

Orchard Ridge United Church of Christ

COMMUNION



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

Sunday Morning

November 26

9 am Java & Jesus

10 am Tammy Martens preaching
TRU Function

December 3

9 am Java & Jesus

10 am Winton Boyd preaching
ORUCC Choir

December 10

9 am Java & Jesus

10 am Winton Boyd preaching
Handbell Choir

December 17

9 am Java & Jesus

10 am Winton Boyd preaching
ORUCC Choir

Advent and Christmas 2017

Hope Was Heard Singing

"Advent is close, expectation is holding its breath. The angels hover high above. On the hillsides, hope is heard singing unexpected Hallelujahs. In a Bethlehem backwater, hope hovered and love is born. And now, as the wise journey and the powerful start to pace the floor and mumble into sleepless nights, we gather - the light of the world is here. The job now is to keep it burning."

We'll be guided by material from the book *Hope Was Heard Singing* by Sally Foster Fulton. In addition, we'll be creating a daily devotional from this resource that will be available on the first Sunday of Advent. *We are starting Advent a week earlier than the formal season in order to celebrate Christmas Eve all day on December 24th.

November 26 - 1st Sunday of Advent

- "On Waiting" (Tammy Martens)

December 3 - 2nd Sunday of Advent

- "On the Prophets and Heralds" (Winton Boyd)

December 10- 3rd Sunday of Advent

- "On Light" (Winton Boyd)

December 17- 4th Sunday of Advent

- On the Infant (Winton Boyd)

Christmas Eve - Sunday, December 24

Please note changes to schedule from previous years

10 a.m. Service of Lessons and Carols: Featuring Choir, Ancient & Contemporary Readings, and Carols

4 p.m. Family Friendly Candlelight Service:
Featuring children and Tru Function

6 p.m. Service of Carols, Stories and Candlelight:
More informal, shared service with Madison Mennonite, in Friendship Hall

Newsletters:

December 5 & 19

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

Compassion offering for November is the Second Harvest Food Pantry of Southern Wisconsin:

Second Harvest is a hunger relief charity organization whose goal is to make sure everyone in southwestern Wisconsin has enough of the right kinds of food to live a happy and healthy life. They do that in three ways:

Food distribution - Millions of pounds of food are delivered each year through Second Harvest's network of partner agencies, fixed and mobile food pantries and programs.

Promotion of government programs – They assist people in our community to understand and apply for government programs like SNAP (known as FoodShare in Wisconsin). Through FoodShare Outreach they help thousands of people receive FoodShare benefits each year.

Promote hunger awareness – Second Harvest believes that building awareness of the thousands of people in southwestern Wisconsin who don't always know where their next meal will come from is the first step to ending hunger.

Where will your contribution go?

Second Harvest has built strong relationships with food industry donors and producers that allow them to obtain quality, nutritious food at reduced prices. For example, with \$1000 Second Harvest can provide for a week's worth of groceries for 430 families. With every dollar donated, Second Harvest has the purchasing power to provide 3 meals to those facing hunger in southwestern Wisconsin.

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 Kristin Martin in treatment for breast cancer.

For Bonnie Augusta who has received her last round of chemo for breast cancer.

For Liz Feagles who is still being evaluated for knee replacement surgery and is in a lot of pain.

For Tim Andrews' brother-in-law who has multiple health issues and is experiencing depression.

For Marcia and Andrew Beckett's niece Gloria in treatment for leukemia.

Prayers of Joy:

For the many ways we'll celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday, whether alone, with family or friends, or with others from the community.

For the baptisms last Sunday of Beckem, Vivien and Maverick McAteer, the children of Brittani Redfearn and Will McAteer.

For the glorious Fair Trade Sale last Sunday at ORUCC, coordinated by Angie Schoeneck.

OUR ACTION
OUR GOD IS STILL SPEAKING THROUGH OUR COMPASSION
OUR PRAYING
OUR GIVING

Orchard Ridge UCC Stewardship Season October 2017:

Thanks to all who've sent in pledge cards. To date we've received 122 pledge cards and \$339,696.00 in pledges.

If you did not receive the 2018 pledge information, and would like to consider a 2018 pledge, pledge cards and information are on the table in the Crossroads.



Christmas Eve Service Times (Ushers Needed)

10:00 a.m. Service need 3 ushers

4:00 p.m. Service need 4 ushers

If you can help out please contact the church office 271-7212.

Care Packages for College Students:

If you would like for your son or daughter to receive a care package from ORUCC the week of Dec. 4th, please send his/her address to Ken Pennings at ken@orucc.org by Friday, Dec. 1st.

Mike Walsh has agreed to take the lead on our Care Package Program this year. Thanks Mike! Might you help Mike assemble the care packages after worship on Dec. 3rd? In the past, this has only taken 45 minutes, or so.

Might you want to bake cookies or bars, and bring them to the church kitchen on Dec. 3rd, already in zip-locked baggies ready to be added to the care packages? (We'll be sending out at least 15 care packages, so hopefully 15 baggies of cookies/bars).

Might you wish to donate toward this project? If so, please include on your check memo line "College Care Packages." Thanks!

Holiday Post Office:

Share your Christmas cards with your church friends by using the Holiday Post Office sponsored by our youth. Each card you send will cost 40 cents. The Post Office will be up and running on the following Sundays: December 3, 10 and 17 in Friendship Hall.



The Youth will be sponsoring the Holiday Bake Sale on Sunday, December 10 after worship. There will be lots of lovely, tasty treats to purchase! The

proceeds will go to support the 2018 Youth Mission Trip to Greensboro, North Carolina. The youth will be serving four non-profits: Greensboro Urban Ministry, Out of the Garden Project, Tiny Houses of Greensboro, and Peace Haven Farm. In addition they will be visiting The International and Civil Rights Museum and taking an Underground Railroad Walking Tour.

Thank you for all your support!



The Green Corner—Care of Creation:

According to the U.S. Department of Energy, Wisconsin reported

3,422 jobs related to energy generation using fossil fuels, such as coal or natural gas. The good news is that 7,362 Wisconsin jobs are in energy generation that uses new technologies, such as solar, wind and ethanol. Keep these statistics in mind when someone tells you that jobs will be lost if we abandon our dependence on fossil fuels.

Women's Book Group :

Our next gathering will be on Thursday, December 14, from 7 - 9 p.m., at church in the Dorothy Day room (education wing, last room on the left).

We will discuss the novel *A MAN CALLED OVE* by Fredrik Backman, which was a NYT best seller. It's a light book with a message. The back cover of the paperback notes: "At first sight, Ove is almost certainly the grumpiest man you will ever meet, a curmudgeon with staunch principles, strict routines, and a short fuse. People think him bitter, and he thinks himself surrounded by idiots. . . . A word-of-mouth bestseller

that has caused a sensation across Europe, [this] novel is an uplifting exploration of the unreliability of first impressions and a gentle reminder that life is sweeter when it is shared with other people."

We're inviting each attendee to bring some cookies (maybe about a dozen?) and we'll put all the containers/plates out. Please let Jan Christian know if you plan to attend: jlchrist@wisc.edu or 827-0500.

Progressive Christianity evening group:

We are starting an evening group for people who would like to discuss books/articles about progressive Christian theology. ORUCC member Jill Westberg will facilitate the group. If you are interested, please let Jill know at jillwestberg@gmail.com. The evening we choose and how often we meet will be up to those who want to attend.

Progressive Christianity Discussion Group:

We will meet Wednesday, December 13 at the church 11 a.m. to 12:30 pm. Bringing a bag lunch is optional. Come prepared having read chapters 3 and 4 of Marcus Borg's book *Convictions*. Questions contact Ken Pennings at ken@orucc.org.

OVER 55:

The December OVER 55 meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 12th. As usual we will gather at 11:30 and our great meal will begin at 11:45. We are so lucky to have wonderful chefs who prepare meals for us. As usual, the cost is \$7.00 per meal. Our program will be seasonal. Some of our own members have agreed to tell us something about their Christmases. It should bring back memories to all of us. Sandra Dyer will lead us in some carol singing. Please join us for the festivities. If you have never attended an OVER 55, consider coming to this one. You will be very welcome.

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 Helene Nelson 259-2546 or helenemargaret@gmail.com for more information.

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 Dyer 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.

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. Join Jeanne Garnett and others for a delicious breakfast and great conversation.

Many men have also been joining in at their "guys" table and are welcome as well.

All Church January Retreat, January 12-14,

The annual church weekend retreat is a lovely way to meet and interact with new friends and old friends. The combination of structured activities, free time, games and meals makes for a relaxed and spacious environment for all involved. It doesn't hurt that the camp sits on the shore of beautiful Green Lake. Much of the time is spent in the beautiful but multipurpose Ley Chapel that overlooks the lake.

Saturday Morning Programming

Adults: Led by Paul Evans and Winton Boyd, will be an exploration into some of the tactics and insights of Martin Luther King that are transferable to our own time. It will feature personal reflection and small group discussion. It will be followed up by an all age activity in the late afternoon.

High School Youth:

Led by Barbara Stretchberry and Megan Piper the youth will explore their values and beliefs around sexuality and how they will use their value systems to make decisions and communicate effectively and assertively with future romantic partners. They will also dive deep into the issue of consent by comparing and contrasting situations and behaviors that may constitute sexual harassment, sexual abuse, sexual assault, and dating violence.

Middle School: Led by Tammy Martens the youth will explore Christianity's Enormous Family Tree.

Elementary Age: Kids will enjoy games, activities inside and outside

Saturday Evening Games Galore in the Chapel!

There will be board games, crafts, card games, galore!

Housing options for the retreat:

Pilgrim Center is full. Heidel House still has room available.

Heidel House, just minutes away from Pilgrim Center.

Cost at Heidel House per night for room with two double beds—\$79. In addition, cost for four meals at Pilgrim Center is \$30 (12 years and older),

\$25 (4- 11 years), three and under—free. There are **two steps** for payment if staying at Heidel House.

First call and reserve with Heidel House, 1-800-444-2812. We have a block of rooms reserved under Orchard Ridge UCC.

Second, go to our website, www.orucc.org and make payment for the meals.

For your information – Every attendee's cost is subsidized \$20 by the church.

If you'd like to come up just for the day on Saturday, that would work too! Our Saturday morning programming begins at 9:00 a.m.

IMPORTANT PLEASE NOTE: End of year Contributions to ORUCC:

The general rule is that a contribution is effective when delivered. **This means that checks that are placed in the church offering during the first worship service in 2018 will not qualify for a charitable contribution deduction in 2017, even if the check is predated to 2017 or was actually written in 2017.**

However, checks that are written, mailed, and postmarked in 2017 will be deductible in 2017 even if it is not received until 2018.

Year-end contribution statements for 2017 will be emailed in January. If you do not have email a copy will be mailed to you.

Our Office Manager, Debbie Bauerkemper, will be on vacation from December 25 and returning on January 2.



Poinsettia Orders

Name _____

In honor _____

In memory _____

No. of plants _____ **\$15 each**

Total Enclosed _____

Please collect your plant after the 6 pm service on December 24

Please return this form to the church office by December 11

Decency and Prophetic Witness: A Boydseye View

A couple of days ago I was delighted to see a new statement by a host of Christian leaders and thinkers called “The Boston Declaration: A prophetic appeal to the Christians of the USA.” While I am sometimes wary of long statements, I think it is time, especially as we approach the season of Advent when we wait on God to upset the cultural order, to speak out. It is bad enough we are confronted with hatred and bigotry in every direction we turn. What’s worse is that so much of it is embraced, fostered or condoned by Christians in this country.

The BOSTON DECLARATION, not unlike the PHOENIX AFFIRMATIONS of a decade ago, calls us to a deep reflection around our faith. You can read the statement in it’s entirety at www.bostondeclaration.com. But here are a few sections that spoke to me instantly.

Who is our God and What is the Jesus Way?

We believe in a God who holds all difference within God’s own life and in whom there is no one or no people who are distant from God’s justice, merciful love, and presence (Micah 6:8; Acts 10:34-35). We affirm the beauty and humanity of all people in their manifold difference--race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, and religion--as reflecting God’s image through lives of love and hope. We believe the Jesus Way calls us to the possibility of living in a world where all can love and be loved, and live into joy.

The Jesus Way continues through our best, prayerful, honest, and empirical attempts to understand why and how the world has come to be in the shape it is today. This pathway calls us to act in ways that are Spirit-led and strategic in confronting evil wherever evil exists, to combat ignorance wherever ignorance has led people astray and to place our lives and our bodies on the line with whoever is being threatened, beat down, or oppressed in any way, anywhere.

Lamentation

As followers of Jesus ... we mourn the coarseness of our politics, the loss of compassion for those in need, the disrespect we routinely show each other, and the thoughtlessness with which we use and abuse our planet. We especially mourn the way in which the name of Jesus has been used to support and encourage actions and attitudes that demean others and threaten the community of creation.

We acknowledge and lament the realities we see around us: broken lives, broken homes, a broken social system that incarcerates more people than any other nation on earth. We lament a broken and corrupt police system, a broken economic system that prioritizes profits over people, a broken sense of national identity. We lament national boundaries that make our worries about security a pretext for destroying the lives of others, and a broken church that disrespects and marginalizes many people rather than honoring and embracing them. We rebuke the ideologies and idolatries that lie beneath the death we see in our midst and collectively hope to point to ways we might all choose life.

Whether it is tax cuts that harm the least among us, racism parading as Christian exceptionalism, or the disregard for the female half of our population consistently subject to harassment, slavery, or abuse – we are called to proclaim a different kind of Christianity.

I give thanks for a community in which we can struggle, ask questions, seek guidance and support concrete actions. This kind of expansive faith is needed now more than ever. May it be so.



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!
www.orucc.org



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 please contact Ken at 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

- Nov 26** Jarrett Gersten, Jim Treichel, Peter Fabian
- Dec 3** Jon Blanchard, Phil & Judy Winkel
- Dec 10** Jim Treichel, Larry & Sharon Goss
- Dec 17** Jarrett Gersten, Joyce Binder, Peter Fabian
- Dec 24-10 am 3** Vol needed
- Dec 24-4 pm 4** Vol needed
- Dec 24-6 pm** Jarrett Gersten
- Dec 31** Bob & Carol Prugh

Welcomers

- Nov 26** Charlene Gallagher, Joyce Pohl, Helen Horn
- Dec 3** Jack Schairer, Doug & Mary Loving
- Dec 10** Dick & Lois Rossmiller
- Dec 17** Glenn Schaeffer, John & Donna Lillethun
- Dec 24-4 pm** Kim Kaspar, Leah Narans

Sound

- Nov 26** Chuck Kaspar
- Dec 3** Ken Psyck
- Dec 10** Jarrett Gersten
- Dec 17** Paul Hedges
- Dec 24-10 am** Jarrett Gersten
- Dec 24-4 pm** Andrew Beckett
- Dec 24-6 pm** Ken Psyck
- Dec 31** Chuck Kaspar

Coffee

- Nov 26** Rachael & Brian Lancor
- Dec 3** Rich Hoard, Chris Thomas
- Dec 10** Chuck Kaspar, Jane Glaze
- Dec 17** Chris Thomas, Dan Stevens
- Dec 31** Phil & Judy Winkel

Financial Secretary

- Nov 26** Gene Dyar
- Dec 3** Peter Hoff
- Dec 10** Meg Stevens
- Dec 17** Nancy Wettersten
- Dec 24** Gene Dyar
- Dec 31** Mary Bucknell

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November

- Wednesday 22 7:00 p.m. ORUCC Choir Rehearsal
- Thursday 23 8:30 a.m. Meditation & Spirituality Discussion
- Sunday 26 8:30 a.m. Java & Jesus
- 10:00 a.m. Worship Service
- Monday 27 7:00 p.m. Host The Road Home (IHN) Families
- 7:15 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal
- Wednesday 29 7:00 p.m. ORUCC Men's Group
- Thursday 30 8:30 a.m. ORUCC Choir Rehearsal
- Meditation & Spirituality Discussion

December

- Sunday 3 9:00 a.m. Java & Jesus
- 10:00 a.m. Worship Service
- Monday 4 1:30 p.m. Knitting & Craft Group
- 7:00 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal
- Tuesday 5 7:00 p.m. Care of Creation Meeting
- Wednesday 6 7:00 p.m. ORUCC Choir Rehearsal
- Thursday 7 8:30 a.m. Meditation & Spirituality Discussion
- Sunday 10 9:00 a.m. Java & Jesus
- 10:00 a.m. Worship Service
- Monday 11 7:00 p.m. Handbell Rehearsal
- 7:15 p.m. ORUCC Men's Group
- Tuesday 12 11:30 a.m. OVER 55
- Wednesday 13 11:30 a.m. Progressive Christianity Discussion
- 6:00 p.m. Adult Faith Formation Meeting
- 7:00 p.m. ORUCC Choir Rehearsal
- Thursday 14 8:30 a.m. Meditation & Spirituality Discussion
- 7:00 p.m. Women's Book Group at church
- Friday 15 7:00 p.m. Movie Group