

Orchard Ridge United Church of Christ

COMMUNION

MAY, 2017 ISSUE 1



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

Sunday Morning

May 7

9 am Java & Jesus

10 am Ken Pennings preaching
ORUCC Choir

May 14

9 am Java & Jesus

10 am Winton Boyd preaching
Handbell Choir

May 21

9 am Java & Jesus

10 am Winton Boyd preaching
ORUCC Choir

Newsletter:

May 16 and June 13

**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



Upcoming Sessions on the question of becoming a Sanctuary Church

May 14 – What’s happening in Madison currently - Rabbi Bonnie Margulis, director of Wisconsin Faith Voices for Justice

- Needs of undocumented in our city
- Developing a Rapid Response Network for churches who want to be a Support Church.
- Learning about the congregational network developing in Madison.

May 21 – Logistics of Being a Sanctuary Shelter

- Who would we be asked to shelter; nuts and bolts of sheltering; real time decision making
- Ecumenical support

June 4 – Open Conversation

Structured session for feedback, concerns, affirmations. After this conversation, the Mission Team would decide which motion to recommend to a congregational meeting. Such a congregational meeting would be called by the Leadership Team on or before June 8.

June 18 – Congregational meeting and vote if needed.

Care of Creation, Sunday, May 7, 9:00 a.m.

Care of Creation invites you to this Sunday’s Java and Jesus as a continuation of our Earth Day observance.

Matt Dannenberg, from the WI League of Conservation Voters, will speak to us about the current state of Wisconsin environmental legislation. All are invited to learn more about this topic that impacts us all.

Sunday, May 7 after worship (approximately 30 minutes long)

A short concert of instrumental works featuring ORUCC performers and composers. Performing will be Bruce Gladstone, Vicki Nonn, John Stevens and a guest violin/cello/piano trio of local professionals who are UW-Madison School of Music alumni. The program will feature the premiere of a trio by the late Daniel Myers as well as the premiere of a work for violin and piano by John Stevens that was commissioned by David Myers, composed in Dan's memory and inspired by Dan's trio.

ECO-MINISTRY AT ORUCC
Earth Care Is At The Heart Of Our Congregation's Ministry
Maybe there is a place for you to 'dig in!'

ORUCC members and friends participate in a host of efforts to care for the earth

Worship and Work Sunday – May 21

All who are able are invited to stay after worship to help clean up the property and gardens. There are tasks for every age and ability. If you have tools, it may be helpful to bring them along. Wear your grubbies to worship.

The Ministry of Congregational Life provides a nutritious and delicious lunch for all. You can work and then eat or eat and then work! If you have questions, **contact Chuck Kaspar at cwkaspar@gmail.com**

Flower And Meditation Gardens

Everyone enjoys the flower, shrubs, and trees on our church grounds. There are over 20 flower plots as well as numerous shrubs and trees on our church grounds. A group of garden tenders maintain these plots, by removing weeds and debris, and occasionally watering, to keep these gardens looking great. If you are interested and able to share the maintenance of one of these plots, please contact Chuck Kaspar at cwkaspar@gmail.com for more details. Another way to help with the upkeep of our beautiful grounds is by participating in Work and Worship Sundays held each Spring and Fall. **The Spring Work and Worship Sunday is May 21!** (see back page)

ORUCC Pantry Garden

If you have experience with or would like to learn more about vegetable gardening we have a great opportunity for you! ORUCC volunteers grow and harvest from a large food pantry plot in the Veggie Village (garden on the east end of the property). This produce goes to the Good Shepard Lutheran Food Pantry in our neighborhood. We need several people to help care for the garden on Tuesday evenings throughout the growing season. Any time that you can give will be much appreciated! Join our food pantry garden volunteers by contacting **LuAnn Greiner at greinerlu@gmail.com**

Summer Kids' Garden Program

Children are invited to participate in ORUCC's garden program on Sunday mornings throughout the summer. The children have their very own garden plot in our Veggie Village. They will plant the vegetables on May 21 (Worship and Work Day) and then tend to their garden all summer.

Each Sunday, starting June 11, during 10:00 worship, the children will spend time considering/reflecting on a Bible story and/or spiritual theme that has to do with gardening. They will then go to their garden plot to water and weed their garden, and harvest vegetables. Some of the vegetables will include sugar snap peas, green beans, tomatoes, cucumbers, and broccoli. They will then bring the vegetables back into the church kitchen to wash them and prepare them to eat. On some Sundays, the children will make simple recipes using these vegetables.



We invite children who are going into first grade and older to participate in the Kids' Garden Program. Younger children are invited but must be accompanied by a parent. Middle and High School youth are invited to assist!

The Kids' Garden Program is offered every Sunday, starting June 11 and ending August 27 except Sunday, July 2. Youth Faith Formation is currently organizing a team of adults who will offer leadership for the 12 Sundays of the summer. Being a leader for this program is very easy and very fun. Each Sunday a lesson plan is provided and directions for what the kids will be doing in the garden is shared. In addition, ideas are given for simple recipes. We hope to have six adults on this team who can provide leadership for 2 of the summer Sundays. Each adult is asked to bring another adult with them to assist with the children. **Please contact Tammy Martens at 271-7212 or tmartens@orucc.org if you are interested.**

Ken's Pennings – Bible 101

During our Lenten series on the Gospel of Mark, we heard from a number of our members that they would appreciate some more background information and perhaps some formal education on the Bible. So it seemed to me that now is as good a time as any to move in this direction.

The Bible is not a single, unified book. It is actually a collection of several different works by different authors using different styles and perspectives, composed over a span of several centuries and in three different languages.

This great diversity allows the story of God's people to be told from different perspectives, but it challenges the reader to take note of the different cultural, historical, and literary contexts of each biblical book. What binds these books together is the continuing story of God's love for God's people. Though separated by time, culture, language and world view, each writer and each community that treasured these writings shared the conviction that God's self-revelation takes place in human history and that God invites and enables the human family to respond in faith.

Obviously, the Bible was not written all at once. The Hebrew Scriptures (which include most of the Christian Old Testament) relate events that cover a span of nearly 2000 years from the time of Abraham and Sarah around 1850 BCE to the period of the Maccabean revolt against the Greeks around 140 BCE. Actual writing down of older oral traditions began at the time of David (ca. 1000 BCE) and continued almost to the time of Jesus. The New Testament (only in the Christian Bible) relates events from the birth of Jesus to the end of the first century CE. The oldest of these writings, the letters of St. Paul, were composed during the late 40's and 50's.

The compilation of these diverse writings into a single collection was itself a long and contentious process. The Jewish and Christian communities had to decide which writings were to be included in their respective "Bibles." This process is known as the formation of the *Canon* or "rule(r)" of Scripture.

When we listen to Scripture, we need to bring a critical ear...

Questioning ear

- What is the message here? To whom is it being spoken?
- What am I *not* open to hearing?
- What, if anything, doesn't agree with my experience of life?

Remembering ear

- Who is missing in the story? Whose voice is not heard?

Proclaiming ear

- What themes or stories affirm the 'good news'?
- What cannot be proclaimed as 'good news'?

Why don't we just believe what we read?

The Scriptures are true, but not factual (Scriptures are MORE than "literally" true).

The Scriptures are inspired and revealed, but written within a human context of history.

The Scriptures point to the Truth, but are not themselves the Truth.

The Scriptures are the "Word of God," but not God's exact words.

We can hear God speaking through Scripture, but in a multitude of ways God is still speaking to us today.

The Scriptures are alive for seekers today when we ask: What does this passage say? Why was this passage written in the way it was written? What 'good news' does this passage speak to my life today?

Ken Pennings

Compassion offering for May is for the Catalyst Project of Madison:

This month's offering will be directed to the Catalyst Project, a Madison nonprofit that provides comprehensive housing and support for single mothers and their children in the form of a small scale, communal housing model. The small apartment building owned by the Catalyst Project has room for four families and currently houses three families that have been living there for the past year. The program supports and partners with the residents to achieve these goals:

1) Engage mothers in their role as their child's first and most important teacher, and help mothers nurture early brain development in children.

2) Address mental health needs and process trauma that impedes self-actualization and parenting.

3) Empower self-advocacy and voice in household members, and foster successful community living and self-actualization.

The Catalyst project addresses the multiple and overlapping barriers that are common in families living in poverty in a more comprehensive and flexible manner than many agencies working with this population are currently able to do.

For more information, including several informational videos, please go to the Catalyst Project website, <http://catalystmadison.org/>.

For credit on your church statement, on your check write the ministry in the

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.

- Lois Binder
- Mike Bjork & Claire Shaller
- Jon & Deanna Blanchard

Thank You



for your Kindness

"Kudos" to all the folks at ORUCC who sent cards, called with encouraging message and brought food to our home these last 2 weeks during my recovery from hip replacement surgery! What a joy it is to know that you care so much for my self and Jerry.

The Nelsons

My family and I wish to thank everyone for the many cards and expressions of love and concern at the time of Byron's passing. They were very much appreciated and gave needed comfort to us. Thank you. Dorothy Peterson

Prayers of Concern:

For Vicki May who has torn tendons in her knees following a fall.

For Mary Connor who was recently diagnosed with early

stage breast cancer – surgery on May 9.

For Lori Berquam who is beginning chemo for breast cancer.

For Bev Nelson who is recovering at home following hip replacement surgery.

For Susan Frank's mom who has been diagnosed with dementia.

For Sara Hagen's Uncle Chuck who is recovering from a fall and will have brain surgery on May 26.

For Sara Hagen's cousin's son Elijah who fractured his spine.

Prayers of Joy:

For the 11 youths who were confirmed during worship last Sunday.

For the informative and inspiring session of "Wayfinding for Seniors" last Saturday led by Sharon Goss.

For the conversations and discernment about what it would mean to become a "supporting congregation" or a "sanctuary congregation" for undocumented immigrants.

For Loretta McClure who will be beginning a new job.

ON-GOING GROUPS

OVER 55 – May 9:

Wisconsin's public schools are often at the center of political debate and, sometimes, controversy. Dan Rossmiller serves as Government Relations Director for the Wisconsin Association of School Boards. He'll talk about how Wisconsin's changing demographics, economics, politics and expectations are shaping the public debate over education in our state. 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 luncheon before, why don't you give it a try this month. No reservations are necessary.

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.

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 Book Group:

Our next gathering will be on Thursday, May 11, from 7 - 9 p.m. at the home of Ann Avery, 5305 Whitcomb Drive.

We will discuss the memoir WEST WITH THE NIGHT by Beryl Markham. Born in England, Markham and her father moved to Kenya when she was a girl, and she grew up with a zebra for a pet and baboons, lions, leopards, and gazelles for neighbors. She spent most of the rest of her life in East Africa as an adventurer, a racehorse trainer, and an aviatrix. She distinguished herself by being the first person to fly nonstop from Europe to America. Add to all this that her prose prompted Ernest Hemingway to say that Markham, "can write rings around all of us who consider ourselves as writers."

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 this one in particular, 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.

Youth Mission Trip Fundraising

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.

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 to 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 spec-

trum.

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

Have You Taken Control of Your Health Today?

Life Line Screening will be here at Orchard Ridge United Church of Christ on Wednesday, June 7, 2017 offering safe, painless, non-invasive preventive health screenings that are typically not a part of a routine physical. To be more proactive about your health and to live longer for yourself, your family and your community, please register for these potentially life-saving tests today. Please refer to the attached flyer to get more info about how you can sign up while receiving \$10 off any package priced above \$139. For only \$139 (regularly \$149) you can learn your risk of having stroke or vascular disease.

There is no time like the present to take action! Learn more by watching this short video:

<http://www.lifelinescreeningblog.com/introduction/>

Three ways to register:

- **Call toll-free: 866-229-0469**
- **Online:** www.lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle

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!**

**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.

**Convenient Option
to Pay Your
Operating Pledge
Monthly:**

No more checks to write, or worries if you paid each month, and no more relying on snail mail delivery. A simplified option to pay your operating pledge on a monthly basis, by auto deduction from your bank account. 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.

VOLUNTEER ASSIGNMENTS

Ushers

May 7 Peter Fabian,
Joyce Binder, Joyce Nigbor
May 14 Carolyn Carlson,
Larry & Sharon Goss
May 21 Jon Blanchard,
Phil & Judy Winkel
May 28 Jim Treichel, Peter
Fabian, Joyce Binder
June 4 Alex Wollangk,
Rick Daluge, Marilyn Arnold

Welcomers

May 7 Marilyn Arnold,
Peggy Anderson, Ruthanne
Landsness
May 14 Heather Stevens,
Joyce Pohl, Kim Kaspar
May 21 Jack Schairer,
Carol & Bob Prugh
May 28 Charlene Gallagher,
John & Donna Lillethun
June 4 Kim Kaspar,
Dick & Lois Rossmiller

Sound

May 7 Ken Psych
May 14 Andrew Beckett
May 21 Paul Hedges
May 28 Jarrett Gersten
June 4 Chuck Kaspar

Coffee

May 7 Rich Hoard,
Dan Stevens
May 14 Dolores & Paul
Gohdes
May 21 Chris Thomas,
Chuck Kaspar
May 28 Rachael & Brian
Lancor
June 4 Tom & Char
Klossner
8:30-9:45 Jerry Hagen

Financial Secretary

May 7 Nancy Wettersten
May 14 Gene Dyar
May 21 Peter Hoff
May 28 Meg Stevens
June 4 Mary Bucknell

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May

Wednesday 3	7:00 p.m.	ORUCC Choir Rehearsal
Thursday 4	8:30 a.m.	Meditation/Spirituality Discussion
Sunday 7	9:00 a.m.	Java & Jesus
	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service
Monday 8	7:00 p.m.	Myers Concert after Worship
	7:15 p.m.	Handbell Rehearsal
Tuesday 9	11:30 a.m.	ORUCC Men's Group
Wednesday 10	6:00 p.m.	FINAL OVER 55 until September
	7:00 p.m.	Adult Faith Meeting
Thursday 11	8:30 a.m.	ORUCC Choir Rehearsal
Sunday 14	9:00 a.m.	Meditation/Spirituality Discussion
	10:00 a.m.	Java & Jesus
Monday 15	7:00 p.m.	Worship Service
	7:00 p.m.	Christian Witness & Service Meeting
Wednesday 17	11:30 a.m.	Handbell Rehearsal
	5:30 p.m.	Progressive Christianity Discussion
	5:30 p.m.	Congregation Life Meeting
	7:00 p.m.	Labyringh Walk
Thursday 18	8:30 a.m.	ORUCC Choir Rehearsal
Friday 19	7:00 p.m.	Meditation/Spirituality Discussion
Sunday 21	9:00 a.m.	Movie Group at Church
	10:00 a.m.	Java & Jesus
		Worship Service