

Orchard Ridge United Church of Christ

COMMUNION



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

Sunday Morning

November 27

9 am Java & Jesus

10 am Tammy Martens
preaching
TRU Function

December 4

9 am Java & Jesus

10 am Winton Boyd
Preaching
Orchard Ridge Choir

December 11

9 am Java & Jesus

10 am Ken Pennings
Preaching
Handbell Choir

Newsletter: December 6 & 20 Articles due the Monday before

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
winton@orucc.org

Advent and Christmas : The Circle of Life

Our Advent worship journey will be inspired by both our Advent Scripture texts and the now familiar song, *The Circle of Life*.

November 27: Living with Complexity: Less Whining and More Defining (Tammy Martens)

It's the circle of life - And it moves us all

Genesis 1

Music with Tru Function

CANDLE OF LONGING

December 4: Living with Limitation and Mystery (Winton Boyd)

There's more to see than can ever be seen - More to do than can ever be done

There's far too much to take in here - More to find than can ever be found

Isaiah 35:1-10

Music with ORUCC choir

CANDLE OF MYSTERY

December 11: Moving us Through Despair and Hope (Ken Pennings and members of our Ministry of Adult Faith Formation)

And it moves us all - Through despair and hope

Through faith and love - Till we find our place

Isaiah 42:1-9

Music with Handbell Choir

CANDLE OF HOPE

December 18: Returning to Love (Winton Boyd)

Through faith and love - Till we find our place

On the path unwinding - The circle of life

John 1:1-18

Music with ORUCC Choir

CANDLE OF LOVE

Wednesday December 21: Longest Night Observance

5:30-7:00 Labyrinth Walk

7:00 Service of the Longest Night

Saturday, December 24: Christmas Eve services

4:00 p.m. Family friendly service featuring our children and Tru Function

9:00 p.m. Lessons and Carols featuring ORUCC choir and special musicians

Sunday, December 25: Christmas Day service

10:00 a.m. Tammy Martens leads an informal service in the Friendship

Compassion offering for November is Maydm, engaging girls and students of color to aspire and prepare for tech sector employment:

Maydm is a non-profit organization that strives to get girls and students of color prepared for the technology sector through teaching them technical skills (programming languages), exposure to the technology and mentorship. By investing early in our students, we are equipping them with valuable skills necessary for high-wage employment. We work with students from 4th-12 grade, and through our interactive programs, they learn how to build websites, mobile applications and program hardware. We watch as students who had no exposure to the technology sector become curious and excited to learn more about the industry and to pursue career opportunities in the field. We have worked with over 130 students this past summer and with your help plan to double our impact in 2017.

Maydm was nominated as a Compassion offering by the Christian Witness and Service Racial Justice Team. Maydm was brought to our attention by Forward Community Investments. Maydm's work was reviewed and endorsed by ORUCC member and retired Epic programmer John Lemke, as well as by the Director of the Meadowood Neighborhood Center, that hosted a Maydm workshop.

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.

Labyrinth Walk

Opportunity to walk our labyrinth by Candlelight. Come and walk this sacred path of prayer, reflection, and meditation.

•**The Longest Night, December 21, 5:00-7:00 pm**

Holiday Services Sponsored by ORUCC Youth Holiday Post Office

Share your Christmas cards with your church friends by using the Holiday Post Office sponsored by our youth. Each card you send will cost 40 cents. The Post Office will be up and running on the following Sundays: December 4, 11 and 18.

Holiday Bake Sale

Cakes, breads, pies and cookies will be on sale on Sunday, December 11 in Friendship Hall after the worship service. There will be lots of tasty, beautiful treats and desserts that can add to your Christmas celebrations.

Gift Wrapping Services

Youth will be available to wrap all your Christmas gifts on Friday, December 16. You can drop off your gifts any time after 5:15 p.m. and then wait for them to be wrapped or pick them up by 8:30 p.m. the same evening. In order for us to know how many people will take advantage of this service, please sign up on Sundays, December 4 and 11 in Friendship Hall.

Accepting Gift Wrapping Paper Donations

Please consider donating gift wrapping paper, bows, ribbons, brown paper bags, and other gift wrapping items that we could use for our gift wrapping fundraiser. You can drop off these items to the church office.

HELP NEEDED...

Hosting Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) November 27-December 4

This is our chance to give direct assistance to families who are homeless.

HELP NEEDED. We still need help after church on the 27th to help clear the Sunday school rooms and move in the families' belongings.

Need one more person to provide the main course for Thursday, December 1st meal.

Volunteers are also needed for the early morning (7AM) move out Sunday, December 4th.

Contact Ann Avery (home--608-298-7587/ cell 401-7493976). If anyone is interested in helping out as a coordinator, we would be most grateful. One of our leaders has left and Loretta's mother is ill. Thank you. Ann and Roger, Dianne, Bev and Jerry, Loretta and Todd

The Road Home Dane County *Sponsors for 2016 Holiday Gift Giving

Each sponsor will receive a wish list form for a family that contains the family's basic identifying information along with their wish list of items. Purchase items from their wish list but not all items must be purchased. Please limit the amount of money spent to **\$50.00 per person**. This allows for every

person who is sponsored to be able to receive similar items and/or value of items.

Each family will receive a number on their wish list form which will help us identify their family. If you choose to wrap the presents that you purchased for the family, please write the name of the individual along with the number from their wish list on each present.

Please provide us with a list of items purchased for each family member when you drop off the presents at The Road Home. ****DESIRED DROP OFF DATE DEADLINE: Monday, December 12th, 2016****Please drop off all presents to The Road Home office no later than **December 19th, 2016**. This will allow case managers enough time to deliver the presents to the families before the holiday season. If this drop off date does not work for you, please let us know ASAP.

The Road Home Dane County office is located at: 128 East Olin Ave, Suite #202, Madison WI 53713 (same building as the Family Services office). Our office entrance is located on the left hand side of the Family Services building. We are located on the second floor – if you need assistance or have several items to drop off, please call us ahead of time. Office hours are: Monday through Friday 8am to 5pm, Office phone number is (608)294-7998. If you have any questions and/or concerns regarding anything, please feel free to contact Alane Conn, Volunteer Manager at 608.225.1957 or via email at vol.mgr@trhome.org.

Tammy's Time

Advent

In all of the Sunday School rooms, there is a felt wall hanging that displays the Christian or liturgical year. This past Sunday, I stopped into the Kindergarten and First Grade class during Sunday School time. I was told that the kids are very excited because they know this coming Sunday, November 27 the arrow on the Christian calendar will be in the 12:00 position and will be pointing to a purple shape which represents the first Sunday of Advent. They know there are four Sundays in Advent and that this time is the official count-down to Christmas. When the children return this Sunday, November 27 their room will have some purple colors to it as well—purple napkins for their feast time, a purple cloth under the nativity scene and a purple candle that goes along with the Advent story.

As we move into this Advent time, I thought I'd provide just a little refresher course on how the season of Advent came to be.

The word "Advent" is derived from the Latin word *adventus*, meaning "coming," which is a translation of the Greek word *parousia*. Scholars believe that during the 4th and 5th centuries in Spain and Gaul, Advent was a season of preparation for the baptism of new Christians at the January feast of Epiphany, the celebration of God's incarnation represented by the visit of the Magi to the baby Jesus, his baptism in the Jordan River by John the Baptist, and his first miracle at Cana. During this season of preparation, Christians would spend 40 days in penance, prayer, and fasting to prepare for this celebration; originally, there was little connection between Advent and Christmas.

By the 6th century, however, Roman Christians had tied Advent to the coming of Christ. But the "coming" they had in mind was not Christ's first coming in the manger in Bethlehem, but his second coming in the clouds as the judge of the world. It was not until the Middle Ages that the Advent season was explicitly linked to Christ's first coming at Christmas.

Today, the Advent season last for four Sundays leading up to Christmas. The first Sunday of Advent is the first Sunday in the Christian year. Traditionally, the first two Sundays in Advent look forward to Christ's second coming, and the last two Sundays look backward to remember Christ's first coming. Over the course of the four weeks, Scripture readings move from passages about Christ's return in judgment, to Old Testament passages about the expectation of the coming Messiah, to New Testament passages about the announcements of Christ's arrival by John the Baptist and the Angels.

In Sunday School, children through first grade will travel the road to Bethlehem during the Sundays in Advent. The older children will be learning more about Jesus' family tree and create symbols to represent the biblical stories—going all the way back to Genesis. They will hang these symbols on a "Jesse Tree". The name Jesse Tree comes from Isaiah 11:1 "Then a shoot will spring from the stem of Jesse, and a branch from his roots will bear fruit."

I am grateful for the start of a new Christian Year. We begin all over again this Sunday, November 27. I hope to see you in worship.

BE THE CHURCH God is all around us. UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
 Protect the environment. Care for the poor.
 Embrace diversity. Reject racism. Forgive often.
 Love God. **Fight for the powerless.**
 Share earthly and spiritual resources. Enjoy this life.

ORCHARD RIDGE UCC 2017 STEWARDSHIP APPEAL

2017 Stewardship

This is Stewardship Season at Orchard Ridge UCC. We are a very generous congregation and hope that the financial giving to our ministry will continue to be done in a spirit of gratitude and joy. We know that many of us contribute financially to other organizations as well as other initiatives here at church. Unlike some churches, we are not beholden to one or two very large givers. Compared to many other churches, our giving is more "democratic".

To date, we have received 114 pledges totaling \$285,918.00. THANK YOU SO MUCH!

End of year Contributions to ORUCC

The general rule is that a contribution is effective when delivered. This means that checks that are placed in the church offering during the first worship service in 2017 **will not** qualify for a charitable contribution deduction in 2016, even if the check is predated to 2016 or was actually written in 2016.

However, checks that are written, mailed, and post-marked in 2016 will be deductible in 2016 even if it is not received until 2017.

Year-end contribution statements for 2016 will be emailed in January. If you do not have email a copy will be mailed to you.

Monthly Automatic Pledge Deduction Option

If you are interested in monthly auto deduction from your account for your operating pledge, please contact Debbie at the church office 271-7212 for the ACH deduction form, or for more information.

ON-GOING GROUPS

OVER 55 Christmas Celebration, December 13:

The cost is \$7.00 per person.

If you haven't joined us before, please come, you will be glad you did. We start with a great meal prepared by our chefs and followed by our program. We meet the 2nd Tuesday of every month September through May starting at 11:45 a.m. and ending around 1:30 p.m.

Our program will be a story presented by Doug Loving: **"A Happening at an Interstate Truckstop on Christmas Eve," with theological footnotes by Charlie Brown and Calvin (with assistance from Hobbes).**

Our celebration would not be complete without a Christmas sing-a-long led by Sharon Goss.

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! Questions, please call Sandra Dyar at 271-2409. **NOTE:** As you plan your knitting and crocheting projects that include prayer shawls, please plan most of

your shawls to be rectangles. Think in terms of 16 to 20 inches wide and 60 to 72 inches long. These are the most used shawls and would be most helpful.

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.

Weekly Meditation Group:

We meet at the church on Thursday mornings, from 8:30 to 9:30 am, for a shared time of silent meditation and reflections on our spiritual journeys. Contact Dave Myers at 274-0381 or 547_5698@msn.com or Helene Nelson 259-2546 or helenemargaret@gmail.com for more information.

Women's Breakfast:

We meet at the Pancake Café at 728 S. Gammon Rd. (near Watts Rd) at 8:30 on the first Friday of the month. 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.

Progressive Christianity Discussion Group:

We will meet the third Wednesday of the month at the church, 11 a.m.-12:30 pm. Bringing a bag lunch is optional. Contact Ken Pennings if you'd like to attend, and he will send you the article which

will be discussed – ken@orucc.org.

Falls Prevention Exercise Class to be offered in 2017

Joyce Pohl is a retired physical therapist who specialized in falls prevention while working at UW Home Health. She has 40 years experience in PT and also has training in exercises to decrease the effects of osteoporosis. She will be offering a class at ORUCC at 10 AM on Tuesday and Thursday mornings in January and February. She will provide education about preventing falls and improving posture as well as work on leg strengthening and standing balance exercises. The class would be limited to 12 people and cost would be \$35 for the 2 months. Please contact Joyce Pohl at 206-5697 or japohl@gmail.com for more information. Please sign up by December 18th.

A set of keys were left in the church office last Sunday, November 20. If they belong to you, please contact the church office 271-7212

BUS TRIP TO WASHINGTON, DC:

CLERGY LEADERS AND OUR CONFERENCE MINISTER ARE COORDINATING A BUS TRIP TO D.C. JANUARY 19-22 FOR THE PURPOSE OF WITNESSING TO THE GOSPEL VALUES OF DIGNITY, EQUALITY, JUSTICE AND COMPASSION FOR ALL GOD'S PEOPLE. THE TRIP WILL INCLUDE PARTICIPATION IN OPPORTUNITIES FOR WORSHIP, PEACEFUL DEMONSTRATION (**INCLUDING THE MILLION WOMEN MARCH**), INTERFAITH AND ECUMENICAL DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLY A TIME OF COMMUNITY SERVICE. TENTATIVE COST \$340 PER PERSON (INCLUDES ROUND-TRIP BUS AND 3 HOTEL NIGHTS DOUBLE OCCUPANCY. MEALS NOT INCLUDED.) **FURTHER DETAILS AND REGISTRATION WILL BE AVAILABLE ON DEC. 6.**

We'd like to know the level of interest. If you think you might want to attend sign up on our [Facebook event](#). This is not a commitment; actual registration opens Dec. 6.

Connections made through my work on an ORUCC Ministry, by John Rasmusson:

Sometimes you have no idea where your path may lead, or the connections you might make along the way. Such was the case with me when, as a member of Christian Witness and Service (CWS), we decided on 3 main areas of focus in December 2015. Those areas included Climate Change, Racial Justice, and Positive Youth Development. I chose to work on the Positive Youth Development team along with Brad Carl and Betsy Moyer.

We didn't know what our work was going to look like at that point, but I had made a connection with Deon Carruthers (a liaison at Falk Elementary) the year before when we helped support the after school programs and mentor group he was involved in. So the schools seemed like a good place to start. I had met with Deon in the fall of 2015, and he introduced me to the new Falk social worker (Sarah Hall) at that time. Sarah and I discussed opportunities for support and partnership with ORUCC, one of which was an idea for a "Parent Resource Room"

Flash forward to the spring of 2016. I met again with Sarah, and the idea for the Parent Resource Room had grown and developed into the Falk Family Resource Center. This center was to provide families with access to a fully operational food and hygiene supply pantry and clothing closet. The center was also to support the school's weekend meal pack program for homeless students and provide access for parents to computer workstations for job and housing searches as well as applying online for public benefits. The Center became a reality at the start of this school year, and was supported by our September compassion offering, along with a Sunday School food and supply drive. We were also able to organize an informational meeting for ORUCC members interested in the variety of ways available to get involved and support kids and schools in our community. This meeting was led by Sarah, Adam Zingsheim (principal at Falk) and Pazee Yang (social worker at Orchard Ridge Elementary), and included others involved with mentoring/tutoring programs at both schools.

Connections have a way of building on each other and shaping the path in front of us. I am so grateful to have been a part of the journey.

Just this morning I received an email from Sarah asking if we could meet after Thanksgiving, so she could introduce me to Jen Weber, the director at the Theresa Terrace Neighborhood Center, Falk's new interim parent liaison, Indaca Brown, and also Sarah's new intern.....and so the connections multiply.

-John Rasmussen

Thinking about becoming a volunteer? Here are some opportunities at ORUCC (new schedules effective January 1, 2017):

How important is an Usher and Welcomer? Ushers and welcomers are among the first people and most important to us on Sunday mornings. Ushers hand out bulletins, take the offering, serve communion and help clean up after worship.

Ushers and welcomers provide guidance, direction and welcome to visitors and guests. Did you know that most people decide within 5 minutes of entering a church building whether or not they will come back. **Ushers and Welcomers** are key in our ministry of hospitality. Would you like to be a part of either one of these ministries? If so, we can add you to the schedule that will come out in January of 2017. If you are interested in becoming an usher, please contact Debbie at office@orucc.org or 271-7212 for more information. If you are interested in becoming a welcomer, please contact Ken Pennings, kpennings@orucc.org or 271-7212 for more information, or talk to the person who took care of the sound during worship, or the person in charge of the coffee hour after worship in the Friendship Hall. They will be more than happy to tell you what the job involves.

Coffee and Sound If you are interested in volunteering to be added to the coffee and/or sound system rotation, please contact Debbie at office@orucc.org or 271-7212 for more information.

LOST AND FOUND:

Please check the lost and found box on the coat rack shelf outside the church office. There are a number of coats, sweatshirts, books, and misc items. Thank you.

Orchard Ridge United Church
of Christ

1501 Gilbert Road
Madison, WI 53711

Phone: 608-271-7212
Fax: 608-271-7265

**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.**

**WE'RE ON THE
WEB!**



Poinsettia Orders

Name _____

In Honor _____

In Memory _____

No. of plants _____ **at \$15 each**

Total Enclosed \$ _____

**Please collect your plant after late worship
on December 24th.**

**Please return this form to the church
office by Monday, December 5**

VOLUNTEER ASSIGNMENTS

Ushers

Nov 27 Jarrett Gersten,
Marilyn Arnold, Peter Fabian

Dec 4 Peter Fabian,
Phil & Judy Winkel

Dec 11 Larry Goss, Jim
Treichel

Dec 18 Joyce Binder,
NEED 2 VOLUNTEERS

Dec 24 4:00 p.m. service
NEED 3 VOLUNTEERS

Dec 24 9:00 p.m. service
Peter Fabian,

NEED 2 VOLUNTEERS
Dec 25 Jerry Nelson
Carol & Bob Prugh

Welcomers

Nov 27 Charlene Gallagher,
Joyce Pohl

Dec 4 Jack Schairer,
Doug & Mary Loving

Dec 11 Helen Horn,
Dick & Lois Rossmiller

Dec 18 John & Donna
Lillethun

Sound

Nov 27 Ken Psyck
Dec 4 Paul Hedges
Dec 11 Paul Hedges
Dec 18 Paul Hedges

Coffee

Nov 27 Dorlores &
Paul Gohdes
Dec 4 Brian & Rachael
Lancor
Dec 11 Greg & Barb
Louden
Dec 18 Phil & Judy
Winkel
Dec 25 SteveYeazel,
Rich Hoard

Financial Secretary

Nov 27 Jane Ilgen
Dec 4 Meg Stevens
Dec 11 Peter Hoff
Dec 18 Mary Bucknell
Dec 25 Gene Dyar

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November

Thursday 24

Friday 25

Sunday 27

Monday 28

Wednesday 30

December

Thursday 1

Sunday 4

Monday 5

Tuesday 6

Wednesday 7

Thursday 8

Sunday 11

Monday 12

Tuesday 13

Wednesday 14

9:00 a.m.
10:00 a.m.

7:00 p.m.
7:15 p.m.

7:00 p.m.
8:30 a.m.
9:00 a.m.

10:00 a.m.
1:30 p.m.
7:00 p.m.

7:00 p.m.
5:30 p.m.
7:00 p.m.

8:30 a.m.
9:00 a.m.
10:00 a.m.

7:00 p.m.
7:15 p.m.

11:30 a.m.
6:30 p.m.
7:00 p.m.

7:00 p.m.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

Holiday Office Closed

Java and Jesus

Worship Service

Host Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) Families

Handbell Rehearsal

ORUCC Men's Group

ORUCC Choir Rehearsal

Meditation/Spirituality Discussion

Java and Jesus

Worship Service

Knitting & Crafts Group

Handbell Rehearsal

Care of Creation Meeting

Pastoral Partners Meeting

ORUCC Choir Rehearsal

Meditation/Spirituality Discussion

Java and Jesus

Worship Service

Handbell Rehearsal

ORUCC Men's Group

OVER 55

Leadership Team meeting

Christian Witness & Service Meeting

ORUCC Choir Rehearsal

