

Orchard Ridge United Church of Christ

COMMUNION



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

Sunday Morning

December 11

9 am Java & Jesus

10 am Ken Pennings

Preaching

Handbell Choir

December 18

9 am Java & Jesus

10 am Winton Boyd preaching

Orchard Ridge Choir

December 21

7 pm Longest Night

Observance

December 24

4 pm Christmas Eve, Family
Friendly service featuring our
children and TRU Function

9 am Lessons and Carols
featuring ORUCC choir and
special Musicians

December 25

10 am Tammy Martens leads
an informal service in the
Friendship Hall

Newsletter:

December 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*.

December 11: Moving us Through Despair and Hope (Ken Pennings)

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

Longest Night Observance

Spiritually, we take a few moments on this evening to honor, acknowledge, and meditate upon darkness. As we pay attention to the natural seasons, we know that even in darkness, new life is being born. As we approach the celebration of Christmas, we remember God's promise to come to us even in darkness. The evening is a time for reflection, prayer, and community. You are welcome to either the Labyrinth Walk, the Longest Night Service or both.

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
Hall

Compassion offering for December is the UCC Disaster Ministry and the UCC Christmas Fund:

UCC Disaster Ministry:

Global climate change has increased the scope, scale and number of disasters worldwide. UCC Disaster Ministries responds to natural and human caused disasters all over the world to serve vulnerable people in emergencies and long-term rebuilding. Disaster Ministries works in partnership with organizations and faith communities able to respond in the best way in each situation. This fall the response to Hurricane Matthew, uprooting hundreds of thousands of lives from the Caribbean to North Carolina, was immediate as UCC Disaster Ministry and partners were present in affected areas since long before the storm. This ministry helped provide emergency food, water shelter and sanitation, and continues to work on early recovery and livelihood restoration, with continued presence moving on to long-term recovery efforts. Meanwhile Disaster Ministry has been working around the world, from the earthquake response in Ecuador and Nepal to the flooding problems in the southern United States.

UCC CHRISTMAS FUND: For many years, ORUCC has supported the national denomination's Christmas Fund through our December offering. This Ministry of the UCC Pension Board provides direct financial assistance to retired and active UCC

authorized ministers and lay employees and their surviving spouses who are in need. Funds can provide pension and health premium supplementation, emergency assistance, and Christmas thank-you checks.

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 John Wroten, having surgery on Wednesday, December 7

For those grieving the death of Chris Hill (Visitation this Friday at 1 pm at Cress Funeral Home on E. Washington Ave. Funeral at 2 pm)

For the three families who stayed in our building last week – that they will find permanent housing.

For Mary Bucknell who is transitioning her mother to a retirement community.

For Mike Bjork's dad who has been diagnosed with cancer.

For Eric & Emily Lloyd's yet-to-be-born nephew who has a heart defect.

For Jean Rush who, after successful heart surgery, is now battling shingles.

For Mary White recovering from a broken foot.

For all of those standing strong at Standing Rock.

Prayers of Joy:

For the three volunteers who assembled and mailed care packages to 15 of our college students.

For the many volunteers who worked with Tammy Martens in coloring the beautiful nativity posters which are now hanging in Friendship Hall.

For the many volunteers who made last week's IHN ministry possible – caring for families living with homelessness.

For the team of 8 adults and 4 children who decorated the worship hall for advent and Christmas.

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 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.

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**. 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. Please drop off all presents to The Road Home office no later than **December 19th, 2016**. **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.

A Boydseye View: A word out of Place – adapted from my sermon on December 4, 2016

Circle of Life

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

Several summers ago, a *Concerts on the Square* Wednesday night program featured the music of Elton John. At one point, the song Circle of Life (Lion King) was played. Remembering the movie of their youth, young adults with babies, puppies and even dolls their creatures/children high into the sky.

In the movie, the song is a blessing song, what in our tradition we'd call a baptism or dedication. On the square that night, of course, young adults were simply re-enacting that movie. But at another level, I think many of them were doing something more profound – proclaiming hope as they faced the unknown future. So much before us is unknown and uncharted. This can be inviting and intriguing, as well as scary, overwhelming, or even paralyzing.

The season of Advent often begins with the prophets, who spoke boldly into their own experience longing and mystery. Isaiah 35 interrupts devastation and despair of chapter 34 with these words:

*The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad.
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and singing...*

Part of the mystery of these words is how they can even be spoken. In the fact of the destruction and despair, Isaiah is daring to speak a word out of place. A word that doesn't make sense in the context. A word of possibility that refused to wait until things improved. Or, as noted Old Testament theologian Walter Bruggemann has said, "A doxology – or praise song - that is against the data."

Recently I sat in a circle of folks committed to the ministry of our UCC camps. Gathered around a raging fire in the Moon Beach lodge under the north woods cathedral canopy of majestic trees, we were asked, 'why are you here?' Not why are you on the board of directors, but why do you care about these ministries, what motivates you to give time and energy to this ministry?

What followed was story after story of love and grace thriving against the data of our lives.

A female pastor who first went to church camp as a teenager who cut herself. At camp she had something to give, a purpose and a community.

Continued on page 4...

BE THE CHURCH God is all around us.
 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 140 pledges totaling \$336,390.00. THANK YOU SO MUCH!

End of year Contributions to ORUCC

A reminder that remaining balance on your 2016 pledge need to be received in the church office no later than December 30 (see note below)

IMPORTANT PLEASE

NOTE: 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 hand-work 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.

Movie Group Meets Friday, December 16th, 7 p.m. :

All are welcome to this lively discussion of your favorite Christmas movie, and perhaps even some talk about current films. Phil and Judy Winkel are hosting, you may RSVP to them by calling 271-0481. The Winkels will provide a light dessert and beverage.

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 Penning 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.

Boydseye view cont.....

One of the staff described a young teenager, transitioning from her birth gender as a boy to the gender her brain has always known her to be, who found immense support from both cabin mates and their parents as she continues and explores this transition.

A parent of a severely disabled 16 year old came to Moon Beach with other friends living with a host of disabilities because here there was freedom to explore and feel the grace of nature in ways not possible anywhere else. On those grounds, surrounded by love, those very out of place everywhere else were welcomed and wanted.

As I listened I thought, is this not the kind of world I want to give my energy to? Not just at camp, but in all of life? Against all the realities of exclusion and bullying and limitation and wondering – is this not the world we want to work for, give our hearts to? Are these not the doxologies – the songs of praise - against the data of our lives we want to sing?

When we listen to one another's stories of faith and face each of our life's transitions, we listen for a very real but ancient harmony. We listen for the words of grit and hope that have always defied the data of life. Paraphrasing my favorite poet, Wendell Berry, "Such harmonies are rare. This is not the way the world is. It is a possibility nonetheless deeply seeded within (us). It is (a world that can be." (*Poem I. from Leavings By Wendell Berry*)

It is this world we work for in these darkening days of December.

Church Women United:

Church Women United of Madison is seeking new members. The group meets on the first Friday morning of every month at various churches. Its program includes socializing, hearing speakers, and discussing current issues. If you would like more information about CWU, please contact Sandra Dyar 271-2409.

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.

Compassion Offerings

January: The Crossing \$1398.99
February: Madison Urban ministry MUM \$1785.69
March: One Great Hour of Sharing \$2714.80
April: Haiti Medical Mission of WI \$3056.57
May: Aldo Leopold after School Programs \$2093.36
June: Habitat \$1615.50
July: Road Home (IHN) \$3023.00
August: Domestic Abuse Intervention Ctr (DAIS) \$918.69 AND Safe Harbor \$918.69
September: Falk Family Resource Center and Food Pantry \$1789.34
October: Joining Forces for Families Housing Crisis \$2550.00
November: Maydm \$3651.63

Life Line Screening at ORUCC 2/10/2017:

Life Line Screening, a leading provider of community-based preventive health screenings, will offer their affordable, non-invasive and painless health screenings at Orchard Ridge UCC on February, 10, 2017. Five screenings will be offered that scan for potential health problems related to: blocked arteries which is a leading cause of stroke; abdominal aortic aneurysms which can lead to a ruptured aorta; hardening of the arteries in the legs which is a strong predictor of heart disease; atrial fibrillation or irregular heart beat which is closely tied to stroke risk; and bone density screening, for men and women, used to assess the risk of osteoporosis. Register for a Wellness Package which includes 4 vascular tests and osteoporosis screening from \$149 (\$139 with our member discount). All five screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete. **In order to register for this event and to receive a \$10 discount off any package priced above \$129, please call 1-888653-6441 or visit www.lifelinescreening.com/advantagemembers.**

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 12**

VOLUNTEER ASSIGNMENTS

Ushers

Dec 11 Larry Goss, Jim
Treichel

Dec 18 Joyce Binder,
NEED 2 VOLUNTEERS

Dec 24 4:00 p.m. service

Rick Daluge, **NEED 3
VOLUNTEERS**

Dec 24 9:00 p.m. service

Peter Fabian, Joyce Binder
NEED 2 VOLUNTEERS

Dec 25 Jerry Nelson
Carol & Bob Prugh

Welcomers

Dec 11 Helen Horn,
Dick & Lois Rossmiller

Dec 18 John & Donna
Lillethun

Dec 24 4pm Glenn Schaeffer,
Kim Kaspar

Dec 24 9pm John & Donna
Lillethun

**Dec 25 NEED 2 VOLUN-
TEERS**

Sound

Dec 11 Paul Hedges

Dec 18 Paul Hedges

Dec 24 4pm Jarrett
Gersten

Dec 24 9pm Chuck
Kaspar

Coffee

Dec 11 Greg & Barb
Louden

Dec 18 Phil & Judy
Winkel

Dec 25 Steve Yeazel,
Rich Hoard

Financial Secretary

Dec 11 Peter Hoff

Dec 18 Mary Bucknell

Dec 25 Gene Dyar-will
Include Christmas Eve
Collection

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December

Tuesday 6 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday 5 5:30 p.m.

7:00 p.m.

Thursday 6 8:30 a.m.

Sunday 11 9:00 a.m.

10:00 a.m.

11:00 a.m.

11:00 a.m.

Monday 12 7:00 p.m.

7:15 p.m.

Tuesday 13 11:30 a.m.

6:30 p.m.

Wednesday 14 7:00 p.m.

7:00 p.m.

Thursday 15 8:30 a.m.

Friday 16 5:00 p.m.

7:00 p.m.

Sunday 18 9:00 a.m.

10:00 a.m.

Monday 19 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday 20 11:00 a.m.

5:30 p.m.

7:00 p.m.

Thursday 21 8:30 a.m.

4:00 p.m.

Care of Creation Meeting

Pastoral Partners Meeting

ORUCC Choir Rehearsal

Meditation/Spirituality Discussion

Java and Jesus

Worship Service

Racial Justice Mission Team

Youth Holiday Bake Sale Fundraiser

Handbell Rehearsal

ORUCC Men's Group

OVER 55

Leadership Team Meeting

ORUCC Choir Rehearsal

Christian Witness & Service Meeting

Meditation/Spirituality Discussion

Youth Mission Trip Fundraiser

Movie Group at Church (Swan Rm)

Java and Jesus

Worship Service

Handbell Rehearsal

Progressive Christianity Group

Adult Faith Formation Meeting

ORUCC Choir Rehearsal

Meditation/Spirituality Discussion

Children Christmas Eve Rehearsal