

Orchard Ridge United Church of Christ

COMMUNION

August 1, Issue 9



*Spiritually Alive,
Joyfully Inclusive,
Committed to Justice*
Sunday Morning

August 4

9 am Sermon Talkback

10 am Laura Crow preaching

Music: Paul Vash

August 11

9 am Java & Jesus

10 am Tammy Martens preaching

Music: David Austin Polka Sunday

August 18

9 am Java & Jesus

10 am Ken Pennings preaching

Music: Judy Bauer & Friends

August 25

9 am Java & Jesus

10 am Laura Crow preaching

Music: Paul Hedges & Kythie Boyd

Upcoming Newsletters: September 1

Information to be included in the
September Newsletter is due
Monday, Aug. 26 by 9:00am

Weekly Bulletin & E-Post:

Information to be included in the
Weekly Bulletin & E-Post is due on
Wednesdays 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

IN THE INTERIM by Laura Crow

Can it be August already? While this month tends to be prime family vacation season, it is also a time for having a bit of fun in worship. As the “back to School” ads start popping up in stores, it is time to ask—have we had fun this summer? What experiments have brightened up our life together as a community of faith?

One of the things that I have had a lot of fun with this summer has been looking deeply at some of those tricky scripture passages and trying to see them as stepping stones rather than stumbling blocks. It is fun at times to push up against those rough edges and be surprised to discover areas of growth and connection. I have especially enjoyed the questions and ponderings both at the July 7 “Talk Back” session at 9:00am and also just in emails and side conversations through the week. I am amazed with the number of people who have expressed how a question or comment from a sermon has stayed with them over time. **We will have another 9:00am “Talk Back” on August 4th** and I invite everyone to bring a question or comment to share!

As we look to the last few weeks of this summer series, we will explore the Bible & Science (maybe with an experiment or two!) on August 4th, open up the dance floor for a Polka Worship Service on August 11 (you don’t HAVE to dance, but those who feel the Spirit moving certainly are welcome!), Ken will explore “Original Blessing” on August 18 and we will end with an “easy” one—what to do with all those passages of violence in the bible on August 25! Thankfully, Paul Hedges and Kythie Boyd will providing music that Sunday to lighten the mood.

Before you know it, it will be September which means the return of regular Sunday school programming, Orchard Ridge’s fabulous music groups, and a wide variety of study and fellowship groups with something for all ages interests! We are exploring ways to highlight some of these events and offerings and make them more visible both inside and outside the congregation. We were excited to welcome Elissa Engel in July as our new Communications Coordinator. She has already reactivated the church’s Twitter and Instagram accounts and begun making some updates to our website. If you use social media, be sure to look for and follow our feeds @OrchardRidgeUCC. You can also find us on Facebook and at our website www.orucc.org. We welcome ideas and feedback about what information YOU are looking for and ways that would make accessing that information easy.

Wherever you find yourself this summer, I hope you find ways to connect with your church family and with the Holy One who cannot be contained by any walls!

POLKA SUNDAY—August 11:

Bring your dancing shoes! David Austin and his friends will share their gift of music with us in worship. This is a lively, spirit filled event you will not want to miss!

Prayers of JOY

For Barb Hummel's 15 years of membership and ministry at ORUCC. Barb is moving to Minneapolis to be closer to her family.

For Jeanne Garnett who is home from the hospital following a debilitating bout with pneumonia.

For ORUCC's new Communications Coordinator, Elissa Engel.

For the members of ORUCC Search Committee as they conduct interviews and discern a call to leadership.

For all who share their gifts of music in worship over the summer months.

Thanks from Jeanne Garnett

I appreciate all the cards, notes, phone calls, and visits I have received from members of our church when I had pneumonia. The infection was cleared up in a week, but the rehab is taking much longer than I expected. I hope to be back in church before too long. I can't thank you enough for all your caring thoughts and prayers.

Greeting Cards

Greeting Cards: Help needy neighbors in this corner of Madison by buying beautiful cards. Every month your card purchases help families like these:

- Husband was taken away by ICE last summer. Wife must now provide for their five children. Found a job but insufficient hours has put her behind in her rent. We came up with \$200 to help her catch up.
- Woman in her ninth month of pregnancy had to take leave from her job and fell behind in her rent.

Secrets from the Garden Greeting cards are available on the table in The Crossing. Cards are \$4 each or 6 cards for \$20. All proceeds go to help struggling families via a Joining Forces For Families social worker. If you would like to make a special order go to website dianneandpaul.net Make your selection then email Dianne@dianneandpaul.net with your order. Thank you for your contribution!

Prayers of CONCERN

For Sheryl Schuck whose 60 year old niece Kendra died of a massive heart attack last week. This is the fourth family member Sheryl has lost this year.

For Kerry Parker grieving the death of her mother two weeks ago.

For Char Klossner whose cancer has spread and the prognosis is not good.

For Linda Merriman Hitchman whose boyfriend Doug Lyman had cancer surgery.

For Bruce Gladstone's husband Brian Wilkes recovering from open heart surgery.

For Dick & Lois Rossmiller's granddaughter who had a bike accident and has two broken arms.

For the family of Rev. Don Ellerman, close friend and colleague of Pastor Laura, who died July 9th.

MONTHLY COMPASSION OFFERING:

January—Statewide Youth Summit \$1650.00

February—Madison Urban Ministries \$1927.22

March—One Great Hour of Sharing \$3478.00

April—The Crossing \$1753.49

May—Thea's Table \$2367.33

June—Dane County Immigration Assistance Collaborative \$2529.72

August Compassion

Offering: The Returning Citizens Resource Fund

The Returning Citizens Resource Fund is managed by The Madison Community Foundation. It's an endowment whose beneficiary is Madison Urban Ministry for its programs to help people returning to the community after incarceration. Why an endowment? Because it's not a problem that will go away.

Nearly 600 people are released to Dane County every year. They confront many obstacles when they return home. MUM inspires hope and breaks down barriers that prevent people from full participation in their family and community life. MUM works with returnees so they can successfully navigate the complex reentry process and avoid the sad fate of return to prison or jail.

The Returning Citizens Resource Fund can provide assistance toward tuition, training costs and special equipment necessary for certain jobs.

MUM's community based solutions mean that the two year recidivism rate for re-entry participants is between 5-14% compared to the statewide rate of 67%. MUM depend on community support to meet this ongoing need.

Please be generous.

For credit on your church statement, please write "Returning Citizens" or "Compassion Offering" in the memo line of your check. While this will not count toward your annual pledge, we will acknowledge the contribution on your giving statement.

THANK YOU for your generosity!

Women's Book Group August 1:

On Thursday, August 1, from 1:30-3:00 in the church's Alfred Swan Room, we will discuss *Educated* by Tara Westover. The author is a young woman who was raised in Idaho by parents who were so conservative that her father's goal was to someday live off the grid. As the youngest of seven children, she watched how the lives of her six siblings evolved, and from her observations found her own path. Ultimately, she earned an advanced degree from a British college and in this, her first book, she tells her true story.

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).

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 helenemargret@gmail.com for more information.

Men's Group August 12 & 26:

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.

Wayfinding Fall Retreat— "The Practice of Finding":

The Wayfinding program for ORUCC "seniors" will resume this fall with a retreat at Holy Wisdom Monastery in Middleton.

Wednesday, Oct. 23

9:30am—3:00pm (includes lunch)

Rev. Holly Whitcomb will lead a retreat called "The Practice of Finding: How Gratitude Leads the Way to Enough" on the beautiful facilities and grounds at Holy Wisdom Monastery. At this retreat, Rev. Whitcomb will introduce us to the spiritual practice of *finding* – an antidote to chronic seeking, while never attaining "enough." Says Holly, as you go through this surprising journey of discovery, you will marvel at what you have already found and what you readily possess!

Retreat themes include: Choosing to Dwell in the Present, Glimpsing the Holy in Unexpected Places, and Rediscovering Your Gifts & Purpose.

"The practice of finding has been saving my life for a long time", writes Holly. "It is an old friend that has stayed by my side during times of lavish joy and exuberance as well as in times of grief and loss

Holly, who lives near Milwaukee, is a UCC pastor who graduated from Yale Divinity School and the Shalem Institute for Spiritual Formation. The director of Kettlewood Retreats, she is a widely traveled speaker and spiritual director and the author of five books. The retreat is based on her latest book, *The Practice of Finding*, which reviewers have called an "exceptional spiritual work."

The cost is \$40 per person. **To register email the church office at orucc.org and make your checks out to ORUCC with "Wayfinding Retreat" in the memo line.** Capacity is 40, so don't delay! For more information, please contact Sharon Goss (sharongoss09@aol.com) or Ken Penning (ken@orucc.org).

Knitting & Crafts Group August 5:

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.

New Shawls to be Dedicated on September 15th!

Our supplies of prayer shawls are getting low and we would love to dedicate a new batch of shawls in September! Our church has gifted many shawls to members this spring and, in response to a request from the UCC General Synod, Ree Hale gifted four prayer shawls which were used in their Comfort Room.

This note is to encourage your creative spirits – as if you needed an excuse to visit the yarn store! – during these summer months so we at ORUCC will be prepared for Fall.

Women's (and Men's!) Breakfast August 2:

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!

ACTIVE ADULT ADVENTURE RETREAT MOON BEACH CAMP— SEPTEMBER 23-27, 2019*:

The beautiful colors of fall in the Northwoods make the perfect setting for all kinds of adventures, and we invite you to come and join in the beauty of the natural world, the hospitality of Moon Beach Camp, and the joy and encouragement of community. Join us for the Active Adult Adventure Retreat, led by the retired Wisconsin Conference Minister, Rev. David Moyer.

For 2019 our program centers in understanding and appreciating our natural environment with one of the outstanding naturalists of northern Wisconsin, John Bates. John is the author of books on the north country, including [Graced by the Seasons](#), and, most recently, [Our Living Ancestors: The History and Ecology of Old Growth Forests in Wisconsin](#). This year's program will be:

"A PLACE IS A SPACE WITH A STORY-
Listening to the Northwoods"

Tuesday morning: Climate Change (Signs from the North country)
The Spirit of a Place and Why it Matters

Wednesday morning and afternoon: Narrated hike in an Old Growth Forest (John and his spouse, Mary Burns, will lead two identical hikes for the sake of group size)

Thursday morning: Roots of the Antagonism to Science Looking for and Finding Positive Signs

Each day begins with morning prayer and our yoga instructor who will offer gentle and helpful exercises for beginner and experienced alike. Each day ends with evening prayer. Every day offers the wonderful hospitality of the Moon Beach staff and setting.

Visit a nearby cranberry bog to tour a harvest. Investigate local artist studios. Kayak or canoe amid fall colors. Ride the roads or bike trails to enjoy the peaceful woods and abundant wildlife. Fish on your own or with a guide. Or just sit and watch the changing face of the lake and forest.

*We again are offering an optional add-on weekend (Friday-Sunday, September 27-29). There is self-directed programming and one dinner out at a traditional Wisconsin supper club. Other meals and two overnights at the camp.

Please see the United Church Camps, Inc/Moon Beach Camp website for registration information and costs. Join us in the holiness of community in the beauty of God's Creation.

Mid-Year Leadership & Ministry Chair Mini-Retreat:

The mid-year gathering on August 28th will work to bring the Leadership Team and Ministries closer together. This will be an opportunity for each Ministry to reflect on its accomplishments. Challenges that lie ahead will also be discussed. The goal is to make transition easier as members and the congregation change. Change will be recognized as an opportunity for growth and unity.

Interfaith Community

Picnic August 25 @ Rennebohm Park:

115 N Eau Claire Ave, Madison, Wisconsin 53705, 1:00pm to 4:00pm

Please join Muslim Women of Madison and Wisconsin Faith Voices for Justice for an afternoon of fun, food, and friendship at our Interfaith Community picnic!

Activities for kids & Fellowship for adults! Pizza, watermelon, and cold drinks will be served, or bring your own picnic lunch.

Java and Jesus

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

On **August 4**, you will have the opportunity to "**talk back**" about our sermon series *Our Vocabulary of Faith: Stumbling Blocks or Stepping Stones?* during the Java & Jesus hour. If you have questions or comments to begin these discussions, please send them to Laura Crow (pastorlaura@orucc.org).

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). For the summer, J&J has been meeting in the Alfred Swan room.

Questions or suggestions? Please contact a member of the Java & Jesus Mission Team: Dan Rossmiller, Helene Nelson, and Barb Hummel.

Potluck and Poetry

Are you interested in joining a new adult group this fall? I would like to set up a group called POTLUCK AND POETRY. As the title suggests, everyone would bring a heavy appetizer, salad or dessert. You could also bring wine or beer if you like. I will supply seltzer water, white wine and iced tea as well as a potluck dish. We would meet at my house about four times in the next year for time together.

The initial focus would be on POETRY AS SPIRITUALITY. Each member would bring a poem that he or she feels enhances their spirituality. After our time eating and drinking together, we would share our poems and talk about how the poems bring us alive.

I would request that you bring extra copies of your poem to share with others, so that we all end the night with the beginnings of a collection of poems that enhance our spirituality.

I am thinking of meeting on a Friday evening (though that might be difficult during football season) or a Sunday evening. I live in Westmorland so I am pretty centrally located. My house can accommodate 10 to 12 people (or more if we don't mind tight quarters.) I will take the first 12 people who sign up to enjoy the first meeting. After that, we will see where we go.

I started a group like this in my last church and it is still flourishing today. We had 20 plus people at the first meeting! So, e-mail Jeanne Moberly at: JMoberly2@me.com if you are interested. If a Friday or a Sunday won't work for you, let me know your preference for days. If interest is strong, we may have more than one group. (I love Potlucks and Poetry, so I don't mind!)

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 Laura Crow. Discussions will take place on **Wednesdays, 12 noon—1 pm, 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 & Facilitator Schedule:

August 7—John 13-14 (Ken)
 August 14—John 15-16 (Ken)
 August 21—John 17-19 (Ken)
 August 28—John 20-21 (Ken)

YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID TRAINING:

Thursday, August 22,
 8AM-4PM @ Orchard Ridge UCC

Youth Mental Health First Aid is a FREE training that teaches how to identify and respond to signs of mental health concerns in youth ages 12-18. Nelson 259-2546 or helenemargret@gmail.com for more information.

WISCONSIN IMMIGRANT JOURNEYS -FREE EXHIBIT:

"When anyone is cast out from the circle of moral consideration, that is a humanities emergency" Dena Wortzel, 2019

THE EXHIBIT

On Sunday afternoon, five of us- Marv Beatty, Helene Nelson, Baxter Richardson, Susan Watson and Gerry Wettersten- went to the opening of the Overture Center exhibit "Immigrant Journeys from South of the Border". The show is collaboration of Centro Hispano and the Wisconsin Humanities Council. The exhibit consists of eight separately mounted panels, each with a photograph and a first person narrative of one person. The eight people- from Mexico, Honduras, Uruguay and Colombia- Gilberto, Saul, Ana Claudia, Fernando, Jennifer, Mario, Cinthia and Panfilo all volunteered to tell their stories to Bill Berry (journalist) and Gary Porter (photographer).

THE REFLECTION

With the national discussion dominated, as it is, by issues of division, fear, unimaginable abuse, detentions, raids and the like, it is all too easy to forget that those who come to this country, like all who have come before, have deeply personal stories. And it is in the telling of these stories, however brief, that we gain a measure of moral clarity about the humanity we share, regardless of when, or how, we arrived on these shores. The stories of the eight, in short, reveal both just how much they are like those reading this reflection as well the obstacles the reader has never experienced.

Our hope is that you will be able to view, and reflect on, this modest yet powerful exhibit. It is in the Playhouse Gallery, located at the Henry Street entrance and runs through August 18.

Warmly,

Marv, Helene, Baxter, Susan, Gerry.

Summer Preaching Themes at ORUCC:

We asked – you answered! Below is the list of preaching themes for this summer, a series we are calling *Our Vocabulary of Faith: Stumbling Blocks or Stepping Stones?* You won't want to miss it!

- August 4 – The Bible & Science (Laura Crow)
- August 11 – Faith, Love, & the Church (Tammy Martens, also Polka Sunday)
- August 18 – Original Sin: Come on ... really! What about infants? (Ken Pennings)
- August 25 – The Bible & Violence: "God told me to..." (Laura Crow)

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.

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!



Volunteers

Financial Secretary

Aug 4 Gene Dyar
Aug 11 Peter Hoff
Aug 18 Hope Soroos
Aug 25 Mary Bucknell

Ushers

Aug 4 Peter Fabian
Joyce Binder
Dorothy Peterson
Aug 11 Larry Goss
Sandra Dyar
Jon Blanchard
Aug 18 Carol Prugh
Robert Prugh
Jarrett Gersten
Aug 25 Rick Daluge
Carolyn Carlson
Sandra Dyar

Welcomers

Aug 4 Barbara Mcleod
Mary Loving
Hope Soroos
Aug 11 Joyce Dingman
Jack Schairer
Ruthanne Landsness
Aug 18 Helen Horn
Donna & John
Lillethun
Aug 25 Dianne & Heather
Stevens
Mary Loving
Charlene Gallagher

AV Team

Aug 4 Jarrett Gersten
Aug 11 Paul Hedges
Aug 18 Ken Psyck
Aug 25 Charles Kaspar

Sunday Coffee

Aug 4 Barb & Greg
Louden
Aug 11 Christine Radtke
Aug 18 Chuck Kaspar
Aug 25 Barb & Greg
Louden

Liturgists

Aug 4 Heather & Dianne
Stevens
Aug 11 Meg Stevens
Aug 18 OPEN
Aug 25 Hal Evensen

Liturgists read the opening Call to Worship and/or the Scripture for the day. People of ALL AGES and abilities are welcome. We have spots OPEN beginning in August, so please check available dates and join this important ministry!



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." **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

INTAGRAM AND TWITTER

Follow us [@OrchardRidgeUCC](https://www.instagram.com/OrchardRidgeUCC) on Twitter and [@orchardridgeucc](https://www.instagram.com/orchardridgeucc) on Instagram.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS—August 2019

| | | |
|--------|------------|---|
| Aug 1 | 8:30 am | Meditation Group |
| | 1:30 pm | Women's Book Group |
| Aug 2 | 8:30 pm | Women's Breakfast |
| Aug 4 | 9:00 am | Sermon Talk Back |
| | 10:00 am | Sunday Worship |
| Aug 5 | 1:30 pm | Knitting Group |
| Aug 7 | 12:00 noon | Bible Study |
| Aug 8 | 8:30 am | Meditation Group |
| Aug 11 | 9:00 am | Java & Jesus |
| | 10:00 am | Sunday Worship-POLKA SUNDAY |
| Aug 12 | 7:15 pm | Men's Group |
| Aug 13 | 6:30 pm | Care of Creation |
| Aug 14 | 12:00 noon | Bible Study |
| | 6:00 pm | Resource Meeting |
| | 6:00 pm | Adult Faith Formation |
| Aug 15 | 8:30 am | Meditation Group |
| | 7:00 pm | Christian Witness & Service |
| Aug 18 | 9:00 am | Java & Jesus |
| | 10:00 am | Sunday Worship |
| Aug 20 | 7:00 pm | Sanctuary Mission Team |
| Aug 21 | 12:00 noon | Bible Study |
| | 6:00 pm | Congregational Life |
| Aug 22 | 8:30 am | Meditation Group |
| Aug 25 | 9:00 am | Java & Jesus |
| | 10:00 am | Sunday Worship |
| Aug 26 | 7:15 pm | Men's Group |
| Aug 28 | 12noon | Bible Study |
| Aug 28 | 5:30 | Mid-Year Leadership & Ministry Chair Mtg. |
| Aug 29 | 8:30 am | Meditation Group |

September 8th Welcome Back Barbecue at 11:00 am

Open Office Hours

Monday-Thursday 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Friday: CLOSED

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