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

**Sunday Morning**

**December 9**
9 am Java & Jesus
10 am Winton Boyd preaching ORUCC Choir

**December 16**
9 am Java & Jesus
10 am Ken Pennings preaching Handbell Choir

**December 23**
9 am Java & Jesus
10 am Tammy Martens preaching ORUCC Choir

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**Newsletters:**

**December 18**
Announcements 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 Bauerkermpem
office@orucc.org
Tammy Martens
tmartens@orucc.org
Ken Pennings
ken@orucc.org
Winton Boyd
winton@orucc.org

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**Advent and Christmas**

**Holiday Post Office**
Share you Christmas cards with church friends by using the Holiday Post Office sponsored by our youth.
Each card you send will cost 40 cents. The Post Office will be up and running on
December 9, 16 and 23 in the Friendship Hall.

**Youth Bake Sale**
December 9th after worship

**Reflections from our Civil Rights Bus Tour**
December 16th at 9 a.m.

**Longest Night**
Friday, December 21st
Labyrinth Walk
from 5:30-7:00 p.m.
Service at 7:00 p.m.

**Christmas Eve Services**
Family Friendly Candle Light service with our children and Tru Function
4:00 p.m.

**Candlelight Service**
ORUCC choir, Special music with Dave Allen, John Stevens, Paul Hedges and Kythie Boyd, readings and carols
7:00 p.m. (*Note new time!)

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**WHAT SHALL WE BRING?**

**Orchard Ridge UCC Stewardship:** Thanks to all who have sent in pledge cards. To date we’ve received 135 pledge cards and $386,874.00 in pledges. If you have not returned your pledged please do so as soon as possible. If you did not receive the 2019 pledge information, and would like to consider a 2019 pledge, information and pledge cards are on the table in the Crossroads.
70 ½ Tax Benefit Options:  
When planning to meet your pledge to Orchard Ridge UCC, remember that if you are over 70 ½ you may receive a tax benefit by making a “qualifying charitable distribution” from a traditional IRA or Roth IRA accounts. Please contact your financial advisor for details or speak with John Day, Treasurer.

A reminder that remaining balance on your 2018 pledge need to be received in the church office no later than December 29 (see note below)

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 postmarked by December 31, 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.

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. Here is a simplified option to pay your operating pledge on a monthly basis, by automatic deduction through your bank.  

Pink auto deduction forms are on the table in The Crossroads.

Please contact Debbie at the church office 271-7212 for more information. Deductions are taken out the 15th of each month.

Compassion offering for December will be the UCC Christmas Fund and the Second Harvest Food Bank:  
UCC CHRISTMAS FUND:  
For many years, ORUCC has supported the national denomination’s Christmas Fund through our December offering. This Ministry of the UCC Pension Board provides direct financial assistance to retired and active UCC authorized ministers and lay employees and their surviving spouses who are in need. Funds can provide pension and health premium supplemen-
tation, emergency assistance, and Christmas Thank you checks.

Second Harvest:  
Second Harvest is a hunger relief charity organization whose goal is to make sure everyone in southwestern Wisconsin has enough of the right kinds of food to live a happy and healthy life. They do that in three ways:

Food distribution - Millions of pounds of food are delivered each year through Second Harvest’s network of partner agencies, fixed and mobile food pantries and programs.

Promotion of government programs – They assist people in our community to understand and apply for government programs like SNAP (known as FoodShare in Wisconsin). Through FoodShare Outreach they help thousands of people receive FoodShare benefits each year.

Promote hunger awareness – Second Harvest believes that building awareness of the thousands of people in southwestern Wisconsin who don’t always know where their next meal will come from is the first step to ending hunger.

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 Roger Heimer, Lucy Heimer’s father, who is facing additional health challenges.

For Ralph Peterson’s granddaughter who will be having heart surgery. Ralph and Helen will be traveling to England to be with his family.

For Gina Broadbent, mother of Kerri Parker, being treated for pain from stage 4 cancer, and approaching the anniversary of the death of Gina’s twin sister.

For John and Donna Lillethun who celebrated the life of their son Todd on Saturday. Todd passed away from brain cancer.

Prayers of Joy:  
For Mary Bubenzer who had surgery to remove a cyst and no cancer was found.

For the Benefit Concert on Saturday night that raised almost $1500 for the Dane Sanctuary Coalition.

For Phil Winkler’s healing from heart surgery and that he was able to be in worship on Sunday.

For Jenny Dobbins’ dad who had a health scare but all turned out okay.

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE:  
Members of Orchard Ridge UCC are invited to apply for 2019-2020 college scholarships of $1,000 to $2,000 from the Frank E. Page Scholarship Fund. Applicants should be planning to begin or continue education at any accredited 2- or 4-year college or university, and should have a record of academic achievement, service to church and community, and demonstrated financial need. The application deadline is February 15, 2019; contact scholarships@firstcongmadison.org for an electronic application.

Questions? Contact Peter Fabian, 236-9983.

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 (Dec 7 and Jan 4) from 6:00-8:00 pm. Contact Rachael Lancor rachael.anderman@gmail.com if you have questions.
Women’s Book Group:
Thursday, December 6, 1:30-3:30 p.m. at church in the Alfred Swan Room.
We will discuss “The Girl Who Wrote in Silk” by Kelli Estes. A USA Today Best Seller, inspired by actual events. “Inara Erickson is exploring her deceased aunt’s island estate when she finds an elaborately stitched piece of fabric hidden in the house. As she peels back layer upon layer of the secrets it holds, Inara’s life becomes interwoven with that of Mei Lein, a young Chinese girl mysteriously driven from her home a century before. Through the stories Mei Lein tells in silk, Inara uncovers a tragic truth that will shake her family to its core -- and force her to make an impossible choice.” Library copies are scarce, so you may want to consider another source.

If you’re a woman who likes to discuss what she has read, join us! Please let Jan Christian know you plan to attend (827-0500 or jchrist@wisc.edu).

OVER 55:
The annual Over 55 Christmas gathering will be held on Tuesday, December 11th. Our special guest will be Winton Boyd, and he will speak on why a pastor values the older members of the church. We will have our usual wonderful lunch made by our chef team. For dessert we will have ice cream and the McClung’s special recipe for chocolate sauce. If you are able, please bring a plate of cookies to share. We will gather at 11:30 and begin eating at 11:45. The cost of the meal is $8.00. Even if you have never been to Over 55 before, please consider attending. It will be a special meeting and we hope to see you there.

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!

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.

Labyrinth Walk:
This is a crazy busy time of year. Why not take 20 minutes out of your harried life to walk the labyrinth? Soft music will accompany you on the walk. Lights will be dim and you’ll walk in the soft glow of candlelight. Come with an intention in your heart, or come leaving yourself open to the whisperings of Spirit. Give yourself the gift of a few minutes of holy solitude this Advent Season. Thursday, December 13 from 5:30 – 7:00pm

BOYD FAREWELL RECEPTION—SATURDAY JANUARY 5:
The reception to honor Winton and Tammy will be at ORUCC on Saturday, January 5. All of us from ORUCC – of all ages – are welcome! Nursery care will be available. Details:
4-8 p.m. – Reception/open house in the Friendship Hall. Hors d’oeuvres, non-alcoholic beverages, and desserts will be provided by the ORUCC catering team. Feel free to come for part of the time, or all of the time, as your schedule permits.

6 p.m. – Formal program in the Sanctuary. Speakers and surprises!
Interim Pastor Update (from Susan Watson, moderator):

The Leadership Team has hired an interim pastor and expect they’ll be able to join us in early January. They’re finishing up an interim pastorate at another church, so we’re keeping their name and details private for the time being out of respect for the search process of this other church.

There are a couple of details about having an interim pastor here at Orchard Ridge that I’d like to share: They’ll certainly marry us, bury us, baptize our children, visit us in the hospital, and preach on Sunday morning. They may also enjoy joining us for Over 55, Friday Games Night, Work and Worship, and etc. We can all imagine what this will look like.

AND ... They’ve also got special training in interim pastoring ... working with us on transition. This may be a little more difficult to imagine.

Over the course of 20 years, we’ve come to expect that church looks and feels a certain way—that way includes Winton. Once Winton leaves, what will church look like? How do we make the switch away from what we’re comfortable with and toward something new?

Here’s where an interim pastor’s special training comes in.

We’ll want to define our church’s purpose and identity—without Winton. We’ll want to review our church’s history and imagine ways to move forward—with vitality and optimism.

Our interim will help us remember that we are the church and understand what this means.

Orchard Ridge is part of a wider UCC community; during a period of transition, reaffirming these denominational links can be comforting and calming.

Our interim pastor knows strategies and activities that will help us prepare for new leadership and commit to new ministry.

There will be challenges that emerge and opportunities too—interims are trained to help us navigate these. As I’ve become familiar with the training and the tasks an interim serves a church in transition, I’ve been convinced that we’ll be the better for having an interim pastor working with us here at Orchard Ridge.

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.

Chance Allies to Perform:

David Allen (piano) and Lucas Koehler (bass) of the philanthropic group Chance Allies will present a free "Chords and Christmas" concert of original renditions of jazz standards and holiday tunes on Monday, December 17 at 7pm at Oakwood Village Auditorium. Admission is free!

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 win- ton@orucc.org.

Weekly Epost which shares the events of the upcoming weekendBi-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.

Heart-Warming Family Story!

This summer, we launched Heart Room, a pilot program to help six families with young children find and keep stable housing. Early reports are encouraging! Families are making progress on goals they set for themselves, with a spectrum of support from ORUCC and our partner agencies - The Road Home, Early Childhood Initiative (ECI), and Joining Forces for Families.

Here’s the first in a series of stories about the families served by Heart Room. LE (Mom) and IS (Dad) work with a case worker from the ECI office in southwest Madison. They have one (absolutely delightful!) child, and another is due next month.

Since they joined Heart Room, Dad has brought his diabetes under control, meaning his vision can now be corrected with new glasses. Over the past few months, three ORUCC volunteers provided rides to the family for their medical and dental appointments. Just before Thanksgiving, the family moved into a new apartment, saving them about $200 month, and five ORUCC volunteers provided a truck, a bunch of trunks, and helping hands (and backs) to help them move. The latest good news is that the family has received a reliable car through the ORUCC donated car program – so now they can take care of their own transportation. The rental assistance provided by Heart Room is helping to enable this family to move forward with these and other goals. Celebrating their success, one of the ORUCC volunteers added, “They are such a sweet family!”

Thinking about becoming a volunteer? Here are some opportunities at ORUCC:

We are signing up volunteers for 2019—Use our Sign Up Genius for easy sign up! Go to the church website at www.orucc.org and click on volunteers at the top of the page, and you will be directed to the many opportunities available, such as, Ushers, Welcomers, Coffee Makers, Sound Technicians, Craft/Play Time, Music Connections. You may also contact Ken Pennings or Tammy Martens with any questions.
Dear friends,
This month of December and the early days of January mark the ending of my 20-year ministry with you. I cherish every moment with you in these Advent days. I’m grateful for the informal ways you are saying thanks already. I’m doing my best to reciprocate the gratitude.

I want to take a bit of time as I prepare to finish this ministry among you to make clear what being a ‘former’ pastor will mean. When we leave, UCC pastors are called to separate from a church in a healthy way so the congregation can move ahead emotionally and spiritually. On my last Sunday (January 6) with you we’ll share words of blessing and as well as a litany to formally end my pastorate. Both are important. Without doing them, we won’t be free for what the Spirit might guide us to next. It doesn’t mean we love any less; it means we learn to live with new boundaries.

So, what do those boundaries look like? I expect that January 6 will literally be my last day in the building and in my office. Tammy and I will still be living in Madison. Many of you have asked what’s coming next for me. I plan to ramp up my work as a facilitator for the Center for Courage and Renewal. I’ve also been in conversation with a couple of entities about some part time ministry work. I don’t expect things to be ready to share publicly before I leave, but if that changes, I will let you know. I hope, in general, to use my experience and time to be of service to other clergy, the wider ministry of the church, and the interfaith work for justice in this country. While I am not specifically retiring, I do hope to work less than I have in recent years.

You may see us from time to time, at the grocery store, on the bike trail, at a concert or in a coffee shop. If you run into us, feel free to say hello; you don’t have to pretend we don’t exist! We shouldn’t chat about what’s happening at ORUCC, though; the future of the church needs to stay with all of you. Our daughter, Kythie, is not bound by the same ethics. She will be finding her way into a new relationship with the congregation too; now that her parents are not part of it.

After my final Sunday, I won’t do baptisms, weddings, funerals, hospital visits or be providing support during difficult times. I won’t attend church here. I will ask Ken and Tammy to let me know of any deaths so I can hold family and loved ones in prayer. At the same time, it is important for you to lean into your connections with your other two current pastors, as well as your incoming interim and permanent senior pastors. As I make my way around the wider community, I will continue verbally to support the work of the church, knowing you’ll find new directions that are exciting and future oriented.

I expect to remain involved in the statewide work of the United Church of Christ, as well as UCCI (Camps). I may cross paths with some of you in those contexts, and if so, we’ll need to do our best to stay out of the pastor-parishioner relationship. Please recognize that when - or if - I put a limit on the conversation, it is out of love for you and the church. I plan to remain available as a volunteer for the Dane Sanctuary Coalition, although I will not hold leadership positions. I will continue as a board member of the Mellowhood Foundation until such time as that seems to be a conflict with any successor of mine. Knowing that the departure of both Debbie Bauerkemper (Officer Manager) and I within a month results in the loss of institutional memory, I will remain available to any of the pastors for any factual questions they have about the building or past practices.

Another sensitive place of connection is social media. We need to make space there, too. For those of you who are my Facebook friends or Instagram followers, I’ll be either defriending or unfollowing you for a year or more, which means I won’t see your posts and feel tempted to comment. I invite you to do the same, until your new permanent pastor has been here for a while and you have a solid relationship with them. The social media terminology can sound ugly, but it really is about making space for what comes next.

Sometimes these boundaries are hard to hear. I offer them, though, because I dearly love this congregation. A church cannot move forward with a former pastor lurking in the background. Your focus needs to be on your future together, seeking out your next leaders and vision. Orchard Ridge UCC is full of saints and blessings, full of energy to serve the world and to care for one another. I know you will continue to sing with gusto, pursue hard questions, and make room for those seeking a new spiritual home in the Madison area.

Please don’t hesitate to ask questions about these boundaries.

With deep love,
Meet Our New Members!

Diane Jungblut was born and raised in Monroe, WI, and moved to the Madison area when she was 26 to attend school. She received a degree in Commercial Art and worked as a graphic designer for a large part of her career. She moved to the Chicago area for about seven years to be with her husband. She received a bachelor’s degree in Applied Behavioral Science and a master’s in Education while there. When her husband passed away in 2008, she decided to move back "home," and has lived in Madison ever since. She lives on the west side of Madison, and enjoys sewing, cooking, spending time with friends, and visiting her sister and her family in Minnesota. She has been a lifelong member of UCC churches.

Kathi Kemp has lived in a lot of places in her adult life, including Mexico, Florida, Indiana, and Tennessee, and her home state Louisiana, but Wisconsin is the best place she’s ever lived. She is a bilingual resource teacher in the Madison school district, and loves being outdoors, reading, dancing, and going to hear live music.

Megan Lusk: Megan and her younger brother, Joshua, were born in southwest Minnesota. Her father, Don, is a remodeling contractor and her mother, Laurine, is a disability advocate. As the family searched for better educational services for their children, they moved from Minnesota to Madison’s Orchard Ridge neighborhood, where Megan attended Sunday school and was confirmed in this church. Then the family moved to Verona, where Megan graduated from high school. Now, Megan owns a home and works two jobs. When she’s not at work she focuses on eating healthy, staying fit, watching movies and reading. Megan recently presented at a state disability conference, where she helped people learn how to hire and supervise their support staff. She especially enjoys making new friends here, at church, and through her many other community activities.

Jill Westberg and Jim McNamar

Jim writes: I began life as an only child, except for my six brothers and sisters. (When asked if we were Catholic, my father replied “No, just passionate Protestants.”) Life was good until college when I had an emergency appendectomy on the first day of classes and had to drop out of school. Two years later I had to drop out again from illness, which left me available for the draft. I served in the Army from October 1968 to September of 1971, including a tour in Viet Nam. I finished college in 1974 with a BSEE and started work with a machine tool sales and service company where I became Vice President. I left after 30 years and started my own company dealing with related electrical cutting machines. Five years ago I joined with a partner in an operation located in Connecticut which is now being liquidated. My wife Jill and I have been married 37 years this month and purchased our home in Madison to be close to our children, Ian and Karin, who are employed by UWM and Epic respectively. We are very pleased to be here and to be part of this congregation where our daughter also attends.

LeRoy, Jared, Rebecca and Anneliese Erickson

Michael Mudrey
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.

Poinsettia Orders

Name_______________________________________________________

In Honor____________________________________________________

In Memory__________________________________________________

No. of plants_____ at $15 each   Total Enclosed $_______

My plant may be given away_____  

Please collect your plant after the 7 p.m. service on December 24th.

Please return this form to the church office by Monday, December 17

VOLUNTEER ASSIGNMENTS

Ushers
Dec 9  Jim Treichel, Larry & Sharon Goss
Dec 16  Joyce Binder, Peter Fabian, Jarrett Gersten
Dec 23  Jerry Nelson, Phil & Judy Winkel
Dec 24 4 pm Youth
Dec 24 7 pm Joyce Binder, Carolyn Carlson, NEED 2 more

Ushers
Dec 30  Jerry Nelson, Bob & Carol Prugh

Welcomers
Dec 9  Glenn Schaeffer, Bob & Carol Prugh
Dec 16  Leah Narans, Bob & Carol Prugh
Dec 23  Heather Stevens, Jack Schairer, Mary Loving
Dec 24 4 pm NEED 2 VOL
Dec 24 7 pm NEED 2 VOL
Dec 30  Ruthanne Landsness, John & Donna Lillethun

Coffee
Dec 9  Chuck Kaspar, Jane Glaze
Dec 16  Chris Thomas, Dan Stevens
Dec 23  Phil & Judy Winkel
Dec 30  Chris Thomas, Chuck Kaspar

Financial Secretary
Dec 9  Nancy Wettersten
Dec 16  Meg Stevens
Dec 23  Peter Hoff
Dec 30  Marge Wennen (will include Christmas Eve, and deposit at bank today, Pic n Save, McKee Rd. They will be open)

Sound
Dec 9  Andrew Beckett
Dec 16  Ken Psyck
Dec 23  Jarrett Gersten
Dec 24 4 pm Chuck Kaspar
Dec 24 7 pm Paul Hedges
Dec 30  Jarrett Gersten

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 6</td>
<td>8:30 a.m. Meditation &amp; Spirituality Discussion</td>
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<td>1:30 p.m. Women's Book Group</td>
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<td>Friday 7</td>
<td>6:00 p.m. Family Game Night</td>
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<td>Sunday 9</td>
<td>9:00 a.m. Java &amp; Jesus</td>
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<td>9:00 a.m. Sunday School</td>
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<td>10:00 a.m. Worship Service</td>
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<td>11:00 a.m. Holiday Bake Sale Yth Fundraiser</td>
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<td>Monday 10</td>
<td>5:00 p.m. Search Committee Meeting</td>
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<td>7:00 p.m. Handbell Rehearsal</td>
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<td>7:15 p.m. ORUCC Men's Group</td>
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<td>Tuesday 11</td>
<td>11:30 a.m. OVER 55</td>
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<td>6:30 p.m. Care of Creation meeting</td>
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<td>Wednesday 12</td>
<td>2:00 p.m. Bible Discussion Group</td>
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<td>6:00 p.m. Adult Faith Formation Meeting</td>
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<td>7:00 p.m. ORUCC Choir Rehearsal</td>
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<td>11:30 a.m. Congregational Life Meeting</td>
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<td>Monday 17</td>
<td>7:00 p.m. Handbell Rehearsal</td>
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<td>Tuesday 18</td>
<td>6:30 p.m. Leadership Team meeting</td>
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<td>Wednesday 10</td>
<td>7:00 p.m. ORUCC Choir Rehearsal</td>
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<td>Thursday 20</td>
<td>8:30 a.m. Meditation &amp; Spirituality Discussion</td>
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<td>Friday 21</td>
<td>5:30 p.m. Labyrinth Walk</td>
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<td>7:00 p.m. Longest Night Service</td>
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<td>Sunday 23</td>
<td>9:00 a.m. Food/Crafts for Children and Families</td>
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