January 29th -

9:00 a.m. - Family Systems 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.

Music with Tru Gumption

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.

February 5th

Congregational Annual Meeting after worship: In addition to electing our Ministries and Officers, we’ll adopt our 2017 budget. The Annual Report is available online (www.orucc.org) and available on the table in The Crossroads.

February 12th

9 a.m. Breakfast to Celebrate the Southwest Partnership

February 19th

Worship service will include invitations to meditation rooted in the pictures of Mark Speltz’ new book, “North of Dixie-Civil Rights Photography Beyond the South.” Mark is a member of ORUCC and currently an historian with American Girl Company.

February 28

5:30 p.m. - Partygras

March 1

Labyrinth Walk and Ash Wednesday Service
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, Chad, 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.

Celebrating our Camps:
We will be shining a spotlight on our two UCC camps—Moon Beach and Pilgrim Center—on Sunday, February 5. We invite you to wear a camp t-shirt to church that Sunday. Take time to visit www.ucci.org and see all the camping options that are available this year.

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.

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.

Women’s Book Group:
Our next gathering will be on Thursday, February 9, from 7 – 9 p.m. We’ll meet at the home of Donna Lil ethn, 2104 Westchester Road. We will choose books for the year. Each person is to bring two suggestions and spend a couple of minutes telling us about it and why you think each might be interesting for the group. After everybody has given their suggestions, we’ll vote on which books to schedule. If you plan to come, please let Donna know at dillilenthun@charter.net or 230-6428. Any woman who enjoys discussing books she has read is welcome to join us.

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. Brining a bag lunch is optional. Contact Ken Pendlings if you’d like to attend, and he will send you the article which will be discussed – ken@orucc.org.
Almost 25 years ago, I attended a clergy retreat in which we shared communion. A colleague at the time had her small child with her that day. I noticed during the informal service that while the daughter went with her mom to take the bread and wine, she decided a few moments later to return for a second piece of bread. Why not, it tasted good and the table was easily accessible. I wrote a newsletter piece afterwards reflecting how her actions were a lovely symbol. As a child, she reminded us that grace is ever present, abundant and available to all.

I was then a father of young children and I loved being able to point out how the little ones among us speak of faith and spiritually. Our annual all church winter retreat at Pilgrim Center is rich with reminders of this ancient New Testament truth.

We had gathered for our Sunday morning worship service in the Ley Chapel. The chairs were arranged in a large circle around the lovely labyrinth on the floor. The 90 of us were singing as a large group. A few young children began dancing. What little Fiona Schultz seemed to notice, however, was a large open space in the midst of our circle. And there in the middle was a small table – a Fiona sized table – with a loaf of bread. Like children of every generation, she seemed to intuitively experience the space and the bread as opportunity. She assumed the bread was there for the taking. With delight she fingered the as yet unmentioned bread, at which point her graceful father gently picked her up, whispered in her ear, and took her back to the edge of the circle to sit with Mom and Dad.

Truth be told, Fiona’s action contained wisdom. A wisdom that seemed appropriate to return to during the actual words of institution. This bread was a gift for us all. It was for us to take, and eat, and be filled. It achieves its consecration not by saying the right words or using specially trained hands; rather it is consecrated as it is shared within community.

Fiona’s heart seemed to understand this even if her brain didn’t know the sequence of the liturgy. Invited back at the ‘right’ time, she helped pull the loaf apart, helped witness to the power of a body broken in love for all people.

Spiritual wisdom comes in many forms, only some of them emanate from the brain. Her mother, Bethany, commented that it was beautiful to see her spirituality affirmed at such a young age. But those of us around the circle knew another gift that resides deep in the heart, a gift that is often revealed unwittingly by the children among us.

Of course, children are often seen as ‘the future’ of the church. Maybe more importantly, however, their present day actions point us to profound and ancient truths we so easily forget.
**Prayers:**

For Ellen Maurer, back home after being hospitalized for congestive heart issues. She expresses gratitude for the support and prayers.

For Bill Brunsell, husband of Thea Brunsell, who’s entered hospice care at Oakwood Village West.

For all those expressing their voice and values in marches across the country last weekend. And for the peaceful transfer of power to a new Administration.

For all the planners, organizers, cookers and eaters at our Chili Cook-off on Sunday.

For Greg Louden, who recently retired and John Pray (Feb. 6) and Marianne Morton of Commonwealth (Feb. 3) who are retiring soon.

**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.

- Marilyn & Tom Arnold
- Edith Arny
- Vaunce Ashby

**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 scholar-ships@firstcongmadison.org for an electronic application. Questions? Contact Peter Fabian, 236-9983, fabian@edgewood.edu.

**Sign up Today for a Life Line Screening at ORUCC 2/10/2017:**

Do you have high cholesterol or high blood pressure? Have members of your family suffered from these ailments? Do you have a poor diet? If you answer “yes” to any of these questions, you may want to consider being screened through the services of Life Line Screening. Life Line Screening uses ultrasound technology to view the plaque build up in your carotid arteries, the main arteries that carry blood to the brain. Blockages in these arteries are a leading cause of stroke.

We are a leading provider of community-based preventive health screenings, and 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.

**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 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 or dry cereal, 2% milk, bread, margarine, and jam. Thanks so much!

**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.

**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 News-letter** (The Communion)

**Bi-monthly Epayeer** 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.

**Please Make the Following Changes to the Church Directory:**

Add email for Eric Lloyd: erllloyd@gmail.com
“Scenes from our all church winter retreat at Pilgrim Center from January 13-15.”
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 - 8:30 pm
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 29 Carolyn Carlson, Phil & Judy Winkel
Feb 5 Peter Fabian, Larry & Sharon Goss
Feb 12 Joyce Binder, Jim Treichl, Jon Blanchard
Feb 19 Joyce Nigbor, Phil & Judy Winkel
Feb 26 Peter Fabian, Bob & Carol Prugh

Coffee
Jan 29 Steve Yeazel, Jane Glaze
Feb 5 Tom & Char Klossner
Feb 12 Rich Hoard, Dan Stevens
Feb 19 Jerry Hagen, Jane Glaze
Feb 26 Dorlores & Paul Gohdes

Financial Secretary
Jan 29 Jane Ilgen
Feb 5 Gene Dyar
Feb 12 Peter Hoff
Feb 19 Meg Stevens
Feb 26 Nancy Wettersten

January

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<tr>
<td>Jan 25</td>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
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<td>Fri 26</td>
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<td>Sat 26</td>
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<td>Sun 26</td>
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February

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<td>Wed 1</td>
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<td>Sun 5</td>
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<td>Mon 6</td>
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<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Financial Peace University</td>
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<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Handbell Choir</td>
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<td>Care of Creation Meeting</td>
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<td>Wed 8</td>
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<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Falls Prevention Exercise Class</td>
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<td>6:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Environmental Movie at church</td>
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