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

Sunday Morning

November 4
9 am Java & Jesus
10 am Winton Boyd preaching
ORUCC Choir

November 11
Stewardship Sunday
9 am Java & Jesus
10 am Winton Boyd preaching
Handbell Choir

November 18
9 am Java & Jesus
10 am Winton Boyd preaching
ORUCC Choir

ORUCC 2019 Stewardship Appeal is coming!

Stewardship Sunday is November 11.

As we transition into the colder weather and shorter days of fall, Orchard Ridge UCC is facing its own set of transitions that entail both exciting opportunities and significant challenges.

One way to express our gratitude for what the church has done, support our intentions to continue these ministries, and find our own unique place in the church body is for us to ask ourselves: “What shall we bring?” Each one of us brings something unique to ORUCC. Our talents, abilities, financial gifts, personalities, and spiritual beliefs contribute to the life of the church.

Stewardship letter and pledge card was mailed last week.

Thanksgiving Gifts Cards to our Neighbors:

Again this year, we’ll be working with our Southwest Madison neighborhood agencies. Joining Forces for Families, Commonwealth, and the Early Childhood Initiative will join to provide $40 gift cards to HyVee that will allow families to celebrate the holiday with food of their own choosing. The Ministry of Christian Witness and Service will have a table to collect for gift cards before and after worship on November 4 and 11. You can also donate online at www.orucc.org. ORUCC and the Madison Mennonite Church are seeking to raise funds for 100 cards. Deadline for contributions is November 18.
Compassion offering for November will go to Support Hurricane Relief Through the UCC Disaster Ministries:

Our UCC Disaster relief effort is already helping the long-term recovery work in the region and your contributions for hurricane survivors means providing community support for holistic recovery, repairing house and home for families and children and restoring dignity for the most vulnerable who have lost everything in the wake of these catastrophic events.

While there are many who donate to immediate responses, the UCC has a long history of taking the long view after disasters. For more information, go to http://www.ucc.org/disaster_hurricane_harvey.

You can donate to the monthly compassion offering online at www.orucc.org or donate loose bills and coins.

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 Todd Lillethun who is entering into the final stages of life due to brain cancer. Comfort & strength for Todd’s husband Brandon, and for Todd’s parents John & Donna Lillethun.

For Chris Thomas’ sister-in-law who is dying.

For Peter Fabian’s brother John who is waiting for a precise diagnosis of cancer. For Eric Lloyd’s father who fell off a roof and is bruised and sore.

For Karen Falkner’s grandson Jackson who is having adverse reactions to medications he’s been taking.

For the victims of the shootings in the Jewish synagogue in Pittsburgh last Saturday morning.

Prayers of Joy:

For the group from ORUCC and Christ the Solid Rock Church who participated in the Civil Rights Tour.

For the bench at Randall Elementary School which was dedicated last Friday in memory of Marilyn Arnold.

For Ken Pippert who was recently recognized for 20 years of volunteer service for RSVP (Retired and Senior Volunteer Program)

For the baptisms of Fiona & Leo Schultz (children of Bethany & Brock Schultz) two Sundays ago during worship.

For 17 middle school youths and adults who participated in an Urban Immersion in Milwaukee two weekends ago.

For the birth of Avery Vincent born to Karin & Jesse Drury and proud grandparents Jim McNamara & Jill Westberg.

For the birth of Miles Isaac Jenkins born to Gina & Aaron Jenkins and proud grandparents Nancy & Paul Evans.

For the marriage of Ann & David Moyer’s daughter Katie in Montana.

For John Day who is recovering well at home from prostate surgery.

For Marty Bero who is recovering well at home from knee replacement surgery.

For Jennifer & Paul Eggerling-Boeck’s niece Marijka who is home from the hospital and recovering nicely.

For the recent canonization of Oscar Romero in the Roman Catholic Church.

For the scumptuous Worship & Work luncheon last Sunday hosted by the Ministry of Congregational Life.

For the many who remained after worship last Sunday to work on indoor and outdoor projects.

Family Game Nights:

Do you enjoy board games, word games, cards, Pokemon, or Legos? All are invited to join us for a game night. Bring a game and a snack to share. We’ll meet in Friendship Hall on the first Fridays of the month (Nov 2, Dec 7, Jan 4) from 6:00-8:00 pm. Contact Rachael Lancor rachael.anderman@gmail.com if you have questions.

Election Eve, November 5 Eat at Culver's!!

The youth will be working at Culver’s on Mineral Point Road on Monday, November 5 from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. to help raise money for next year’s mission trip.

Culver’s will donate 10 percent of their sales to our group! Hope to see you there!

Labyrinth Walk:

Join us for a reflective walk on the labyrinth, Thursday, November 8, from 5:30 – 7 pm. The theme will center around the fall activity of harvest, and how we might preserve elements of light in our lives amid the darkness. You need not come for the entire time; walks typically take 20-30 minutes.

OVER 55:

The next OVER 55 meeting will be on Tuesday, November 13th and our speaker will be MICHELLE REINEN. Michelle is the director of the Bureau of Consumer Protection within the WI Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection. She will talk about the current scams and frauds and how we can protect ourselves. This is a very timely topic since we are approaching the holiday season. As usual, we will gather at 11:30 and our meal will be served around 11:45. The cost of the meal is $8.00. Please consider coming to this group, even if you have not ever come before. Everyone is welcome.

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.
Care Packages for College Students:

If your son or daughter is in college and would enjoy receiving a care package from the church the week of December 2nd, please email Ken Pennings (ken@orucc.org) with a current address and any food allergies. If you’d like to provide fresh baked goods for the care packages, please bring 18-20 individually wrapped and sealed baggies of baked goods to the church on the morning of December 2nd. Many thanks to the Eveland-Psck family who will be heading up this project this year!

Bible Discussion:

As your time and schedule permits, come join a one-hour discussion on the book of JOB in the Hebrew Bible, the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month at 2 pm, facilitated by Matthew Westfox and Ken Pennings. We currently have a core of 12 people who attend, but are happy for more! Please contact Ken at ken@orucc.org to be added to our email list!

Exercise Class at ORUCC:

The class activities can be adapted to all levels and are designed to help reduce risk of falls and injuries. Classes are held on Mondays and Thursdays from 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM in the Bonhoeffer Room. If you are unable to make all classes, please come when you can.

There is no charge for the class but a donation to the Heart Room of $2-$5 per class is recommended. Contact Joyce Pohl at japohl@gmail.com or 206-5697 if you have questions.

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.

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.

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.

Monthly Compassion Offerings:

January—The Wisconsin Medical Project $2106.65
February—Theas-Table $1847.07
March—One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) $3640.47
April—The Crossing $2140.65
May—Madison Urban Ministry (MUM) $1253.25
June—Community Health Initiative in Haiti (CHI Haiti) $3214.16
July—Habitat for Humanity $1885.56
August—Book & Breakfast (Freedom Inc.) $2015.00
September—Hurricane Harvey & Irma $6780.23
October—Community Immigration Law Center (CILC) $3186.43

Thank you for your generosity

October Search Committee Update:

The Search Committee has completed our round of brainstorming/listening sessions, answering the questions; What attracts you and keeps you coming to ORUCC? What major societal trends do you see over the next few years and how should our church respond to them? What do you think God is calling our church to become over the next few years? We talked to 94 adult members of the congregation including small group brainstorming sessions and meetings with members of the various church ministries. We also met with 11 high school and four middle school youth. In addition, we have met with most staff members and those meetings will be completed this month. Thank you to all who have participated in this process as it has been a very rich experience hearing from you about what’s important to you about the faith community of ORUCC and your hopes for the future.

Our next task is to review what we have learned and describe it in various narrative sections of the Church Profile. In addition to describing who we are, what the future may bring and God’s presence in all this, your input has helped us create a vision of the type of leadership we are looking for.

We are also gathering information for the financial and salary parts of the profile. We will be working on completing the profile through October and November and perhaps into December.

If you were not able to participate in any of the small group sessions, we would still value your input on these questions or other information you would like us to have. Or if you have any other questions, contact any of the members of the Search Committee below.

Mary Bucknell, Dana Robbins, Barbara Stretchberry, Brian Lancor, Chris Thomas, Doug Piper, Kim Kaspar and Sara Roberts.
EVERYBODY FEELS GOOD:

During “Joys & Concerns,” you sometimes hear a person tell of their deep appreciation for members of our church community who brought them a meal or two when they were going through a challenging time. That sort of thing may happen spontaneously among people who know each other well; but at other times, one of the pastors knows of a family that could benefit from some temporary help with meals (and the TLC the recipients also feel from it). The pastor contacts the Meals Mission Team, a quiet ministry that has existed for years, and asks for some meals to be arranged for. A Team member contacts some of the people who have volunteered to make and deliver an occasional meal for a church family and asks whether they could help in the particular instance. Would you be willing to be on our list?

Contact Jan Christian (jlchrist@wisc.edu or 827-0500) if you would like to know more or become a part of this. Some lasting bonds between people have started this way.

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.

Christmas Eve Service Times (Ushers Needed)

4:00 a.m. Service need 4 ushers
7:00 p.m. Service need 4 ushers
If you can help out please contact the church office 271-7212.

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 2019 will not qualify for a charitable contribution deduction in 2018, even if the check is predated to 2018 or was actually written in 2018.

However, checks that are written, mailed, and postmarked in 2018 will be deductible in 2018 even if it is not received until 2019. Year-end contribution statements for 2018 will be emailed in January. If you do not have email a copy will be mailed to you.

Dane Sanctuary Benefit Concert featuring singer/songwriter Sara Thomsen

Saturday, December 1st at 7 p.m.
Orchard Ridge UCC Sanctuary
$20 at the door or online at www.orucc.org

Come out to support our interfaith efforts to be a witness and a welcome to all residents in our communities. The Dane Sanctuary Coalition, working in partnership with Voces de la Frontera and Centro Hispano, is part of the New Sanctuary Movement, which includes over 800 sanctuary congregations across the nation protecting undocumented immigrant families.
A Boydseye View

Earlier today, I returned from a moving Civil Rights Bus Tour with 23 folks from ORUCC and Christ the Solid Rock church on the east side. Over 5 days we visited sites in

- Memphis — The Lorraine Motel where King was shot and the Stax Museum of American Soul Music
- Birmingham — the Civil Rights Institute and the 16th St. Baptist Church (where 4 young girls were killed in one of many bombings in that city in that period)
- Selma — The Edmund Pettus Bridge (the scene of “Bloody Sunday” when marchers seeking the right to vote were brutally pushed back by police officers)
- Montgomery — Dexter Ave Baptist Church (a church King served for a time), The Equal Justice Initiative’s Legacy Museum and National Memorial for Peace and Justice (A memorial to lynchings in this country)
- and Atlanta — Martin Luther King National Park (featuring MLK’s childhood home and church and the King Center for Nonviolent Social Change)

It was a moving experience, even overwhelming at times. I was grateful to be with old and new friends to process and share the emotions. In the coming weeks, members of our group will create opportunities to share more information and stories, pictures and reflections. We’ll announce that as it unfolds. In the meantime, you can see a variety of pictures on the church’s Facebook page.

On a trip like this, it is often the little things that stand out. Amidst all the information, pictures, sites and stories, I want to share an emerging reflection of my own.

This trip highlighted the courage and grit of so many unsung heroes who gave heart and soul, body and even blood, for the right to vote, to live free, and to claim their full humanity. As I read and heard about the enormous sacrifices people made, I saw anew the amazing power, faith, and strength that emerged from generations of slavery, Jim Crow laws, and widespread discrimination. I saw a tenacity that would not be turned back; not now, not again. I saw a faith in God, a trust in brothers and sisters in the struggle, and a belief in the principles of non-violence that would not be stifled nor silenced.

I come through this week reminded that fragility is the enemy of justice. As a white, educated, male – I have little cause to walk away from the challenges facing this country. I cannot be politically or socially fragile if I intend to be an ally of those on the margins. T. Marie King, a young African American activist our group met in Birmingham wrote a piece on Facebook last winter highlighting 7 aspects of being a white ally. Here are two of her 7 points:

- #2 — This is war for many people of color and other under represented groups so stop being so shell shocked.
- #5 — Just because you think you are an ally does not mean you are displaying ally behavior. Being an ally is not a badge of honor to wear like the clothes pin movement. Being an ally is being willing to stand in those difficult places publicly with those that are being harmed. You can’t tap out when it gets too hot because we don’t have that luxury to tap out from being Black. (All seven are on the ORUCC Facebook page).

I come back from this trip praying for renewed strength for us all. Renewed strength to not give up or check out in this time when our companionship alongside the marginalized is needed most. I pray that we support and encourage one another so that each of us can be a voice of sanity, trust, resistance and hope in the many hopeless places we encounter each week. This is not a time for fragility, it is not a time to let fear overwhelm us.

This Sunday, we celebrate All Saints Day. We’ll honor the saints in our lives and the saints in our Christian tradition. In our lowest moments, let us channel the energy of the saints in our lives, and the saints in our justice tradition. Let us live as they did and challenge the powers that be with a clarity of vision that has withstood every evil before us and among us. It is but one way to honor the struggle those saints endured.
ORUCC Fair Trade Sale:
The 2018 ORUCC Fair Trade Sale is planned for Sunday, 11/18 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. We could use some help with advertising and promotion of the event. For the weekend of the event, we will also need help with set up on Saturday, and teardown. A Facebook event has been created, so please express your interest, invite your friends and share it. If you'd like to become involved with this event, please contact Angie Schoeneck at angelschoe-neck@gmail.com or 608-333-2351.