

Orchard Ridge United Church of Christ

COMMUNION



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

Sunday Morning

January 15

10 am Ken Pennings preaching
Music by Bruce Gladstone and
Vicki Nonn

January 22

9 am Eric Iverson discussion
10 am Eric Iverson preaching-
"Behold, the Lamb"

January 29

9 am Richard Blackburn,
Lombard Mennonite
10 am Richard Blackburn
preaching

Newsletter:

January 24 &

February 7

**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

ORUCC Highlights in January 2017

We'll be exploring the role of anxiety in healthy congregations and people in a variety of ways this month. We'll root our discussions in Family Systems thinking, the bedrock of the work done by the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center. We encourage all who are able to avail themselves of these opportunities (see January 8 offering above). Your pastors are hoping that a re-introduction to some of this material will help us frame our ongoing work around social issues and with sensitive congregational dynamics. As Richard Blackburn has often said, congregations should immerse themselves in this learning when things are going well, not just when there is conflict. That's what we are aiming to do.

January 13-15

Winter Retreat at Pilgrim Center

January 15

No Sunday School or Java and Jesus

Worship at 10 a.m. - Ken Pennings preaching, music with Bruce Gladstone and Vicki Nonn

January 22

9:00 a.m. Eric Iverson leading a discussion around race and faith

10:00 am. Worship: Eric Iverson preaching - "Behold, The Lamb"

Eric is an African American man studying at Southern Seminary in Louisville. He's worked for years helping churches, organizations and youth groups explore diversity. He's a long time friend of Winton (and former youth group member).

After Worship: The Great Chili Cook-Off, Part 2!

Break out your crock pot and your top-secret recipes, as we prepare for our 2nd annual ORUCC Chili Cook-Off!

Join us after worship on January 22nd as our ORUCC Top Chefs prepare their favorite recipes, to be eaten and judged by the congregation.

Interested parties, please contact Alyssa Haskins for more information, including reimbursement options: arkohler@gmail.com. Application deadline is January 15th.

January 29th - 9:00 a.m. -2nd Anxiety workshop - Richard Blackburn from the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center (LMPC).

10:00 a.m. - Richard Blackburn preaching: "If Any Want to Become My Followers":

Discipleship and Differentiation.

Richard is the Executive Director of LMPC. He led a mediation training for ORUCC in the mid 1990's, and has led clergy trainings that Winton, Ken and Tammy have attended over the last 15 years.

Compassion offering for

January is the The Crossing Campus Ministry:

A progressive campus ministry and student organization at UW-Madison. Foundational to the vision is nurturing a faith community of students that embodies the radical inclusiveness, extravagant welcome and compassionate living we find in the life and teachings of Jesus. As they welcome students of diverse spiritual, religious, and non-religious backgrounds, The Crossing strives to create a safe space where students can celebrate life's greatest joys as well as wrestle honestly and openly with their biggest questions and doubts. Much of what happens at the Crossing happens "in community"—from Sunday evening Vespers (worship) to Bible studies to delectable Slow Food – UW "Family Dinner Night's" to local service projects to global Quest trips, to name just a few.

Over the past decade, nearly 250 students have ventured out on over 25 QUEST trips around the world. QUESTS have traveled to Israel/Palestine, Costa Rica, Northern Ireland, Chiapas, the North Dakota Badlands, Kenya, Nepal, the Everglades, and Cambodia. It is hoped participants will grow deeper as spiritual beings and knowledgeable citizens of the earth because of their QUEST experience. This year we plan to offer our first QUEST to Sri Lanka partnering with Sarvodaya USA. We are currently exploring invites to the Ukraine (Friends of Chernobyl) and Liberia

(working with our good friend, Dr. Bob Enright and his International Institute of Forgiveness).

(www.crossingministries.org)

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 Tim Andrews who had knee replacement surgery this Tuesday.

Prayers of Joy:

For the baptism of Elise Carl last Sunday during worship

For Jane & Page Danley who are soon-to-be first-time grandparents.

For Judy Brauer celebrating her mother's 100th year.

For the upcoming All Church Retreat at Pilgrim Center with 98 adults and children attending.

Welcome to our New Members



Betty & Frank Swanson write: We have been traveling to new homes all our adult lives. Then the motivator was a new position for Frank. Now we can stop travelling and enjoy residing with Todd

Swanson (our son) and Loretta McClure. Todd and Loretta first introduced us to some of you in our three summer trips at Moon Beach Resort and holiday vacations before we moved here. It was there we learned the Holy Spirit was a bright light in you. We were a two career couple. Our professional careers included Betty as a bookkeeper and Frank in property casualty insurance, ending as a senior executive. Our non-profit careers then began as advocates for mentally ill people, teaching families how to cope with brain disorders, lobbying legislators, bringing reality to providers, and encouraging those in congregations where we were active. Now we are retired. We have two dear sons, Todd and Matthew and two grandsons, Cole and Ryan. We enjoy music, gardening and justice (whenever we can find it!) We are grateful for the warm welcome we have received at Orchard Ridge.



Dan Rossmiller writes: I am the Government Relations Director for the Wisconsin Association of School Boards, a voluntary membership organization that represents all 422 of the state's 422 locally elected public school boards. My parents moved to Madison in the fall of 1961 and joined ORUCC in the spring of 1962. I attended Sunday School here, which in the days before the education wing was constructed was held in a

variety of locations. Among my teachers were Deane & Edith Arny, Jerry & Bev Nelson, Marianne Ackerman, Beth Knight and Steve Shogren. I was confirmed into ORUCC in the spring of 1970, by Rev. Bill Wineke. During my high school years, I helped to teach Sunday School classes along with adult teachers, including Karen Falkner. I was married in this church in 1985 by Rev. Tim Kehl, and Vickie Nonn played beautifully at our wedding. My wife Sally and I served as high school youth group leaders. Sally, who is also a floral designer, also helped to organize the church's Earth Fair (Environmental Fair) and made garlands, wreaths, and other advent decorations that were used for several years.

During the late 1980's I served on the Board of Worship and Church Council. In 1991, we moved to White-water to shorten her commute (and lengthen mine). I resigned from my church roles in O.R.U.C.C. at that time because of logistical issues. Once again living in Madison, I am happy to be reunited with ORUCC to continue my faith journey in a caring, thoughtful and nurturing church community, and happy to work with the Ministry of Adult Faith Formation.

Tammy's Time

Our Whole Lives

This is an OWL year. What that means is that our middle school youth are involved in the OWL (Our Wholes Lives) program. OWL is a sexuality education curriculum that is grounded in the values of self-worth, sexual health, responsibility, inclusivity, and justice. The program is taught on Sunday mornings from 8:30 to 9:50 a.m. It started last September and goes through March of this year. The OWL teachers are Barbara Stretchberry, Julie Luecke, Brian Lancor, and Brock Schulz. These teachers wrote a reflection of what this experience is like and I include them in this article. We are grateful for their leadership and this program.

Julie Luecke: In the textbook *Adolescence*, Lawrence Steinberg writes: "Suppose that early in your childhood your parents had treated cooking food as though it had special, mysterious significance. Suppose that you had never been permitted to see anyone actually cooking food, that you had been prohibited from seeing movies in which people cooked food, and that you had been excluded from any discussions of cooking. Nevertheless, imagine that you knew that *something* went on in the kitchen and that there was some special activity that adults did there which you would be permitted, even expected, to do when you grew up. Perhaps you even overheard other kids at school talking about cooking, but you still weren't sure just what the activity was or what one was supposed to do (or not do). Imagine how confused and ambivalent and anxious you would feel."

His point is that when we are secretive about sex when children are young and filled with anxiety when they are adolescents, we make sexuality into a problem. The OWL curriculum strives to reverse this trend, normalizing frank discussion not only about sexuality, but all the related facets of our lives. While I can still more easily teach about healthy cooking, conversation in OWL comes more naturally to me now that it did when I started in 2008. I have also had the opportunity to share the philosophy of the OWL curriculum with college students in a Wellness in Education class, and it is very eye-opening for them. None of the future teachers have had the type of sexuality education the youth experience with OWL, and it's a struggle for them to normalize topics they find unbearably awkward. I hope the day will come when healthy sexuality isn't such a taboo subject, and I am grateful for the role ORUCC is playing in making this future more possible.

Barbara Stretchberry: When people learn that I teach sex ed at my church, the usual response is "What's the catch?!" It seems unlikely that a church would teach comprehensive, progressive sexuality education to middle school kids. But this is ORUCC! We know that God has given us the gift of sexuality, and that sexuality is nothing to be afraid or ashamed of. We know that teaching kids about gender identity, sexual orientation, healthy relationships, and responsible sexual behavior can empower them and help them make good decisions now and in the future. Teaching OWL means a lot to me--I love getting know these kids better, I think the curriculum is fantastic, and the teaching team is fantastic. We have a lot of fun on Sunday mornings, and we learn from and teach each other each week. But mostly, we learn that ORUCC is truly a place where everyone belongs, where every part of our being is sacred and loved by God.

Brian Lancor: Our Owl time together, at the retreat particularly, has provided an opportunity for us to strengthen relationships, youth with youth, teacher with teacher, and teacher with youth. I believe strongly that the integration of discussions of the values we hold as individuals and as a church, with the topics at hand (sexuality, relationships, sexual orientation) is key to our success. For one thing, many of the topics we discuss can be embarrassing and don't generate the liveliest discussions on their own. But, I have found that when discussions turn to issues of personal values, identity, and social justice the youth are keen to express their opinions, learn more, and refine their ideas. More importantly, we are trying to prepare our youth to make important decisions in their relationships with friends, family, future romantic partners and society. These decisions will be difficult, and they will bring not only the valuable information we hope to provide in OWL, but also their values and feelings to those decisions and so, we need to include all of those elements into our OWL discussions. I am grateful for the opportunity to learn with the youth, and I am looking forward to the rest of our time together.

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.

Pilates Group Mat Class, a Fundraiser for the Summer 2017 Mission Trip:

We'll meet for six consecutive Wednesday evenings @ 5:45 - 6:45pm (February 22 - March 29) in the Bonhoeffer Room, lower level of the church building. Wear comfortable (stretchy) clothes and bring two yoga mats (one to stack on top of the other—you need the extra cushioning). All other material and equipment will be provided. Suggested donation: \$75.00. Make your check payable to Orchard Ridge United Church of Christ and mention "Pilates fundraiser" on the memo line OR pay online with a credit card—go to the Orchard Ridge website and find "Pilates Fundraiser." The instructor is Susan Watson. Call Susan: 608/698-5061 (cell) or email: susanjanepilates@gmail.com with any questions you have and to let her know you're signing up. Pilates is a series of non-impact exercises focused on core strength, overall flexibility, proper alignment, and breath. Pilates works to educate and balance the different muscles of the body so that they work efficiently as a unit, thereby easing joint and muscular pain, improving posture, and increasing strength and awareness in your body.

ON-GOING GROUPS

Movie Group will convene Friday, January 20th :

Anyone who enjoys movies and talking about them is welcome to join us on Friday, January 20th at 7 p.m. at ORUCC. Donna and John Lillethun are hosting this month's meeting and will provide a light dessert and beverage. The Lillethuns are suggesting that we bring our opinions on the "Best & Worst" of 2016 films. In anticipation of the Academy Awards this promises to be a spirited discussion. RSVP to Steve Sheets, im1042@tds.net, or call 845-5667.

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.

Women's Book Group:

Our next gathering will be on Thursday, January 12, from 7 – 9 p.m. We'll meet at the home of Ann Avery, 5305 Whitcomb Drive.

We'll discuss THE ABSOLUTELY TRUE DIARY OF A PART-TIME INDIAN by Sherman Alexie. He is an award-winning author, poet, and filmmaker whose work focuses primarily on contemporary Native American identity.

Although classified as fiction, the book largely reflects Alexie's own early life. In 2007, this book won the National Book Award for Young People's Literature.

If you plan to come, please let Ann know at rareavery@msn.com or 298-7587. Any woman who enjoys discussing books she has read—or just this one in particular—is welcome to join us.



For all the well wishes, notes and prayers for a speedy recovery after a new valve was placed in my heart. It was a successful procedure, plus my shingles have all but disappeared. The ORUCC congregation means so much to me.

Fondly, Jean Rush

Financial Peace University:

For many, finance and peace don't go hand in hand. What would it be like to remove worry from our finances and replace it with optimism? Financial Peace University is a weekly 9 session class beginning Jan 23rd teaching us how to make a plan for our money and is open to the community. Take control of your money, change your life, change your family tree. This series is being convened and facilitated by Jarrett Gersten. Info and enrollment: <http://fpu.com/1033141>

Grace Men's Breakfast Help Needed:

Please call Ann Avery 298-7587/cell 401-749-3976 if you could be on the volunteer list to bring food every other month for the Grace Episcopal Men's Breakfast mission. We have the 3rd. Tuesday morning every other month (even months). People bring the food to the church on the Sunday before or by 12 noon on the Monday before for Steve Sheets to take to Grace.

I try to call people every other time which would mean 3 times a year you would be asked to bring food. Food items needed are frozen orange juice, dry cereal, 2% milk, bread, margarine, and jam. Thanks so much!

College Scholarships Available: Members of Orchard Ridge UCC are invited to apply for college scholarships for 2017-2018 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, service to church and community, and demonstrated financial need. The application deadline is February 15, 2017; contact scholarships@firstcongmadison.org for an electronic application. Questions? Contact Peter Fabian, 236-9983, fabian@edgewood.edu.

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.**

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.

Church Email Lists:

ORUCC has a few email lists that you may or may not know about. If you would like to be added to or removed from any of these, please send your email to Ken@orucc.org or win-ton@orucc.org.

Weekly Epost which shares the events of the upcoming weekend **Bi-Monthly Newsletter** (The Communion)

Bi-monthly Eprayer list which reminds us of prayers within the congregation

Weekly Java and Jesus email that includes reading for discussion on Sunday mornings at 9 a.m.. Many receive without coming to the the events of the upcoming weekend

LGBTQ and allies list which is used periodically to highlight community events or issues.

Compassion Offerings for 2016

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 for Humanity \$3215.50

July: Road Home (IHN) \$3023.00

August: Domestic Abuse Intervention Ctr (DAIS) \$993.69 AND Safe Harbor \$993.69

September: Falk Family Resource Center and Food Pantry \$1899.34

October: Joining Forces for Families Housing Crisis \$2550.00

November: Maydm \$3651.63

December: Wisconsin Conference Christmas Fund \$1546.58 and UCC Emergency USA Fund \$1546.58

TOTAL \$30,469.42

Thanks for your generosity!!

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!**



**ORUCC Winter Film Series:
BEFORE THE FLOOD**

.....
Thursday, January 26th
ORUCC Friendship Hall
Movie time: 7:00 - 8:30pm
Short discussion to follow

From Academy Award®-winning filmmaker Fisher Stevens and Academy Award-winning actor, and environmental activist Leonardo DiCaprio, **BEFORE THE FLOOD** presents a riveting account of the dramatic changes now occurring around the world due to climate change. This first film in our 4-part series captures a three-year personal journey alongside DiCaprio as he interviews individuals from every facet of society in both developing and developed nations who provide unique, impassioned and pragmatic views on what must be done today and in the future to prevent catastrophic disruption of life on our planet.

VOLUNTEER ASSIGNMENTS

Ushers

Jan 15 Carolyn Carlson,
Bob & Carol Prugh
Jan 22 Jerry Nelson,
Larry & Sharon Goss
Jan 29 Carolyn Carlson,
Phil & Judy Winkel
Feb 5 Peter Fabian,
Larry & Sharon Goss
Feb 12 Joyce Binder,
Jim Treichel, Jon Blanchard

Welcomers

Jan 15 Glenn Schaeffer,
John & Donna Lillethun
Jan 22 Jan Christian,
Dick & Lois Rossmiller
Jan 29 Charlene Gallagher,
Kim Kaspar, Leah Narans
Feb 5 Joyce Pohl,
Bob & Carol Prugh
Feb 12 Charlene Gallagher,
Ruthanne Landsness, Leah
Narans

Sound

Jan 15 Andrew Beckett
Jan 22 Paul Hedges
Jan 29 Jarrett Gersten
Feb 5 Chuck Kaspar
Feb 12 Ken Psyck

Coffee

Jan 15 Chuck Kaspar,
Jane Glaze
Jan 22 Annette & Brian
Porter
Jan 29 Steve Yeazel,
Jane Glaze
Feb 5 Tom & Char
Klossner
Feb 12 Rich Hoard,
Dan Stevens

Financial Secretary

Jan 15 Peter Hoff
Jan 22 Mary Bucknell
Jan 29 Jan Ilgen
Feb 5 Gene Dyar
Feb 12 Peter Hoff

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 2017

Wednesday 11	7:00 p.m.	ORUCC Choir Rehearsal
Thursday 12	8:30 a.m.	Meditation/Spirituality Discussion
	10:00 a.m.	Falls Prevention Exercise Class
Sunday 15	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service
Monday 16	7:00 p.m.	Handbell Rehearsal
Tuesday 17	10:00 a.m.	Falls Prevention Exercise Class
Wednesday 18	7:00 p.m.	ORUCC Choir Rehearsal
Thursday 19	8:30 a.m.	Meditation/Spirituality Discussion
	10:00 a.m.	Falls Prevention Exercise Class
Sunday 22	9:00 a.m.	Eric Iverson discussion
	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service
Monday 23	7:00 p.m.	Financial Peace University
	7:00 p.m.	Handbell Choir
	7:15 p.m.	ORUCC Men's Group
Tuesday 24	10:00 a.m.	Falls Prevention Exercise Class
Wednesday 25	7:00 p.m.	ORUCC Choir Rehearsal
Thursday 26	8:30 a.m.	Meditation/Spirituality Discussion
	10:00 a.m.	Falls Prevention Exercise Class
	6:30 p.m.	Environmental Movie at church
Sunday 29	9:00 a.m.	Richard Blackburn discussion
	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service