Fall Programs Resume This Sunday
Sunday School for Children, Youth and Adults at 9
Worship at 10 including meditation time in our gardens
Welcome Back lunch
(see inside for details)

Drinking Deeply from the Psalms:
Ancient Prayers for Today’s Faith

For centuries, God’s people have used music and prayer as a way to face life in all its fullness. When we have felt joy, faced despair, raged in anger or sat in profound loneliness, it has been individual and communal prayers that have guided us. One of those great resources for us as Christians is the book of Psalms of the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament). There are 150 different psalms, although most of us are only familiar with a few of them. It is our belief that revisiting these ancient prayers and songs might be valuable in these confusing and troubling days in our country.

We’ll explore them in a variety of ways. We will sing them in new and familiar ways. We’ll teach about them. We’ll read and explore them from multiple sources. We’ll even be invited to create our own psalms, with an end goal of creating our own ORUCC psalter for use at home and with our loved ones.

Theologian and Psalms expert Walter Bruggemann has outlined a three fold movement in the Psalms that matches the movement of our lives. He believes that the ancient followers of God created them for communal and individual use; exploring seasons of orientation, disorientation and reorientation. This journey isn’t usually a linear journey – in the Psalms or in our lives – but it doesn’t have a universal feel to it. For that reason, we’ll explore this movement in our worship series this fall. This means there will Sundays of praise and Sundays of lament. We’ll explore the psalms that ask, ‘where are you God,’ and those that sing, ‘in you I trust.’ We’ll explore hard psalms too, like those that ask bad things to happen to our enemies, and even our enemies’ children.

Theologian and teacher John Dominac Crossan once suggested that two key questions for 21st century people of faith is, ‘what is the character of your God’ and ‘what is the purpose of your prayer?’ These ancient psalms of our Bible offer ancient, but we think, contemporary and useful, images of a God who can hear any kind of prayer we can imagine. They offer a perspective of a faith that includes every raw emotion known to humanity. Through joy, despair, lament and finally trust, they envision a God whose presence is forever and finally comforting. We invite you to explore your faith, and it’s application for the entirety of your life today, through this journey with the psalms. SEE THE FALL SCHEDULE INSIDE THIS NEWSLETTER.
Programming for Children and Youth—Resumes Sunday, September 10

High School: Second Sunday of the month, High School youth are invited to 9:00 Sunday School for discussion on relevant topics of the day. Co-facilitators: Barbara Stretchberry, Megan Piper.

Middle School: Youth will learn and explore confirmation based topics that include spiritual formation experiences and service projects that align with our overall goals. We will study the life of Jesus with special emphasis on our role as Christ’s followers to live out the values of reconciliation, justice, peace, and non-violence. Tammy Martens leading.

4th/5th Graders: We will begin with a huge art project!! The class will design their very own mural that they will paint on one of the walls in their Sunday School room (first room at bottom of the stairs). After this project the kids will begin doing activities and discussions around the topic of friendship. Teachers: Jenny Dobbins and Kristin Muckian.

2nd/3rd Graders: We will be using a book called “Science, Kids, and Christian Education.” Some of the topics we will cover are air and water, light, sound, energy, force, and motion. The kids will be able to do lots of science experiments each Sunday. They will also spend some time considering bible passages that have to do with these topics. We will discover how we can understand these concepts in different ways. Teachers: Monica Weiss, Rachael Lancor, Brian Lancor.

Kindergarten/First Grade: The children will be seeing, hearing, and touching stories that have to do with Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection, and also stories about the early church. We use the curriculum Following Jesus by Sonja Stewart. All the stories are told using a tray of materials. The kids will have candle lighting time, and a feast (snack) at the end of the hour. For the first 15 minutes of the class, Julie Mazer will lead the kids in singing and music. Teachers: Julie Horst, Terah Shoher-Graves.

Preschool: The children will be seeing, hearing, touching stories from the Old and New Testament. We use The Worship Center written by Sonja Stewart who also authored Following Jesus. The preschool children follow the same format and schedule as the kindergarten and first graders which includes music time. Teachers: Emily Lloyd, Jennifer Walker.

Nursery Care: Provided from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. every Sunday.

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A Boydseye View

There’s so much bad news these days. Amidst hurricanes and flooding here in the USA and across the globe in India, a group of evangelical clergy wrote something called the Nashville Statement. I’m not sure why they felt a need now to come together to condemn same sex love, but 140 of them signed it late in August. I wrote this on my Facebook page a couple of days later.

So, 150 people (I assume mostly white and mostly male) went public AGAIN with their anti gay rhetoric. Why is this a story? Just the UCC has 1400 churches that are officially open and affirming of LGBTQ friends. Why does the stance of exclusion always make the news while the ministry of inclusion that goes on day in and day out across this land does not warrant a shout out and a photo montage. In the case of Orchard Ridge United Church of Christ, this has been the case “officially” since 1993. Love Over Fear. Love Wins.

As we begin the fall with immigration issues and tax cuts and health care on the national agenda, with the rhetoric and actions of hate and white supremacy rising and gaining credibility, we will have ample ways to RESIST the direction of country.

At the same time, I’m looking for ways to deepen love, broaden joy and proclaim hope. I’m looking for ways to say “YES!” to the values that promote the common good, that rise from a robust faith, and that seek to impact change in positive ways. That will include promoting causes we believe in, as well as canning tomatoes, baking bread, riding bikes, cheering at football games, and preparing our yards for the upcoming winter. It will include a host of musical events and plays and intriguing lectures. It will surely show up as we tutor, make beds for IHN guests, or coach a youth athletic team. We’ll promote love in simple thank you notes, long letters, surprise gifts and meals with friends.

At church we’ll explore the Psalms, those persistent songs of God’s people (see separate article), explore new approaches to addressing homelessness, deepen our awareness of immigration issues, eat tacos and give or take free stuff. I hope and pray through these troubling and crazy national times that we can balance our resistance with acts of kindness, prayers of hope and opportunities for community. (Winton Boyd)
**FALL SCHEDULE AT ORUCC**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>9 a.m.</th>
<th>Worship</th>
<th>Post Worship</th>
</tr>
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</table>
| September 10 | *Singing the Psalms with Bruce Gladstone  
*Sunday School for youth of all ages begins | Welcome back worship with outdoor stations | Welcome back lunch and music outdoors    |
| September 17 | *Learning about the Psalms led by Ken Pennings | Introduction to the Psalms (Winton Boyd) Choir |                                            |
| September 24 | *Listening Session on housing initiative led by Helene Nelson & Loretta McClure (8:30 a.m.)  
*New Member Class | Psalms of Orientation (Tammy Martens)  
Tru Gumption |                                            |
| October 1    | *Sanctuary Issues                           | Psalms of Orientation (Ken Pennings) Choir |                                            |
| October 8    | *Learning About the Psalms with Ken Pennings | Psalms of Disorientation (Winton Boyd) Bells | Really, Really Free Market                 |
| October 15   | *Creating our Own Psalms workshop           | Psalms of Disorientation (Winton Boyd) Choir |                                            |
| October 22   | *Sanctuary Issues  
*New Member Class | Psalms of Reorientation (Winton Boyd) Tru Function | Youth Taco Bar Psalms Discussion          |
| October 29   | Music workshop with THE MANY               | Worship with guest musicians – THE MANY | Worship and Work                          |

**PSALM Offerings (see schedule above)**

**Singing the Psalms:** Bruce Gladstone will teach us just a few of the many ways psalms have been sung throughout history and different traditions. This will also help us as we sing psalms in worship throughout the fall.

**Learning about the Psalms:** Ken Pennings will give a two session overview of this central book of our Hebrew Bible.

**Creating our Own Psalms workshop:** Each Sunday worship service will include ‘prompt’ questions designed to invite us to create our own contemporary psalm. You may choose to write, to draw, to share a photograph, to dance, etc. This workshop will be a brainstorming idea for participants to explore ideas and threads that will help them create their own psalms.

**OTHER Sunday Morning Offerings (see schedule above)**

**Congregational Conversation About Housing:** This is a chance hear more, ask questions or make comments on church plans to change the way in which ORUC responds to housing and homelessness issues. Go to https://www.orucc.org/congregational-conversation-about-new-efforts-around-housing-september-24/ for more information

**Sanctuary Issues:** Our Sanctuary Mission Team will offer informational and educational sessions. As the dates get closer, we’ll publicize the specific focus.

**New Member Class:** SEE SEPARATE ARTICLE IN NEWSLETTER

**Worship and Music with THE MANY.** This eclectic Christian group of musicians electrified our Wisconsin UCC Annual Meeting in June. They will lead us in worship, and as well leading the 9 a.m. session where they lead us singing.
DANE COUNTY SANCTUARY COALITION to hold first community meeting
Sept. 17 at 7:00pm at Madison Christian Community, 7118 Old Sauk Road.

At the meeting, we will hear from Sergio Gonzalez and Pete Haney about their recent trip to Austin for a national Sanctuary Coalition conference; introduce the Dane Sanctuary Coalition guidelines; hear about our volunteer teams, and have an opportunity to sign up to volunteer. You can use this evite to RSVP. For more information, contact Ruthanne Landsness http://evite.me/Z1bqRAA451

UCCI Celebrates the Ministry of Mike Klemp-North
Sunday, September 10 at 2 p.m. at Pilgrim Center

The UCCI Board of Directors invites all who are able to a service of celebration and closure for Mike and Rachel’s ministry with UCCI for the past six years. After the service there will be a simple reception where you will be able to greet Mike and Rachel and their kids personally

New Members Series

Might you be interested in a New Members / Seekers Series with the Pastors and Leadership Team of ORUCC? Please attend at least three of the four informational classes at the church from 9-9:50 a.m.
Sunday, September 24
Sunday, October 22
Sunday, November 12
Sunday, November 19

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. You may participate in the New Member Classes even if you decide not to join the church at this time.

Congregational Conversation about ORUCC Plans to Address Homelessness and Housing —

8:30 a.m. on September 24, 2017 in the Friendship Hall.

Would you like to hear more, ask questions or make comments on church plans to change the way in which ORUC responds to housing and homelessness issues? Loretta McClure and Helene Nelson will host a conversation about the recommendations to:
(a) phase-out the church’s role as a host church for Interfaith Hospitality Network, and (b) phase-in a new rental assistance program for very low income families. This is a chance for you to learn more and offer feedback to advise The Ministry of Christian Witness and Service and Leadership Team as they make decisions later this fall

OCTOBER RETREAT CANCELLED —

Attention Wayfinders: We regret to announce that the retreat on Conscious Aging, scheduled for Oct. 21, has to be cancelled. Rev. Holly Whitcomb is having unexpected knee replacement surgery that will prevent her from leading the retreat as planned. If you have already made your payment, please talk to Debbie about a refund. We apologize for any inconvenience to our members and pray for Holly’s recovery.

WAIT—DON’T TOSS THAT!

On October 8th, Care of Creation will hold our fourth Really, Really Free Market. If you are ready to part with something that is usable—household items, books, media, tools, craft supplies, sports equipment, toys—please put them aside to share with others. A great way to recycle. (Unfortunately, this year we cannot accept clothing or footwear, furniture, flammable liquids, or baby equipment.)

Before church on Sunday, October 8th, bring in what you have collected and put those items on the labeled tables in Friendship Hall. After church you and our neighbors are welcome to pick things you could use. No money will be exchanged. It’s not necessary to have brought something to take something. No kidding. It’s really, really free! Any questions, contact Jill Westberg at 630-254-0825 or jillwestberg@gmail.com.

Gene and Sandra Dyar celebrate 50 years!

You are cordially invited to a reception to celebrate the 50th wedding anniversary of Gene and Sandra Dyar on Saturday, September 23rd. Please join us at the church any time between 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. No gifts, please!

Progressive Christianity Discussion Group:

We will meet the second Wednesday of the month at the church starting September 13th, 11 a.m. to 12:30 pm. Bringing a bag lunch is optional.

Come prepared having read chapters 1 and 2 of Marcus Borg’s book Convictions. Questions contact Ken Pennings at ken@orucc.org.

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
Compassion offering for September is to support Hurricane Harvey Relief through UCC Disaster Ministries:

Our UCC Disaster relief effort is already gearing up for our long-term recovery work in the region and your contributions for Harvey survivors means providing community support for holistic recovery, repairing house and home for families and children and restoring dignity for the most vulnerable who have lost everything in the wake of this catastrophic event. While there are many who donate to immediate responses, the UCC has a long history of taking the long view after disasters. For more information, go to [http://www.ucc.org/disaster_hurricane_harvey](http://www.ucc.org/disaster_hurricane_harvey).

Please write “compassion” in the memo line of a check, donate online at [www.orucc.org](http://www.orucc.org) or donate loose bills and coins.

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.

Movie Group returns Friday, September 15th at ORUCC:

Bob & Louise Jeanne, Hope & Ken Soroos will provide dessert and beverages, and lead our discussion at 7 p.m. We will discuss the film, currently in Madison, “Wind River.” The discussion will focus on “Wind River” followed by time for other topics of interest. Please RSVP to Steve Sheets, im1042@tds.net, or 845-5667.

OVER 55—Mark Tuesday, September 12th on your calendar:

That is the first meeting of our Fall Over 55 schedule. We gather at 11:30 and a delicious meal will be provided at a cost of $7.00. Our speaker will be Joyce Pohl, a member of ORUCC and a retired physical therapist who specializes in fall prevention. Did you know that people in Wisconsin have a higher rate of falls than people in other states? There is a movement in health care to help prevent falls through education about the multiple factors that can pose problems. She will present a program based on STEADI, from the Center for Disease Control. Her motto—”Only leaves should fall.”

We invite all to come, even if you have never been to a meeting before. Join us to meet people and learn how to keep us safer in our own homes as we get older.

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.

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. FMI—contact Dave Myers at 274-0381 or 547_5698@msn.com.

Weekly Meditation Group:

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 47_5698@msn.com or Heleine Nelson 259-2546 or heleinemargaret@gmail.com for more information.

ORUCC Choir Rehearsals 9/6- through May

If you have a love for song and love to sing, please join us on Wednesday’s 7-8:30 p.m. in the Haynes Music Room for adult choir rehearsal. We meet from September through May. Generally we sing in worship on the 1st and 3rd Sunday (subject to change). If you have any questions please contact our Choir Director Bruce Gladstone bgladstone@wisc.edu or 608-843-9297. Please join us.

Women’s Book Group:

Our next gathering will be on Thursday, September 14 from 7 - 9 p.m., at the home of Mary Neuhaus, 4410 Waite Lane.

We will discuss the nonfiction book THE DESTINY OF THE REPUBLIC: a tale of murder, madness, and the death of a president by Candice Millard. If you plan to attend, please let Mary know at old.neus@charter.net or 233-8315. Any woman who enjoys discussing books she has read, or this one in particular, is welcome to join us.

Please make the following changes in the church directory:

Please change phone numbers for Vicki May and Susan Cary to: Vicki-608-444-3630 and Susan-608-835-7058.

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.

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ORUCC to Host The Road Home (Interfaith Hospitality Network) September 24 through October 1:

ORUCC is a host site that serves as a shelter for The Road Home of Dane County. The IHN program shelters families who are in The Road Home Housing Program, which helps homeless families with children transition from homelessness to permanent housing.

Volunteer help is the most valuable part in the hosting process. Scheduled Volunteer Sign Up dates:

- Sundays September 10, 17 and 24 from 9 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. or anytime via email or phone. Contact Loretta McClure at ljmcclure10@gmail.com or call 608.512.8946.

Volunteer Tasks include the following:

- Providing Meals (Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday 5-6:30 p.m.).
- Activity Time Assistance (Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday 6:30-8:30 p.m.)
- Overnight Attendant Hosting (Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday 8:30 p.m. - 7 a.m. Sunday morning)
- Grocery Shopping (Tuesday and Thursday).
- Move In Assistance. (Sunday, Sept. 24 at 11:20 a.m.). Volunteers transition Sunday school classrooms to temporary sleeping quarters for guest homeless families
- Move Out Assistance. (Sunday, October 1 at 7:15 a.m.). Volunteers transition temporary sleeping quarters back to Sunday School Classrooms.

- Laundry Assistance. (Sunday, October 1). Volunteers wash towels and bed linens used across the week.

A Personal History of Slavery by Dianne Stevens

We’ve all learned of our country’s legacy of slavery, but it seldom touches us in a personal way.

Most of you know Marjorie Irwin, the lovely African American woman who accompanies my daughter, Heather, to church. Like many people, Marjorie did not know much about her ancestors before her grandparents. We decided to look on the internet and see what we could find. With a little search we were able to trace several ancestors back to the time of slavery.

And then, Voila! We discovered one had been interviewed in the 1930’s WPA project of recording slave narratives. This project hired writers to interview people who had been born into slavery and record their stories.

Marjorie’s ancestor was Amanda Tellis who “belonged” to the Pugh family of Grove Hill, Alabama. Her main responsibility was to care for Maria, a Pugh child. Amanda recalled that many times when she was promised a whipping for not doing things as she should, “Miss Maria would save her from the whipping by throwing herself back from the table and screaming for them not to touch Amanda, her nurse.”

Amanda was 11 years old when the “Surrender” came. “Amanda was told to pretend she had a chill, and go to her mother’s cabin. ...When she reached the cabin, her mother, brothers and sisters each had a pillow slip filled with clothes and she was given hers and they ran away to Mt. Vernon, Alabama. “

Amanda Pugh was Marjorie’s great great grandmother. Thank you, Marjorie, for sharing this first hand relationship to slavery

Prayers of Joy:

- For the birth of Kaarin, daughter of Clare and Mike Bjork.
- For Zee Lemke-Oliver Sachs, her husband Carl, and their son Oscar as they move this week to Duluth to pursue new jobs.
- For children / youth who are starting back to school this week, as well teachers, parents and administrators.
- For all the lovely vegetables ripening in our Veggie Village, as well as those who have been working in the garden.

Prayers of Concern:

- For Marilyn Arnold, at St. Mary’s Hospital with blood clots.
- For the family of Jackie Eveland-Psycy after the passing of her father, Setephen Eveland, due to Alzheimer’s.
- For Page Danley’s sister-in-law whose husband passed away last Friday.
- For Char Klossner’s father Al Bach in hospice at Oakwood West.
- For Landis Bell’s uncle Jacob who has stage four brain cancer.

For those who have lived under the promise of DACA – young adults whose parents were immigrants -- and the opportunity it has given them to complete their education. We pray for compas-
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!

Thinking about becoming a volunteer?
Here are some opportunities at ORUCC (new schedules effective January 1, 2018)

How important is an Usher and Welcomer? Ushers and welcomers are among the first people and most important to us on Sunday mornings. Ushers hand out bulletins, take the offering, serve communion and help clean up after worship. Ushers and welcomers provide guidance, direction and welcome to visitors and guests. Did you know that most people decide within 5 minutes of entering a church building whether or not they will come back. Ushers and Welcomers are key in our ministry of hospitality. Would you like to be a part of either one of these ministries? If so, we can add you to the schedule that will come out in December. If you are interested in becoming an usher, please contact Debbie at office@orucc.org or 271-7212 for more information. If you are interested in becoming a welcomer, please contact Ken Pennings, kpennings@orucc.org or 271-7212 for more information, or talk to the person who took care of the sound during worship, or the person in charge of the coffee hour after worship in the Friendship Hall. They will be more than happy to tell you what the job involves.

Coffee and Sound If you are interested in volunteering to be added to the coffee and/or sound system rotation, please contact Debbie at office@orucc.org or 271-7212 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.

VOLUNTEER ASSIGNMENTS

Ushers
Sept 10 Peter Fabian, Phil & Judy Winkel
Sept 17 Peter Fabian, NEED 2 VOLUNTEERS
Sept 24 Joyce Binder, Joyce Nigbor, Jerry Nelson
Oct 1 Marcia Beckett, Phil & Judy Winkel
Oct 8 Jim Treichel, Peter Fabian, Jarrett Gersten

Welcomers
Sept 10 Charlene Gallagher, Joyce Pohl, Barb Hummel
Sept 17 Carol & Bob Prugh, NEED 1 VOLUNTEER
Sept 24 Hope Soroos, Leah Narans, Ruthanne Landsness
Oct 1 Hope Soroos, Barb McLeod
Oct 8 Charlene Gallagher, Jan Christian, Hope Soroos

Sound
Sept 10 Jarrett Gersten
Sept 17 Chuck Kaspar
Sept 24 Ken Psyck
Oct 1 Andrew Beckett
Oct 8 Paul Hedges

Coffee
Sept 10 NEED VOL for 8:30-9:45
Tom & Char Klossner
Sept 17 Phil & Judy Winkel
Sept 24 Rich Hoard, Dan Stevens
Oct 1 Annette & Brian Porter
Oct 8 Chris Thomas, Jerry Hagen

Financial Secretary
Sept 10 Hope Soroos
Sept 17 Gene Dyar
Sept 24 Peter Hoff
Oct 1 Mary Bucknell
Oct 8 Hope Soroos

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>September</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday 10</td>
<td>9:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Singing the Psalms with Gladstone Worship Service</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 11</td>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Handbell Choir Rehearsal</td>
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<td>Tuesday 19</td>
<td>6:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Leadership Team Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 20</td>
<td>11:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Progressive Christianity Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 21</td>
<td>8:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Meditation &amp; Spirituality Discussion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 28</td>
<td>8:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Meditation &amp; Spirituality Discussion</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.