“Spiritually Alive, Joyfully Inclusive, Committed to Justice.”

Sunday Morning

April 9 - Palm Sunday
9 am Java & Jesus
10 am Winton Boyd preaching
Handbell Choir

April 14 - Good Friday
7 pm Joint Service with Madison Mennonite

April 16 - Easter Sunday
6:00 am Sunrise Service
10 am Winton Boyd preaching
ORUCC Choir

April 23
10:00 am Worship Service
Earth Day Celebration

April 30
9 am Java & Jesus
10 am Confirmation Sunday
Winton Boyd preaching
TRU Gumption

Holy Week and Orchard Ridge UCC

Palm Sunday Worship
10:00 a.m. on Sunday, April 9th.
We'll begin our worship with a short palm parade into the sanctuary.

Good Friday Service in Sanctuary
7:00 p.m. on Friday, April 14th.
This is a joint service with the Madison Mennonite Church, featuring readings and music as we reflect on the final hours of Jesus' life and its importance in our lives today.

Sunrise Vigil
6:00 a.m. on Sunday, April 16th
We'll share in a shortened version of an ancient Easter vigil. The service is outside and features the renewal of our baptism, communion and a holy fire. A simple breakfast to follow in Friendship Hall.

Easter Sunday Worship
10:00 a.m. on Sunday, April 16th
We'll celebrate resurrection and new life with music and joy!

Easter Egg Hunt for the youngest ones to follow service (outside weather permitting)
I found an article in the Huffington Post (February 17, 2017) that I have returned to so many times in the past few weeks. The article is called “What can Zen Buddhism teach us about the art of effective activism in the wake of Donald Trump’s presidency?”

Here are some ideas that were shared:

“Nonviolence is not a set of techniques that you can learn with your intellect. Nonviolent action arises from the compassion, lucidity and understanding you have within” (Thich Nhat Hanh). Drawing from his own experience in seeking an end to the Vietnam War, Nhat Hanh writes that activists must learn to look after themselves if they are to be effective: “If we don’t maintain a balance between our work and the nourishment we need, we won’t be very successful. The practice of walking meditation, mindful breathing, allowing our body and mind to rest, and getting in touch with the refreshing and healing elements inside and around us is crucial for our survival.”

Sister Peace (Buddhist nun living at Plum Village monastery in France), who previously worked in the office of the mayor of Washington, says action must be inspired by a deep-rooted sense of love. “If we can be strong in ourselves, then we could offer a resistance that is nonviolent,” she said. “But that means that we ourselves are at a place where we can have that recognition and we can offer that to another. And that is a great, great source of love and having the other feel they’re being recognized and listened to and embraced.”

Phap Dung (Buddhist monk) points to the Buddhist teaching of interdependence: that people we perceive as our greatest enemies can be our greatest teachers, because they show aspects of ourselves that we find unpalatable and give us the chance to heal. “We have the wrong perception that we are separate from the other,” he said. “So in a way Trump is a product of a certain way of being in this world so it is very easy to have him as a scapegoat. But if we look closely, we have elements of Trump in us and it is helpful to have time to reflect on that.”

The article also includes helpful wisdom from James Gordon who also develops this idea of finding Trump within ourselves. He wrote a comment piece in *The Guardian*, arguing that “Trump’s grand and vulgar self-absorption is inviting all of us to examine our own selfishness. His ignorance calls us to attend to our own blind spots. The fears that he stokes and the isolation he promotes goad us to be braver, more generous.”

Finally the article reminded the readers of the Civil Rights Movement and that made me think of the pledge of nonviolence that people made to the movement. The pledge was referred to as “The 10 Commandments.” These are things we can be actively doing today.

“I hereby pledge myself—my person and body—to the nonviolent movement, therefore I will keep the following ten commandments!”

1. MEDITATE daily on the teachings and life of Jesus. 2. REMEMBER always that the nonviolent movement in Birmingham seeks justice and reconciliation—not victory. 3. WALK and TALK in the manner of love, for God is love. 4. PRAY daily to be used by God in order that all men might be free. 5. SACRIFICE personal wishes in order that all men might be free. 6. OB-SERVE with both friend and foe the ordinary rules of courtesy. 7. SEEK to perform regular service for others and for the world. 8. REFRAIN from the violence of fist, tongue, or heart. 9. STRIVE to be in good spiritual and bodily health. 10. FOLLOW the directions of the movement and of the captain on a demonstration.

All of these words/ideas bring hope to what we can do in the face of the struggles we face in all of the arenas of our lives. I’m staying hopeful. I hope you are too.

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**Do we want to become a Sanctuary Congregation?**

For all of our 60 years, Orchard Ridge UCC has sought to be a ‘neighborly’ church. Among all of our commitments, we have always sought to be a resource and partner with those in our local community. More and more of us are aware that many of our Madison neighbors are feeling unsafe or at risk because of their ethnicity and/or citizenship status.

As people of faith, and as Americans, we at ORUCC seek to support a national culture that respects the shared humanity of everyone who calls our country home. But right now, rapidly escalating deportations of our neighbors who have lived in this country for years is upending communities and destroying families. **This is happening all across the country, including in the Madison area.**

It doesn’t have to be this way. With a modern legalization process that solves problems and preserves families instead of ripping them apart with deportations, we can live out our best values and uphold the teachings of Jesus.

Continued on page 6...
Compassion offering for April is Haiti Medical Mission of Wisconsin (HMMW):
These are some of the accomplishments of HMMW volunteers since August 2016.
• 132 malnourished orphans ages 3 – 11 years old had a medical exam for the first time
• A young woman with a life-threatening infection was stabilized
• 40 people with life-threatening conditions received surgery
• 20 people received surgeries that improved their health and quality of life
• 646 children, women and men received primary care and health education
• 150 children received dental sealants
• 40 people received tooth repairs and or tooth extractions
• 35 volunteers donated their time and resources in Thiotte on 3 trips to provide health care
• A dental needs survey in the Thiotte area confirmed the absence of dentists without HMMW missions and the need for more dental services
• Repairs were made to the clinic area bathrooms and patient service areas
• A building assessment confirmed the need for renovations and expansion
• Clinic data, photography, and measurements were gathered for the evaluation of a clinic-hospital renovation and expansion under consideration.

HMMW teams provide the only dental, eye and surgical care available in the Thiotte area.

Visit their website http://www.haitimedicalmission.com or Facebook page to learn more.

Paul Patenaude and Roger and Ann Avery have been active volunteers with HMMW for several years.

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.

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.
• Amy Beckett
• Andrew & Marcia Beckett & Family
• Palmer & Charlotte Bell

Thanks for Your Support
From Darcy Luoma:
I want to say thank you for your support, love, compassion, space, and meals over this past year. Josie, Jady and I could not be more blessed to have such a wonderful spiritual community to call home.

The congregation has been so incredibly respectful of my need for space over this past year since John was arrested. I am aware that many of you have experienced a wide range of emotions, including possibly anger and confusion, and I recognize how hard it is to know what the girls and I need—how hard it is to know how to act or what to say. Know that we feel your love and support, regardless of how you have expressed it, either explicitly or silently. And for that we are truly grateful.

Thank you all for your love and support.

Prayers of Concern:
For the family of Byron Peterson, who passed away on Monday, April 3. A memorial service will be held for Byron at ORUCC on Saturday, April 8 at 11 a.m. Visitations at 10. Helen and Dorothy joined the church in 1959.

For all our Interfaith Hospitality Network families that we hosted last week as they seek stable housing; and a prayer of gratitude for all our volunteers during the hosting week.

Labyrinth Walk this Sunday, 4/9 at Wingra School:
You are invited to a Labyrinth Walk that will be held this Sunday, April 9 from 3-5 pm at Wingra School, 718 Gilmore Street. The Labyrinth will be on the playground in the back.

The walk is free. Any donations will be used to support W Ingra School.

ORUCC Veggie Village - Garden plots available for the 2017 growing season:
Are you interested in growing your own vegetables? There are a limited number of 12 x 12 foot garden plots available in the community garden section of the Veggie Village on the east side of the ORUCC property. Plot fees are $35.00 for the season. Contact Leslie Linser at lflinser@gmail.com to secure a plot. Deadline: April 12th.

Welcome Brunch & New Members Series
If you are brand new (or fairly new) to the church, please come to a Welcome Brunch on Sunday, April 2, at 8:45 am. RSVP to church office at office@orucc.org, or 271-7212.

You may also be interested in the New Members / Seekers Series with the Pastors and Leadership Team of ORUCC. Please attend at least two of the three informational classes at the church:

Sunday, April 9, 9:00-9:50 a.m.
Sunday, April 23, 9:00-9:50 a.m.
Sunday, April 30, 9:00-9:50 a.m.

RSVP to the church office at office@orucc.org, or 271-7212. At the Informational Classes, you’ll learn more about Orchard Ridge and the United Church of Christ (UCC). We’ll discuss our history as a local church, ministries within the congregation and the wider community, and some of the church’s views on important issues of faith. In preparation for this series, you may wish to browse ORUCC’s website: www.orucc.org.

On-going Groups

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...
On-going groups cont...

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, April 20 (please note: a week later than usual), from 7 – 9 p.m. We’ll meet at the home of Pat Foersterling, 7777 Elmwood, #207, in Middleton.

We will discuss THE WRIGHT BROTHERS by Pulitzer-Prize- winning historian David McCullough. McCullough had access to personal diaries, notebooks, and private family correspondence to tell this remarkable story. We’ll learn about the whole nuclear Wright family, including sister Katharine, who was more important in Wilbur and Orville’s endeavors than has been generally recognized.

If you plan to come, please let Pat know at mom-mo022@gmail.com or 831-3776. Any woman who enjoys discussing books she has read, or this one in particular, is welcome to join us.

**OVER 55, April 11:**
Janice (Jan) Bosman had a dream some years ago: to safely save her old handwritten family recipes and to tell the stories behind them. She believed that preserving the recipes in the original hand of the writer was as important as placing the branches on a family tree, plauging historic houses, or treasuring antiques.

Jan worked with a design firm to create a scrapbook. It contains 15 acid-free pages for recipes and 15 lined pages for writing the stories behind the cooks, the dishes, and the holidays and traditions.

On April 11, Jan will engage the Over 55 Lunch Group in sharing stories around “When Does a Recipe Become a Memory?” Attendees are urged to bring a handwritten family recipe that has a story behind it. Audience participation will be encouraged.

Jan Bosman, of Woodstock, IL, (born in Rock County, WI, and taught in Walworth County, WI), earned a Bachelor of Business Administration from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, and a Master of Science in Teaching from the University of Wisconsin, Whitewater. She was a public school business and English teacher for 32 years. Her binder/scrapbook will be available for purchase for $25 following the program.

As usual, we will gather at 11:30 and begin our fabulous meal at 11:45. The cost is $7.00 per person. The program will follow. If you haven’t attended an Over 55 lunch before, why don’t you give it a try this month. No reservations are necessary.

**Movie Group:**
Share reviews of your recent movie outings from the Film Festival and current releases. All are invited to the Swan Room at 7 p.m. on Friday, April 21. Enjoy coffee and dessert. Jim and Bernie Treichel are hosting. All are welcome, RSVP’s are appreciated, though not necessary (jbtreichel@charter.net or 835-5228).

**SAVE THE DATE, SENIOR WAYFINDERS!**
Wayfinding for Seniors returns on Saturday, April 29 — another opportunity for those of us who’ve passed midlife to learn, grow, and connect. Next topic is “Leaving our Legacy through a Spiritual Will.” A “spiritual will” helps us identify, and pass on, what we value most outside the realm of money and property: i.e., the non-tangible things that have mattered most and that we want to see preserved in future generations. One writer describes it as “harvesting the love and lessons of your life.”

We’ll meet from 9:00 a.m. to noon in Friendship Hall. Coffee and light refreshments will be provided. Sign-up will occur in mid-April via email. Please join us!

**Care of Creation Green Corner:**
Wonder what is happening locally to address climate change? Then this is for you.

Dane County’s Climate Initiative (Fitchburg Resource Conservation Commission Annual Forum), Wednesday, April 5, 2017, 7-9 pm at the Fitchburg Library.

Join us for an evening with Dane County Executive Joe Parisi, who will share his vision for climate action through the County’s new climate change initiative. Don’t miss this opportunity to find out what you can do to reduce carbon emissions and help address climate change.
Want to volunteer? Enjoy kids? Love the outdoors?
Camp AweSum is looking for enthusiastic volunteers who enjoy working with kids to participate in their Family Camp AweSum June 18-24, 2017!!
Camp AweSum is a Not-For-Profit organization that is dedicated to providing summer camps and vacation for children on the Autism Spectrum and their families. It is an opportunity for families with kids on the Autism Spectrum to vacation with other families that understand both the joy and complexity of raising a child on the Autism Spectrum. The camp is open to all kids on the autism spectrum, regardless of age and functioning level. All camps are held at Moon Beach Camp, one of the Wisconsin Conference’s two outdoor ministry camps! Parents are given the chance to relax and rejuvenate in an idyllic Northwoods setting while enjoying the understanding and support provided by other families and by an organization and staff that embrace differences.

As volunteers, we provide daily respite for parents by engaging their children in a variety of activities that range from hiking, archery, horseback riding, arts and crafts, and sensory regulation. Volunteers receive a “crash-course” in the philosophy of Camp AweSum and are paired with a Camp AweSum staff member who has experience working with kids on the autism spectrum.

Camp AweSum is a time to not only increase your own understanding of individuals on the autism spectrum but is a chance to engage with kids and families, build a community, and enjoy the opportunities that a camp environment has to offer!

Specifics:
When: June 18-24, 2017
Where: Moon Beach Camp
Cost - $290.00 per volunteer
For more information, please see or contact, Kythie Boyd, at kpboyd@gmail.com

Youth Mission Trip Fundraising Opportunities
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.

OUR FINAL EAT OUT is at Culver’s on Mineral Point Road on Tuesday, April 25th from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Please make the following changes to the church directory:
Change email address for Julie Mazer to: info@julieamazer.com

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.

Our Office Manager, Debbie Bauerkemper, will be on vacation from April 5 returning on April 10.
Sanctuary congregation...

Many of us in the congregation have asked how we as a church can express and give witness to our values. In short, what does it mean to “Love Our Neighbors” in this context. In response, our Ministry of Christian Witness and Service (CWS) has formed a Sanctuary Mission Team. The purpose of this ad hoc group is to design an educational and discussion process for the congregation through the spring and into the early summer. Topics will include spiritual and moral questions, legal issues, and logistic and practical questions. After hosting several opportunities for such learning and conversation, the mission team will assess what actions we may take as a congregation. This could take many forms, including the decision to becoming a ‘sanctuary church’ in which we would offer our building as a sanctuary for undocumented individuals or families in need of a safe space. This action would require a congregational vote, and such a vote would come only at the recommendation of the Leadership Team.

We will be coordinating our educational efforts with Madison Mennonite Church (which shares our building), even though our congregations act independently. We are beginning to connect with other congregations and religious leaders and well as immigration advocates to find the best information possible. We will offer opportunities on Sunday mornings as well as during the week. Please watch your email for more specific opportunities.

If you have questions, feel free to talk with anyone on the Sanctuary mission team: Ruthanne Landness (moderator), LuAnn Greiner (co-chair of CWS), Susan Cary, Marv Beatty, Paul Hedges, Ron Adams (Madison Mennonite Pastor) and Winton Boyd.