

Orchard Ridge United Church of Christ

COMMUNION



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

Sunday Morning

December 17

9 am Java & Jesus

10 am Winton Boyd preaching
ORUCC Choir

December 24

10 am Service of Lessons and
Carols

4 pm Family Friendly
Candlelight Service

6 pm Service of Carols, Stories
and Candlelight

December 31

10 am John Leonard preaching
Special Music

January 7

9 am Java & Jesus

10 am Winton Boyd preaching
ORUCC Choir

Newsletters:

January 2 & 16

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

Longest Night and Christmas Eve

Longest Night: Thursday, December 21, 5:30 p.m. - Labyrinth Walk in the Friendship Hall, 7:00 p.m. - Service in the Sanctuary. The winter solstice marks the shortest day and the longest night of the year. Following the winter solstice, the days begin to grow longer and the nights shorter. Spiritually, we set apart this evening to honor, acknowledge, and meditate upon darkness. We know that even in darkness, new life is being born.

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

December 31 – 1st Sunday of Christmas

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.

Compassion offering for December is UCC Christmas Fund and the Healing House:

UCC CHRISTMAS FUND: For many years, ORUCC has supported the national denomination's Christmas Fund through our December offering. This Ministry of the UCC Pension Board provides direct financial assistance to retired and active UCC authorized ministers and lay employees and their surviving spouses who are in need. Funds can provide pension and health premium supplementation, emergency assistance, and Christmas Thank you checks.

HEALING HOUSE: The Healing House is a program of the Madison Urban Ministry that will provide respite for families who are homeless and who have a family member needing ongoing medical and respite care upon discharge from the hospital. Services will also be offered to new moms who are homeless. Contributions from ORUCC will be earmarked for supplies to support new mothers and newborns including cribs, co-sleepers and a starter kit for moms when leaving Healing House. There are similar respite centers throughout the country serving the needs of single adults who are homeless. Healing House is the first of its kind to welcome families. Healing House expects to open its doors in April of 2018.

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 Mary Connor whose sister Cathy is in hospice.

For Marilyn Arnold in hospice at home.

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 Nancy Jackson who will have hip replacement surgery tomorrow.

Prayers of Joy:

For the Mystery and Beauty of this Advent Season.

For young Nathan Amburn's exhortation during Joys & Concerns last Sunday: "Do not be afraid. God is with us!"

OUR ACTION
OUR GOD IS STILL
SPEAKING THROUGH OUR
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 148 pledge cards and \$376,497.00 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.

There is Still Room at the Inn - the Heidel House Inn that is!

Our January all church retreat is for all ages. Please go to the church website at www.orucc.org for more information.

Holiday Post Office end Sunday, December 17

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 through Sunday in Friendship Hall.

Need a Christmas Gift for Someone Who has Everything?

How about a set of Native Wisconsin Wildflower cards! 6 for \$20 Available in the Crossroads. Proceeds to Eviction Prevention for needy neighbors.

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE:

Members of Orchard Ridge UCC are invited to apply for college scholarships for 2018-2019 from the Frank E. Page Scholarship Fund. Applicants should be planning to begin or continue education at any accredited 2- or 4-year college or university, and should have a record of academic achievement, service to church and community, and demonstrated financial need. The application deadline is February 15, 2018; contact scholarships@firstcongrmadison.org for an electronic application and information. Questions? Contact Peter Fabian, 236-9983, fabian@edgewood.edu.

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.

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.

Movie Group Friday, December 15th :

This month's Movie Group gathering at 7 p.m. Friday, December 15th will feature discussion about the film *Last Flag Flying* a 2017 American comedy-drama film directed by Richard Linklater. Three Vietnam veterans who reunite after one of their sons is killed in the Iraq War.

Steve Sheets will provide a dessert. We will gather at 7 p.m. on Friday, December 15th at ORUCC, all are welcome. Please RSVP to Steve, im1042@tds.net, or 845-5667.

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 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.



GREEN CORNER

MARK YOUR CALENDARS CARE

OF CREATION'S "ENVIRONMENTAL FILM FEST" ON THURS JAN 18, JAN 25, FEB 1 & FEB 8 – REFRESHMENTS & ENGAGING CONVERSATION INCLUDED!

Gifts of service require little or no use of natural resources, and are very personal and memorable. The gift of You - your time, energy or expertise are as 'giftworthy' as anything you can put in a box. A great gift could be an hour's massage at a local spa, or music lessons for a budding musician. Any parent would love a few hours of childcare or a tutoring session with older children. How about a gift of a car wash and vacuum, or a few scheduled dog walks? Many older folks could use internet lessons to learn how to use email and share pictures and ideas with their friends and grandkids. Clever young folks can download the latest and greatest "apps" to an older person's smartphone so they can benefit from the new technologies. Most homeowners could use a gift of lawncare, cooking, window-washing, gardening, or a book of coupons for household chores....and the list goes on. Have a "green" Christmas! Adapted from an online article in "Eartheasy."

Orchard Ridge United Church of Christ

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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.



2018 Volunteer Schedules will be sent out

December 20.
If you would like to be added to the rotation for one of these important ministries, let the office know by Friday, December 15.

How important is an Usher and Welcomer?
Ushers and welcomers are among the first whom people meet on a Sunday morning. 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

- Dec 17** Jarrett Gersten, Joyce Binder, Peter Fabian
- Dec 24-10 am** Carolyn Carlson, Phil & Judy Winkel
- Dec 24-4 pm** Connor & Ryan Psyck, Dylan Rasmussen, Maya & Celeste Kaspar
- Dec 24-6 pm** Jarrett Gersten
- Dec 31** Bob & Carol Prugh, Jerry Nelson

Welcomers

- Dec 17** Leah Narans, John & Donna Lillethun
- Dec 24-4 pm** Kim Kaspar

Sound

- 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
- Dec 17** Chris Thomas, Dan Stevens
- Dec 31** Phil & Judy Winkel

Financial Secretary

- Dec 17** Nancy Wettersten
- Dec 24** Gene Dyar
- Dec 31** Mary Bucknell

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December

| | | |
|----------------|------------|--------------------------------------|
| Wednesday 13 | 11:00 a.m. | Progressive Christianity Group |
| | 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 |
| | 7:00 p.m. | Sanctuary Mission Team Meeting |
| Friday 15 | 7:00 p.m. | Movie Group at church |
| Sunday 17 | 9:00 a.m. | Java & Jesus |
| | 10:00 a.m. | Worship Service |
| Monday 18 | 7:00 p.m. | Handbell Choir Rehearsal |
| Tuesday 19 | 7:00 p.m. | Leadership Team Meeting |
| Wednesday 20 | 7:00 p.m. | ORUCC Choir Rehearsal |
| Thursday 21 | 8:30 a.m. | Meditation & Spirituality Discussion |
| | 5:00 p.m. | Labyrinth Walk |
| | 7:00 p.m. | Longest Night Service |
| Sunday 24 | 10:00 a.m. | Service of Lessons & Carols |
| | 4:00 p.m. | Family Friendly Candlelight Service |
| | 6:00 p.m. | Carols, Stories & Candlelight |
| Monday 25 | | Holiday office closed |
| Tuesday 26 | 7:00 p.m. | Sanctuary Mission Team Meeting |
| | | Holiday office closed |
| Wednesday 27 | 7:00 p.m. | ORUCC Choir Rehearsal |
| Thursday 28 | 8:30 a.m. | Meditation & Spirituality Discussion |
| | 7:00 p.m. | Women's Book Group at church |
| Sunday 31 | 10:00 a.m. | Worship Service |
| January | | |
| Monday 1 | | Holiday office closed |
| Tuesday 2 | 7:00 p.m. | Care of Creation Meeting |