IN THE INTERIM by Laura Crow

“During Lent you have the opportunity to think about your life alongside the life of Jesus, inviting inward transformation and then outward action.”

No season defines who we are as Christians, both individually and collectively, more so than Lent. It is a season rich with meaningful traditions, rituals—and triggers—for those who have grown up in the church; and is an often complicated and confusing mosaic of language and imagery for those who did not.

For me this is a season where I am challenged to hold my idealistic self in check and look squarely in the face of what is. New Year’s Eve may be the time when people make resolutions for improvement, but Lent is a season of honest reflection and commitment towards being a better me. It is a chance to focus on where God is leading and to pay attention to those growing edges where I see God at work.

What are your growing edges? Where do you connect with the season of Lent? Some traditions focus on “giving something up” as a discipline of self-sacrifice. Others seek to “add on” an intentional practice for this season. My own journey often tends to be a rather mixed bag of good intentions and practical distractions, finding I need to practice forgiveness of myself for not living up to high expectations I have for my congregations.

Ash Wednesday reminds me of what I love most about being an interim—that we are all impermanent and that all ministry, whether for a season or a lifetime, is interim ministry. We all follow in the footsteps of those who came before and we all carry forward this gift to pass on to those who come after us. We need each other and are connected with each other in ways that often go unrecognized. I am grateful that I have you to walk alongside this season. May we trust that we will be different when the season ends.

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

**Sunday Morning**

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

March 17  
9 am Feminist Theology  
10 am Delegates from the WI Council of Churches Youth Forum on Gun Violence will share their reflections  
Music: ORUCC Choir

March 24  
9 am Java & Jesus  
10 am Laura Crow preaching  
Music: TruFunction

**Upcoming Newsletters:**  
April 1  
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@oruucc.org
- Ken Pennings: ken@oruucc.org
- Laura Crow: pastorlaura@oruucc.org

**Easter Flower Orders: - Please return no later than March 31**

We will be decorating the sanctuary with flowers from Felly’s again this year. We invite you to make a donation in HONOR or MEMORY of a loved one.

**Name__________________________________________**

**Circle one:**

- In HONOR or In MEMORY of _________________________

**No. of plants_____________ X $15 each =**

**Total Enclosed_____________**

**Check one:**

- ___ I will collect my plant after worship on Easter Sunday  
- ___ My plant may be given away
Prayers of Joy
For the life of Bill Rewey a founding member of ORUCC, who died on Feb. 11 at the age of 91. A memorial service will take place on May 18th, 2 pm, at Sugar Ridge Airport.
For Cory Forbes, High School Senior, who became an Eagle Scout on February 23rd at a special ceremony at ORUCC.
For our 4th and 5th graders who raised $1000 for back-packs for students experiencing homelessness.
For Doug & Mary Piper’s 35th wedding anniversary.
For Barb & John Olsen’s daughter-in-law Molly Walsh, who was recognized in “In Business” magazine in “40 Under 40.” Molly has accomplished much despite challenging health issues.
For Rev. Ken Pennings who celebrated a birthday on March 3.
For the movement of God’s Spirit through the thirty (and growing!) participants in the Lenten Book Discussions and the ongoing work of racial justice in our community and beyond.
For the many hands who helped prepare food, decorations, and entertainment and for the community who gathered to celebrate Party Gras March 5.

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. When a disaster strikes or people are displaced or made refugees by violence or extreme poverty, you are part of the immediate response and of the long term recovery. Because the UCC relates in mutual partnership to churches and organizations through Global Ministries and worldwide response and recovery networks, your contributions to One Great Hour of Sharing puts you in the right place at the right time for the relief, accompaniment and recovery of the most vulnerable. You meet immediate needs and you address the underlying causes that create those needs in the first place.
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.

Greetings Cards
Are you dreaming of Daffodils and tulips? A spring selection of Secrets From the Garden photo greeting cards will be back in the Crossroads starting Sunday, March 10. The whole cost of the cards goes to eviction prevention for needy neighbors.
- A woman who provides daycare as her means of income lost two families and fell behind on her rent.
- A woman working at Penny’s had her hours cut to one day a week and fell behind on her rent.
- A homeless woman with two children living in a car got a job and a landlord offered her an apartment. We helped her with the deposit.
Cards are $4 each or 6 for $20. Checks can be made out to ORUCC with “cards in the memo line”, cash in envelope in card basket.

Youth Mission Trip Fundraisers
This year’s Mission Trip will be June 22-29 to Colorado. Here are great ways you can support our youth!

EAT OUT April 16 @ Culvers
On Tuesday, April 16 from 4pm-8pm, Culvers on Mineral Point Road will generously donate a percentage of ALL SALES to our Youth Mission Trip. Share this date with friends, family, and coworkers and encourage them to EAT OUT!

Spring Clean-Up Crews Will Work for You!
We will be offering clean-up crews who will come to your home to get your house/lawn ready for spring! Teams of 4 -5 youth and one adult will be able to offer you three hours of work. The weekends the youth will be available are the end of April and early May.
Any donation you make will go towards our Youth Mission Trip. More details to come!

Run Madtown Volunteers
If you are free over Memorial Day weekend, and would like to volunteer at Run Madtown events check out their website: http://runmadtown.com/volunteer/
Volunteers are paid $8.00 an hour with that money going towards a charity group. When you register, click on “Orchard Ridge UCC Youth Group” and we will receive your contribution.

Sunday, June 2nd Church Picnic
We will celebrate the end of our programming year with an all church picnic after worship on Sunday, June 2nd. The youth and their families are hosting this event. It will be a grill-out with lots of tasty side dishes. There will be games for the kids led by our youth.
Donations will go to support the Youth Mission Trip.
LENT—March 6-April 20

LENTEN Book Groups...

We have over 30 people signed up for our Lenten Book Groups for Lent! We are reading *I'm Still Here: Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness*, by Austin Channing Brown. There are five home groups meeting the weeks of March 10th, March 24th, and April 7th and one group that will moderate discussion on-line in a closed Facebook group. There is still time to sign up in the Crossroads at church or with SignUp Genius from the church website: https://orucc.org/volunteer/.

Can’t make any of the home groups? We will be organizing a follow up discussion after Easter for ALL who have read the book to share personal and group learnings, reflections, and next steps. Please see Ken Pennings at 271-7212 or ken@orucc.org with questions.

LENTEN Worship & Devotions...

**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 Ehlert, Mount Olivet Lutheran Church, Alberta, Canada. Sign up online @ https://mailchi.mp/mountolivet.ca/gexm3g69n7

**40ACTS 2019**—in its 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.

HOLY WEEK & EASTER—April 14-21

**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.

**Good Friday Worship**

Members of Orchard Ridge UCC and the Madison Mennonite Church will join in worship again on April 19th at 7:00pm for Good Friday Worship.

This service will be a meditation on Jesus’ last week, the people he interacted with in his final days, and upheaval that comes in times of significant change.

If you would like to be involved in helping shape this service, plan to attend a brief meeting on Sunday, March 31 after worship in the Swan Room.

**Holy Saturday & Easter Sunday Worship**

Holy Saturday is often overlooked but there is a long and rich tradition of holding a vigil to commemorate the time Jesus spent in the tomb. On Saturday, April 20, people are invited to begin to gather at 5:00pm for an hour of individual quiet reflection in the sanctuary.

Beginning at 6:06pm Saturday and repeating each hour through the night, we will welcome the sunrise as it makes its way across the globe. If you have friends, family, or prayers that you would like the church to lift up in different world areas, Laura Crow will be collecting those from now until Good Friday. Each hour we will light candles in each time zone and witness the Resurrection light and hope spread. All are welcome to come and go throughout the vigil, as you feel moved.

We will conclude our vigil at 6:06am Sunday morning with an Easter Sunrise service and breakfast.

We will have a traditional Sunday worship at 10:00am with the ORUCC Choir. Tammy Martens will preach at 10:00am
Feminist Theology Series:
Presented by Rebecca Meier-Rao.
Edgewood College, Religious Studies Philosophy Department.
Sundays, March 10th, and 17th 9:00am – 9:50am
Session Two: March 10
An introduction to feminist biblical interpretation, using Phyllis Trible’s interpretation of Genesis 2-3, which is a re-framing of the Adam and Eve story.
Session Three: March 17
A discussion of feminist ethics, with an emphasis on Eco-Feminism and Spirituality.

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 “overlooked”. 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.

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).

Austin Channing Brown
March 9
Tickets are still available for 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, author of our Lenten book, I’m Still Here: Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness.
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.

Over 55
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.

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. For March that will be the 13th & 27th.
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!

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 helenemargasret@gmail.com for more information.

Java and Jesus
Java & Jesus returns at the 9:00am Education hour on March 24!
Java & Jesus is a 45-50 minute facilitated discussion held on most Sunday mornings at 9:00am. 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. 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 & Jesus often meets in the Haynes Music Room. Check the sign board at the parking lot entrance for the exact location. If you wish to be on the email list to get articles early, let Ken Piffers know (ken@orucc.org).

MUM’s Annual Partner’s 4 Change Luncheon
This year’s event will be on Tuesday, April 23rd from 11:30 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. at the Concourse Hotel. We are thrilled to welcome Retired Appellate Court Judge Paul Higginbotham as our Keynote Speaker and to welcome back the Honorable Everett Mitchell as our Emcee. Tickets may be purchased through the MUM website: www.emum.org and are $50.

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 helenemargasret@gmail.com for more information.
**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

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**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.

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**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!

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**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.

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**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.

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**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!

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**Pastoral Search Committee March Update**

The Search Committee has received a number of Ministerial Profiles and we continue to receive new ones each week. The committee has been meeting weekly and we review some of the profiles each time and decide which ones will be retained for a more in-depth review. It is exciting to be in this phase of the search and call process. We ask for your continued prayers as we seek the guidance of God’s spirit as we discern who we will call to ORUCC.

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 Lancaster, Kim Kasper, and Sara Roberts.

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**Listening to the Voices of Our Youth**

On March 17, several Youth Delegates from the WI Council of Churches Forum on Gun Violence will join us in worship to share their stories and experiences around this issue. They will also meet with our HS Sunday School class at 9:00am. This Forum was the recipient of ORUCC’s January Compassion Offering—come and see the impact your generosity has made possible!

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**Liturgists Schedule**

We have had a wonderful array of people volunteer in the last several weeks as Liturgists on Sunday mornings!

A reminder that ALL AGES are welcome, and NO EXPERIENCE is necessary. Laura Crow has posted a paper Sign Up on the table in The Crossroads. You can also visit the Sign Up Genius page at https://www.orucc.org/volunteer/.

Liturgies is the “work of the people”! Let your voice be heard!
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](http://wcucc.org/synod) and [ucc.org/synod](http://ucc.org/synod)*

### Volunteers

**Financial Secretary**
- Mar 10 Meg Stevens
- Mar 17 Mary Bucknell
- Mar 24 Gene Dyar
- Mar 31 XXX

**Ushers**
- Mar 10 Jon Blanchard
  - Carol Prugh
  - Robert Prugh
- Mar 17 Larry Goss
  - Jarrett Gersten
  - James Treichel
- Mar 24 Jerry Nelson
  - Carolyn Carlson
  - Dorothy Peterson
- Mar 31 Jarrett Gersten
  - Phil Winkel
  - Judy Winkel

**Welcomers**
- Mar 10 Barbara McLeod
  - John & Donna Lillethun
- Mar 17 Charlene Gallagher
  - Barb Hummel
  - Jack Schairer
- Mar 24 Dick Rossmiller
  - Donna Lillethun
  - John Lillethun
- Mar 31 Dianne & Heather Stevens
  - Barbara McLeod
  - Ruthanne Landsness

**Sunday Coffee**
- Mar 10 Rich Hoard
  - Chris Thomas
- Mar 17 Jerry Hagen
  - Charles Kaspar
- Mar 24 Greg Louden
  - Barb Louden
- Mar 31 Rachel Lancor
  - Brian Lancor

**Liturgists**
- Mar 10 David Myers
- Mar 17 Jan Christian
- Mar 24 OPEN
- Mar 31 Deana Blanchard

**AV Team**
- Mar 10 Ken Psyck
- Mar 17 Charles Kasper
- Mar 24 Paul Hedges
- Mar 31 Andrew Beckett

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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/](https://www.orucc.org/volunteer/)
**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>March</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 7</td>
<td>8:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Meditation Group</td>
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<td>1:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Women’s Book Group</td>
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<td>March 10</td>
<td>9:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Education Hour</td>
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<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>TRU Function Rehearsal</td>
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<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Worship</td>
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<td></td>
<td>11:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Lenten Home Group Facilitator Training</td>
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<td>March 11</td>
<td>5:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Search Committee</td>
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<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Handbell Rehearsal</td>
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<td>March 12</td>
<td>11:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Over 55 Lunch &amp; Program</td>
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<td>6:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Care of Creation Mission Team</td>
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<td>March 13</td>
<td>2:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Bible Discussion Group—Job</td>
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<td>6:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Adult Faith Formation Ministry</td>
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<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>ORUCC Choir Rehearsal</td>
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<td>March 14</td>
<td>8:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Meditation Group</td>
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<td>March 15</td>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Movie Group</td>
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<td>March 17</td>
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<td>Education Hour</td>
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<td>March 18</td>
<td>5:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Search Committee</td>
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<td>Handbell Rehearsal</td>
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<td>March 19</td>
<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Friendship Circle</td>
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<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Leadership Team</td>
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<td>March 20</td>
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<td>ORUCC Choir Rehearsal</td>
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<td>March 21</td>
<td>8:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Meditation Group</td>
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<td>Christian Witness &amp; Service Ministry</td>
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<td>March 24</td>
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<td>Education Hour</td>
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<td>TRU Function Rehearsal</td>
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<td>Handbell Rehearsal</td>
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<td>March 26</td>
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<td>Sanctuary Mission Team Meeting</td>
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<td>March 27</td>
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<td>Bible Discussion Group—Job</td>
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<td>ORUCC Choir Rehearsal</td>
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<td>March 28</td>
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<td>Meditation</td>
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<td>March 31</td>
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<td>TRU Function Rehearsal</td>
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<td>Worship</td>
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<td>11:15 a.m.</td>
<td>Good Friday Planning Meeting</td>
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<td>April 1</td>
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<td>Knitting Group</td>
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<td>5:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Search Committee</td>
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<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Handbell Rehearsal</td>
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**Did You Know...**

The African drums that we use in worship, workshops, on retreats, and for Children’s Music actually came from Ghana, and were built by a local craftsman especially for ORUCC? Each drum has two symbols carved into the drums that the church selected. The first symbol with two arrows coming together means “Mmere Dane” which translated means “time changes.” It is a symbol of change and life’s dynamics. The second symbol—a tree with leaves on it—means “Nyame Nti” which translated means “by God’s grace.” What a perfect reminder that in this season of transition that “time changes” “by God’s grace”! To learn more about the craftsmanship of the drums and their amazing journey to ORUCC, talk to Tammy Martens!