



Orchard Ridge United Church of Christ

COMMUNION

*“Spiritually Alive, Joyfully
Inclusive, Committed to
Justice.”*

Sunday Morning

March 25

9 am Java & Jesus

10 am Winton Boyd preaching
TRU Gumption

March 30– Good Friday

7 pm Joint Service with
Madison Mennonites

April 1–Easter

6:30 am Sunrise Service

10 am Winton Boyd preaching
ORUCC Choir

April 8

9 am Java & Jesus

10 am ?????? preaching
Handbell Choir

April 15

9 am Java & Jesus

10 am ?????? preaching
ORUCC Choir

Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday Worship

March 25 @ 10 a.m.

Good Friday Worship

March 30 @ 7 p.m.

Easter Sunday

6:30 a.m.

*Sunrise service on the church lawn,
followed by breakfast in the Friendship Hall*

10 a.m.

*Worship service in the sanctuary,
followed by an Easter Egg Hunt outside.*

No 9 a.m. activities on Easter Sunday

Newsletters:

April 3 & 17

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

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.

Congregational Meeting - April 8

The Leadership Team has called a congregational meeting after worship on Sunday, April 8 for the purpose of ratifying a Pastoral Search Committee.

Ken's Pennings – The Death of Jesus

When some of our women worked with Winton Boyd to design worship for Lent and Easter, one woman shared a resource for the group to consider, The Wisdom Jesus, by Cynthia Bourgeault. This book peaked my curiosity, and I began to read it not only because the women might be using it, but because I thought the Progressive Christianity Discussion Group might enjoy reading and discussing it. It's a difficult read, with some challenging concepts, but I'd like to share with you some of Bourgeault's reflections on the meaning of the death of Jesus, a theme many of us are pondering leading up to Holy Week.

Bourgeault asks, "What is the meaning of the passion (or the event's which end Jesus's earthly life: his betrayal, trial, execution on a cross, and death)?"

"First of all," she writes, "God wasn't angry! ...Particularly in fundamentalist theology, you'll often hear it said that God got so fed up with the sins and transgressions of Israel that he demanded a human sacrifice in atonement. But of course, this interpretation would turn God into a monster. How can Jesus, who is love, radiate and reflect a God who is primarily a monster? ...NO, we need to bury once and for all those fear-and-punishment scenarios that got programmed into so many of us during our childhood. There is no monster out there; only love waiting to set us free" (page 107).

In contrast, Bourgeault shares a different perspective "from a wisdom point of view," which is a non-dualistic unitive experience of truth "through the eye of the heart." She writes, "So much bad, manipulative, guilt-inducing theology has been based on (the passion) that it's fair to wonder whether there is any hope of starting afresh. I believe that wisdom does open up that possibility. The key lies in...reading Jesus's life as a sacrament: a sacred mystery whose real purpose is not to arouse empathy but to *create empowerment*. In other words, Jesus is not particularly interested in increasing either your guilt or your devotion, but rather, in deepening your personal capacity to make the passage into unitive life (or what she also calls the *self-emptying joy and generosity of full human personhood*). If you're willing to work with that wager, the passion begins to make sense in a whole new way...and reveals it as a sacred path of liberation" (pages 105-106).

She continues, "From the wisdom standpoint we need to stay grounded in the collective nature of what is meant by 'He died for our sins.' The false self is ultimately what crucified Jesus. It is an archetypal struggle. As each of the various characters in this drama surfaces and resurfaces (*Pilate, Herod, the Roman soldiers, the Jewish leaders, Judas, Peter, etc.*), we see through the swirl the core traits of the false self in action: fear, pretension, projection, self-importance, cowardice. In their collective mirror we can also catch, if we're honest, a glimpse of our own unacknowledged shadows, our own particular pattern of inner doubt and darkness" (page 114).

In the death of Jesus, Jesus wasn't judging or condemning the conditions of the false self, rather, simply allowing them to be as they were (page 124).

Or in other words, in the passion of Jesus, "he was just sitting there—surrounded by the darkest, deepest, most alienated, most constricted states of pained consciousness; sitting, if we can imagine it, among all those mirroring faces of the collective false self that we encountered in the crucifixion narrative: the anguish of Judas, the indecision of Pilate, the cowardice of Peter, the sanctimony of the Pharisees; sitting there in the midst of (it all), not judging, not fixing, just letting it be in love. And in so doing, he was allowing love to go deeper, pressing all the way to the innermost ground out of which (*dualistic*) opposites arise and holding that to the light. A quiet, harmonizing love was infiltrating even the deepest places of darkness and (*inner doubt*), in a way that didn't override them or cancel them, but gently reconnected them to the whole" (page 123).

As I wrote earlier, this is deep stuff! But after pondering Bourgeault's words long and hard, I've come to really appreciate her "wisdom perspective." Bottom line, in the death of Jesus God wasn't so fed up with us that he needed to punish our sins in the substitutionary death of his own son. Rather, in the death of Jesus God was sitting with us, *ALL* of us collectively, in the attitudes and behaviors of our false selves, not judging, not fixing, just letting them be in love, in order to gently reconnect us to the whole.

Hmmmm. Lots of food for thought!

Compassion offering for March is One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS):

The One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) special mission offering of the United Church of Christ involves you in disaster, refugee/immigration, and development ministries throughout the world. When a disaster strikes or people are displaced or made refugees by violence or extreme poverty, you are part of the immediate response and of the long-term recovery. Because the UCC relates in mutual partnership to churches and organizations through Global Ministries and worldwide response & recovery networks, your contributions to One Great Hour of Sharing put you in the right place at the right time for the relief, accompaniment and recovery of the most vulnerable. You meet immediate needs and you address the underlying causes that create those needs in the first place.

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 Jean Rush recovering from surgery to address a corroded artery last Thursday. Jean also had a small stroke last weekend.
- For John Leonard and extended family, whose 20 year old nephew Ryan died last Friday due to an accident related to excessive consumption of alcohol. John's sister Susan has now lost both her sons shortly after they turned 20.
- For Paul Vash's sister Jenny who is having an operative delivery of a baby this week.
- For Lisa Benitez whose mother has entered hospice.
- For Marilyn Schairer's sister-in-law Kay who will have open heart surgery on March 30th.
- For many in our congregation battling colds, flu and/or pneumonia.

Prayers of Joy:

- For the life of Kathy Connor, sister of Mary Connor, who passed away last Saturday evening after declining in health for many months. Memorial service at the church this Friday at 4:30 pm with a visitation at 3 pm. Lunch to follow.

-For the life of Deanna Blanchard's cousin Marilyn, a funny, feisty, accordion player whose memorial service will be this week.

-For the birth of Cyndy & Tim Andrews' grandson two weeks ago (12 lbs!).

-For our Lenten worship series: the words spoken and written by women, for music composed and lyrics written by women, and for the leadership at ORUCC offered by MANY women, past and present.

-For the ministry last weekend of Regina Laroche, founder and director of Diaspora Arts and Gardens on Madeline Island.

-For our middle-school youth who worshipped last Sunday at Assumption Greek Orthodox Church.

-For the teenagers in our congregation and in our area who took action together last Wednesday to protest gun violence in schools across the nation with a walk-out and march to the Capitol.

-For our Heart Room Mission Team and all their hard work: Helene Nelson, Sally Allen, John Day, Megan Piper, Barb Hummel, Bruce Olsen, Loretta McClure, and John Lemke.

-For Hal & Ann Evensen's 25th anniversary on March 13th.

-For Gerry Wettersten and Marv Beatty who each celebrated a ninetieth birthday recently.

-For Peggy and Norm Anderson who were married in our Sanctuary 20 years ago last Sunday.

Planning to Celebrate Winton and the Boyd Family:

A small mission team has been charged to plan and coordinate our celebration of Winton's ministry and our farewells to the Boyd family. We will plan how the ORUCC community can express our love, respect and appreciation to Winton and his family -- without overwhelming them or sidetracking the ongoing work of the church. In addition to one larger celebration, we envision a reasonable number of smaller, more personal occasions to share time, memories and thanks. If you have suggestions or questions, please share with any of the team members: Paul Hedges, Barb Hummel, Helene Nelson, Vicki Nonn, Doug Piper and Meg Stevens. The team will meet soon.

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.

Labyrinth walk:

Are you a seeker? Someone with a searching heart? A "pilgrim" rather than a "tourist" as you go through life? If so, we invite you to walk the Spring Labyrinth. Set aside 20 minutes on April 11, between 5:30 - 7pm. Let this simple ancient tradition quiet your busy-ness and open you to Spirit.

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.

All Parents' Gathering, Sunday, April 15:

All parents of children 0-18 years of age are invited to an information/interactive gathering on Sunday, April 15 from 8:45 to 9:45 in Friendship Hall. This will be an opportunity for parents to connect with other parents and also learn more about the Christian Education roadmap and offerings for children and youth. This is hosted by the Youth

Faith Formation Team (Kristin Muckian, Shannon Wieland, Dana Dobbins, Mike Bjork, Megan Piper, Brian Lancor).

Spring Clean-Up? Hire a Youth Team!

Our youth will be available to help you with your yardwork/mulching on the following Saturdays: April 21, 28 and May 5. We will take assignments on a first come, first serve basis. Contact Tammy Martens, tmartens@orucc.org, if you would like to have our youth help get your yard looking pretty. Donations gladly accepted and will go to support the Youth Mission Trip to Greensboro, North Carolina.



Care of Creation: SAVE THE DATE!

Your Care of Creation team has reserved a group campsite at Governor Dodge State Park for the weekend of July 20-22. We have space for up to 30 people. So grab your tent and join us. More details about the weekend in the April Communion/Bulletin.

Progressive Christianity Discussion Group:

We meet the second Wednesday of the month, next session April 11 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 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.

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.

OVER 55:

The next meeting of Over 55 will be held on April 10th. We are very privileged to have Lori Berquam as our speaker. Lori is the Interim Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs and is the Dean of Students at the University of Wisconsin as well as a member of our church. Under Lori's leadership, the Division of Student Life strives to create community where students are inspired and prepared to live the Wisconsin idea. Lori is an ardent student advocate, committed to social justice and to building strong relationships both on and off campus. As usual, we will gather at 11:30 and plan to eat around 11:45. The cost of the meal is \$7.00. If you have never come to Over 55, consider coming and joining in the fellowship. Everyone is welcome.

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.

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING STABLE HOUSING FOR FAMILIES!

March 4 was the completion of the Heart Room pledge drive. **We have great news!** Your generous pledges total \$115,372 over the three years of the project. As funds come in, we will provide three years of rental assistance to six families with young children. Partner agencies will offer services to help them keep stable housing long term. As pledges are paid over time, funds will be placed in a separate rental assistance account at ORUCC and paid to The Road Home that will use them on behalf of families. All funds received for Heart Room will be used to help very low income families with children achieve housing stability, as intended by the givers. Amounts received above the \$95,750 budget of this project will be held in reserve. After the project is well underway and its mid-term evaluation is completed, the Heart Room Core Team (of ORUCC and partner agencies) will be in a position to assess the best use of reserve funds consistent with the intention of the givers.

Orchard Ridge United Church of Christ

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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

The Crossing Spring Gala Benefit:

The Crossing Campus Ministry—ORUCC's ministry partner on the UW-Madison campus—is holding its Spring Gala Benefit on Friday April 27, 2018, at The Crossing, 1127 University Avenue. Social hour begins at 5:00; dinner and program follow at 6:00. The Gala is a night of sharing with, hearing from, and celebrating with current and former Crossing students, to learn about the many ways in which their lives have been enriched through The Crossing's spiritual practices, discussion groups, local and international service projects, and community building. Tickets are \$50. To reserve your seat, sponsor a student's attendance, or make a donation to The Crossing, please contact Immer Vallee by April 20, at (608) 257-1039, or office@crossingministries.org.



VOLUNTEER ASSIGNMENTS

Ushers

Mar 25 Jarrett Gersten, Peter Fabian, Carolyn Carlson

Mar 30 Good Friday
Peter Fabian, **NEED 1 VOL**

Apr 1-Easter Jon Blanchard, Peter Fabian, Joyce Binder

Apr 8 Larry & Sharon Goss, Jarrett Gersten

Apr 15 Jim Treichel, Phil & Judy Winkel

Apr 22 Joyce Binder, Larry & Sharon Goss

Welcomers

Mar 25 Ruthanne Landsness, Glenn Schaeffer, Heather Stevens

Apr 1-Easter Mary Loving, John & Donna Lillethun

Apr 8 Jan Christian, Barb McLeod, Helen Horn

Apr 15 Heather Stevens, Barb Hummel, Leah Narans

Apr 22 Glenn Schaeffer, Dick & Lois Rossmiller

Sound

Mar 25 Paul Hedges

Mar 30-Good Friday
Jarrett Gersten

Apr 1-Easter Chuck Kaspar

Apr 8 Andrew Beckett

Apr 15 Paul Hedges

Apr 22 Jarrett Gersten

Coffee

Mar 25 Phil & Judy Winkel

Apr 1-Easter Jane Glaze, Jerry Hagen

Apr 8 Greg & Barb Louden

Apr 15 Racheal & Brian Lancor

Apr 22 8:30-9:45 Brian & Annette Porter

9:45 Tom & Char Klossner

Financial Secretary

Mar 25 Gene Dyar

Apr 1-Easter Peter Hoff

Apr 8 Meg Stevens

Apr 15 Peter Hoff

Apr 22 Mary Bucknell

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March

Wednesday 21	6:00 p.m.	Congregational Life Meeting
	7:00 p.m.	ORUCC Choir Rehearsal
Thursday 22	8:30 a.m.	Meditation & Spirituality Discussion
Sunday 25	9:00 a.m.	Java & Jesus
	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service
Monday 26	7:00 p.m.	Handbell Choir
	7:15 p.m.	ORUCC Men's Group
Tuesday 27	7:00 p.m.	Sanctuary Mission Team
Wednesday 28	7:00 p.m.	ORUCC Choir Rehearsal
Thursday 29	8:30 a.m.	Meditation & Spirituality Discussion
March 30	7:00 p.m.	Good Friday Service

April

Sunday 1	6:30 a.m.	Sunrise Service Church Lawn
	10:00 a.m.	Breakfast in Friendship Hall
		Worship Service followed by
		Easter Egg Hunt outside
Monday 2	1:30 p.m.	Knitting & Crafts Group
	6:30 p.m.	Special Leadership Team Mtg.
	7:00 p.m.	Handbell Choir
Tuesday 3	7:00 p.m.	Care of Creation Mtg.
Wednesday 4	7:00 p.m.	ORUCC Choir Rehearsal
Thursday 5	8:30 a.m.	Meditation & Spirituality Discussion
	1:30 p.m.	Women's Book Group
Friday 6	8:30 a.m.	Women's Breakfast at Pancake Café
	5:45 p.m.	Game Night at church
Sunday 8	9:00 a.m.	Java & Jesus
	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service
	11:00 a.m.	Congregational Meeting