know

Please make following changes in the church directory: Change address for Pat Johnson to: 6234 Maywood Ave. #260, Middleton, WI 53562
Change email for Jim Frymark to: jfrymark25@gmail.com

RETURNED MAIL/NEWSLETTER: **Temporarily out of town, OR gone for the winter, OR have moved,** please notify the church office if you have temporarily stopped mail service or want mail sent to a different address. Mailed newsletters and other correspondence have been returned with postage due. Thank you.



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.

**Orchard Ridge United
Church of Christ**

1501 Gilbert Road
Madison, WI 53711
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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			Ushers—Need 3 each Sunday unless specified	
May				
Sunday 24	9:00	Java and Jesus	May 24 Jim & Bernie Treichel, Peter Fabian	
	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service	May 31 Jim & Bernie Treichel, Marilyn Arnold	
Monday 25		Holiday Office Closes	June 7 Rick Daluge, Jerry Nelson, Larry Goss	
Thursday 28	8:30 a.m.	Meditation/Spirituality Discussion	June 14 Marilyn Arnold, Sandra Dyar, Jon Blanchard	
Sunday 31	9:00 a.m.	Java and Jesus	June 21 Bob & Carol Prugh, Rick Daluge	
	10:00 a.m.	Worship and Work	June 28 Jarrett Gersten, Alex Wollangk, Joyce Binder	
Tuesday 19	7:30 p.m.	Tuesday Night Adult Bible Study	July 5 Jim & Bernie Treichel, Peter Fabian	
June			Welcomers	
Wednesday 3	6:00 p.m.	Congregational Life Meeting	May 24 Charlene Gallagher, John & Donna Lillethun	
Thursday 4	8:30 a.m.	Meditation/Spirituality Discussion	May 31 Hope Soroos, Dave & Mary Neuhaus	
Sunday 7	9:00 a.m.	Java and Jesus	June 7 Barb McLeod, Kim Kaspar, Hope Soroos	
	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service	June 14 John & Barb Olsen, Barb Hummel	
	11:00 a.m.	Sundae Sunday	June 21 Kim Kaspar, Matt & Julie Logan	
Monday 8	7:15 p.m.	ORUCC Men's Group	June 28 Helen Horn, Glenn Schaeffer, Sharon Goss	
Tuesday 9	6:30 p.m.	Leadership Team Meeting	July 5 Carol & Robert Prugh, Ruthanne Landsness	
	7:00 p.m.	Care of Creation Meeting	Sound Coffee	
Wednesday 10	7:00 p.m.	Christian Witness & Service Meeting	May 24 Paul Hedges Dolores & Paul Gohdes	
Thursday 11	8:30 a.m.	Meditation/Spirituality Discussion	May 31 Jarrett Gersten Rich Hoard & Chris Thomas	
Sunday 14	9:00 a.m.	Java and Jesus	June 7 Chuck Kaspar Paul Dolores Gohdes	
	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service	June 14 Ken Psyck Brian & Rachael Lancor	
Tuesday 16	6:00 p.m.	All Church Gathering Vilas Park	June 21 John Gilbert Annette & Brian Porter	
Thursday 18	8:30 a.m.	Meditation/Spirituality Discussion	June 28 Paul Hedges Steve Yeazel & Dan Stevens	
Friday 19		Yth Mission Trip to Roanoke VA	July 5 Matt Logan Greg & Barb Loudon	
Sunday 21	9:00 a.m.	Java and Jesus	Financial Secretary	
	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service	May 24 Peter May 31 Hope June 7 Gene	
		Host Interfaith Hospitality (IHN)	June 14 Linda June 21 Hope June 28 Peter	
			July 5 Meg July 12 Gene July 19 Linda	