“ Spirits tally Alive, Joyfully Inclusive, Committed to Justice.”

Sunday Morning

February 10
9 am Care of Creation
10 am Laura Crow preaching
ORUCC Bell Choir

February 17
9 am Care of Creation
10 am Laura Crow preaching
ORUCC Choir

February 24
9 am Care of Creation
10 am Ken Pennings preaching
TRUFunction

Upcoming Newsletters:
February 19 and March 5

Announcements due the Monday before
Information to be included in the newsletter is due the Monday before the above dates by 9:00a.m.
Email items to office@orucc.org, or drop them off at the office.

Church Emails
Julie Wombacher
office@orucc.org
Tammy Martens
tmartens@orucc.org
Ken Pennings
ken@orucc.org
Laura Crow
pastorlaura@orucc.org

IN THE INTERIM by Laura Crow

“When we light just one candle in the darkness, it illuminates dimly, but when many candles are lit, and all let their lights shine, together we can bring brightness to the world.”
— The Rev. Franz Rigert, Wisconsin Conference Minister

As awesome as Orchard Ridge UCC is – and it is spectacular! – there is a much broader witness of Christ’s work in the world when local congregations gather together as Associations, Conferences and General Synod. This spring and summer we have a unique opportunity to experience all of these robust settings of the church and to be inspired by the work of the Spirit in and through our brothers and sisters, close to home:

The Association and WI Conference Annual Meetings have been combined into one weekend, April 5-6 at Wilderness Resort in Wisconsin Dells. Register at wcucc.org.

The WI Conference is hosting General Synod 32 on June 21-25 at the Wisconsin Center in Milwaukee. Register at www.synod2019.org.

Want to learn more about General Synod? Orchard Ridge UCC is also hosting a General Synod information session on Thursday, February 14, 10:00am-11:30am. Come and learn about this exciting opportunity to experience the United Church of Christ in a new way. The local co-chairs will be present to answer questions and highlight opportunities to get involved in this exciting event!

Shine on!

LITURGISTS WANTED: Do you like to read aloud? Do you have a flare for writing prayers or meditations? Do you enjoy dramatic roles? Would you like an opportunity to become more involved in the planning and leadership of worship? Laura Crow is gathering a team of people to assist on Sunday mornings and for special services. ALL AGES are welcome. NO EXPERIENCE is necessary. If interested, please email pastorlaura@orucc.org.
**February Compassion Offering:**

**Madison Urban Ministry**

MUM is an interfaith social justice organization that serves as a prophetic voice for justice, spurrying social change in and about Dane County for over forty years. MUM invites and facilitates avenues for individuals to engage in social action with an emphasis on outreach and support to the incarcerated, the homeless and the disenfranchised. Orchard Ridge has been a supporter for these entire 40 years.

Linda Ketchum, Executive Director of MUM will be in worship on Sunday, February 10 to give an update on all the amazing work MUM is doing in our community.

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 Betsy Rota** whose father Charles passed away at the age of 101 last Thursday. Charles was a retired UCC clergy person.

**For Jessie and Karin Drury** grieving the death of Jessie’s mother in a house fire in Canada.

**For the Bell family** grieving the death of Landis’ uncle Jacob who died of brain cancer.

**For Meg Stevens** grieving the death of her father Don Hayne.

**For Joyce Dingman** who is having knee replacement surgery this Wednesday.

**For Char Klossner** who has a new diagnosis of skin cancer. This cancer must be treated before the surgery to remove the cancer in her left lung.

**For Ellen Rueter** who is receiving radiation treatments for breast cancer through the end of February.

**Prayers of Joy:**

**For the first couple of weeks of our new office manager Julie Wombacher.**

**For the completion and posting of our Church Profile which will be made available to potential candidates for our senior pastor position.**

**For last Sunday’s annual meeting where church business was conducted in a spirit of joy, gratitude and cooperation.**

**For the Leadership Retreat last weekend at Pilgrim Center in Green Lake which included the pastors, the members of the Leadership Team and the Ministry Chairs.**

**For Charlotte & Palmer Bell who donated a car to one of our “Heart Room” families.** For the members of our church who are making this car donation ministry happen.

**For the room in the new music center at UW-Madison dedicated to the memory of Daniel Myers, Dave Myers’ son.**

**For Nancy Wettersten’s full recovery after surgery to repair a detached retina.**

**For Paul Evans who came through heart valve replacement surgery successfully.**

**For Alyssa Haskins who did the lion’s share of the work on the Chili Cook-Off on January 27th.**

**For all who braved the weather on February 5th to Eat Out at Panera in support of our Youth Mission trip—THANK 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 Debby at the church office 271-7212 for more information. Deductions are taken out the 15th of each month.

**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.

**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 meeting before. Everyone is welcome.

**Movie Group:**

The ORUCC Movie Group will meet at 7 p.m. on Friday, February 15th 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 spirited 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:**
Our one-hour discussion on the book of JOB continues on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month at 2 pm. This series is facilitated by Matthew Westfox and Ken Pennings. ALL are welcome at any time! Please contact Ken at ken@orucc.org to be added to our email list!

**Java and Jesus:**
Java & Jesus takes a short break as we offer two exciting Sunday morning series: Care of Creation (Feb 10, 17, 24) and Feminist Spirituality (Mar 3, 10, 17). Java & Jesus returns March 24. If you wish to be on this email list, let Ken Pennings know (ken@orucc.org).

**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 jlchrist@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 Jeane 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.

**BLACK HISTORY MONTH:**
February is Black History Month! There are many local opportunities to celebrate and learn more about Black History. Here are a few: February 14, 6:00 p.m. Film Screening of “I am not your Negro.” Dinner by Kipp’s Kitchen. At Urban League of Greater Madison, 2222 S. Park Street. RSVP to mbozeman@ulgm.org.
February 19, 5:00 p.m. Wisconsin Historical Society- Open House Celebration. Special Displays, spoken word and church choir performances, soul food and a listening session about creation of a new Wisconsin history museum. 816 State Street. Event details at Eventbrite.com.
February 21, 7:00 p.m. “Creation Against Race”, with theologian Dr. Willie J. Jennings of Yale University. Upper House, 365 E. Campus Mall # 200. Register at www.upperhouse.org

**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. Questions? Contact Rarachel.anderman@gmail.com.
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.

Thinking about becoming a volunteer? Here are some opportunities at ORUCC:
Use Sign Up Genius for easy sign up for opportunities such as, Ushers, Welcomers, Coffee Makers, Sound Technicians, Craft/Play Time, and Music Connections. You may also contact Ken Pennings or Tammy Martens with any questions.

https://www.orucc.org/volunteer/

Church Email Lists:
Be the first to get updates and reminders targeted to your interests! 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 office@orucc.org.

Weekly Epost which shares the events of the upcoming weekend.
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.. Great material to read, study, and share whether you are able to attend Sunday mornings or not!
LGBTQ and allies list which is used periodically to highlight community events or issues.

Pastoral Search Committee Update:
After a brief hiatus during the Christmas holiday, the Search Committee has resumed its activities. The profile is complete and posted on the UCC.org website http://opportunities.ucc.org/ CustomerFTP/3409/Attachments/ Orchard%20Ridge%20UCC%20Madison (2).pdf

The next phase in the process will include receiving and reviewing ministerial profiles of those interested in becoming our Senior Pastor, and 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

Save the Dates!

Care of Creation Series:
Understanding the Impacts of Climate Change on our Wisconsin Life.
Sundays, February 10th, 17th and 24th
9:00am – 9:50am

Session One: February 10th
Maintaining our Recreational Heritage: The potential impacts of climate change on Wisconsin’s outdoors – and what we can do about it!
Speaker: Scott Hackel, married, father of two, member of First Congregational Church, outdoor enthusiast and an Energy Engineer for a non-profit, Slipstream, that is dedicated to improve the carbon footprint of our buildings and homes.

Session Two: February 17th
Dane County’s Innovations to Combat Climate Change
Speaker: Joe Parisi, Dane County Executive. Joe championed the effort to clean up our lakes and protect our environment through ground-breaking programs.

Session Three: February 24th
Native American Identity & Values in a Changing Climate
Speaker: TBD

SAVE THE DATES!

Feminist Theology Series:
Presented by Rebecca Meier-Rao
Sundays, March 3rd, 10th, and 17th, 9:00am – 9:50am
More information coming SOON!
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
**Orchard Ridge United Church of Christ**  
1501 Gilbert Road  
Madison, WI 53711  
Phone: 608-271-7212  
Fax: 608-271-7265

**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

**Financial Volunteers**

**Financial Secretary**

Feb 10 Mary Bucknell  
Feb 17 Marge Wennen  
Feb 24 Marge Wennen  
Mar 3 Nancy Wettersten  
Mar 10 Meg Stevens  
Mar 17 Mary Bucknell  
Mar 24 Gene Dyar

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**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>February</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday 10</td>
<td>9:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Care of Creation</td>
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<td>Sunday School</td>
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<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
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<td>Worship Service</td>
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<td>Monday 11</td>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Handbell Rehearsal</td>
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<td>Tuesday 12</td>
<td>11:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Over 55</td>
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<td>6:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>Care of Creation Meeting</td>
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<td>Wednesday 13</td>
<td>2:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Bible Discussion Group</td>
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<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
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<td>ORUCC Choir Rehearsal</td>
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<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
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<td>Leadership Team</td>
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<td>Thursday 14</td>
<td>8:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Meditation &amp; Spirituality Discussion</td>
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<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
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<td>General Synod Presentation</td>
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<td>Friday 15</td>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Movie Group</td>
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<td>Sunday 17</td>
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<td>Handbell Rehearsal</td>
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<td>ORUCC Choir Rehearsal</td>
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<td>Meditation &amp; Spirituality Discussion</td>
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<td>Youth Movie Night</td>
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<td>Sanctuary Mission Team Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 28</td>
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<td>Meditation Group</td>
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