**Communion**

**IN THE INTERIM by Laura Crow**

What makes a space feel welcoming? Why can a fresh coat of paint brighten up our spirits as much as it brightens up the walls? Over the last few weeks, Julie Wombacher, our most amazing Administrative Assistant, has transformed our office spaces and stairwells with new colors and a new spirit of welcome. That fresh spirit has inspired a fresh look in other areas as we gear up for the start of fall programming.

One of the changes you might notice is in this monthly Communion newsletter. When our Communications Coordinator, Elissa Engel came on board, we did some analysis of our various print and electronic publications. What pieces did we have and how were they being used? Where did we need to add new content? How could we be more intentional about informing, inviting, and engaging our members and our community in the work of the church?

Here are a few of the changes you will see inside—take a look and let us know what you think!

- Each month will have a feature article by each of the three pastors to better communicate not only the “what” but also the “why” of our roles in this faith community
- New opportunities and returning ones will get expanded coverage to highlight the “why” behind the details of “who-what-where-when” typical of so many events and volunteer opportunities
- Throughout we will raise up ways that you can engage and be involved in the life of the community. We welcome your feedback and ideas at any time!

---

**Annual Welcome Back BBQ:**

Missed a few Sundays this summer? Us, too! Reconnect with the ORUCC family at our 4th Annual Welcome Back BBQ! Join us for yard games, music, fellowship and food on Sunday, September 8th immediately following worship.

Food and beverage will be provided, donations encouraged.
**Finding God in the Faith of Others by Ken Pennings**

There’s no doubt that religious affiliation has separated and divided people from one another. Religion has been used to define “the other,” people who don’t share our beliefs, values and practices. Religion has been used to define who’s blessed and who’s cursed, who’s saved and who’s damned, who’s in and who’s out. But always there’s a remnant within most world religions who senses intuitively that **there’s more that unites them with the rest of the human family than divides them.**

*New York Times* bestselling author Barbara Brown Taylor has written a new book called, *Holy Envy: Finding God in the Faith of Others*, in which she explores what is opened and what is revealed when we accept the invitation to investigate all the wonder before us in the faith of others.

As a professor in a Christian College, Barbara Brown Taylor fell for every religion she taught. When she taught Judaism, she wanted to be a rabbi. When she taught Buddhism, she wanted to be a monk. But when she saw how her own religion, Christianity, lined up with the others, she became disillusioned and wanted more from her Christian faith.

Taylor’s journey with people of other faith traditions has genuinely enriched and expanded her own faith in God. Reading and discussing her book with others from ORUCC will hopefully enrich and expand our own faith in God.

**ORUCC’s Ministry of Adult Faith Formation is launching a number of fall Home Groups** during the months of October and November – four sessions, every other week. A member of ORUCC will receive training to guide your discussions on Holy Envy: Finding God in the Faith of Others.

In addition to connecting with God through the faith of others, you’ll have the opportunity to build friendship and trust with eight or nine others from ORUCC! The connections we make with one another in small groups truly help us engage more fully in the life of our church. Beginning in September, you’ll be given instructions on how to sign up for a Home Group. In the meantime, go ahead and purchase the book, and begin reading!

---

## Volunteers

### Financial Secretary
- **Sep 1** Nancy Wettersten
- **Sep 8** Hope Soroos
- **Sep 15** Gene Dyar
- **Sep 22** Hope Soroos
- **Sep 29** Mary Bucknell

### Ushers
- **Sep 1** Judy & Phil Winkel
- **Sep 8** Jerry Nelson
- **Sep 15** Carolyn Carlson
- **Sep 22** OPEN
- **Sep 29** Carolyn Carlson

### Welcomers
- **Sep 1** Charlene Gallagher
- **Sep 2** Carol & Dick Karls
- **Sep 8** Barbara Mcleod
- **Sep 15** Ruthanne Landsness
- **Sep 22** Barb Hummel
- **Sep 29** Donna & John Lillethun

### AV Team
- **Sep 1** Jarrett Gersten
- **Sep 8** Andrew Beckett
- **Sep 15** Ken Psyck
- **Sep 22** Paul Hedges
- **Sep 29** Jarrett Gersten

### Sunday Coffee
- **Sep 1** Chris Thomas
- **Sep 8** Rachael & Brian Lancor
- **Sep 15** Annette & Brian Porter
- **Sep 22** OPEN
- **Sep 29** Greg & Barb Louden

### Liturgists
- **Sep 1** Jan Christian
- **Sep 8** Phil Haslanger
- **Sep 15** Ruthanne Landsness
- **Sep 22** Ken Psyck
- **Sep 29** Jill Westberg

---

Sign up ON-LINE!
Contact Ken Pennings, Tammy Martens or Laura Crow with any questions.

https://www.orucc. org/volunteer/
**We’ve Got Traction: Youth Programming by Tammy Martens**

On Sunday mornings, middle school youth will participate in OWL (Our Whole Lives), a comprehensive sexuality education program based on the values of self-worth, sexual health, responsibility, and justice and inclusivity. The OWL program has been offered to our middle school youth for 20 years and is an integral part of our three-year middle school curriculum rotation. Through the years we have heard continuously from parents—and students—how much they appreciate this program because it is both factually comprehensive and tied to our Christian values. It is one concrete way we help students connect their faith with their life.

OWL begins on Sunday, September 8th and meets three Sundays a month. Students will also go on a retreat to Pilgrim Center September 20-22 — a great place to do team building exercises and have fun. Thank you to our OWL leaders: Barbara Stretchberry, Brian Lancor, Brock Schultz, and Kristin Muckian!

**Faith formation opportunities are blossoming for our High School Youth!** Last spring, our youth shared how much they value ORUCC and find support and encouragement from church. They also asked for more opportunities to grow their faith and more fun ways to be together. Through the steady and caring leadership of Ann Moyer, Baxter Richardson, and Susan Watson we have developed some engaging plans for the 2019-20 year.

All High School Youth are invited to meet twice a month:

- **High School Sunday School, 9:00 a.m., third Sunday of the month:** Ann Moyer and Baxter Richardson will lead this study and discussion time and will use the Psalms as a backdrop to their study. The hope of this class is to offer youth some handles on growing in faith in order to find strength in the goodness of God’s intentions. Ann Moyer has put together a marvelous, engaging plan for these 9:00 Sunday mornings based on some amazing conversations between Bono (of U2) and Eugene Petersen (*The Message* Bible).

- **High School Youth Cook!, Saturday evenings, 5:00—7:30 p.m. once a month:** The youth shared that they would like to get together and cook! So that’s what they will be doing! Susan Watson is heading this up and has a variety of seasonal themes planned. First up are “Food and the Harvest Season” on September 21 and “Baking Pie Crusts and Pies” on October 12. **Youth will share these pies on Sunday, October 13** with the congregation.

In addition, the youth will be getting together for youth fundraisers as they gear up for next year’s mission trip to Earlville, Maryland!

**Stay tuned** as we share more about the exciting plans in place for our High School and Middle School youth this year!

If you know youth who would like to be a part of our programs, please contact Tammy to get them signed up!

---

**Volunteers**

We are in need of 4th/5th grade Teachers and Volunteers for both Craft/Play Time and Music Connections (during worship). The new schedule is up on-line, so please go to Signup Genius to volunteer ([www.orucc.org/volunteer/](http://www.orucc.org/volunteer/)).

You DO NOT need to be a parent to volunteer with Craft/play time or Music Connections. All volunteers must go through a Safe Sanctuary workshop that will be offered early in the fall. In addition, Sunday School teachers need to complete a background check per our Safe Sanctuary Plan.

**JOIN OUR FABULOUS TEACHING TEAM!**

Kindergarten/First Grade Teachers: Julie Horst, Paul Eggerling-Boeck
Second/Third Grade Teachers: Brett MacArthur, Emily Lloyd
Fourth/Fifth Grade Teachers: ?
Sixth—Eighth Grade Teachers (OWL): Barbara Stretchberry, Brock Schultz, Brian Lancor, Kristin Muckian

Contact Tammy Martens with questions!
NEW IDEAS & OPPORTUNITIES FOR FALL!

One of the exciting things about times of transition is the freedom to experiment with new ideas and consider what it means to be church together from different perspectives. That creative energy is bubbling up in a variety of ways—check out these new ideas for this fall!

Potluck and Poetry

Our first POTLUCK and POETRY will meet September 20 at 5:00 pm at Jeanne Moberly’s home at 4030 Euclid Avenue. As the title suggests, everyone will bring something to contribute to the meal, and a poem to share. The initial focus will be on POETRY AS SPIRITUALITY, and the discussion will center on how poems bring us alive. For more information, please contact Jeanne at JMOberly2@me.com.

Lectionary Bible Study

We had a lot of positive feedback from the summer’s deep dive into both the Gospel of John Bible Study and our sermon series on “difficult” passages from the Bible. This fall, we will explore the weekly scripture texts in a Lectionary Bible Study Group that will meet on Mondays from 12:00pm-1:00pm, beginning September 9. We will have an opportunity to read through all four assigned texts for a given Sunday, explore their historical contexts, consider what common themes are present, and search for applications of these passages in our daily lives. All are welcome—come as you are able! Contact Laura Crow at pastorlaura@orucc.org.

Conversations on Depression and Anxiety

How do we care for one another in our church community? How do we care for ourselves? Perhaps you or someone you care about is struggling with depression and/or anxiety. All are invited to join a circle of support on Thursday, September 26 and/or Tuesday, October 1 at Orchard Ridge United Church of Christ. Vicki May, who is a member of ORUCC and is a trained and licensed psychotherapist, will facilitate these caring and confidential conversations. Perhaps you will gain a few new insights on dealing with depression and anxiety, but more importantly, you will have the opportunity to share your own experiences, as you wish.

No need to sign up. Simply show up promptly for either or both sessions. What’s shared in the room stays in the room! Questions? Contact Vicki May at vsmharmonia1@aol.com.

Thursday, September 26, 7-8:15 pm, Topic – Depression
Tuesday, October 1, 7-8:15 pm. Topic -- Anxiety

Helping Hands

Another way we care for one another as a community of faith is to share the ebb and flow of daily living together, to share our burdens and make the path easier for all. Sometimes there are tasks that might require an extra pair of hands and a small investment of time to accomplish.

Might you have your name added to an email list to be contacted when a practical need arises in the life of our congregation? Everyone on the list would be contacted with a particular need, and only those interested in meeting the need would reply.

It may be a request to assist with moving furniture, snow shoveling, pruning a tree, taking down holiday decorations, trouble-shooting a computer problem, driving someone to an appointment, donating a specific item, little but important things! To have your name added to the list, contact Ken Pennings at ken@orucc.org.

Search Committee Update:

The Search Committee completed three in-person interviews in late July. We were particularly interested in one candidate but the candidate chose to withdraw from consideration. This is not unusual in a search process.

We are no longer considering the other two candidates but will be moving on as we continue to receive new profiles every month. We will be scheduling two Skype interviews soon.

Our new Conference Minister, Lorraine Ceniceros is a good support to us as we continue our search. As always, if you have questions about the process, you can contact any member of the Search Committee: Dana Dobbins, Chris Thomas, Doug Piper, Kim Kaspar, Brian Lancor, Mary Bucknell, Barbara Stretchberry, and Sara Roberts.

We appreciate your support and prayers.

Find Your Lane—How to Get Involved at ORUCC:

The easiest way to get involved is to SIGN UP or SHOW UP to one of the existing projects or activities found in the monthly Newsletter, weekly Bulletin or E-Post. Several groups use Signup Genius at www.orucc.org/volunteer. You will meet new people and always be paired with someone who has volunteered before.

On page 11 you will find a “Ministry Map” to help guide you to opportunities you might want to try.

Not sure what is right for you? Use the “Comments” area of the Friendship Pad to indicate your areas of interest and someone in the office will follow up and point you in the right direction.

Have an idea for a new project? Talk with any of the three pastors. The fastest way to get something new off the ground is to find 3 people who share your interest and work up a plan together!
NEW START FOR RETURNING GROUPS!

At ORUCC we are committed to caring for our members as whole people, finding joy and growth as we share our interests, passions, and needs in fellowship with one another. Below are groups starting up again after a summer break:

**Senior Exercise Class:**

Retirees are invited to join a low impact balance and strengthening exercise class at ORUCC at 10:00 am on Tuesdays and Thursdays starting Tuesday, September 10th (before Over 55 lunch). Tuesday classes will be in the lower level and Thursday classes will be in Friendship Hall. They can be adapted to all levels. There is no set fee for the class which will run 12-15 weeks, and a donation of $50-$60 to The Heart Room is requested. If you are interested please leave your name with Julie Wombacher, in the office or contact Joyce Pohl at 206-5697 or japohl@gmail.com with questions.

**Family Game Night**

Family Game Night returns on Friday, September 6th, 6-8pm! Meet in the Friendship Hall for fun games, fellowship, and food. FAQs: Do I have to have kids to attend? No! Everyone is welcome. What kind of games do you play? Strategy games, word games, cards, legos, party games. No experience necessary. We’ll teach each other our favorite games. Is there food? Yes, usually everyone brings something simple to share. To sign up to bring a main dish, contact Rachael Lancor. When do you meet? First Fridays of the month. Questions? Contact Rachael (rachael.anderman@gmail.com)

**Movie Group Returns September 20 @ 7:00pm:**

The plan for September is a “split personality” event. Half of the evening will be given over to the films of Quentin Tarantino, the other half to whatever “feel good” movie you have seen recently or plan to see. Hence the “split personality” idea – Tarantino vs. moral uplift. Some would argue this is a reflection of the Original Sin vs. Original Blessing debate now going on at ORUCC.

The suggested films are: (Tarantino) Once Upon a Time…..In Hollywood (now in theaters), Reservoir Dogs, Jackie Brown, Inglourious Basterds (NOT incorrectly spelled), Django Unchained, The Hateful Eight. All are available either through Amazon, Netflix or the Madison Public Library. If you have not, or do not plan to see them, that’s okay. The issues raised by his films – use of history, role of women, violence, are worthy topics.

The list of possible “feel good” films: Biggest Little Farm, Yesterday, Last Black Man in San Francisco, Blinded by the Light, The Farwell, Pavarotti. Don’t hesitate to see something that strikes your fancy. Refreshments will be available.

**Over 55 Returns on Tuesday, September 10th:**

Over 55 is a community at ORUCC that meets the second Tuesday of each month, September through May for a wonderful luncheon, conversation, and a presentation of interest. We will kick-off the season on September 10th, gathering at 11:30am, with lunch served at 11:45am. The cost of the lunch is $8. The presentation will begin at 12:30, lasting about an hour.

Arlan Kay, a 50 year career renowned architect, will speak on "Historic Preservation: the Evolution of a Church." The church in question is St. John’s Lutheran in Evansville. Mr. Kay was elevated to elite status when he was admitted to the American Institute of Architecture.

All are welcome, join us at 11:30 on Tuesday the 10th.

THANK YOU to our Summer Musicians:


Lift Every Voice and Sing

ORUCC’s adult choir, directed by Bruce Gladstone and accompanied by Vicki Nonn, is looking for singers. We rehearse on Wednesdays, from 7:00 to 8:30, at church, beginning September 4, 2019. Usually, we sing on the first and third Sundays of the month, from September through May.

We invite you to join us, whether you’re a veteran singer looking for an ensemble or are just curious about what it might be like to make vocal music with others in a fun and mutually supportive atmosphere.

All who have life have breath—and breath is the only equipment needed for singing. So please give ORUCC Choir a try—all are welcome! Find personal enrichment through song, and uplift others by the inspirational power of vocal music.

Have questions or need more information? Contact Bruce Gladstone, bgladstone@wisc.edu, or Vicki Nonn, (608) 798-4165 or vickinonn@tds.net, or talk with any choir member after service.

--Bruce Olsen, member
**Glorious Gardens at ORUCC:**
Have you walked around our gardens lately? From flowers to produce, our gardens are bursting forth with beauty and abundance! The next time you are at church, take a stroll past the flower beds and through the meditation garden—you will be impressed! THANK YOU to all our garden volunteers for creating a glorious natural sanctuary in our neighborhood!

![Image of meditation garden]

![Image of produce]

**September ORUCC Clothing Drive for Asylum-Seeking Children in Tucson!**
Many of us are seeking ways to not only stay well-informed but also DO SOMETHING that helps asylum-seeking children. Our local and coalition contacts have called on us to respond to an urgent need, and we’re ready to go!

The Sanctuary Mission Team, in collaboration with the Madison-based Alitas Angels, are sponsoring a clothing drive for asylum-seeking children and their families at Casa Alitas, a temporary shelter in Tucson, AZ. The clothing drive will be spearheaded by the ORUCC High Schoolers. We will be collecting clothing and supplies on September 15th, 22nd, and 29th.

Casa Alitas is a shelter in Tucson operated by Catholic Community Services. The shelter is the first step by asylum-seekers after having been released from a detention center on the border. The shelter provides fresh clothing, regular meals, toiletries, medical care if needed, and support in making travel arrangements to their sponsoring relative, wherever that may be.

You can imagine the joy and relief of children and parents that comes with arrival at Casa Alitas. We are told that people weep with joy when they are offered clean clothes and supplies. Perhaps more importantly, this may be the first time in weeks or months they are treated with love, respect, and dignity.

If you have questions regarding the drive, please contact Rachel Hoard or a member of the Sanctuary Mission Team (Jill Westberg, Baxter Richardson, Ruthanne Landsness, Marv Beatty, and Carol Prugh).

**Clothing Drive Most Needed Items:**
Please bring clothing and other items to the church any time between September 15-29. THANK YOU!
- Kids clothing, baby and toddler through middle-school aged (gently used)
- Sports bras (gently used)
- Underwear, all sizes (new)
- Kids shoes, for both boys and girls, especially tennis shoes (gently used)
- Socks (gently used)
- Toothbrushes and toothpaste
- Lip balm
- Nail clippers
- Elastic hair ties
- Sanitary supplies
- Spanish language kids books
- Small crayon sets and pads of paper (to help kids express their emotions through drawing)

Thank you in advance for your generosity!
Let’s do this!!!

![Image of produce donated to Good Shepherd Food Pantry]
Help needy neighbors in this corner of Madison by buying beautiful cards. Every month your card purchases help families like these:

- Sandra was living in failed Section 8 inspection because of multiple issues. Luckily she found a unit on Allied Drive that passed inspection. She needs help with the deposit in order move, however.

- Kimberly is an older adult with a physical disability. Her car broke down earlier this year and it was very important that she have it repaired as it is a vehicle with a wheelchair ramp to accommodate her mobility. Now she needs help with her utilities over the winter so that she could repair her vehicle. She needs help with her utilities in order to avoid disconnection.

For credit on your church statement, please write “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!

**SEPTMBER Compassion Offering**

**The Family Resource Centers (FRC) at both Orchard Ridge and Falk Elementary Schools:**

**Orchard Ridge** has a Family Resource Center. They have a Family Liaison and Bilingual Resource Specialist that support families in connecting with community resources regarding basic needs and advocacy. The Orchard Ridge Family Center serves 300 students attending the School serving students in the Meadowood and Orchard Ridge Neighborhood. Funds will be utilized to meet families needs and provide students with the necessary resources they need at school daily.

**Falk FRC** is a school-based food pantry and parent resource center that aims to help Falk parents meet their families’ basic and school-related needs of food, clothing, hygiene, shelter, backpacks and school supplies.

Falk FRC serves approximately 360 students attending the school. Because 75% of Falk students are low income and 11% are homeless, many families struggle to meet their children’s needs. Funding from this month’s Compassion Offering will be used to purchase school supplies to support our Interactive Homework initiative, allowing equal access for all Falk families to support their children’s learning at home.

For credit on your church statement, please write “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!

**Monthly Compassion Offering Summary:**

- **January—WI Council of Churches Statewide Youth Summit on Gun Violence:** $1650.00
- **February—Madison Urban Ministries:** $1927.22
- **March—One Great Hour of Sharing:** $3478.00
- **April—The Crossing Campus Ministry:** $1753.49
- **May—Thea’s Table:** $2367.33
- **June—Dane County Immigration Assistance Collaborative:** $2529.72
- **July—Habitat for Humanity:** $1459
- **August—The Returning Citizens Resource Fund:** $2793.12

**“Secrets from the Garden” Greeting Cards**

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

- The apartment that Sandra was living in failed Section 8 inspection because of multiple issues. Sandra was forced to move or else she would end up losing her section 8 voucher. Luckily she found a unit on Allied Drive that passed inspection. She needs help with the deposit in order move, however.

- Kimberly is an older adult with a physical disability. Her car broke down earlier this year and it was very important that she have it repaired as it is a vehicle with a wheelchair ramp to accommodate her mobility. She fell behind on her utilities over the winter so that she could repair her vehicle. Now she needs help with her utilities in order to avoid disconnection.

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 Char Klossner who is in palliative care.
- For Phil Haslanger and Ellen Reuter’s 5 month old grandson Clark who has significant health issues.
- For Ree Hale recovering at home following triple bypass heart surgery.
- For Brian Porter recovering at home following double bypass heart surgery.
- For Bethany Schultz’ step-sister Olivia who had a double mastectomy for breast cancer.
- For Dave Myers’ daughter-in-law Beth’s father who had a serious stroke and is at St. Mary’s hospital.
- For Elissa Engel’s brother-in-law Brian who was in a serious car accident.
- For Pam Oliver and John Lemke’s sister-in-law July Oliver who is hospitalized for tests for a potentially life-threatening condition.

**Prayers of Joy**

- For Sue McCleary, a former member and moderator of ORUCC, who has moved back to Madison and will be attending our church.
- For Alice & David Anderman, the parents of Rachael Lancer, who have moved to Madison and will be attending our church.
- For this week’s Mini-Retreat held at the church for members of the Leadership Team, the five chairs of the five Ministries, and the pastors.
- For the completion of the summer discussions on the Gospel of John, with approximately eight in attendance each week.
- For Fern Hernandez who turns 90 on Sept. 1st.
- For the birth of Micah who was born to Jennifer & Travis Ring on June 20th.
- For Betty & John Day celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary.
- For the faithfulness and commitment of our Pastoral Search Committee.
- For the written reflections of the teens who participated in the summer mission trip to Colorado (on our website).
**Women’s Book Group**

**September 5:**
Our next gathering will be on Thursday, September 5, from 1:30 to 3:00 in the Alfred Swan Room. We’ll discuss *Becoming* by Michelle Obama, which topped the New York Times nonfiction bestseller list for 20 weeks in late 2018 and early 2019. The former First Lady tells her story starting with childhood, her years of education, her successful career starting as a lawyer, her courtship by Barack Obama, and her side of their personal and public lives since then.

On October 3, we’ll discuss *American Wolf* by Nate Blakeslee. Adapted from Syndetics: With novelistic detail, Nate Blakeslee tells the gripping true story of O-Six, a charismatic alpha female wolf named for the year of her birth. But as she raises her pups and protects her pack, O-Six is challenged on all fronts by multiple forces that are vying for control of the park’s stunningly beautiful Lamar Valley. This book tells the story.

If you plan to attend, please let Jan Christian know (jlchrist@wisc.edu or 827-0500).

---

**Women’s (and Men’s!)**

**Breakfast September 6:**
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!

---

**Knitting & Crafts Group:**
The group will not be meeting in September due to Labor Day. **We will have a special dedication of Prayer Shawls on Sunday, September 15th in worship and hope all our crafters can attend!**

We look forward to seeing you in October! 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 September 9 & 23:**
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.

---

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

---

**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 with questions.

---

**Care of Creation @ 9am September 29th:**
Care of Creation will host a session on Native American Spirituality on Sunday, Sept 29 at 9:00am in Friendship Hall.

The speaker will be Kathy Heskin, Professor Emerita in Theology from Dominican University. She has taught Native studies at Dominican and Native American Spirituality at Edgewood College. For the last 9 years Kathy has worked with the Anishinabe grandmothers to protect the waters, and helps to plan the annual symposium “Women and Water” at Lac Courte Oreilles.

Joins us for a discussion on Native spirituality and their connection to Mother earth.

---

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

The beautiful colors of fall in the Northwoods make the perfect setting for the Active Adult Adventure Retreat, led by the retired Wisconsin Conference Minister, Rev. David Moyer.

Dave will be joined by 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.

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.

*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.

**Children’s Hospital of WI School Supply Drive**

Children’s Hospital of WI: Community Services Education and Employment Specialist Team is seeking community support to help us gather donations of school supplies for families connected with Early Childhood Initiative in Madison and Sun Prairie. Loretta McLure, a member of ORUCC and one of the people working closely with these families has placed a collection box for school supplies in the Crossroads.

Financial constraints, work schedules, and transportation barriers are just some of the challenges families face in providing supplies for their children. Additionally, some families do not have the documentation requested at the back pack drives. We see families on a regular basis.

Please consider donating listed items through the month of September:

- Backpacks
- Crayola Markers (12 count)
- Crayola Crayons (24 count)
- Crayola Colored Pencils (12 count)
- Wide Ruled Notebooks
- Elmer’s Glue
- Elmer’s Gluesticks
- #2 Pencils (12 count)
- Plastic Folders
- Blunt-tipped Scissors
- Pencil Box
- Tissues
- Ziplock Gallon Bags

**THANK YOU!**

**WAVE Meetings:**

WAVE (Wisconsin Anti-Violence Effort) meets 6:30pm-8:00pm on the third Tuesday of the month, until gun laws change. We will meet in Friendship Hall, except for September 17, we will meet in the Day Room. For more information contact Joyce Pohl at 206-5697 or japohl@gmail.com.

**i am still here:**

“i am still here” is a full-length film, written and directed in 2017 by Mischa Marcus. She will be in Madison and there will be one showing Thursday, September 12, at Edgewood College, Anderson Auditorium, from 6:30pm-9:00pm to introduce and facilitate discussion of this film. It explores the serious and growing issue of child sex trafficking in the U.S. Marcus is a university student majoring in screen writing, she began interviewing young girls who had escaped from years of captivity as sex slaves. Detective Roger Baker of the Madison Police Department will also join Mischa Marcus to respond to questions at the end of the film.

Admission is free, the film contains mature adult content. For more information see the flyer on the bulletin board.

**Dane Sanctuary Coalition Meeting**

**Sunday, September 8**

The Dane Sanctuary Coalition invites its member congregations to attend a Coalition-wide meeting on Sunday, September 8, 2019, 3:00 p.m., at Madison Christian Community, 7118 Old Sauk Road, Madison.

The meeting will include 1) reports of ongoing activities of the Coalition 2) announcement of our Big Read 3) presentation and discussion of a proposal regarding asylum seekers in Dane County and 4) an opportunity for member congregations and organizations to share your immigrant justice work with everyone.

**ALL are invited.** Join us for this important discussion on the future activities of the Dane Sanctuary Coalition!

Thank you.
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 Shalom 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 Pennings (ken@orucc.org).

Youth mission Trip to Alamosa—Sharing in Word and in Church:
The written reflections from the youth who went on the mission trip to Alamosa, Colorado this past summer have been added to our church’s website. Go to www.orucc.org. Select Youth and Families and then select Youth Mission Trip to Alamosa, CO to get to the reflections.

The youth will host a luncheon on Sunday, October 13 thanking all of you who have supported the youth and this trip. The youth will share some of their experiences and we will also show a video of photos.

Youth Mission Trip Fundraiser
Our June 2020 Mission Trip will be to Earlville, MD. Here is an easy way you can support our youth!

September 16th
EAT OUT @ Culvers
On Monday, September 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 co-workers and encourage them to EAT OUT!

Prayer Shawls to be Dedicated on September 15th:
UCC pastor Lillian Daniel writes that the knitting ministry in her church meets the same night as the church council. While some people are in the conference room making big picture decisions about the life of the church, just a few feet away on the couches other people are knitting for the sick, new babies, or those in need of any kind of healing. She calls it a “check and balance system for what the leadership of the church is all about.”

It is easy to get caught up in the business of the church, the flashy campaigns for this ministry or that program. But the center of our life together always comes back to the basics of caring for one another, offering a word of encouragement, a patient listening ear, even the warm hug of a knitted blanket. On Sunday, September 15th, we will dedicate a collection of prayer shawls for the ongoing ministry of the church.

Daniel offers this prayer: “When I feel discouraged, unworthy or damaged, remind me that you, Divine Knitter, knit me together and made me wonderful. And when I feel cocky, superior or smug, remind me that you did the same for everyone else, too. Amen.”

Music Rehearsal Schedule:
ORUCC Adult Choir begins September 4th. Rehearsals 7:00pm—8:30pm Wednesdays. Contact Bruce Gladstone or Vicki Noff.
Handbell Choir begins August 26th. Rehearsals 7:00pm—8:15pm Mondays. Contact Bethany Schulz.
TruFunction Youth Band begins September 1. Rehearsals 11:00am—1:00pm Sundays. Contact Rob Martens.

Make a joyful noise to the Lord! All are invited to join!
CALENDAR OF EVENTS—SEPTEMBER 2019

Sept 1  9:00 am  Java & Jesus
       10:00 am  Worship
Sept 2  LABOR DAY—OFFICE CLOSED
Sept 4  7:00 pm  ORUCC Choir Rehearsal
Sept 5  8:30 am  Meditation Group
       1:30 pm  Women’s Book Group
Sept 6  8:30 am  Women’s Breakfast
       6:00 pm  Family Game Night
Sept 8  9:00 am  Java & Jesus
       10:00 am  Worship & Communion
       11:00 am  Welcome Back BBQ
Sept 9  12:00 noon  Lectionary Scripture Study
       7:15 pm  Men’s Group
Sept 10  11:30 am  OVER 55
       6:30 pm  Care of Creation Meeting
Sept 11  6:00 pm  Adult Faith Formation Meeting
       6:00 pm  Resource Meeting
Sept 12  8:30 am  Meditation Group
Sept 15  10:00 am  Worship
Sept 16  12:00 noon  Lectionary Scripture Study
       4:00 pm  Culver’s Eat Out—Youth
Sept 17  7:00 pm  Leadership Team Meeting
Sept 18  6:00 pm  Congregational Life Meeting
Sept 19  8:30 am  Meditation Group
       7:00 pm  Christian Witness & Service Meeting
Sept 20  7:00 pm  Movie Group
Sept 21  4:00 pm  High School Youth Cooking
Sept 22  10:00 am  Worship
Sept 23  12:00 noon  Lectionary Scripture Study
       7:15 pm  Men’s Group
Sept 24  7:00 pm  Sanctuary Mission Team Meeting
Sept 26  8:30 am  Meditation Group
       7:00 pm  Circle of Support: Depression
Sept 29  10:00 am  Worship
Sept 30  12:00 noon  Lectionary Scripture Study

Open Office Hours
Monday-Thursday 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Friday: CLOSED

Upcoming Newsletters:
October 1
Information to be included in the September Newsletter is due Monday, Sept 23 by 9:00am

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

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