

Orchard Ridge United Church of Christ

COMMUNION



*Spiritually Alive,
Joyfully Inclusive,
Committed to Justice.*

Sunday Morning

February 24

9 am Care of Creation
10 am Ken Pennings preaching
Music: TRUFunction

March 3

9 am Feminist Theology
10 am Laura Crow preaching
Music: ORUCC Choir
Communion

March 10

9 am Feminist Theology
10 am Tammy Martens preaching
Music: Bell Choir

Upcoming Newsletters:

March 5 and March 19

Information to be included in the Newsletter is due the Monday before the above dates by 9:00am

Weekly Bulletin & E-Post:

Information to be included in the Weekly Bulletin & E-Post is due on Thursdays by 9:00am

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

All-Church Intergenerational Event:

Please join us for PartyGras on **Tuesday, March 5, 2019, 5:30-7:30 pm**, at ORUCC, in the Friendship Hall. We'll don our beads, have plenty of pizza, activities for younger children, and games & mixers to entertain the whole church family. Of course, we'll sing the traditional "When the Saints Go Marching In," and conclude with a ritual prayer and burning of last year's palm branches.



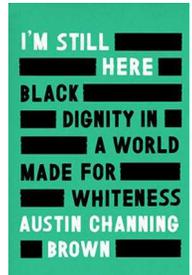
This is a night you won't want to miss! Anyone who can help decorate, please come as early as 4:30 pm, and we'll need help with clean-up, as well. Families whose last names start with A-G please bring dessert, H-P please bring fruit, and Q-Z please bring salads or veggies. Also, new this year, **PLEASE BRING YOUR FAVORITE BOARD GAME!**

Any questions, please contact Ken Pennings at 271-7212 or ken@orucc.org.

LENTEN Home Groups...

The Ministry of Adult Faith Formation and a group of ORUCC folks working on racial justice are offering Lenten Home Groups the weeks of March 10th, March 24th, and April 7th.

If you think you may be able to participate in one of the Home Groups, please purchase and begin reading I'm Still Here: Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness, by Austin Channing Brown. More details soon on the exact dates, times and locations of the Home Groups!



There has been some interest in an on-line group as well. If you have experience with facilitating an on-line discussion of this sort and would be interested in helping get this started during Lent, please talk with Ken Pennings at 271-7212 or ken@orucc.org.

See Page 3 for an opportunity to see Austin Channing Brown in Madison on March 9!

LENTEN Worship & Devotions...

ASH WEDNESDAY—March 6th: **Labyrinth Walk @ 5:30pm**, reflecting on the joy that we find in the journey of life, a journey that spans from dust to dust. **Worship with Madison Mennonite Church @ 7:00pm**, a time to mark this sacred season of Lent by recalling the promise our baptisms and the challenges of life through the imposition of ashes.

VESPER SERVICES—Wednesdays, **March 13-April 6 @ 7:00pm** at **First Congregational UCC, Madison**. We join with our sisters and brothers as we together explore the theme of COVENANT. Laura Crow is providing the reflection on March 27

DAILY E-PRAYER Devotional—created by Rev. Bruce Ehler, Mount Olivet Lutheran Church, Alberta, Canada. Sign up online @ <https://mailchi.mp/mountolivet.ca/gexm3g69n7>

40ACTS 2019—in it's 9th year, 40ACTS is a daily Lenten devotional that delivers reflections and suggested acts of generosity to carry you through Lent. BE the CHURCH in action and sign up at <https://40acts.org.uk>

EDGEWOOD COLLEGE Devotional—for a more "local" flavor, our friends, neighbors, and colleagues at Edgewood College—including some ORUCC folks—have created a Lenten devotional that can be accessed from the Edgewood College homepage www.edgewood.edu. It will go live in time or Ash Wednesday, March 6.

February Compassion

Offering

Madison Urban Ministry

MUM is an interfaith social justice organization that serves as a prophetic voice for justice, spurring 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 shared an update on all the amazing work MUM is doing in our community on February 10.

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.

March Compassion

Offering

One Great Hour of Sharing

One Great Hour of Sharing® is the Lenten Offering of the United Church of Christ that supports disaster, refugee, and development activities. More information will be available in the March 5 Newsletter

Sign up for Auto-Pay

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 Julie Wombacher in the church office 271-7212 for more information. Deductions are taken out the 15th of each month.

Prayers of Concern

For the family of Wanda Hoefle grieving the death of Wanda's father John Boer who passed away suddenly on Jan. 28 after a fall, and Wanda's aunt Doris who also passed away the same day hours earlier.

For Mary White who will be transitioning to a new assisted living facility.

For the victims of the shooting last Friday in Aurora, IL – 6 dead including the shooter, and 6 wounded.

Prayers of Joy

For the life of a founding member of ORUCC, Bill Rewey, who passed away on Feb. 11th. Memorial service will take place on May 18th, 2 pm, at Sugar Ridge Airport.

For the outstanding work of our Search Committee making good progress in the hiring of a new settled senior pastor.

For the wonderful programs offered on Sunday mornings at 9 by our Care of Creation Team.

For Joe Parisi's presentation last Sunday morning and Dane County's commitment to renewable energy.

For the many from our congregation who contribute toward the meals for Grace Episcopal Men's Shelter (currently serving 130 men).

For Chris Tarrant's brother Nick who is being treated for cancer, but for now is doing quite well.

For Paul Evan's steady recovery from heart valve replacement surgery.

For Joyce Dingman's steady recovery from knee replacement surgery.

For Phil Winkel's steady recovery from a leg infection.

For Connor Psyck who is spending four months (spring semester) studying in the Czech Republic.

Over 55

We were sorry to have to cancel the February meeting of OVER 55, but we will welcome the Raging Grannies at the May meeting!

The next OVER 55 meeting will be on **Tuesday, March 12th**. As usual we will gather at 11:30 and our meal will be served at 11:45. The cost of the meal is \$8.00. We welcome our speaker, RICHARD PIFER, who will talk about his most recent book, THE GREAT WAR COMES TO WISCONSIN: SACRIFICE, PATRIOTISM, AND FREE SPEECH IN A TIME OF CRISIS. The State Historical Society has called it one of the most significant recent contributions to Wisconsin history.

Dr. PIFER will discuss the impact of WWI on Wisconsin. This should be a very interesting program. Plan on coming, even if you have never attended an OVER 55 meeting before. We welcome everyone.

Palm Sunday Worship

All Children and Youth of ORUCC are invited to participate in a special Palm Sunday Worship Program on April 14. Julie Mazer will be working with students to create a unique worship experience featuring drumming, singing, chanting, movement, and drama.



If your child is already registered for Sunday School, you should have received information about this wonderful opportunity. If you are new or know families who might want to participate, please contact Julie Mazer for more information.

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 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

WCC Racial Justice

Workshop with Austin

Channing Brown March 9

Join others from ORUCC in attending the Wisconsin Council of Churches Winter Forum on Saturday, March 9, from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at First Baptist Church, 518 North Franklin Avenue, Madison.

The featured speaker is Austin Channing Brown....a leading new voice on racial justice, and author of *I'm Still Here: Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness*. Austin is committed to exploring the intersections of racial justice, faith and black womanhood. Her workshops are one of a kind infused with justice, pop culture, humor, and truth-telling. In addition to the keynote, there will be a local panel of racial justice, time for searching our spirits, and a book signing and reception.

The registration fee is \$35. Register at the Wisconsin Council of Churches web site. <https://wichurches.org>. Go to the events tab and select Winter Forum.

Interested in reading Austin Channing Brown's book? See Page 1 for information on Lenten Book Discussion groups!

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 Three: February 24

Global Indigeneity and Sustainability:

A Native American Perspective Speaker: Reynaldo Morales, a UW-Madison dissertation pursuing a joint PhD between the School of Education and the Nelson Institute about the shifts in science and environmental research related to the restoration of Indigenous Knowledge Systems.

Feminist Theology Series:

Presented by Rebecca Meier-Rao.

Edgewood College, Religious Studies Philosophy Department.

Sundays, March 3rd, 10th, and 17th
9:00am – 9:50am

Session One: March 3

An introduction to the diversity of perspectives of feminist theology with an emphasis on Womanist (African—American) and Latina Theology.

Session Two: March 10

An introduction to feminist biblical interpretation, using Phyllis Trible's interpretation of Genesis 2-3, which is a reframing of the Adam and Eve story.

Session Three: March 17

A discussion of feminist ethics, with an emphasis on Eco-feminism and Spirituality.

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 Laura at pastor-laura@orucc.org or visit the Sign Up Genius page at <https://www.orucc.org/volunteer/>

Bible Discussion—Job

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!

Women's Book Group

Our next gathering will be on Thursday, March 7, from 1:30-3:30 p.m. at church in the Alfred Swan Room.

We will discuss *Prague Winter: A Personal Story of Remembrance and War, 1937-1948* by Madeline Albright. To borrow from the book jacket, "*Prague Winter* is an exploration of the past with timeless dilemmas in mind and, simultaneously, a journey with universal lessons that is intensely personal. Albright recounts a tale that is by turns harrowing and inspiring.

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).

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 Theology (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).

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.

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 9:00am to 10:00am downstairs in the Bonhoeffer Room. If you are unable to make all classes, please come when you can. There is no charge for the class but a donation to the Heart Room of \$2-\$5 per class is recommended. Contact Joyce Pohl at japohl@gmail.com or 206-5697 if you have questions.

Knitting & Crafts Group

The group will meet on the **first Monday** of the month at 1:30 pm at the church. All are welcome to bring some handwork and join us! Questions, please call Sandra Dyar at 271-2409.

NOTE: As you plan your knitting and crocheting projects that include prayer shawls, please plan most of your shawls to be rectangles. Think in terms of 16 to 20 inches wide and 60 to 72 inches long. These are the most used shawls and would be most helpful.

Women's Breakfast

We meet at the Pancake Café at 728 S. Gammon Rd. (near Watts Rd) at 8:30 on the **first Friday** of the month. This is an informal gathering to chat on many subjects and interests. Join Jeanne Garnett and others for a delicious breakfast and great conversation. **THERE IS ALSO A TABLE FOR MEN**, so know ALL are invited to enjoy a time of food and fellowship!

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 Rarachael.anderman@gmail.com

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.

SAVE THE DATE—March 17

Several Youth Delegates from the WI Council of Churches Forum on Gun Violence will join us on Sunday, March 17 to share their stories and experiences both with our HS Sunday School class and in worship. This Forum was the recipient of ORUCC's January Compassion Offering—come and see the impact your generosity has made possible!

Movie Group

The ORUCC Movie Group will meet at 7 p.m. on Friday, March 15th in the Swan Room. Jack and Jan Christian will lead our discussion on Oscar winning films, actors and directors. We will discuss actual winners and those we thought were "over looked". This is always a spirited discussion! Baxter Richardson will provide a dessert and coffee.

All folks are welcome. Please RSVP to Steve Sheets at im1042@tds.net or 845-5667.

Coffee Fund

Many of us enjoy a good cup of Fair Trade coffee after worship on Sunday mornings. ALL donations to the coffee fund are greatly appreciated!



Pastoral Search Committee Update

The Search Committee met with Joanne Thomson on January 21st and she discussed the next steps of the search process with us. Our local church profile was completed and delivered to Joanne on January 23. She reviewed it and it has been posted to the conference website and can be viewed at: [http://opportunities.ucc.org/CustomerFTP/3409/Attachments/Orchard%20Ridge%20UCC,%20Madison\(2\).pdf](http://opportunities.ucc.org/CustomerFTP/3409/Attachments/Orchard%20Ridge%20UCC,%20Madison(2).pdf)

The Search Committee will develop criteria for evaluation of the ministerial profiles that come to us and will begin our review of them. If you have any questions about the process, you can contact any member of the Search Committee: Mary Bucknell, Chris Thomas, Dana Dobbins, Doug Piper, Barbara Stretchberry, Brian Lancor, Kim Kasper, and Sara Roberts.

WI Conference Care of Creation Webinar Series

Grounded in Spirit, Called to Action: From First Steps to Next Steps. Thursday, February 21, 7:00pm-8:30pm.

Learn about first steps that congregations have already taken for creation care and explore ideas for next steps. To receive the webinar sign in info, please register at: <http://www.wcucc.org/event/zoom-creation-care-webinar/>.

Other dates in this series: May 2 (pollinators & water quality) and August TBD (solar panels).



General Synod 32

June 21-25, 2019 — Milwaukee, WI

In just four months we in the Wisconsin Conference of the United Church of Christ will host General Synod 32! This bi-annual national UCC gathering will take place in Milwaukee, June 21-25 at the Wisconsin Center. We are so grateful for this opportunity to provide warm Midwestern hospitality, and for the diligent planning efforts of our Local Arrangements Leadership Team.

On February 14, a group of ORUCC members attended an information session about General Synod. These are some of the things we learned...

1. **YOU are needed!** Approximately 500 volunteers are needed to make GS run smoothly and provide the kind of extravagant hospitality that we in the UCC strive for.
2. **Volunteers get cool SWAG!** Volunteers will get a T-shirt, pin, and other cool SWAG to identify you and commemorate this exciting experience.
3. **Volunteers get a HUGE DISCOUNT!** Volunteers can register for General Synod for \$60—a 75% savings! You can even volunteer WITHOUT registering for General Synod (e.g., provide hospitality at the airport and train station)
4. **You can Volunteer as a GROUP!** Volunteering alone is scary; volunteering with friends is a blast! Commit to going and we will sign you up for shifts together! Find all the volunteer info and sign up at wcucc.org/synodvolunteer or talk to Laura Crow.
5. **Experience General Synod FIRST HAND!** The whole General Synod is 5 days, but anyone can "sample" some of General Synod at free, open-to-the-public events on **Sunday, June 23:**
 - **Afternoon worship service**, featuring the dynamic preaching of our Justice and Local Church Ministries Executive, the Rev. Traci Blackmon.
 - **Wisconsin-style Outdoor Festival** at nearby Zeidler Union Square Park, featuring live music and art and food trucks. Visit with UCC folks from around the country as they get a taste of Wisconsin.

Whether you are a first-timer or a seasoned attendee, General Synod is a unique opportunity to see the church gathered and alive in new and inspiring ways.

Find info about General Synod at wcucc.org/synod and ucc.org/synod

Volunteers

Financial Secretary

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

Ushers

Feb 24 Jerry Nelson
Jarrett Gersten
Larry Goss
Mar 3 Dorothy Petersen
Carolyn Carlson
Peter Fabian
Mar 10 Jon Balnchard
Carol Prugh
Robert Prugh
Mar 17 Larry Goss
Jarrett Gersten
James Treichel

Welcomers

Feb 24 Mary Loving
Dick Rossmiller
Dianne & Heather
Stevens
Mar 3 Mary Loving
Jack Schairer
Joyce Pohl
Mar 10 Barbara McLeod
John & Donna
Lillethun
Mar 17 Charlene Gallagher
Barb Hummel
Jack Schairer

AV Team

Feb 24 Charles Kasper
Mar 3 Jarrett Gersten
Mar 10 Ken Psyck
Mar 17 Charles Kasper

Sunday Coffee

Feb 24 Jerry Hagen
OPEN
Mar 3 Greg & Barb Loudon
Mar 10 Rich Hoard
Chris Thomas
Mar 17 Jerry Hagen
Charles Kaspar

Liturgists

Feb 24 Phil Haslanger
OPEN
Mar 3 Jim McNamara
OPEN
Mar 10 Dave Myers
OPEN
Mar 17 OPEN (MS/HS
youth preferred)
OPEN (MS/HS
youth preferred)



Use Sign Up Genius for these and other great opportunities! Contact Ken Pennings, Tammy Martens, or Laura Crow with any questions.

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

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

Get Connected!

Be the first to get updates and reminders of events happening at ORUCC!

EMAIL: To be added to or removed from any of these email lists, please contact office@orucc.org.

Weekly E-post shares the events of the upcoming week

Monthly E-prayer reminds us of prayers within the congregation

FACEBOOK:

Follow the church on Facebook at "Orchard Ridge United Church of Christ." Look for a private church FB Group coming soon! This will be great way to share prayer concerns and announcements for members and friends of ORUCC

Follow the **NEW "Madison Labyrinth Walks" group** for announcements of walks in the Madison area. Included are First Congregational Church (UCC), Madison Christian Community (MCC), and Orchard Ridge UCC.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February

Wednesday 20	7:00 p.m.	ORUCC Choir Rehearsal
Thursday 21	8:30 a.m.	Meditation
Sunday 24	9:00 a.m.	Care of Creation
	9:00 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service
Monday 25	7:00 p.m.	Handbell Rehearsal
Tuesday 26	7:00 p.m.	Sanctuary Mission Team Meeting
Wednesday 27	2:00 p.m.	Bible Discussion Group
	7:00 p.m.	ORUCC Choir Rehearsal
Thursday 28	8:30 a.m.	Meditation

March

March 1	8:30 a.m.	Women's Breakfast—Men, too!
	6:00 p.m.	Family Game Night
March 3	9:00 a.m.	Adult Faith Formation
	9:00 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:00 a.m.	Worship & Communion Service
	10:00 a.m.	TRU Function Rehearsal
March 4	1:30 p.m.	Knitting Group
	5:00 p.m.	Search Committee
	7:00 p.m.	Handbell Rehearsal
March 5	5:30 p.m.	PartyGras!
March 6	5:30 p.m.	Labyrinth Walk
	7:00 p.m.	Ash Wednesday Worship
March 7	8:30 a.m.	Meditation
	1:30 p.m.	Women's Book Group

"The Puzzle We Call Faith" -- booklets available:

Last fall, Winton Boyd gave a series of sermons rooted in his experience of 20 years as ORUCC Senior Pastor. Titled "The Puzzle We Call Faith", these 10 sermons distill vital themes in the life of this congregation and the Christian faith, from Winton's perspective. The texts of the 10 sermons have been compiled and made into a booklet, with the sermons in much the same form as they were first heard -- over the 10 Sundays. A limited number of booklets are now available in the Crossroads. Suggested donation for each booklet is \$5.00.

Sunday School "Backpack" Service Project

The 4th & 5th grade Sunday School class is completing a service project to help youth in Madison schools who are experiencing homelessness. We are raising money to supply personal needs for backpacks that students can take with them wherever they may be. Our class will purchase the backpacks and supplies which include toiletries, first aid kits, and necessities for daily life such as snacks and weather-proof accessories. If you would like to contribute, please visit our table in Friendship Hall before or after the service on Sunday, February 24. Please write your check out to ORUCC, memo line: **backpack**.