From Winton Boyd

About a month ago, I began my comments at our Annual Meeting with these words, “At a recent New Member reception, I talked about what I call the “DNA” of this congregation. Since our founding, we’ve been a creative, experimental, open hearted, passionate, roll-up-the-sleeves, neighbor loving community. As one of your pastors, I stepped into this pool of grace, beauty, activism and love and have enjoyed nearly a generation of contributing to its unique progressive Christian expression in Madison. The Spirit we all feel, this DNA, long preceded you and me, and will continue on into new generations and new expressions of ministry after we are gone. At the end of 2018 I will be stepping down as your Senior Pastor, and stepping out to pursue other opportunities and ministries. In January 2019, I will complete 20 years here and turn 60 years old.

I love being one of your pastors, and I always have. I love our shared ministry and our sense of passion, joy and care for each other and the world. My children, as well as Tammy and I, have been deeply shaped and powerfully loved by this community. Nothing will ever weave itself into our very beings as you have.”

I’ve appreciated the support and questions that you’ve peppered me with since sharing this news. The long time between announcement and goodbye was done to allow for good conversation on the impact our lives have had on each other. Please don’t hesitate to reach out, please don’t think I’m too busy to chat. The full text of my announcement is at www.orucc.org. In addition, information about a beginning search process will also be updated regularly on that site. Thanks for our amazing lay leaders who have begun that important and precious work.

Search Committee Needed to call a Senior Pastor to our Church

Who among our church family would make a good Search Committee member—to find and call a Senior Pastor to our church. Please have a conversation with them and tell them you think they’d be a good addition to the committee and tell them why you think so. Here are the characteristics we’re looking for:

~ Faith-Filled ~ Time-Available ~ Able to Hold a Confidence ~ Open-Minded ~
~ Willing to Work for Consensus ~ Shown a Long-Term Commitment to our Church ~

If they agree to be considered, Nomination Forms are on the table in the Crossroads, on the church website, or call or email the church office with your nomination, or drop it in the box you’ll find on the table in the Crossroads, or hand it to one of the moderators. (The Nomination Form is one page of a whole packet of information. If you haven’t already done so, please read the packet with some care; it contains details about the work of this Search Committee and about the commitments folks will take to serve.)

The Due Date is April 1st, Easter Sunday.
The Green Corner—Care of Creation

Keeping your carbon footprint to a minimum means putting less carbon into the atmosphere, which equals lowering your contribution to global warming.

Here’s one way you can help: If you order from Amazon Prime and choose free no rush shipping (5 business days) or free standard shipping (3-5 business days) you will leave a carbon footprint that is smaller than if you drove to the store to purchase the item.

But if you opt for free two day shipping your carbon footprint will actually be greater than if you had driven to the store yourself. Here’s why: Your item gets picked off the shelf in the warehouse and placed on an airplane to quickly take it across the country. Then it’s put on a truck -- but because you selected the quicker shipping option, it’s likely to be put on a truck that’s only half-full in order to meet the deadline, and half-filled trucks mean more gas consumption for delivery vehicles. So if you’re not in dire need of a two day delivery, consider one of the other options. Small changes like this can make a big difference, so spread the word!

You’re Invited to a Celebration for Gerry Wettersten and Marv Beatty:

Since they were born two days apart, since they are close friends and since they will be turning 90 the week of March 11th, Gerry Wettersten and Marv Beatty cordially invite all members of the congregation to join them from 2 to 4 p.m. on Sunday, March 11th for a celebration. The event will be in the Oaks Community Room at Oakwood Village on Mineral Point Road. After you turn in to Oakwood, just follow the line of balloons and park wherever you find a spot.
Prayers of Concern:
For Chloe & Andrew Erickson whose father Greg died unexpectedly last week. For Wendy Cooper, Greg’s former spouse, who is seeking to know how best to support her children in their grief.
For the families & newborns impacted by an ongoing investigation of mistreatment of newborns in the NICU @ Meriter over the past several months, including a young family in our congregation.
For Henry Hahn who was hospitalized a couple of days last week for an infection, and is now recovering well at home.
For Christine & Elaine Pasinski Thomas whose Uncle Cal died last week after suffering with Alzheimer’s.
For Todd Lillethun, son of Donna & John Lillethun, who had surgery last week to deal with a blood clot in one leg. Todd’s vision and speech are still impaired following brain surgery.
For Sara Piper, Doug Piper’s niece, who was hospitalized last week for an episode with MS.
For Kristin Martin who is receiving radiation treatments for breast cancer.
For Zee Lemke Oliver who is in her fourth month of pregnancy and is having a few health problems.
For Ellen Reuter’s brother Ray having hip replacement surgery this week.
For members of our congregation struggling to get over the flu.

Prayers of Joy:
For the birth of Lucian Sosa, newborn son of Gretchen & Pierre Sosa, grandson of Kathy Borkowski.
For last Sunday’s baptism of Kaarin Bjork, daughter of Claire & Mike Bjork.
For the dedicated work of our moderators and Leadership Team who have developed a process for putting together a Search Committee to hire a new senior pastor.
For Jane Stedman who has reconnected with her sister after a separation of a number of years.
For Jane Stedman’s girlfriend Carol’s mother who will be moving closer to Jane and Carol’s home where they can better support her.
For Liz Feagles who has made a good recovery from a knee replacement surgery, and is expressing gratitude to the congregation for its support.
For all those who came to Panera last Tuesday to help raise money for the Youth Mission Trip.

Labyrinth notice prior to the March 14 labyrinth walk:
We hope that you read Winton’s recent article in The Communion about our labyrinth. This ancient form of quieting ourselves and opening to the Spirit within will be available to all on Wed, March 14 from 5:30-7:00pm. Most people who walk the labyrinth find it a calming and contemplative 20 minutes in the midst of their harried lives. We invite you to set aside this little bit of time to walk the labyrinth as part of your Lenten journey.
Family Game Night!
Join us for Family Game Night! Bring your family, your favorite games, and a snack to share. We’ll meet at the church in Friendship Hall. Mark your calendars for April 6, May 4, and June 1 (first Fridays). Drop in anytime between 6-8 pm. Contact Rachael Lancor (rachael.anderman@gmail.com) for details.

Progressive Christianity Discussion Group:
We meet the second Wednesday of the month, next session March 14 at the church 11 a.m. to 12:00 pm. Bringing a bag lunch is optional. To request this month’s reading, contact Ken Pennings at ken@orucc.org

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 Jeannie Garnett and others for a delicious breakfast and great conversation.
Many men have also been joining in at their “guys” table and are 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 Dyar at 271-2409.

OVER 55:
The next gathering will be Tuesday, March 13th. Our topic will be something near and dear to many of us - that would be COFFEE. Steve Yaezel, co-owner of True Coffee (the kind we drink at church) will be our speaker. We will certainly learn lots about coffee growing and roasting from the Singing Roaster. As usual, we will gather at 11:30 and begin to eat at 11:45. A delicious meal will be prepared for us by our Food Ministry at a cost of $7.00. The program will follow. Even if you have never been to Over 55 before, we invite everyone to come and join us for an enjoyable afternoon.

Movie Group Friday, March 16th :
Discuss the Oscar award winners and losers at the ORUCC Movie Group at 7 p.m. on Friday, March 16th. Jan and Jack Christian will facilitate the discussion and our vote tallies.

We will also take time to discuss some of the 2018 films. A dessert and beverage will be provided by Marilyn and Jack Schaier. All are welcome, you need not be a “regular”. Please RSVP to Steve Sheets, im1042@tds.net.

Women’s Book Group:
On Thursday, April 5, Women’s Book Group will meet in the Alfred Swan Room, adjacent to Friendship Hall, from 1:30-3:30. We will discuss “The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane” by Lisa See.
This novel features the Akha ethnic minority in the Yunnan mountains of China. Tea picking is the grueling work that provides a living for many, including the main character Li-yan. But Li-yan struggles with her culture, and the readers accompany her on this journey, which ultimately connects her with the US couple that adopts her child.
All women who like to read and discuss books are welcome.
### Volunteer Assignments

**Ushers**  
Mar 11 Jon Blanchard, Phil & Judy Winkel  
Mar 18 Jim Treichel, Joyce Binder, Jerry Nelson  
Mar 25 Jarrett Gersten, Peter Fabian, Carolyn Carlson  
Mar 30 Good Friday NEED 2 VOLUNTEERS  
Apr 1-Easter Jon Blanchard, Peter Fabian, Joyce Binder  
Apr 8 Larry & Sharon Goss, Jarrett Gersten

**Welcomers**  
Mar 11 Charlene Gallagher, Mary Loving, Barb Hummel  
Mar 18 Jack Schiarer, Leah Narans, Helen Horn  
Mar 25 Ruthanne Landsness, Glenn Schaeffer, Heather Stevens  
Apr 1-Easter Mary Loving, John & Donna Lillethun  
Apr 8 Jan Christian, Barb McLeod, Helen Horn

**Sound**  
Mar 11 Ken Psyck  
Mar 18 Andrew Beckett  
Mar 25 Paul Hedges  
Mar 30 Good Friday Jarrett Gersten  
Apr 1-Easter Chuck Kaspar  
Apr 8 Andrew Beckett  
Coffee  
Mar 11 Greg & Barb Louden  
Mar 18 Chris Thomas, Jerry Hagen  
Mar 25 Phil & Judy Winkel  
Apr 1-Easter Jane Glaze, Jerry Hagen  
Apr 8 Greg & Barb Louden

**Financial Secretary**  
Mar 11 Meg Stevens  
Mar 18 Marge Wennen  
Mar 25 Gene Dyar  
Apr 1-Easter Peter Hoff  
Apr 8 Meg Stevens

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mar 16</td>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Movie Group</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 17</td>
<td>7:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Rising Performance &amp; Conversation</td>
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<td>Mar 18</td>
<td>9:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Java &amp; Jesus</td>
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<td>Mar 18</td>
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<td>Worship Service</td>
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<td>Mar 25</td>
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<td>Handbell Choir</td>
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<td>Apr 21</td>
<td>6:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Congregational Life Meeting</td>
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<td>Apr 22</td>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>ORUCC Choir Rehearsal</td>
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### Dialogue Partners for Muslim Students

As part of the Christian-Muslim Dialogue class at Edgewood College, we are seeking Christian families to serve as "Dialogue Partners" for our Muslim background students. The families will meet with the students 3-4 times between now and May, with one of those meetings being a Christian worship service (Easter would be great!). The other meetings may be a shared meal, a coffee shop chat or a shared activity. The idea is for the Muslim students to get to know "real" Christian people in informal settings. Christian students are also matched with Muslim families. To participate, please contact Elaine Swartzentruber at Eswartzentruber@edgewood.edu OR (336) 817-2218.

### Easter Flower Order Form

We will be decorating our sanctuary with many different kinds of flowers again this year. We invite you to donate to this in honor or memory of a loved one.

**Name**

**# of plants** at $15 each **Total**

**In Honor**

**In Memory**

Check one:

- I will collect my plant after worship on Easter Sunday.
- My plant may be given away.

Please return form to the church office no later than Sunday, March 18

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**Easter Flower Order Form**

We will be decorating our sanctuary with many different kinds of flowers again this year. We invite you to donate to this in honor or memory of a loved one.

**Name**

**# of plants** at $15 each **Total**

**In Honor**

**In Memory**

Check one:

- I will collect my plant after worship on Easter Sunday.
- My plant may be given away.

*Please return form to the church office no later than Sunday, March 18*