Welcome Brunch & New Members Series

If you are brand new (or fairly new) to the church, please come to a Welcome Brunch on Sunday, April 29, at 8:45 am to become acquainted with others who are new to the church. RSVP to church office at office@orucc.org, or 271-7212.

You may also be interested in the 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:

- Sunday, May 6, 9:00-9:50 a.m.
- Sunday, May 13, 9:00-9:50 a.m.
- Sunday, May 20, 9:00-9:50 a.m.
- Sunday, May 27, 9:00-9:50 a.m.

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.

Sunday April 29 at 3:30 p.m.
Interfaith March for Peace and Justice!

This March, part of a nation-wide event, will celebrate the diversity and lift up the unity of our faith communities, as we affirm religious freedom and condemn all acts of violence and harassment against people based on race, color, beliefs, or place of origin.

April 29, 2018 at 3:30
The Catholic Multicultural Center
1862 Beld St, Madison, WI 53713

March from the Catholic Multicultural Center to South Park St, walking past Fountain of Life Covenant Church, Centro Hispano, The Boys and Girls Club, and back to the Catholic Multicultural Center by 4:15
Ken’s Pennings – Expanding Our Ministries of Hospitality & Welcome

Did you know that the Ministry of Congregational Life meets monthly to ask questions like, “How are we doing in extending a warm welcome to all who come through the doors of our church?” or “How can we maintain and expand ministries of hospitality?” Recently, the Ministry of Congregational Life has come to the conclusion that it is definitely time to expand ministries of hospitality in a few directions. To do this, we need your help! We’re looking for people who would be willing to step into the following areas of ministry:

Serve as Welcomer on five or six Sundays per year. For years, we’ve had a large pool of Welcomers who faithfully greet people at the door on Sunday mornings. For a variety of reasons, a number of people have had to step away from this ministry, leaving us with a small pool of Welcomers who are being scheduled for ten to eleven Sundays per year. Might you be willing to become a Welcomer, not only for the joy of serving in this important ministry, but to lift the burden of responsibility now being carried by a small number of people?

Serve as a Welcomer Clerk for seven or eight Sundays per year. We’ve learned from our current Welcomers that they would much prefer being able to mingle with folks after worship in Friendship Hall, rather than perform the administrative duties which have historically been part of the job, duties like collecting the sheets from the Friendship Pads, retaining and transcribing new information, sending emails or writing notes to visitors, etc. Might you be willing to become a “Welcomer Clerk” not only for the satisfaction of providing an important administrative role, but also to free up our Welcomers to do what they do best -- continue in conversation with the people they’ve just met?!

Serve as a First Friend to one of our new members. What a delight each spring and fall to welcome new members into the membership of our church! Some of these new members would jump at the chance to meet up with someone like you, go out for coffee, swap stories, and learn about ways to become better connected and more involved at the church. Might you be willing to become a “First Friend” to one of our new members, not only for the joy of making a new friend, but to help your new friend establish a better connection and become more involved with our church?

If any of these opportunities interest you, please contact me at ken@oru.cc.org, or phone me at 608-271-7212, ext. 222.
Compassion offering for April is The Crossing Campus Ministry:
A progressive campus ministry and student organization at UW-Madison. Foundational to the vision is nurturing a faith community of students that embodies the radical inclusiveness, extravagant welcome and compassionate living we find in the life and teachings of Jesus. As they welcome students of diverse spiritual, religious, and non-religious backgrounds, The Crossing strives to create a safe space where students can celebrate life’s greatest joys as well as wrestle honestly and openly with their biggest questions and doubts. Much of what happens at the Crossing happens “in community”—from Sunday evening Vespers (worship) to Bible studies to delectable Slow Food – UW “Family Dinner Night’s” to local service projects to global Quest trips, to name just a few.

Over the past decade, nearly 250 students have ventured out on over 25 QUEST trips around the world. QUESTS have traveled to Israel/Palestine, Costa Rica, Northern Ireland, Chiapas, the North Dakota Badlands, Kenya, Nepal, the Everglades, and Cambodia. It is hoped participants will grow deeper as spiritual beings and knowledgeable citizens of the earth because of their QUEST experience. We are currently exploring invites to the Ukraine (Friends of Chernobyl) and Liberia (working with our good friend, Dr. Bob Enright and his International Institute of Forgiveness). (www.crossingministries.org)

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 Pam & Steve Kleiss and their extended families in the death of their father Stan who was struggling with stomach cancer and a colon infection.
For Ree Hale who is recovering at home after successful surgery for an aortic aneurism.
For Isaac Olson who is recovering from a broken pelvic bone.
For Vicki May who has begun treatment for breast cancer.

Prayers of Joy:
For the Earth Fair in Friendship Hall last Sunday hosted by our Care of Creation Team. For the public dedication and blessing of the members of our Search Committee (seeking to hire a new senior pastor) during worship last Sunday.

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.

Potluck and Game Night!:
All are invited to a potluck and game night on Friday, May 4 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
Bring a dish to pass and your favorite games to play with one another. All ages are welcome!! We’ll meet at the church in Friendship Hall.

Women’s Book Group:
Our next gathering will be on Thursday, May 3, from 7 - 9 p.m., at church in the Alfred Swan Room.
We will discuss “Astrophysics for People in a Hurry” by Neil DeGrasse Tyson, Director of the Hayden Planetarium at the American Museum of Natural History. Although this may seem to be a daunting topic, the book jacket of this best seller assures us that “Tyson brings the universe down to Earth succinctly and clearly, with sparkling wit, in tasty chapters consumable anytime and anywhere in your busy day.” If you’re a woman who likes to discuss what she has read, join us! Please let Mary Neuhaus know you plan to attend (233-8315).

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.

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OVER 55:
MAY 8TH—TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALL GAME!
Come One! Come All! To the FIRST ANNUAL OVER 55 PICNIC AND BASEBALL GAME on May 8th in Friendship Hall. This will be casual so you can wear picnic clothes and bring your funny bone. We will be having picnic food and also some baseball concessions. There will be two teams, managed by Steve Sheets and Paul Gohdes. Tammy Martens will be the umpire and ultimate ruler in case of a dispute. The "baseball game" will test your mental strength regards to ORUCC history, church history and Christianity. But don’t worry or fret about the game. Just come and have fun. As usual we will gather at 11:30 and begin our picnic around 11:45. The fun will begin after the meal. Baseball hats, shirts and other accessories are welcome. If you have never been to an Over 55 meeting, this would be a good one to come to.

Culver’s Eat Out—May 8:
Join us at Culver’s on Mineral Point Road, Tuesday, May 8 between 4:00 and 8:00 p.m. and help raise money for our Youth Mission trip to Greensboro, North Carolina.

Convenient Option to Pay Your Operating Pledge Monthly:
No more checks to write, or worries if you paid each month, and no more relying on snail mail delivery. A simplified option to pay your operating pledge on a monthly basis, by auto deduction from your bank account. Please contact Debbie at the church office 271-7212 for the auto deduction form, or for more information. Deductions are taken out the 15th of each month.

Want to volunteer? Camp AweSum is looking for enthusiastic volunteers to participate in their Family Camp AweSum June 17-23, 2018!!
Camp AweSum is a Not-For-Profit organization that is dedicated to providing summer camps and vacation for children on the Autism Spectrum and their families, and to vacation with other families that understand both the joy and complexity of raising a child on the Autism Spectrum. Camp is open to all kids on the autism spectrum, regardless of age and functioning level. All camps are held at Moon Beach Camp, one of the Wisconsin Conference’s two outdoor ministry camps! Parents are given the chance to relax and rejuvenate in an idyllic Northwoods setting while enjoying the understanding and support provided by other families and by an organization and staff that embrace differences.
As volunteers, we provide daily respite for parents by engaging their children in a variety of activities from hiking, archery, horseback riding, arts and crafts, and sensory regulation. Volunteers receive a “crash-course” in the philosophy of Camp AweSum and are paired with a Camp AweSum staff member who has experience working with kids on the autism spectrum. Camp not only increases your own understanding of individuals on the autism spectrum but is a chance to engage with kids and families, build a community, and enjoy the opportunities that a camp environment has to offer!

Specifics: June 17-23, 2018, Moon Beach Camp
Suggested Donation - $290.00 per volunteer (ages 15+)
linformation, see or contact, Kythie Boyd, at kpboyd@gmail.com Or visit https://ucci.org/camp-awesum/family-camp/

Care of Creation
In this busy, hectic life it’s so good to set aside 20 minutes to release and let go of all of life’s clamoring details... and just BE. Our next Labyrinth Walk will be offered on Wednesday, May 9 from 5:30-7:00pm. You can clear your mind and open yourself to whatever the path has to offer. Or you may want to focus your mind and heart on what it means to be a mother or to have been mothered – since Mother’s Day will be celebrated the following Sunday. The experience may be subtle or profound, a sense of gratitude or peacefulness, or perhaps clarity or understanding, or even a specific direction you are seeking.

Please make the following changes in the church directory:
Change Gerry Wettersten email to: gwittersten@yahoo.com
Change Judy Brauer email to: Heyjude75.jb@gmail.com
Add cell number for Kathi Kemp: 608-295-6425

Church Email Lists:
ORUCC has a few email lists that you may or may not know about. If you would like to be added to or removed from any of these, please send your email to Ken@orucc.org or winton@orucc.org.
Weekly Epost which shares the events of the upcoming weekend
Bi-Monthly Newsletter (The Communion)
Bi-monthly Eprayer list which reminds us of prayers within the congregation
Weekly Java and Jesus email that includes reading for discussion on Sunday mornings at 9 a.m.. Many receive without coming to the the events of the upcoming weekend
LGBTQ and allies list which is used periodically to highlight community events or issues.
ORUCC Camping Weekend? Sponsored by Care of Creation:
We have reserved a group campsite at Governor Dodge State Park for the weekend of July 20-22. Here is what you need to know if you plan to come.
Cost: $5 per person to cover the camping fee. State park stickers are required and they now cost $28 for an annual sticker, $8.00 for the day and $13 for an annual sticker if you are over 65 years of age.
There is a walk of about 280 feet from the parking lot to the campsites. Campers will be on their own for meals except for a Saturday night communal meal followed by a short worship experience.
There are pit toilets and drinking water is available.
Activities at this park include hiking, biking (need a trail pass), swimming, boating (electric motors only), canoeing, kayaking (row boat, canoes for rent), and fishing.
Feel free to come for the day on Saturday if camping isn’t your thing. And if you like, bring something for the communal meal that night. The only charge for coming for the day is the park fee.
There is room for 30 people for overnight camping. Please register through the office.
The deadline to sign up is June 30, 2018 or until 30 people have registered. If you have any questions, contact Sara Roberts at 608-332-1114.

ORUCC Camping Weekend! Governor Dodge State Park, July 20-22

Name(s): __________________________________________ Email: __________________________________________
Number of people: ____________________ We are only coming for the day.
_____We are only coming for the day.
Make check payable to ORUCC. MEMO line add: ORUCC Camping Weekend

VOLUNTEER ASSIGNMENTS

Ushers
Apr 29 Joyce Binder, Phil & Judy Winkel
May 6 Jon Blanchard, Joyce Binder, Jarrett Gersten
May 13 Carolyn Carlson, Larry & Sharon Goss
May 20 Jon Blanchard, Phil & Judy Winkel
May 27 Jim Treichel, Peter Fabian, Joyce Binder

Welcomers
Apr 29 Charlene Gallagher, Barb McLeod, Jack Schairer
May 6 Ruthanne Landsness, Dick & Lois Rossmiller
May 13 Heather Stevens, Helen Horn, Jack Schairer
May 20 Barb McLeod, Carol & Bob Prugh
May 27 Charlene Gallagher, John & Donna Lilleshun

Sound
Apr 29 Ken Psyck
May 6 Chuck Kaspar
May 13 Andrew Beckett
May 20 Paul Hedges
May 27 Jarrett Gersten

Coffee
Apr 29 Paul & Dolores Gohdes
May 6 Rich Hoard & Dan Stevens
May 13 Phil & Judy Winkel
May 20 Chris Thomas & Chuck Kaspar
May 27 Rachael & Brian Lancor

Financial Secretary
Apr 29 Marge Wennen
May 6 Peter Hoff
May 13 Nancy Wettersten
May 20 Meg Stevens
May 27 Gene Dyar

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April
Wednesday 25 7:00 p.m. ORUCC Choir Rehearsal
Thursday 26 8:30 a.m. Meditation & Spirituality Discussion
      5:00 p.m. Pastoral Search Committee Meeting
      10:00 a.m. Worship Service
Sunday 29 9:00 a.m. New Member Welcome Brunch
            10:00 a.m. Worship Service
Monday 30 5:00 p.m. Pastoral Search Committee Meeting
            7:00 p.m. Handbell Choir
MAY
      Tuesday 1 7:00 p.m. Care of Creation Meeting
      Wednesday 2 6:00 p.m. Pastoral Partners Meeting
      7:00 p.m. ORUCC Choir Rehearsal
      Thursday 3 8:30 a.m. Meditation & Spirituality Discussion
            7:00 p.m. Women’s Book Group
      Friday 4 8:30 a.m. Women’s Breakfast at Pancake Café
            6:00 p.m. Potluck and Game Night
      Sunday 6 9:00 a.m. Java & Jesus
            10:00 a.m. Worship Service
      Monday 7 1:30 p.m. Knitting & Crafts Group
            5:00 p.m. Pastoral Search Committee Meeting
            7:00 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal
      Tuesday 8 11:30 a.m. OVER 55-Picnic and Ball Game
            4:00 p.m. Culver’s Eat Out-Yth Mission Trip
            7:00 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal
      Wednesday 9 5:30 p.m. Labyrinth Walk
            6:00 p.m. Adult Faith Formation Meeting
            7:00 p.m. ORUCC Choir Rehearsal
      Thursday 10 8:30 p.m. Meditation & Spirituality Discussion
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