Sunday, February 12th - Breakfast Celebration of our Ministry in the Southwest Neighborhoods

8:45 Breakfast served - all our welcome
9:00 a.m. Program

In 2012, ORUCC embarked on an ambitious partnership (Southwest Partnership) with Joining Forces for Families, Commonwealth, and Madison/Dane County Public Health. Initially, we committed $130,000 to fund a position for 2 years. That commitment was supplemented by budget funds and individual gifts and stretched into a financial stake for another 2 years. As we begin 2017, the central work of the partnership - helping neighbors find and keep jobs, continues. However, our contributions are now mostly volunteer time and energy.

At the same time, the work of building relationships over these past many years has spawned additional connections and opportunities for ‘loving our neighbor.’

This breakfast (provided for by our amazing Meal Mission Team) will celebrate the work done and the opportunities that may await us in the future. We’ll hear from our partner organizations, see data that speaks to story after story of changed lives, and recognize and thank our volunteers.

All are welcome. No sign up necessary. Breakfast begins at 8:45. Program will end by 9:50.

---

Newsletter:
February 21 and March 7 and 21
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 Bauerkermer office@orucc.org
Tammy Martens tmartens@orucc.org
Ken Pennings ken@orucc.org
Winton Boyd winton@orucc.org

---

Final Winter Series Film February 16 information on next page...
Ken’s Pennings – Prepare Now for Our Lenten Focus on the Gospel of Mark

During Lent, we’ll be exploring the Gospel of Mark in a number of ways, including a Lenten Devotional called “A Word A Day,” Home Groups, Sunday Sermons, and a Dramatic Performance by Broadway, film and TV actor James Krag on March 25th called “According to Mark.”

We’re urging the congregation to read through the entire Gospel individually and/or with families (33 pages in the Harper Study Bible, or any version you choose) during Lent.

As we read, we may want to look for the following themes:

- A new understanding of Messiah - prophet, teacher and miracle worker, not military leader
- Suffering, serving King
- Discipleship as self-sacrificing service to God
- The unfinished ending – What does Mark’s unusual ‘first’ ending offer us as people of faith?

Some, who hold that Matthew and Luke used Mark as a major source, have suggested that Mark may have been composed in the 50s or early 60s. Since Mark’s Gospel is traditionally associated with Rome, it may have been occasioned by the persecutions of the Roman church in the period A.D. 64-67, thus Mark’s many references, both explicit and veiled, to suffering and discipleship throughout the Gospel (see 1:12-13; 3:22,30; 8:34-38; 10:30,33-34,45; 13:8,11-13).

Most scholars reject the tradition which ascribes the Gospel to Mark the Evangelist, the companion of Peter, and regard it as the work of an unknown author working with various sources including collections of miracle stories, controversy stories, parables, and a passion narrative.

Mark’s Gospel is a simple, succinct, unadorned, yet vivid account of Jesus’ ministry, emphasizing more what Jesus did than what he said. Mark moves quickly from one episode in Jesus’ life and ministry to another, often using the adverb “immediately.” There is no genealogy or birth narrative, nor, in the original ending at chapter 16, any post-resurrection appearances. It portrays Jesus as a heroic man of action, an exorcist, a healer. Jesus is also the Son of God, but he keeps his identity secret, concealing it in parables so that even the disciples fail to understand.

As we read, study, discuss, preach and perform the Gospel of Mark, remember that there is great value not only in what the text brings to us, but in what we bring to the text. Let’s discover together how our lives intersect with the Gospel of Mark!

ORUCC Winter Film Series:
YEARS OF LIVING DANGEROUSLY
Episode 7
…….
Thursday, February 16th
ORUCC Friendship Hall
Movie time: 7:00 – 8:30pm
Short discussion to follow

Season 2, episode 7 of Years of Living Dangerously features 2 films: In the first, “West Wing” star Bradley Whitford returns to Washington to explore congressional action (or inaction) on climate change. He tells the story of Jay Butera, of Citizens’ Climate Lobby, who has succeeded in bringing congressmen of both parties together to develop legislative solutions to climate change while avoiding unproductive debates about the science.

The second film features Actor Ty Burrell who takes to the road to see the environmental revolutions being made in electric vehicles (EVs) and autonomous vehicles (AVs). Burrell visits Silicon Valley to learn about AV advancements and hear how big automakers are pouring major capital into AV technology.
Compassion offering for February is the Rape Crisis Center:
Every 98 seconds a person is sexually assaulted in this country and 90% of these victims are female. Since 1973, the Rape Crisis Center has been providing free 24/7/365 services to victims in Dane County and educating the community to end this silent, violent epidemic. When the RCC is made aware of a victim of sexual assault—through RCC’s 24/7 Helpline, hospital, college campus services or law enforcement—rigorously-trained advocates and counselors immediately begin professional, compassionate services to support the victim through the medical exam, evidence collection, law enforcement reporting, court appearances, individual or group counseling and whatever the victim needs to incorporate the crimes committed against them into their lives in as healthy or a manner as possible. All victim services are provided in both English and Spanish. More than 2,500 people per year access counseling on the Helpline, advocates go to the hospital and law enforcement with victims more than 500 times per year and roughly half of hospital accommodations are with children.
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 Todd Lillethun, son of John & Donna Lillethun, who is beginning radiation and chemotherapy for a brain tumor.
For Marilyn Arnold who is experiencing multiple health issues and has had to slow down quite a bit.
For Bill Brunsell, husband of Thea Brunsell, who is in hospice care at Oakwood Village West.
For Mike Bjork’s father who is struggling physically and emotionally with the effects of cancer treatment.
For Ellen Maurer, home after being hospitalized for congestive heart issues.
For Joanna Beilman Dulin’s newborn nephew in the hospital with breathing problems.
For Peter Fabian’s brother and sister-in-law, Nancy, who has just been diagnosed with stage 4 cervical cancer.
For Kasey DeWitt who is recovering from pneumonia.
For Betty Day who has a bone separation in one foot and is in an air cast in the hope of avoiding surgery.

Prayers of Joy:
For a fabulous Leadership Retreat last weekend at Pilgrim Center in Green Lake, WI, with members of the ORUCC Leadership Team and Ministry Chairs.
For the wedding last weekend of Christine Pasinski & Elaine Thomas.
For Carrie Nonn-Buer who is expecting her first baby.
For Paul Patenaude who is in Haiti on a medical mission trip.

Ongoing Groups:
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 Lillethun, 2104 Westchester Road.
At this meeting 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 dillethun@charter.net or 230-6428. Any woman who enjoys discussing books she has read is welcome to join us.

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.

Movie Group to Discuss Oscar Nominees:
On Friday, February 17th at 7:00 p.m. the ORUCC Movie Group will convene with delicious desserts and discussion about the current Oscar nominees. If the past is any indication this will be a spirited discussion. We will cast our votes and return in March to see how our choices stacked up against the actual Oscar winners. Consider joining us, all are welcome.

Steve Sheets
im1042@tds.net
Youth Mission Trip Fundraising Opportunities – Don’t Miss Out!!!

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: susanjanepeilates@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.

Who doesn’t like an evening out, Panera Anyone? How about one that also serves a great purpose??

Our ORUCC Youth Mission trip group is raising funds for this year’s trip to New Mexico and YOU can help just by eating dinner! Please join your fellow ORUCC friends (and invite your own friends and family) at Panera on Mineral Point Rd. on Thursday, Feb. 23rd any time between 4-8 pm. When you show a flyer (physical or on your phone), a percentage of your order will be donated back to our youth for their mission trip. Please pick up a flyer in the Crossroads and/or RSVP to the event on Facebook “ORUCC Night at Panera”. (And be sure to share it on your own personal pages). THANK YOU for supporting our youth as they continue their commitment to being stewards of community and of the earth.

Help Raise Money for Youth by Working at Bratfest or Mad Run Town:

We’d love your continued help in raising money for our mission trip to Santa Fe this year. Another way you can do this is by volunteering either at Bratfest or Run Mad Town—both of these events happen over Memorial Day weekend. To sign up to volunteer at Bratfest simply go to: volunteer.bratfest.com and follow the instructions. Some shifts have age restrictions. Click on “Orchard Ridge UCC Youth” as the charity you are supporting.

The “Run Mad Town” occurs over Memorial Day weekend which includes a Half Marathon, 10k and 5k and a kids’ run. You can go to http://runmadtown.com/volunteer/ and sign up for a shift. Some of the shifts have age restrictions—if there is a small question mark by the name of the shift, click it to see what the age restriction is. Also, if you click on a shift and it asks for a password, that means that shift is already claimed by a group and therefore is unavailable. Click on “Orchard Ridge UCC Youth Group” as the charity you are supporting. Ask Tammy if you have any questions.

Lenten Home Groups:

The Ministry of Adult Faith Formation will be offering three or more Home Groups of 8-12 people during Lent on the Gospel of Mark (the weeks of March 5th, March 19th and April 2nd). Sign up for a Home Group after worship on Saturdays, Feb. 11, 19 or 26, or contact Ken Pennings at ken@orucc.org to sign up. Details forthcoming! In the meantime, if you think you may be interested in a Home Group, start reading and/or studying the Gospel of Mark in the New Testament.

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!

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
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!

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 winton@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.

MONTHLY AUTOMATIC PLEDGE DEDUCTION (ACH) OPTION: Interested in monthly auto deduction from your bank account for your operating pledge, please contact Debbie at the church office 271-7212 for the auto deduction form, or for more information. Deductions are taken out the 15th of each month.