New Members Series

If you are brand new (or fairly new) to the church, you may be interested in the New Members / Seekers Series with the Pastors and Leadership Team of ORUCC. Please attend these informational classes at the church:

- 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 within the congregation and the wider community, and some of the church’s views on important issues of faith. In preparation for this series, you may wish to browse ORUCC’s website: www.orucc.org.

WORK & WORSHIP and PLANT SALE SUNDAY, MAY 20

There will be both inside and outside project this spring for Work & Worship on Sunday, May 20. A lunch will be provided. We need you to bring your mulch shovels, wheelbarrows, spades for digging, rakes, and tarps for outside projects. Email Chuck Kaspar if you have any questions cwkaspar@gmail.com

Plant Sale: Fitchburg Farms Partner: Flowers available in patio pots, hanging planters, annuals and grasses to create your own pots or add to your flower beds. Veggies and herbs will also be available. Watch for update.

Small Group Meetings to Share Ideas With Your Search Committee

There will be an opportunity for you to share some ideas about our congregation that will help your Search Committee complete our church profile. On May 20, there will be a table in Friendship Hall with sign-up sheets for group conversations to be held on June 10 and June 24 from 8:45 – 9:45. During these conversations we will consider three questions - What attracts you and keeps you coming to our church? What major societal trends do you see over the next few years for our church to respond to and how should we respond? What do you think God is calling our church to become over the next few years? There will be more opportunities as well. We look forward to hearing your thoughts!
This past Sunday (May 6), we held a Parents’ Gathering to share about our Christian Education roadmap and our programming goals. At the end of our gathering parents were asked for their ideas. Here are their responses:

**Share one experience or opportunity you would like to experience through church.**
- I would like my children to experience the meaningfulness of community service.
- I like the “quick hit” volunteering: MKE trip, mission trip, others for parents.
- Keep doing the game night or some type of Friday night ritual to connect.
- Interested in the idea of intergenerational opportunities.
- I would love to experience an event or program where I can create music with my children. Either doing worship inside our church or on a trip outside the church (like performing at a senior center or similar outreach).
- As a parent I would be interested in a partnership or sister church experience with a black church in Madison and more opportunities for connection around racial justice as a family.
- I would like to see game night continue. We haven’t been able to attend but think it’s a great idea.
- Attending January retreat as a family—I didn’t realize it was so family friendly!
- I look forward to when my children are old enough to attend the trips.
- Opportunities for parents to interact more.
- I’d like to be involved in the Mission trip when my children are old enough to go.
- I would love to learn how other people introduce or use prayer with their kids.

**Share one experience or opportunity you would like your child to experience through church.**
- I hope they will find friendship.
- Service as part of a group.
- Volunteer opportunities for elementary kids.
- I would like my children to experience OWL and youth mission trips. Could there be other opportunities for elementary youth to work together?
- I would like to know of kids’ books, etc., that would we could read as a family (that are progressive theologically) to bolster Sunday School classes, education.
- Love the family game night—keep it going.
- I’d like to find volunteer opportunities for my kids and have them make good connections with other kids here.
- I would love for my kids to have more community service experiences—both on their own and for us as a family.
- Peer mentoring—Older kids paired with younger kids to be positive role models.
- I would like my child to be able to form a relationship with an adult other than me within the church. A mentor of sorts either through OWL or confirmation or both, sort of a link from Youth Faith Formation to Adult Faith Formation.
- It might be interesting to do a mission trip with our neighbors in Meadowwood who are living different experiences than most of our white, middle class and where there could be opportunities for ongoing service and partnership. A second mission trip maybe?

I’m curious if the kids still learn the Lord’s Prayer? I know we do alternative versions and we’re not big on “memorization” here but I think some core things like that would be great for the kids to know.

It’s always helpful to get feedback from parents! Youth Faith Formation will be gathering soon to discuss these responses and see how to move forward. I’m grateful for all the parents who were able to make the meeting!
Compassion offering for May is Madison Urban Ministry:
MUM is an interfaith social justice organization that serves as a prophetic voice for justice, spurring social change and about Dane County for over forty years. MUM invites and facilitates avenues for individuals to engage in social action with an emphasis on outreach and support to the incarcerated, the homeless and the disenfranchised. Orchard Ridge has been a supporter for these entire 40 years.

A sampling of MUM’s guiding values in action:
Journey Home – assess the needs, potential barriers and strengths facing individuals newly released from prison and assist those individuals in making a successful transition back home.
Healing House – Fundraising is currently underway for this 8-bed facility that will provide 24/7 recuperative care for a homeless child or family member after surgery.
Just Bakery – A 16-week vocational and educational training program for individuals who are experiencing significant barriers to employment and who have an interest in baking or culinary arts as a career pathway.

For credit on your church statement, before. Our next day is June 19th. If interested, please call Ann Avery (608-7587 or 401-749-3976). It’s a simple task, but important and appreciated by the men.

Looking for a Kid’s Garden Plot Manager:
Would you like to help out with the Kids’ Garden this summer? This wonderful person would help prepare the Kids’ Garden plot this spring, help with kids planting, monitor plot during summer, inform Barbara Stretcherry, the Program Coordinator for the summer, what can be done in the plot each Sunday morning—watering, pulling weeds, harvesting veggies, recipe ideas. Typical veggies included in Children’s plot are green beans, green onions, tomatoes, broccoli, cucumbers, peppers, carrots. Contact Tammy Martens if you are interested.

Saying Thanks to the Catering Mission Team:
One way to say thanks to the members of our Catering Mission Team, which provides delicious food and ambiance to numerous church functions, including the monthly OVER 55 luncheon, is to make a contribution toward the new kitchen equipment they would like to purchase. If you would like to say thanks through a financial gift, please make a check payable to ORUCC, and note in the memo line “Catering Mission Team.”

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.

Progressive Christianity Discussion Group: We meet the second Wednesday of the month, next session May 9 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 Book Group: Our next gathering will be on Thursday, June 7, from 7-9 p.m., at church in the Alfred Swan Room.

We will discuss “Flight Behavior” by Barbara Kingsolver. Syndetics describes it as “a brilliant and suspenseful novel set in present day Appalachia; a breathtaking parable of catastrophe and denial that explores how the complexities we inevitably encounter in life lead us to believe in our particular chosen truths.”

If you’re a woman who likes to discuss what she has read, join us! Please let Jeanne Moberly know you plan to attend (515-6468).
Movie Group Friday, May 18th:
You need not be a "regular". Come to participate in a spirited discussion of films you have seen. How about something light? "Tully" is playing now with a four star rating. This month we will focus on "Tully" or other films you have especially enjoyed over the last year. We will meet at 7 p.m. on Friday, May 18th. Dessert and beverages will be provided. Please RSVP to Steve Sheets, im1042@tds.net, or 845-5667.

Knitting & Crafts Group:
The group will meet on the first Thursday 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.

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.

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.

Please make the following changes in the church directory:
Change email for Paul & Barb McLeod to:
barbWil29@icloud.com
Change email for Barb Hummel to:
barbara.hummel53711@gmail.com
Add email for Anna Schryver:
annamariaschryver@gmail.com

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.

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 Epistle which shares the events of the upcoming weekend Bi-Monthly Newsletter (The Communion) Bi-monthly Epayer 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.

Update: Planning to Celebrate Winton and Family
The “Boyd Celebration Team” has conferred with the Boyds and our pastors. Here’s a sketch of our plans so far, knowing that January 6 is Winton’s last day with us: January 6 will be a special worship with an information reception afterwards. January 5 is the day for a big party! We’ll have a short program and plenty of time to connect and have fun. Look for more details in the future, but hold the date! Advent and Christmas are seasons to focus on church faith life. Winton and the Celebration Team ask that we respect this time and focus. In the fall, individuals and groups may use their regular meetings to share memories and say thank-you. If a group wishes to do something outside of regular meetings or at worship, we ask that they check-in with our team, or for Sunday mornings, with Pastor Tammy or Ken. Given the need to carry on the regular work of the church, and other scheduling factors for the fall, coordination will be important. This spring and summer, we will continue the regular life of the church. Let’s enjoy our worship, work and friendships as a community of faith.
About Gifts: We will send you information later about a special gift fund that will be set up to honor the Boyds. We will encourage individuals and families who want to give a “Thank you” gift to the Boyds to contribute to this fund so together we can do something wonderful for them!
Do you have suggestions or questions? Contact a team member: Paul Hedges, Barb Hummel, Helene Nelson, Vicki Nonn, Doug Piper and Meg Stevens.
NEW UPDATE:
ORUCC Camping Weekend July 20-22 at Governor Dodge State Park, Lakes!
Waterfalls! Caves! Trails!
We have UPGRADED to 5 individual sites (6 people per site). They are in the wooded Cox Hollow Loop. The cost is $10/person or $40 per site. 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. Campers will be on their own for meals except for a Saturday night communal meal.

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.

Please register through the office. The deadline to sign up is June 30, 2018 or until the sites are full. If you have any questions, contact Jill Westberg at 630-254-0825 or jillwestberg@gmail.com.

ORUCC Camping Weekend! Governor Dodge State Park, July 20-22
Name(s):_________________________________________________________
Number of people:_______________   email:___________________________
_____We are only coming for the day.

Make check payable to ORUCC.  MEMO line add: ORUCC Camping Weekend

VOLUNTEER ASSIGNMENTS

Ushers
May 13 Carolyn Carlson, Larry & Sharon Goss
May 20 Jon Blanchard, Phil & Judy Winkel
May 27 Jim Treichel, Peter Fabian, Joyce Binder
June 3 Peter Fabian, Rick Daluge, Alex Wollangk
June 10 Sandra Dyar, Jon Blanchard, Jerry Nelson

Welcomers
May 13 Heather Stevens, Helen Horn, Jack Schairer
May 20 Barb McLeod, Carol & Bob Prugh
May 27 Charlene Gallagher, John & Donna Lillethun
June 3 Leah Narans, Dick & Lois Rossmiller
June 10 Heather Stevens, Barb McLeod, Hope Soroos

Sound
May 13 Andrew Beckett
May 20 Paul Hedges
May 27 Jarrett Gersten
June 3 Chuck Kaspar
June 10 Ken Psyck

Coffee
May 13 Phil & Judy Winkel
May 20 Chris Thomas & Chuck Kaspar
May 27 Rachael & Brian Lancer
June 3 8:30-9:45 Rachael Lancer
9:45 Tom & Char Klossner
June 10 Dan Stevens & Rich Hoard

Financial Secretary
May 13 Nancy Wettersten
May 27 Meg Stevens
May 27 Gene Dyar
June 3 Mary Bucknell
June 10 Gene Dyar

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May
Thursday 10 8:30 a.m. Meditation & Spirituality Discussion
Sunday 13 9:00 a.m. Java & Jesus
9:00 a.m. New Member Series
10:00 a.m. Worship Service

Monday 14 5:00 p.m. Pastoral Search Committee Meeting
7:15 p.m. ORUCC Men’s Group
Tuesday 15 7:00 p.m. Leadership Team Meeting
Wednesday 16 11:00 a.m. Progressive Christianity Group
6:00 p.m. Congregational Life Meeting
7:00 p.m. ORUCC Choir Rehearsal
Thursday 17 8:30 a.m. Meditation & Spirituality Discussion
Friday 18 7:00 p.m. Movie Group
Sunday 20 9:00 a.m. Java & Jesus
9:00 a.m. New Member Series
10:00 a.m. Worship Service
11:00 a.m. Worship & Work & Plant Sale
Tuesday 22 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Mission Team
Wednesday 23 5:00 p.m. Pastoral Search Committee Meeting
7:00 p.m. ORUCC Choir Rehearsal
Thursday 24 8:30 p.m. Meditation & Spirituality Discussion
Sunday 27 9:00 a.m. Final New Member series
10:00 a.m. Worship Service
Monday 28 6:00 p.m. Youth Mission Trip Meeting
7:15 p.m. ORUCC Men’s Group
Thursday 31 8:30 a.m. Meditation & Spirituality Discussion