Orchard Ridge United Church of Christ

COMMUNION

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

Sunday Morning
January 20
9 am Java & Jesus
10 am Ken Pennings preaching
ORUCC Choir

January 27
9 am Java & Jesus
10 am Tammy Martens preaching
TRU Gumption

February 3
9 am Java & Jesus
10 am Laura Crow preaching
ORUCC Choir

Newsletters:
February 5 and 19
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
Julie Wombacher 1/28/19
office@orucc.org
Tammy Martens
tmartens@orucc.org
Ken Pennings
ken@orucc.org
Laura Crow
pastorlaura@orucc.org

“Let gratitude be the pillow upon which you kneel to say your nightly prayer. And let faith be the bridge you build to overcome evil and welcome good.”
Maya Angelou, Celebrations: Rituals of Peace and Prayer

It is with deep gratitude that I begin my time with you at Orchard Ridge UCC: Gratitude for the ministry that Winton shared with you for over two decades. Gratitude that God continues to open new doors in my life. Gratitude for your trust that a relative “newbie” is capable of learning a few things about “how we do things here” and exploring how we might be called in new directions. And gratitude to each of the many members and friends of Orchard Ridge for your faithful willingness to show up, serve one another, and listen for God’s call at this time of transition.

Throughout this interim period we will continue to worship and pray, laugh and sing, rejoice and comfort one another in the service of God’s vision for our lives, our communities, and our world. I am particularly excited to attend the all church RETREAT this weekend to get to know many of you in a less formal setting! I often think of interim work as a time when congregations learn to dance with a new partner. Our movements are not always fluid, we can get out signals crossed, and we can sometimes step on each others’ toes, but together, as we trust the music, what we accomplish may just leave us breathless!

God be with you, and look forward in hope. Grace abounds!
Laura Crow

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.
Compassion offering for January will be the Statewide Youth Summit on Faith and Gun Violence:

The Wisconsin Council of Churches is sponsoring its first-ever Statewide Youth Summit on January 26th as part of an ecumenical Faith & Gun Violence Initiative. Believing the youth have a prophetic voice on this issue, the Council is committed to keeping their voices central. Middle and high school delegates from around the state will gather at Pilgrim Center for a chance to tell their own story about gun violence – sharing hopes and fears whether they have been directly impacted or are passionate due to the environment we all live in and are shaped by. Working with coaches from an organization called Ex Fabula, they’ll have a chance to shape their stories in meaning-making ways. Participants will have the chance to be part of a story-slam at the end of the day; some of these stories will be recorded, and used as a resource for churches to engage others in conversation. The Council has put out a statewide call for submissions from youth, and is developing an online curriculum and print study-action guide for churches and communities.

To read more about the summit and call for submissions, visit wichurches.org/calendar/event-list/youth-event

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 Joy:

For the first weeks of ministry of our interim pastor, Laura Crow.

For the All-Church-Retreat this weekend at Pilgrim Center with 94 people from ORUCC attending.

For Ellen Reuter who had successful surgery and is cancer free.

For Nancy Cox who had successful surgery, who recovered well from a recent illness.

For Char Klossner who had good news following a lung biopsy – cancer is contained in one lobe of one lung – surgery soon to remove the lobe.

For Elizabeth Lahaie who had successful surgery to remove the tonsils.

For Paige Danley who has recovered nicely from pneumonia.

Prayers of Concern:

For Arline Granberg’s family and friends grieving her death last Monday.

For Peter Hoff and Paul Patenaude grieving the death of Peter’s father in Eau Claire.

For Winton & Tammy Boyd adjusting to their separation from ORUCC.

For Lee Johnsen grieving the death of his brother after a failed heart transplant surgery.

For Lauren Amburn whose uncle Rick passed away.

For Jen Walker’s cousin whose 24 year old daughter died of complications from anorexia.

For Marge Wennen whose aunt passed away.

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 game nights the first Friday of the month, February through May. Bring a game and a snack to share. We’ll meet in Friendship Hall from 6:00-8:00 pm. Contact Rachael Lancer rachael.anderman@gmail.com if you have questions.

OVER 55:

The next OVER 55 meeting will be on February 12th. The Raging Grannies of Madison will be entertaining us, donned in their flowered hats, aprons, and shawls as they share a few personal stories and sing songs addressing important Peace, Social Justice, Public Educations and Environmental issues of the day with humor. As usual, we will gather at 11:30 with the meal being served around 11:45. The cost of the meal is $8.00. Please consider joining us for this fun program even if you are not over 55 or have never been to this meting before. Everyone is welcome.

Movie Group:

Movie Group Friday, February 15th The ORUCC Movie Group will meet at 7 p.m. on Friday, February 15h in the Swan Room. Jack and Jan Christian will lead our discussion on hopeful Oscar nominated films, actors and directors. They will ask us to indicate on a ballot those we “want to win” and those “we think will actually win.” This is always a spirits discussion! The follow-up at our March meeting will examine actual awards. The Christians will also provide a dessert and coffee. 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!

Java and Jesus:
A 45-50 minute, facilitated discussion held on most Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m., and open to all. Topics vary, but typically center on faith and progressive Christian values. The discussion is often based on a reading, which is provided in advance via email. If you wish to be on this email list, let Ken Pennings know (ken@orucc.org). Hard copies of the readings are also available at the sessions. Sometimes, discussions center around a brief video clip played at the beginning of the session. Java and Jesus often meets in the Haynes Music Room. Check the sign board at the parking lot entrance for the exact location.

Women’s Book Group:
Our next gathering will be on Thursday, February 7, from 1:30-3:30 p.m. at church in the Alfred Swan Room.
We will discuss A Gathering of Old Men by Ernest Gaines. Set on a Louisiana sugarcane plantation in the 1970s, this novel is a powerful depiction of racial tensions arising over the death of a Cajun farmer at the hands of a black man. Poignant and earthy...a novel of Southern racial confrontation in which a group of elderly black men band together against whites who seek vengeance for the murder of one of their own. (from Syndetics) 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).

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.

Camping at Governor Dodge State Park:
Mark your calendars for August 2-4 and reserve your campsite now! Care of Creation is sponsoring our 2nd annual camping trip. Join us for a weekend of hiking, swimming, kayaking and campfires at Governor Dodge State Park. We will be setting up our tents in the Cox Hollow section of the park. This year, we ask that you make your own reservations, but please do it quickly as the sites fill up early. Please contact Jill Westberg, jillwestberg@gmail.com, with questions, information regarding sites and to add your name to the roster.

Interim Pastor, Laura Crow
The Leadership Team has selected Laura Crow to be our 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 Tuesdays 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@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 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.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.

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.

Heart Room – Another Kind of Sanctuary for Children and Families:

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 (JFF).

Here’s the fifth in a series of stories about the Heart Room families. CM is a Grandma caring for five grandchildren, a toddler through a teen. The parents are unlikely to be reunited with them for the foreseeable future. Grandma was working a job and a half, without a workable car. The children needed more attention than she could possibly provide them in this situation.

Since joining Heart Room, CM got a car so she can transport all the children and get to work reliably. With Heart Room financial assistance, she has been able to leave the second job and spend more time with the children. This has been very good for family relationships and the well-being of the children, the ECI case worker reports. Early on, ORUCC volunteers helped the family with rides and English language practice. Stable housing offers a platform for children to grow up safe, healthy and successful in school and the community. In a sense, Heart Room is another way in which ORUCC provides safe sanctuary for families with young children in our community.

Please make the following changes in the church Directory:

Change email for Sidney Waldorf to: swaldorf09@gmail.com
Change email for Julie Luecke to: jlmich68@fastmail.com
Change email for Ron Lott to: rlobbottor@gmail.com

FOURTH ANNUAL ORUCC CHILI COOKOFF:

Dust off your crockpot and dig up your favorite, chili-splattered recipe card. It’s time for our 4th annual ORUCC Chili Cook-Off! Who will take home the coveted Blue Ribbon this year? Find out when you join us after worship on Sunday January 27th. Our ORUCC Top Chefs will prepare their favorite recipes, to be eaten and judged by the congregation.

Interested parties, please contact Alyssa Haskins for more information, including reimbursement options: arkaholer@gmail.com.
Application deadline is January 20th.

Pastoral Search Committee Update:

After a brief hiatus during the Christmas holiday, the Search Committee has resumed its activities. The profile is nearing its completion and we expect to submit our copy to Joanne Thomson, our conference minister, by the end of January. After her review and possible edits, Joanne will then post the profile on the conference website. She will be meeting with the Search Committee on January 21 to layout the next phase in the process, which will include receiving and reviewing ministerial profiles of those interested in becoming our Senior Pastor. This next phase is expected to take some time as we carefully consider who we might call to minister with us. As always, if you have any questions about the process, please contact Sara Roberts, Dana Dobbins, Brian Lancor, Mary Bucknell, Chris Thomas, Doug Piper, Barbara Stretchberry or Kim Kaspar.
Tender moments...lots of them lately. Coming off the Boyd farewell celebration was full of tender moments—sharing, giving thanks, tears of sadness and joy, gifts that came in the form of songs, words, dollars, and a beautiful quilt. Tenderness prevailed!

As we move into this time of transition, I know there will be more and more tender moments. Yes, there may be some anxiety, some frustration, some challenges but in the midst of all of this I trust that God is holding us as God always does. God gifts us with grace and love as we share our vulnerabilities of loss and grief we may be experiencing with Winton’s departure. Winton was a long-term pastor who touched the lives of so many of us. Please know that it is entirely appropriate to share about Winton and what he has meant to you. As we share with one another, we enter deeper into our tender connections with each other and this brings healing.

Another tender moment that came to me was at my daughter Lily’s choir concert in December. One song they sang was *I Shall Not Live in Vain* by Ruth Morris Gray. The lyrics and tune opened up a tender moment for me because a friend of 20 years had just died at the age of 60 years old. She seemed way too young to die and I couldn’t make sense of it. But the song brought comfort—

If I can stop one heart from breaking, I shall not live in vain.
If I can ease one life the aching, or cool one pain,
Or help one fainting robin into his nest again,
I shall not live in vain.

If I can mend one soul that’s broken, I shall not live in vain.
If I give kindness as my token, such joy I gain,
Or help a child who's wand’ring back to his home again,
I shall not live in vain.

This was my friend’s life and her life work. In this tender moment of hearing this song, I found God’s grace and comfort.

As we move into 2019, I pray for God’s wisdom and guidance and also God’s care as we share tender moments with each other. Thanks be to God!

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Dear ORUCC friends,

Tammy and I can’t begin to express our gratitude to you for the amazing weekend of celebration and send off. I wrote a longer thank you for the epost, but I wanted to say again that your love and affection and generous gifts were deeply moving. I’m sure it will take us some weeks to process all that happened. But our hearts are full. Thanks for the all the support through all the years.

In love and hope,
Wint and Tammy Boyd
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
Life Line Screening

A leading provider of community-based preventive health screenings, is pleased to offer a preventive health event at Orchard Ridge United Church of Christ on 1/28/2019. Five screenings will be offered that scan for potential health problems related to: blocked arteries which is a leading cause of stroke; abdominal aortic aneurysms which can lead to a ruptured aorta; hardening of the arteries in the legs which is a strong predictor of heart disease; atrial fibrillation or irregular heart beat which is closely tied to stroke risk; and a bone density screening, for men and women, used to assess the risk of osteoporosis. Register for a Wellness Package which includes 4 vascular tests and osteoporosis screening from $149 ($139 with our member discount). All five screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete. **There are three ways to register for this event and to receive a $10 discount off any package priced above $129, please call toll-free 1-888-653-6441 or visit [http://lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle](http://lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle) or text the word circle to 797979**