One of the standard developmental tasks of an interim is “Reaffirming and strengthening denominational links.” This task is meant to offer a feeling of security and continuity—the church is still tethered to a familiar denominational body even while the ground of leadership at the local level is shifting and changing. So what is this larger denomination we are linked to?

The United Church of Christ was formed June 25, 1957, a little over a year after Orchard Ridge Congregational Church was chartered. The UCC united the Evangelical & Reformed Church and the Congregational Christian Churches of the US, and remains both a “United and Uniting” church. Orchard Ridge changed its legal name to ORUCC in 1962 to reflect this merger.

In the Preamble to the UCC’s constitution, the newly formed group described its core beliefs and philosophy of faith as follows:

The United Church of Christ acknowledges as its sole head, Jesus Christ, Son of God and Savior. It acknowledges as kindred in Christ all who share in this confession. It looks to the Word of God in the Scriptures, and to the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, to prosper its creative and redemptive work in the world. It claims as its own the faith of the historic Church expressed in the ancient creeds and reclaimed in the basic insights of the Protestant Reformers. It affirms the responsibility of the Church in each generation to make this faith its own in reality of worship, in honesty of thought and expression, and in purity of heart before God. In accordance with the teaching of our Lord and the practice prevailing among evangelical Christians, it recognizes two sacraments: Baptism and the Lord’s Supper or Holy Communion.

The basic autonomous unit of the UCC is the Local Church. The UCC also recognizes Associations, Conferences, and the General Synod as expressions of the church. These various expressions of the church relate to one another in a covenantal manner. They speak TO and never FOR one another; and each holds in high regard the actions, decisions, and advice that witness to our shared oneness in Christ.

The General Synod is a biennial gathering of a faith community representative of the wider church to listen for and discern the call of God to the United Church of Christ. The General Synod is comprised of voting delegates chosen by the Conferences. Delegates from the WI Conference are elected at a Conference annual meeting and typically serve as delegates at two consecutive General Synods.

This year, General Synod is in Milwaukee, June 21-25. The General Synod often speaks with a progressive prophetic voice on issues of social justice and Christian witness. Resolutions and resources for many of the issues that are important to members of ORUCC—climate change, immigration, LGBTQ, racism, poverty, and more—can be found on the UCC website (www.ucc.org). You can read the various resolutions that will be taken up at General Synod 32 here: www.synod2019.org (click on “Resolutions”).

General Synod is more than just business. It is a diverse representation of the worship, cultural, and missional life of the church as well. On Sunday, June 23, there will be an outdoor worship service at 2:30pm followed by a street festival with music, food, and activities showcasing the United Church of Christ and its ministries. ALL are invited to come to Milwaukee to be a part and inspired by the wider church.

See you in Milwaukee!
ORUCC is Hiring a
Communications Coordinator
⅜ Time (15 hr/wk)

ORUCC is seeking a sharp, enthusiastic individual to fill a newly created communications role in our active, progressive congregation that is spiritually alive, joyfully inclusive, and committed to justice. The successful applicant will help us voice and celebrate this mission in digital and print messages to members of the congregation and a wider community, sparking spiritual curiosity and cultivating spiritual growth. A positive attitude, collaborative style and ability to work with a diverse group of people and range of interests is necessary. Position is ⅜ FTE (15 hours per week) reporting to the Senior Pastor.

Key Areas of Responsibility:

● Work with pastoral staff to identify and develop a consistent “brand” voice and style expressing the mission and values of ORUCC on its website, social media outlets and other communications channels.
● Collaborate with staff and ministry team leaders to develop and implement strategies that will inspire the congregation and community to engage with events, activities, meetings, classes, and programs.
● Act as liaison with contracted web hosting company to coordinate website updates
● Develop and maintain a calendar of ministry events, community events, programs, and sermon series to promote and communicate to the congregation in a timely manner.

Qualifications & Competencies:

● Excellent communication skills with experience crafting messages for a variety of audiences and communication channels.
● Experience and interest in using technology to reach congregation and community.
● Experienced professional with integrity who can skillfully work in an environment with a variety of sensitive situations and confidential information, in mutual support of, and with, the pastoral staff.
● Comfortable working with groups addressing diverse racial, cultural and class-based issues as part of their spiritual practice.
● Keen knowledge of hospitality ethos, customer service principles and practices.
● The desire to become part of a unique, caring, and stimulating faith-based organization.
● Flexibility to adjust schedule to be present and participate in church life, events and meetings to build relationships among the congregation and Ministry teams.

To apply for this position, please email your resume including references to info@orucc.org, or mail it to Communications Hiring, ORUCC, 1501 Gilbert Road, Madison WI 53711.

CHECK OUT and SHARE our job posting on Indeed.com, Facebook, and our ORUCC website: https://www.orucc.org/were-hiring-communications-coordinator/

Make CAMP a part of your summer
Scholarship money is available
Register at www.ucci.org
Prayers of JOY
For the ministry of our choirs which provided us with such wonderful music during the past program year and are now taking a break for the summer.
For Paul Hinahara who has made an amazing recovery following a massive heart attack eight weeks ago. He’s driving, working, even doing yard work!
For Sam Stretchberry’s recovery from eye surgery.
For Claire Bjork who successfully defended her dissertation.
For Ann Evensen who was honored as the 2018 Humanitarian Award recipient by the American Academy of Family Physicians, and in January 2019 was honored with a U.S. Fulbright Specialist Award which funded a three week visit to India.
For Brian Lancor who received the Adjunct Faculty Member of the Year Award at Edgewood College.
For Izzy Schryver who was chosen to represent Memorial High School at the State’s Badger Leadership Conference.
For our High School and College Graduates.
For the birth of John & Barb Olsen’s 9th grandchild.
For the return of our snowbirds Ken & Hope Soroos.
For Rex Piercy’s completion of an interim pastorate in Hawaii.
For Jennifer & Paul Egerling-Boeck’s niece Marijka, who is home after six weeks in the hospital.

All Church Picnic
Sunday, June 2nd
at 11:00 am
There will be brats, hamburgers, hot dogs, veggie burgers and all sorts of salads, side dishes, and desserts. We will have games on hand for all ages!
Bring a blanket to sit on and enjoy eating and being with one another.
This is a fundraiser for our Youth Mission trip to Alamosa, Colorado.

Prayers of CONCERN
For Tom Arnold grieving the death of his brother.
For Bruce Gladstone’s husband Brian Wilkins who is recovering from last week’s triple bypass heart surgery.
For Jeanne Garnett who is hospitalized for pneumonia.
For Lauren Amburn who has a tumor growing on a kidney.
For Zee Lemke Oliver’s husband Carl who is recovering from open heart surgery.
For Lutheran Minister Betty Rendon and her husband who were arrested by ICE and are being threatened with deportation.

June Compassion Offering
Dane County Immigration Assistance Collaborative:
On June 9, Dawn Berney, the Executive Director of Jewish Social Services, will join us in worship to give an update on this important effort in our community.
The Dane County Immigration Assistance Collaborative is a partnership of different service providers to assist immigrants and refugees across Dane County, WI. The purpose of the Collaborative is to help the immigrant community with immigration and legal services. It also collaborates with community partners to develop a comprehensive strategy for immigrant support.
The following eight agencies and organizations are part of the Collaborative:
- Centro Hispano of Dane County
- Catholic Multicultural Center
- Literacy Network
- Jewish Social Services
- RISE Law Center
- The Community Immigration Law Center (CILC)
- The UW Law School’s Immigration Justice Clinic
- Dane County Dept. of Human Services, Immigration Affairs

Ride the BUS to General Synod 32!:
June 2 is the LAST DAY to sign up for the bus to General Synod in Milwaukee on Sunday, June 23. Be surrounded by UCC members from around the country and be inspired by worship, music, and the fellowship and witness of all! Let the Spirit’s light SHINE!
The bus will stop at Salem UCC, Verona and leave at NOON to get there in time for the outdoor worship at 2:30pm and the street festival to follow. The bus will return in the evening. Cost is $10/person. Sign up in the Crossroads or contact Laura Crow (pastorlaura@orucc.org).

General Synod Children’s Choir Cancelled:
The complexities of planning Synod worship and feeding the 5000 forced the need to abandon the idea of having a Children’s Choir. Rev. Susan Blain, Minister for Worship and Gospel Arts of the United Church of Christ, apologizes for the disappointment and expresses thanks for those who expressed interest.
Women’s Book Group
June 6
On Thursday, June 6, the group will meet in the Alfred Swan Room from 1:30-3(ish) to discuss *Dandelion Wine*, by Ray Bradbury. This moving recollection of a vanished golden era remains one of his most enchanting novels. *Dandelion Wine* stands out in the Bradbury literary canon as the author’s most deeply personal work, a semi-autobiographical recollection of a magical small-town summer in 1928. Read this—even if you were not a boy in the 1920s—and savor Ray Bradbury’s priceless distillation of all that is eternal about boyhood and summer. (Adapted from Syndetics.) If you are a woman who enjoys discussing books you have read, please join us. Let Jan Christian know if you plan to attend (ljchrist@wisc.edu or 827-0500).

LunArt Festival June 5-9:
Back for its second season, LunArt Festival is continuing its mission to support, inspire, promote and celebrate women in the arts! The 2019 season brings ten events to eight venues in the Madison area, showcasing over 100 artists, including many familiar local artists and performers as well as guest artists hailing from Missouri to Texas, Minnesota to Florida and as far away as Peru! Check out the website www.lunartfestival.org or see Bethany Schultz (bethanyjoyoschultz@gmail.com) for more information!

Women’s (and Men’s!) Breakfast June 7th
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!

Wayfinding Returns -- Fall Retreat Planned
The Wayfinding program for ORUCC “seniors” will resume this fall with a retreat at Holy Wisdom Monastery in Middleton.

Mark the date now:
Wednesday, Oct. 23 (all day).
Rev. Holly Whitcomb will be the retreat leader, and we’ll have use of the beautiful facilities and grounds at Holy Wisdom for quiet reflection time.
Capacity is 40. Cost will be about $35, depending on number of registrants. Details and sign-up instructions will follow.

Knitting & Crafts Group
June 3
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.

Men’s Group June 10 & 24
The ORUCC Men’s Group meets on the 2nd and 4th Mondays, from 7:15pm-8:45pm in the Romero Room Contact John Lemke at jlemke1@charter.net or 829-3692 if you are interested in joining this group.

Perfect Harmony Spring Concert, May 31 & June 2:
Tickets to “Love and Stonewall” are available now! Tickets are $20 in advance/$25 at the door. Performances will be Friday, May 31st @ 7:30pm and Sunday, June 2nd @ 3:00pm at Christ Presbyterian Church, 944 E. Gorham St., Madison. For more info or to purchase tickets, visit www.Perfectharmonychorus.org.

Tour of Black Point Estate on Geneva Lake— Thursday, June 20
As a result of Jill Westberg’s presentation to Over 55, on Geneva Lake history, interested folks requested a tour of Black Point the “cottage” (with 7 bedrooms) of Chicago beer baron Conrad Siepp. The ornate Queen Victorian home reflects a lifestyle of yesterday on Geneva Lake.

We will gather at church on the church at 10 a.m. to arrange car pools. It is planned we will dine at Gordy’s in Fontana prior to the tour, ordering off the menu. We will return to Madison about 5 pm. Cost is $10 admission to Black Point, free if you have a card and membership in the Wisconsin Historical Society.

If interested, please contact Steve Sheets, im1042@tds.net; or Jill Westberg, jillwestberg@gmail.com
Pastoral Search

Committee June Update
On Monday, May 6, Pastor Laura participated in a mock interview with the Search Committee and we are very grateful for her assistance. We revised our process and questions as a result of our time with her. The committee has scheduled several Skype interviews with candidates and we hope to have that completed by the end of May. We will then refer the names of people we want to interview in person to the conference office and do our own reference check. The next step will be to invite two or three candidates to come for an in-person interview with the Search Committee only, hopefully sometime in June. We are preparing questions for these interviews, drawing from information the candidates have shared as well as information learned while preparing the profile. Due to summer schedules of all involved, these steps are not cast in stone. At the same time, we also continue to receive new profiles for review. Just a reminder the Church Profile is available on-line at oppsearch.ucc.org.

We ask for your continued prayers as we seek the guidance of God’s spirit as to 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 Dobbs, Doug Piper, Barbara Stretchberry, Brian Lancor, Kim Kasper, and Sara Roberts.

Java and Jesus
Java & Jesus is a 45-50 minute facilitated discussion held on most Sundays at 9:00am, and open to everyone! Topics vary, but typically center on faith and progressive Christian values.

Topics & Facilitators for June are:
June 2—“The Inward Way of the Cross”
Facilitator: Barb Hummel
June 9—“Noticing God in Real Life”
Facilitator: Helene Nelson
June 16—“An Altar in the World”
Facilitator: Helene Nelson
June 23—Facilitator: Dan Rossmiller
June 30—TBD

Stay up to date! Pastor Ken sends out reminders and links to short readings for the upcoming week. If you wish to be added to that Java & Jesus email list, please contact Ken (ken@orucc.org). Java & Jesus often meets in the Haynes Music Room, but please check the sign board at the parking lot entrance on Sunday mornings to confirm the room location for the day. Questions or suggestions? Please contact a member of the Java & Jesus Mission Team: Dan Rossmiller, Helene Nelson, and Barb Hummel.

Life Line Screening July 2
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 7/2/2019. Five screenings will be offered that scan for potential health problems related to: blocked arteries, abdominal aortic aneurysms, hardening of the arteries in the legs, atrial fibrillation or irregular heart beat, and a bone density screening, used to assess the risk of osteoporosis.

Register for a Wellness Package which includes 4 vascular tests and osteoporosis screening from $149 ($139 with coupon). All five screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete. See fliers in the Crossroads for information on registration and to receive the $10 coupon.

Summer Discussion on the Gospel of John
You are invited to join a one-hour discussion on the Gospel of John, every Wednesday in June, July and August, facilitated primarily by Ken Pennings, and occasionally by Pastor Laura. Our first discussion will take place on Wednesday, June 5th, 12 noon, at the church.

If you would like to attend, please contact Ken Pennings to have your email address added to the list serve (ken@orucc.org). In preparation for our first discussion, please read quickly through the whole Gospel of John in whatever version of the Bible you like.

Reading & Discussion Schedule:
June 5—Introductory Materials on John’s Gospel (Ken facilitating)
June 12—John 1 (Ken facilitating)
June 19—John 2-3 (Ken facilitating)
June 26—no discussion
July 3—no discussion
July 10—John 4-5 (Laura facilitating)
July 17—John 6-7 (Ken Facilitating)
July 24—John 8-10 (Laura facilitating)
August 7—John 13-14 (Ken Facilitating)
August 14—John 15-16 (Ken Facilitating)
August 21—John 17-19 (Ken Facilitating)
August 28—John 20-21 (Ken Facilitating)

Alert for Sanctuary
Volunteers and Drivers!
The Dane Sanctuary Coalition will hold a Know Your Rights Training on June 30, 2 pm - 3:30pm, at Temple Beth El in Madison.

This training is a requirement for all volunteers who will have direct contact with a person in sanctuary or who is a driver for the Dane Sanctuary Coalition. Ruthanne Landsness from ORUCC will present the training. There is no need to register ahead of time.

Early Childhood Music and Movement with Julie Mazerc
8-week session, June 19-Aug 14
(No class July 3), 9:30-10:15
Fee $73/child
Children ages 6 months-5 years plus a caregiver are invited to sing, dance, and play in the Crossroads. For more info: e-mail Julie at info@julieamazer.com
**Youth Mission Trip**  
*Alamosa, Colorado*  
*June 22-29, 2019*

We are making a return trip to Alamosa, Colorado this summer for our Youth Mission trip. I took a group of youth here in 2010. It never worked out in our schedule to return up until this year and I’m very excited that another group of youth will experience this mission trip to Alamosa.

We will be serving two sites: La Puente and San Luis Valley Habitat for Humanity. La Puente is a nonprofit organization that started in 1982 and serves Colorado’s San Luis Valley by providing food, shelter, and advocacy for the homeless and community members in crisis. Originally operated through a local Catholic church, La Puente began as a homeless shelter in the church’s basement. La Puente Home has expanded to provide a variety of services needed by the San Luis Valley community.

Their footprint in the community is enormous and their programs include: La Puente Home Shelter, Outreach Services, Adelante (transitional housing), PALS (children’s program), Food Bank Network, Rethreads, Community Education, Rainbow’s End (thrift store) and Milagros (coffee shop).

The second site we will be working at is San Luis Valley Habitat for Humanity. SLV Habitat began in 1994 and has served 20 families and households in the Valley. Their goal is to build 2 houses per year. Most of their homes are built with adobe bricks and make use of passive solar heating. These responsible techniques help make housing truly affordable through lower energy bills.

The largest industry in the San Luis Valley is agriculture with the principal crops being potatoes, head lettuce, alfalfa, and barley. Quinoa became a commercial crop in 1987. The growing season is short—only 90 days so there are many individuals and families who struggle to make ends meet outside the short growing season. About 18% of Valley residents live below the poverty line compared to the state average of 12.5%.

Additionally, each year migrant farm workers from across the U.S. and Latin America come to work the harvest. Without stable, adequate migrant housing in the San Luis Valley, many of those hard-working individuals become part of the La Puente community for the harvest season.

La Puente employs Americorp members who work with the many La Puente programs. Our youth will have the opportunity to meet and hear from these young adults about their Americorp experience and what they are learning. When we were in Alamosa in 2010 the testimonies of Americorp members inspired a couple of our youth to join the Americorp program after they graduated from high school.

We will also spend time seeing the beautiful sites of southern Colorado including the Great Sand Dunes National Monument and Zapata Falls. We also will be visiting the mining town of Creede and stopping in Colorado Springs to experience the Garden of the Gods.

There are 22 youth and 5 chaperones participating. We love the support and interest our church has in these yearly mission trips that are one of my favorite weeks of the summer. Thank you ORUCC!

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**Greeting 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, or you can place cash in envelope in card basket.

**THANK YOU** for your support!

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**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.
Leadership Team Update - June 2019

Recent transitions and the addition of new people to our staff and ministries have lead to many questions. One that has been asked numerous times has been “do we have a policy for __________?” This question first came up regarding many boxes of historical documents, photos and other artifacts. Those who spent time during Worship & Work Sunday determined that they contained nearly every worship bulletin since the church was formed. Some see this as rich history, while others see it as unnecessary stuff. There is documentation of the groups that have rented our church space and what they have paid, but no written guidelines about renting space in the church. We have a wonderful, special Memorial Fund on our balance sheet, but no policy on when and how to spend the money. Documenting guidelines and policies will create clearer pathways for decision-making.

Initially, five areas have been identified as needing written policies.

- ORUCC History Archives
- Facilities Rental
- Memorial Fund Uses
- Facilities Repairs / RFP’s
- Confidential Information / Security & Storage

Our hope is that over the next two months small teams of 3-4 people will form to address each of the 5 areas. Each group would draft a policy to be presented by August 5 so the Leadership Team and Ministry Chairs can attend to these areas at their mid-year check in. If you have an interest in, or experience with any of these areas to draft policy, I’d love to connect with you.

Peace to all.
Angie Schoeneck, Moderator
angelaschoeneck@gmail.com


Volunteers

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A reminder that ALL AGES are welcome, and NO EXPERIENCE is necessary to be a reader!
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.” We also have a NEW private FB Group “Members & Friends of ORUCC”! This is a great way to share prayer concerns & updates, events, photos, and announcements with our church family.

Also check out the NEW “Madison Labyrinth Walks” FB group for announcements of labyrinth walks at ORUCC & throughout the Madison area.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS—June 2019

June 2  
9:00 a.m.  Java & Jesus  
10:00 a.m.  Worship & Communion  
Celebration of Graduates & Teachers  
Church Picnic

June 3  
1:30 p.m.  Knitting Group

June 6  
8:30 a.m.  Meditation Group  
1:30 p.m.  Women’s Book Group

June 7  
8:30 p.m.  Women’s Breakfast

June 9  
9:00 a.m.  Java & Jesus  
10:00 a.m.  Pentecost Sunday Worship

June 10  
5:00 p.m.  Search Committee

June 11  
6:30 p.m.  Care of Creation Meeting

June 12  
6:00 p.m.  Adult Faith Formation

June 13  
8:30 a.m.  Meditation Group

June 16  
9:00 a.m.  Java & Jesus  
10:00 a.m.  Worship

June 17  
5:00 p.m.  Search Committee

June 18  
7:00 p.m.  Leadership Team

June 19  
6:30 p.m.  Congregational Life

June 20  
6:00 p.m.  Resources Meeting  
8:30 a.m.  Meditation Group  
7:00 p.m.  Christian Witness & Service

June 21-25  General Synod 32, Milwaukee
June 22-29  Youth Mission Trip to Colorado

June 23  
9:00 a.m.  Java & Jesus  
10:00 a.m.  Worship

June 24  
5:00 p.m.  Search Committee  
7:15 p.m.  Men’s Group

June 25  
7:00 p.m.  Sanctuary Mission Meeting

June 27  
8:30 a.m.  Meditation Group

June 30  
9:00 a.m.  Java & Jesus  
10:00 a.m.  Worship

Open Office Hours

Monday-Thursday 8:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Friday: CLOSED

You may find people in the building outside these hours, but if you need to see someone outside these hours, please call ahead and make an appointment. Thank you!