Orchard Ridge United Church of Christ
COMMUNION

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

Sunday Morning

December 23
9 am Java & Jesus
10 am Winton Boyd preaching
ORUCC Choir

December 30
9 am Java & Jesus
10 am Winton Boyd preaching
Special Music

January 6
9 am Java & Jesus
10 am Winton Boyd preaching
ORUCC Choir

January 13
9 am Java & Jesus
10 am Laura Crow preaching
Tru Gumption

Newsletters:

January 15

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 Bauerkemper
office@orucc.org
Tammy Martens
tmartens@orucc.org
Ken Pennings
ken@orucc.org
Winton Boyd
winton@orucc.org

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 final day is December 23 in the Friendship Hall.

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!)

WHAT SHALL WE BRING? Orchard Ridge UCC Stewardship: Thanks to all who have sent in pledge cards. To date we’ve received 150 pledge cards and $408,706.00 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.

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 mission 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!
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 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.

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 auto 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 supplementation, emergency assistance, and Christmas Thank you checks.

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 Arline Granberg who is at Arace Hospice.
For Dianne Stevens recovering at home after an appendectomy.
For Ellen Reuter recovering at home after a lumpectomy. Radiation will begin in mid-January.
For Loretta McClure whose mother passed away last Thursday in Arkansas.
For Peter Hoff’s 96 yr. old father who is failing in health.
For Lauren Amburn’s uncle Rick who is in a medically induced coma following cardiac arrest.
For Lucy Heimer’s father who has had a re-occurrence of cancer. For Lucy’s uncle whose son passed away.
For Ralph Petersen and Helen Horn’s grand-daughter whose heart surgery has been delayed several weeks.
For the family and friends of Kathryn Hill grieving her death.

Prayers of Joy:
For the retirement of our office manager Debbie Bauerkemper who was recognized last Sunday morning for her 14 years of capable service as our Office Manager. Debbie will continue with us through mid-January.
For the hire of our new Office Administrator Julie Wombacher.
For those who participated on the Civil Rights Tour; for their opportunity to share about their experiences last Sunday morning.
For the delightful Advent Devotional compiled by a team of people from ORUCC.

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 scholar- ships@firstcongmadison.org for an electronic application.
Questions? Contact Peter Fabian, 236-9983.
slides in the back seat. Vallelonga (Viggo Mortensen) takes the driver’s seat, prepared to leave New York for an eight-week tour. But before they hit the road, a manager slips Vallelonga a “Green Book,” explaining quickly that black people can’t stay everywhere and that the guide might help the chauffeur find accommodations for Shirley.

We will also spend a few minutes discussing upcoming Academy Awards, our thoughts and those of the pundits. All folks are welcome. Please RSVP to Steve Sheets at im1042@tds.net or 845-5667.

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.

**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 through May from 6:00-8:00 pm. Contact Rachael Lancor rachael.anderman@gmail.com if you have questions.

**OVER 55:**
The next Over 55 meeting will be on January 8th. Our speaker will be Frank Erdman who is the Critical Care Transport Manager at the UW Hospital. He has over 30 years of experience in Emergency Medical Services and he has a particular interest in the Children’s Hospital Emergency Transport Ambulance (CHETA). As usual we will gather at 11:30 and begin eating around 11:45, with the program to follow. The cost of the meal is $8.00. We hope you can join us—it should be a good program. First time attendees are very welcome.

**Movie Group:**
The ORUCC Movie Group will meet at 7 p.m. on Friday, January 11th in Friendship Hall. Carol & Robert Prugh are hosting and will facilitate the film discussion & provide dessert & beverages. While we usually meet on the third Friday of the month, January’s meeting is on the second Friday.

The suggested movie for this month’s discussion is “The Green Book.” Based on a true story there’s a scene in the film when Don Shirley, a Jamaican American classically trained pianist, and his white chauffeur, Frank “Tony Lip” Vallelonga, climb into a blue Cadillac before setting out on a 1962 concert tour that would take them through a still-segregated United States, including potentially treacherous stops in the Midwest and the Deep South.

Shirley (played by Mahershala Ali)

**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.

**All Church January Retreat, January 18-20, 2019:**
Our church will hold its 10th Annual Winter Retreat at Pilgrim Center (Green Lake, WI) January 18-20, 2019. Wonderful lodging, food, outdoor fun, crafts, music, conversations/sharing around the fireplace, and so much more is being planned for this weekend with the hope that our friendships and faith will be deepened and encouraged. There will be guided activities for all age groups on Saturday morning. We begin the retreat on Friday evening and finish around 11:00 a.m. on Sunday morning. Remaining housing option is the Heidel House. To reserve a room call 1-800-444-2812. (Pilgrim Center is full). Second, go to our website, www.orucc.org and make a payment for the meals at Pilgrim Center, $30 for 4 meals (12 years old and older), $25 for 4 meals (4 to 11 years), and three and under—free.

Every attendee’s cost is subsidized $20 by the church. Due to limited space, we will attempt to honor lodging preferences on a first come first serve basis based on paid registration. Thank you for your understanding.
Interim Senior Pastor. Laura is finishing up her second stint as Interim Pastor at First United Church of Christ in Belleville. In addition, she served as Interim Pastor for Memorial UCC in Fitchburg in 2017 and Zwingli UCC in Paoli in 2018.

Prior to that, for 10 years, she was on the staff of Middleton Community UCC, most of that time as their Director of Faith Formation. In 2016, she was licensed to be a worship leader at Middleton as they developed a new late-afternoon Sunday service. And then when the pastor in Belleville died suddenly that October, Laura was licensed to be their Interim Pastor until they could hire a longer-term interim. She won high praise for her work in that very difficult situation. She returned to Belleville this past June to complete their interim period. She will be licensed to serve ORUCC.

She will begin her work here during the week of January 7th. She has already met with Winton Boyd and will meet again with him and Ken Pennings and Tammy Martens between now and January.

Laura’s experience goes well beyond church work, however. She was elected to two terms on the Middleton-Cross Plains School Board from 2000 to 2006 and was on the board of directors of the Middleton Outreach Ministry from 1995 to 1999. Her degree is microbiology and she worked for 19 years at Agracetus in Middleton.

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.

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@oru.cc or winton@oru.cc.
- 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 events of the upcoming weekend
- LGBTQ and allies list which is used periodically to highlight community events or issues.

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.oru.cc 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.

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.
Thank you, church elders: A Boydseye View

When I was a young, 30ish pastor in Fresno, my colleague and I started a book and bible study at a nearby Senior Residential facility named San Joaquin Gardens. We had about 25 residents living there, some of whom could not make it worship on Sundays. I naively thought it would be a rather humdrum affair. How intellectually stimulating could a group of octogenarians be after all? (remember, in my own mind I was a hip, bright and worldly thirty something pastor!) I quickly discovered the group to be incredible; full of intellectual curiosity and replete with lifetimes of stories about their faith, their work for justice and their experience in Christian community. It was an eye opening, heart expanding experience that set me on a path of deep appreciation for the value of elders in the church.

So often in the church, great weight is put on attracting young families or young adults. This is fine and important, to be sure. What I want to say, however, is that the value of church elders cannot be underestimated. Last week, I shared two thoughts along this line of thinking with our Over 55 group.

First of all, imbedded within our elders are decades of faithful living. In the long journey of seeking justice and building community, we have the deep and lengthy experience of people who ground our community. To live into one’s 80’s, one has to learn how to change and adapt just to drive a car or make a phone call. In the same way, our elders have been adapting, changing, exploring, debating and praying longer than many in the church have been alive. With this experience comes wisdom, patience, and even some humor. With years of fighting for God’s people — especially the marginalized — comes grit and hope that is essential to younger generations facing disillusionment or confusion for the first time. It is my hope that the elders of the church will continue to be honored for what they bring and what they have to share with all the succeeding generations.

Secondly, our elders are accustomed to a lifetime of welcoming others. They’ve welcomed new family members, new neighbors, new work colleagues and indeed, new church members and pastors. Whether or not they’ve been in this church all their lives, they know the power of welcome and greeting. They know the value of making new friends and learning about new people in their lives. With this history, it is my hope that you elders in the congregation (as well as those in other generations) will exercise that great gift of welcome to those who follow me. It is my hope that you will welcome the interim pastor and the new senior pastor; seeking to enjoy what they bring to this new era in church life. It is an ancient practice in our faith tradition — that of welcoming the stranger. At the same time, it is a supremely important gift in the present.

Thanks for all you’ve been to me, all you’ve given me and all that you’ve meant to my family.

Office Manager, Debbie Bauerkemper Retires

I am filled with mixed emotions, as I prepare to retire mid-January, leaving an extended family I’ve come to love. We’ve laughed together, cried together, joked around, had serious and not so serious conversations, and have developed some friendships along the way.

It has been wonderful being associated with the UCC for over 20+ years, starting in Eau Claire in the 90’s working for David Moyer, a member of Orchard Ridge, who was at the time, the Northwest Association Minister of the WI Conference. We both moved to Madison for work transitions, and when an opening came up at Orchard Ridge, a colleague of ours encouraged me to apply, and since 2004 the rest is history.

I have enjoyed the relationships with members of the church ministries over the years, and have appreciated all the members and friends of the congregation who have stopped in the office to chat or just say hello. I have admired and been in awe of the commitment the church has to the ministries inside and outside the church. You are always willing to lend a helping hand to one another and to anyone in need.

The church staff, which has changed and grown over the years, has been wonderful to work with. I am especially grateful to have Winton, Tammy and Ken to work alongside of. They have enriched my life and I have gained wisdom and knowledge beyond a work environment in so many ways. We are more a family than just co-worker’s and have been there for each other in times of joy and sorrow. I will miss the day-to-day camaraderie.

I am looking forward to retirement, especially being able to spend more time with my husband, Dale, daughter Rian and her husband Brian, my 2 grandson’s Brady and Blake, and my granddaughter Sloane. My family has always been my rock, has always supported each other, and has given me strength, encouragement, and given me such love and joy, and my grandchildren, what can I say, they have filled my heart and they complete me.

I’m excited to explore what is over the horizon and where life takes me.

I want to thank Orchard Ridge for welcoming me into your family. You will forever be in my heart and prayers.

Debbie
General Synod 32 Volunteering
June 21-25, 2019

YOUR HELP IS KEY to the success of the Wisconsin Conference hosting the 32nd General Synod of the UCC at the Wisconsin Center in Milwaukee. Over 3000 people are expected to attend and we need 300 to 400 volunteers to assist the Local Arrangements Committee over this 5-day event. Here is an opportunity to experience the wider United Church of Christ and to learn about our denomination and the many ministries we are engaged in on behalf of Jesus Christ. Here are ways you can volunteer:

**Extravagant Hospitality and Welcome:** Welcome and direct attendees at Mitchell Airport, the Intermodal Station downtown and in designated hotels.

**Registration Table:** Assist with the check-in process at the Wisconsin Center.

**Guides and Greeters:** Welcome and provide directions to attendees in the Wisconsin Center.

**Accessibility:** Assist with motorized scooters, or other accommodations.

**Childcare and Children’s Ministry:** Provide supervision and program leadership for age-appropriate child care and children’s activities for infants through age 12. All volunteers in this area will have a background check.

**Word Processing for Education and Committees:** use your word processing skills to maintain edits in pronouncements of assigned committees.

**Floor Stewards:** Assist delegates during plenary sessions as needed.

**Exhibit Hall Support:** Assist in the area designated for UCC and related agencies and vendors.

**Worship Ushers:** Usher during worship services of Synod.

**Volunteer Support:** Support volunteers before and during General Synod.

**App-bassadors:** Help delegates and visitors to access the General Synod app.

**Outdoor Festival:** Direct and assist attendees at the Sunday Festival at Frank Zeidler Square Park. All members of the Wisconsin Conference are invited!

**Flexible On-Call:** On-call volunteers will cover needs which arise unexpectedly.

For more information check out [wcucc.org/synodvolunteer](http://wcucc.org/synodvolunteer).

In January, Volunteer registration will be available online through the Wisconsin Conference website page for General Synod. Information with the link will also be emailed to congregations. All registrations for Volunteering will be done electronically including indicating the positions available and the dates/times volunteers are needed.

Fill out the form and schedule yourself for a specific opportunity/ies and specific times. To qualify for a reduced Synod registration fee, volunteers must sign up for 6 hours. Once confirmed as an Official Volunteer you will receive a code and can register on the UCC General Synod website, [ucc.org/synod](http://ucc.org/synod).

After registering as a volunteer, Volunteers must register with the General Synod site and pay a reduced fee of $60. As a registered volunteer you are able to attend all 5 days of the General Synod as a visitor volunteer at this reduced rate. **DO NOT Register on the Synod website until you have been confirmed and received the volunteer code.**

**We hope you consider volunteering at General Synod 32 in Milwaukee June 21-25, 2019! We want you to help give an extravagant welcome to the United Church of Christ in Milwaukee and the Wisconsin Conference.**

General Synod 32 LAC Coordinators
Bonnie Andrews, Debbie Payden, Tom Payden, Tim Perkins
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

Volunteer Assignments

Ushers
Dec 23 Jerry Nelson, Jon Blanchard
Dec 24 4 pm Youth
Dec 24 7 pm Joyce Binder, Carolyn Carlson, NEED 2 VOL

Welcomers
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

Sound
Dec 23 Jarrett Gersten
Dec 24 4 pm Chuck Kaspar
Dec 24 7 pm Paul Hedges
Dec 30 Jarrett Gersten

Coffee
Dec 23 Phil & Judy Winkel
Dec 30 Chris Thomas, Chuck Kaspar

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

Calendar of Events

December
Friday 21 5:30 p.m. Labyrinth Walk
7:00 p.m. Longest Night Service
Sunday 23 9:00 a.m. Food/Crafts for Children and Families
10:00 a.m. Worship Service
1:00 p.m. Children's Christmas Rehearsal
Monday 24 4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Family Friendly Service
7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
Tuesday 25 Christmas Day office closed
Wednesday 26 Holiday office closed
Thursday 27 8:30 a.m. Meditation & Spirituality Discussion
Sunday 30 9:00 a.m. Java & Jesus
9:00 a.m. Sunday School
10:00 a.m. Worship Service
Monday 31 New Year’s Eve office closed

January
Tuesday 1 New Year’s Day office closed
Wednesday 2 7:00 p.m. ORUCC Choir Rehearsal
Thursday 3 8:30 a.m. Meditation & Spirituality Discussion
Friday 4 8:30 a.m. Women’s Breakfast at Pancake Café
6:00 p.m. Family Game Night
Saturday 5 4:00-8:00 p.m. Boyd Celebration
Sunday 6 9:00 a.m. Java & Jesus
9:00 a.m. Sunday School
10:00 a.m. Worship Service-Winton Boyd last day
Monday 7 1:30 p.m. Knitting & Crafts Group
7:00 p.m. Handbell Rehearsal
Tuesday 8 11:30 a.m. OVER 55
Wednesday 9 2:00 p.m. Bible Discussion Group
5:30 p.m. Labyrinth Walk
7:00 p.m. ORUCC Choir Rehearsal