

Orchard Ridge United Church of Christ

COMMUNION

November 2019



*Spiritually Alive,
Joyfully Inclusive,
Committed to Justice*

Sunday Morning

November 3

9 am Sunday School PreK-12th
Tammy Martens Confirmation for
All Ages, part 2

10 am Worship & Communion

Tammy Martens preaching
Julie Mazer & the Children reflect
on the story of "Zacchaeus"
Music: ORUCC Choir

11 am Fellowship

November 10

9 am Sunday School PreK-8th
Ruthanne Landsness Tucson Trip
Report

10 am Worship

Stewardship Sunday
Laura Crow preaching
"Question about Resurrection:
whose wife will she be?"
Music: Handbells

11 am Fellowship

November 17

9 am Sunday School PreK-12th
John Lemke & Friends HeartRoom

10 am Worship

Ken Pennings preaching
"Signs of Things to Come"
Music: ORUCC Choir

11 am Fellowship

November 24

9 am Sunday School PreK-8th
Java & Jesus

10 am Worship

Laura Crow preaching
"Welcoming the Stranger"
Music: TRUFunction

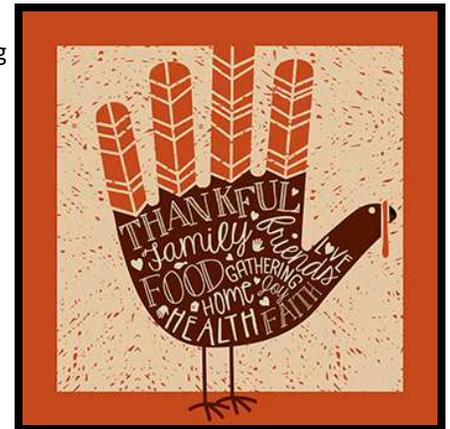
11 am Fair Trade Sale

Thanksgiving Gift Vouchers:

As in previous years, ORUCC is partnering with Joining Forces for Families to provide Thanksgiving gift cards from Woodman's to families in need from the Orchard Ridge neighborhood.

Our goal as a congregation is to provide 100 \$40 gift cards

You can help us reach this goal in one of two ways:
(1) on the ORUCC website (www.orucc.org), click on the "Donate" button at the bottom of the screen; or
(2) bring a check on Sundays Nov 3 or Nov 10 to the table that the Ministry of Christian Witness and Service will have set up in the Crossroads after the worship service. Thanks much for your support!



Abundant Joy, Overflowing Generosity:

November 10 is Stewardship Sunday! Over the last several weeks we have heard from members of three of our Ministries and Leadership Team, talking about the work of their group. Each has also shared personally where they see and experience JOY and GENEROSITY at ORUCC. So far, we

have heard from Deanna Blanchard (Adult Faith Formation), Marv Beatty (Christian Witness & Service), John Day (Leadership Team), and Jarrett Gersten (Resources). Still to come are members of Congregational Life & Youth Faith Formation. If you missed the videos in church, you can find them on the ORUCC.ORG website.

It has been a steep learning curve in figuring out the Stewardship mailing process. We appreciate everyone's gracious understanding and patience—and MATH SKILLS! Treasurer John Day and Office Manager Julie Wombacher have been hard at work making sure everyone who wishes to receive a Stewardship mailing actually receives one.

Please do not worry or be offended if you receive a second stewardship mailing, or if you did not receive a stewardship mailing earlier this season. What should be a simple process to pullout a mailing list from the church software is actually a bit more complicated. If, by November 3, you have NOT received a stewardship mailing, please contact the church office. You can also pick up a packet on Sunday mornings.

As always, THANK YOU for the Abundant Joy and Overflowing Generosity you share with out ORUCC community in so many important and inspiring ways! A special shout out to Paul Hedges for his help in crafting the Stewardship Videos and to Jerry hagen for getting them up on the website!

The Stewardship Team: Jennifer Eggerling-Boeck, Anna Schryver, and John Day

Christian/Muslim Dialogue by Ken Pennings

This fall, many in our congregation are reading and discussing Barbara Brown Taylor's book Holy Envy: Finding God in the Faith of Others! This has brought back to my memory a glorious experience our congregation had in 2011 when ORUCC member Ree Hale worked with the members of the UCC Wisconsin Conference's Social Concerns Committee to bring us a weekend of interfaith dialogue.

A number of people from three Madison UCC congregations (Orchard Ridge UCC, Lake Edge UCC and Memorial UCC) participated in two sessions of dialogue with members of the Islamic Center of Madison, which were very informative and enlightening. The highlight, perhaps, was a renewed awareness that fear of the "Other" is vastly diminished when people actually sit down and become acquainted with one another, hear one another's stories, and identify with one another's common life experience.

Through our Muslim friends we learned that:

Muslims hear God speaking through all the prophets of Judaism and Christianity, including Jesus of Nazareth.

The idea that the Qur'an must not be published, circulated or read aloud in any language other than Arabic is obsolete. In fact, the Qur'an is published, circulated and read aloud in all major languages of the world.

The Qur'an teaches that women are equal to men. Their rights must be protected.

According to the Qur'an, if your neighbor is afraid of you, you are not a good Muslim. Therefore, in practice, mainstream Islam teaches neighborliness, friendliness, and the building of open, trusting, respectful relationships with non-Muslims.

The idea that Islam is an extremely rigid and legalistic religion does not take into account that many Muslims consider their duties and obligations, such as praying five times a day, fasting during the month of Ramadan, and making a pilgrimage to Mecca once in a lifetime, a great privilege and blessing. In the words of one of our Muslim friends, "Praying five times a day helps me slow down from the fast pace of life and to remember what's really important in life."

The Qur'an forbids violence unless in a case of self-defense. Mainstream Islam teaches and practices nonviolence.

In some Muslim countries, extreme forms of punishment for civil or moral infractions are used occasionally as a deterrent, and only after an offender has been served with due-process.

When we joined our Muslim friends for Friday prayers, they passed out head scarves for our women to place on their heads, and then urged the women to keep the scarves as a gift. We were so moved by this gesture of kindness and friendship.

At their own expense, our Muslim hosts flew in from New York a young Muslim man to join us for our weekend of dialogue. We were so touched that this young man would give up his weekend to be with us here in Madison.

Meeting with people from the Islamic Center of Madison was a holy and enriching experience. What we discovered were people just like us in so many ways, people who love and serve God, who love sharing conversation, tasty snacks, and laughter with their neighbors.

Volunteers

Welcomers

Nov 3 Mary Loving
Carol & Robert Prugh
Nov 10 Joyce Dingman
Donna & John Lillethun
Nov 17 Barbara McLeod
Jack Schairer
Joyce Dingman
Nov 24 Helen Horn
Carol & Dick Karls

AV Team

Nov 3 Charles Kaspar
Nov 10 Jarrett Gersten
Nov 17 Paul Hedges
Nov 24 Paul Hedges

Financial Secretary

Nov 3 Nancy Wettersten
Nov 10 Meg Stevens
Nov 17 Peter Hoff
Nov 24 Mary Bucknell

Ushers

Nov 3 Peter Fabian
Joyce Binder
Nov 10 Carol Prugh
Robert Prugh
Jon Blanchard
Nov 17 Larry Goss
Carolyn Carlson
James Treichel
Nov 24 Jarrett Gersten
Dorothy Peterson
Joyce Binder

Sunday Coffee

Nov 3 Greg & Barb Louden
Nov 10 Chuck Kaspar
Chris Thomas
Nov 17 Diane Jungblut
Nov 24 Rachael & Brian Lancor

Liturgists

Nov 3 Jeanne Moberly
Nov 10 Ruthanne Landsness
Nov 17 Jill Westberg
Nov 24 Hal Evensen



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

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

In This Time of Transition by Tammy Martens

We held a congregational gathering on Tuesday, September 24 to check in with one another during this transition process. We began our gathering by listening to each member share their experience of being on the Search Team. Some of them shared about their particular roles on the team. All of them shared that it was a very fulfilling and rewarding experience to serve on the Search Team.

They were asked to share about their experience of the candidate they were pursuing who withdrew his candidacy. They shared that this was disappointing and difficult to experience. They spent time decompressing and reflecting with one another after this happened. After working through this disappointment, they came away less anxious and experienced a renewed sense of hope to bring the right person to ORUCC.

After the Search Team shared, people were invited to reflect and share on the following questions:

- What are your thoughts on our process of saying goodbye to Winton?
- Are there any lingering feelings?
- What did you appreciate about Winton's leadership?
- In what ways have you experienced your own faith, leadership, and prayer life since Winton's retirement?

These were the following themes that were shared in answer to these questions:

- Love for Orchard Ridge UCC
- Appreciation for Winton's leadership style
- Patient, caring, flexible, supportive, non-anxious presence
- Helped to build community
- Well-crafted sermons
- Ability to navigate/lead through difficult situations
- Ability to enlighten people
- People miss Winton and Tammy
- Church continues on, Winton helped to position church to move on
- Gratitude for all the people who are leading the church through this change
- People appreciated the tangible ways they could say goodbye to Winton
- Some voiced lingering anxiety but recognize the need to move on
- Church has weathered change successfully throughout the years

What's Next?

Afterwards, I met with Beth Voigt, the facilitator of our congregational gathering. I shared with Beth that what I noticed the most from our evening gathering was that we were together in a very different way. We allowed ourselves to pause, reflect, and listen. It made me realize that along with the very tangible tasks of preparing for new leadership, there is also great need for us to carve out time for thoughtful reflection and sharing.

She was very helpful in wondering with me what kind of follow-up to this meeting we might do. She suggested an exercise that she leads in her interim ministry work. In meetings and gatherings she asks people to respond to the following: "I notice..." and/or "I wonder..." It is a useful exercise that helps people reflect during a transition.

At our last Leadership Team meeting we spent time using this exercise and found it to be helpful. We will be inviting the Ministry Teams to begin their meetings using this exercise and next month there will be opportunities for all to respond to this exercise.

We encourage people to share with the Leadership Team members and/or pastors what you are noticing and wondering about. Reflecting and wondering are helpful practices that can help us move through this transition time. We look forward to hearing from you.

IN THE INTERIM by Laura Crow

“Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it.”

Hebrews 13:2

Housing a family from Honduras in the church this last month has offered an unexpected opportunity to see not only how the church and coalition respond, but to reflect on how I personally live out my calling to “welcome the stranger.” I’ve concluded that it is much harder work than I had ever imagined.

Living and working in close proximity with new people has disrupted my regular schedule and my (already) comfortable routines. I have found myself flustered and frustrated more times than I should probably admit, and I know that my preferences and opinions have at times proven equally frustrating and bewildering to the family and to volunteers. As a professional “disrupter” this produces not a little bit of karmic comeuppance, another reminder that however one imagines who/what God is, it is true that she has a wicked sense of humor.

But discerning exactly HOW to be truly welcoming and how much support is helpful vs. enabling is a much more difficult path to follow. Even using the Golden Rule—to treat others as I would like to be treated—raises the question of imposing MY beliefs, culture, values, schedule, and goals onto someone else. The way “I” see the world is one thing; how I learn to see the world through another’s eyes takes time and trust and a lot of patience and grace.

I am learning to practice biting my tongue when I feel the urge to offer advice that hasn’t been asked for, and to let Google Translate read me someone else’s words before I begin to compose my own. And then there is the whole money question. As one wise volunteer put it, the challenge is “how do we navigate the really hard problem of when do we reach into our collective wallet and help and when is it better to leave our wallet untouched.”

The needs of the family are many. Our collective desire to “fix” the problems we perceive is strong. We know stuff. We have connections. We have money, cars, furniture, and other resources. We want to help—it is good to help—it is BIBLICAL to help.

But such an attitude can become toxic to true hospitality. If we see only our abundance and the family’s deficits, we turn our perceptions into a power imbalance that is altogether UNBIBLICAL. God did not guide this family to our doors to be our project, but as our equals, even perhaps to be our teachers.

The primary goal remains **moving this family to stable housing and independence**. We are one of many supports the family has accessed since coming to Madison. Our role on this team is to provide *temporary emergency shelter* to the family, to give them a safe place from which to put the necessary pieces together. Those first pieces include school, jobs, health outcomes, and a more permanent place to live.

There have been a number of challenges, often complicated by the trauma the family has experienced in getting this far. In spite of all that, the family has made *amazing progress* in just four weeks! It is essential that our focus remain on strengthening supports that will transition WITH the family after they have moved on to other housing—things like public transportation, food and personal essentials pantries, clothing closets, employment services, literacy programs, and networks of immigrants they can learn from and build community with.

We have been gifted with this family’s presence in our church home for some short time. ORUCC is not the family’s destination—Madison or Wisconsin or even the US may not be their destination. We are an important, but temporary, stop along their journey. We care deeply for them, and those of us who have spent many hours together with them are forming real bonds of friendship. We honor our calling to offer hospitality by honoring the family, their goals of stability and independence, and their journey as our sisters and brothers, united in the family of a God who cares for us all.

Search Committee Update:

The Search Committee had a Skype interview with a candidate and is currently gathering additional information. We have reviewed two other candidates and will be arranging to Skype with one of them very soon. 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.



EAT OUT @ Culvers Nov 18:

The youth will be working at Culver’s, 7206 Mineral Point Road, Madison on Monday, November 18 from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. to help raise money for next year’s mission trip. Culver’s will donate 10 percent of their sales to our group! In September we were able to raise \$760!

Take a night off from cooking and support our youth at the same time! Hope to see you there!

8th Annual Dane County Trauma-Informed Community Summit—Nov. 15:

The Summit on Resiliency, Recovery, and Healing will run from 8:30am-4:30pm. Sponsored by American Family Insurance. \$50 per person. Please see the flyer on the bulletin board for more information. Register at <https://8thannualticsummit.eventbrite.com>.

Fair Trade Sale—November 24

For over three decades, ORUCC has been hosting a Fair Trade Sale offering unique and socially responsible items including clothing, home goods, artwork, jewelry, baskets, bags, food and other items. All vendors support humanitarian and educational efforts to improve safety, living and working conditions in Uganda, Palestine, Guatemala, El Salvador and many other countries.

The 2019 ORUCC Fair Trade Sale is planned for Sunday, November 24th from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Volunteers are needed! If you'd like to become involved with this event, please contact a member of the Fair Trade Mission Team: Nancy Wettersten, Susan Cary, Wendy & Brett MacArthur.

Help spread the news! Bring friends and come shop this unique venue on Sunday, November 24 from 9am to 2pm. You can have your holiday shopping completed before Thanksgiving!

Labyrinth Walks:

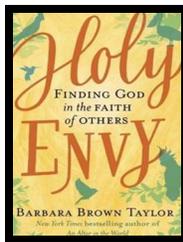
The Labyrinth Committee is growing and is excited to offer new opportunities for you to try this practice this fall.

- Thursday, November 14 from 5:30pm-7:00pm. You are invited to join us for a time of quiet meditation on gratitude.
- Two Advent walks on Wednesdays, December 4 & 18. a short service in the sanctuary with Psalm and Advent readings followed by an opportunity to walk the labyrinth. These will be led by Susan Watson and Jeanne Moberly
- Longest Night Walk, December 21.

In this fast-paced world it's a gift to ourselves to set aside 20 minutes to slowly walk this journey to our "center". Some walkers come to ponder a particular situation of their lives; some will want to focus on a short meditative handout that is offered; others simply come to set aside the cares of the world and settle into a time of quiet.



Questions? Contact a member of the Labyrinth Mission Team: Betty Day, Mary Loving, Jeanne Moberly, Chris Thomas and Susan Watson.



Holy Envy: Finding God in the Faith of Others:

We have over 50 people currently reading Barbara Brown Taylor's latest book, *Holy Envy: Finding God in the Faith of Others*, in which she explores what is opened and what is revealed when we investigate all the wonder before us in the faith of others. Taylor's journey with people of other faith traditions has genuinely enriched and expanded her own faith in God.

Each week in the E-post and in worship we have been featuring quotes from the book for personal reflection. For those reading along with us, here is the schedule for the second half of the book:

- Nov. 3 – chapters 8 & 9;
- Nov. 10 – chapters 10 & 11;
- Nov. 17 – chapters 12 & epilogue.



Music Rehearsal

Schedule:

ORUCC Adult Choir: Rehearsals 7:00pm—8:30pm Wednesdays. Contact Bruce Gladstone or Vicki Nonn.

Handbell Choir: Rehearsals 7:00pm—8:15pm Mondays. Contact Bethany Schulz.

TruFunction Youth Band: Rehearsals 11:00am—1:00pm Sundays. Contact Rob Martens.

Over 55 November 12:

Enjoy the company of the ORUCC community of "seniors." Over 55 meets the second Tuesday of each month, September through May for a wonderful luncheon, conversation, and a presentation of interest.

We will meet on November 12, 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.

Our featured speaker will be Professor Sissel Schroeder, College of Letters & Sciences, who will take us back 12,000 years to share with us what we know now about the first peoples of Wisconsin.

All are welcome, join us at 11:30 on Tuesday the 12th.

The Asylum-Seeking Family Living in our Church Building Frequently Asked Questions (excerpted)

(Email Susan Watson with additional questions you have: susanjanepilates@gmail.com)

Who is an asylum-seeker? An asylum-seeker is someone who is also seeking international protection from dangers in their home country, but whose claim for refugee status hasn't been determined legally. Asylum-seekers must apply for protection in the country of destination—meaning they must arrive at or cross a border in order to apply. Then, they must be able to prove to authorities there that they meet the criteria to be covered by refugee protections. Not every asylum-seeker will be recognized as a refugee. Tens of thousands of children and families from Central America have fled extreme danger—murder, kidnapping, violence against women and forced recruitment by gangs. Those arriving at the U.S. border are being depicted as “illegal immigrants,” but in reality, crossing an international border for asylum is not illegal and an asylum seeker’s case must be heard, according to U.S. and international law. *The family staying at our church has asylum-seeking status.*

How did our church decide to offer emergency housing this family?

The asylum-seeking family was staying in a Madison hotel when our church got word of them. A social worker from the Dane County Department of Immigration Affairs contacted the Dane Sanctuary Coalition asking if one of our member congregations would offer them emergency housing. The Leadership Team met with our pastors and members of our sanctuary mission team to hear about this plea. The family are asylum-seekers. They've been in the U.S. since at least February, living in different parts of the country and in different living situations. A motion was made and seconded to offer this family emergency housing. After discussion the LT voted to adopt this motion. The family moved into our church building on Saturday, September 28, 2019.

How long will this asylum-seeking family be staying with us?

We don't know exactly. The goal for this family is to become independent and able to support themselves in their own home. They have a variety of needs and are being supported by a team of agencies and organizations providing assistance with housing, education and literacy, jobs, health care, and income assistance. The family is also learning basic living and cultural skills necessary for living independently in a new country. Together we are learning how to share space and live comfortably with one another. We assess the family's ongoing need for emergency shelter and our ability to provide that resource on a month-to-month basis.

What are the other agencies involved in supporting this family?

The asylum-seeking family's support team consists of the following agencies:

- Catholic Multicultural Center - assisting the family in finding employment - also providing food pantry, clothing closet, meals programs, language and financial literacy programs, activities for children, etc.
- Dane County Department of Immigration Affairs - handling all legal filings in support of the family's asylum status and obtaining work permits
- The Dane Sanctuary Coalition - assisting with funding for a social worker to provide coordinated case management - assisting with funding for groceries, laundry, and other discretionary purchases. *This coalition is also the umbrella organization under which our church provides emergency shelter. Additionally, volunteers working with the coalition are available (as scheduled) to offer transportation and translation services.*
- Madison Metropolitan School District - assisting the three children and family with education and connecting the family to family social services like food programs and clothing closets, as well as providing in-school counseling, ESL, and other services
- The Road Home - assisting the family in finding stable housing in our community
- Health Care agencies and community resources – the family is connected to a variety of community resources for accessing health care, including UW Hospital Community Care, ACCESS Community Health Center, and Primary Access for Kids (PAK)
- Local food pantries, clothing closets, personal essentials pantries, and other community supports are also available

What is the role of Orchard Ridge United Church of Christ/Madison Mennonite Congregation?

Within the umbrella of the Dane Sanctuary Coalition, the church is providing temporary emergency shelter for this family, including:

- A safe place to live with 24/7 trained on-site host/volunteers. Many of these volunteers come from other DSC congregations
- Designated bed/living rooms with beds and other furnishings
- Access to bathrooms, showers, and kitchen
- Internet services
- Close proximity to bus routes

If individuals, groups, businesses, or churches would like to make donations in support of this family, here are two options:

(1) **With no tax deduction**- checks can be made out to: Dane Sanctuary Coalition, memo line “asylum-seeking family needs” and sent to: Rev. Leslie Schenk, Plymouth Congregational Church, 2401 Atwood Ave. Madison, WI. 53704

(2) **With tax deduction**- checks can be made out to Orchard Ridge UCC, memo line “asylum-seeking family needs” and sent to: Rev. Laura Crow, Orchard Ridge UCC, 1501 Gilbert Road, Madison, WI. 53711

We request that gifts of money and goods not be given directly to the family.

NOVEMBER Compassion Offering: Literacy Link

Literacy Link is a pilot project of UW-Extension which operates in six Wisconsin counties. The purpose of the program is to bring children of incarcerated parents to visit their parent in jail, and to provide books and coaching for the parent to read a book to their child (who will take the book home).

The program currently operates on short-term grant funding, and has been shown to make a positive difference in the lives of both the children and their incarcerated parents. Mary Huser, director of the Literacy Link project that will receive our compassion offering for November is eager to make a brief, (three minute) presentation about it on November 3rd. We hope you are able to be in worship that day.

Please write "compassion offering" on the memo line of your check so that we can acknowledge the contribution on your giving statement.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

2019 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
 September—Family Resource Centers at Orchard Ridge and Falk Elementary: TOTAL \$2462
 (split evenly between the two schools—\$1232 each)
 October—Haiti Vulnerable Children's Fund: \$3015.99

Prayers of Joy

For the wedding of Loretta McClure and Todd Swanson in Sauk City on Oct. 19
For the wedding of Jessica Blanchard and Josh Straw on Oct. 19
For the outstanding "Wayfinding for Seniors" retreat at Holy Wisdom Monastery, facilitated by Rev. Holly Whitcomb.
For all who made possible the fabulous "Really Free Market" which took place on Oct. 20
For the teens who hosted a lovely luncheon after worship on Oct. 13th, who also reported on their mission trip to CO
For all who prepared for and hosted the Ministry Fair after worship on Oct. 6
For the many teens and adults who carried out a clothing drive for "Casa Alitas"
For the four Home Groups and one Online Group reading and discussing Barbara Brown Taylor's book, Holy Envy
For Ruthanne Landsness who is on a mission trip in Casa Alitas in Tucson
For the many volunteers supporting the Honduran family which is living in our building
For our Stewardship Team giving excellent leadership to our Stewardship Campaign
For the ongoing work and discernment of our Search Committee
For the New Roof that has been put on the Education Wing
For all who participated in Work & Worship Day, and the successful POTLUCK Oct 27

Prayers of Concern

For Norm Anderson who will be entering a memory care facility on Nov. 1
For Char Klossner who is in palliative care
For Joyce Binder grieving the death of her life partner, David Beckfield
For family and friends grieving the death of ORUCC member Deb Heilert
For Gerry Wettersten's 97 yr. old sister who fell and broke her hip
For the Honduran family which is living in our building until they can find more permanent housing
For Haiti which is experiencing intense political strife
For Carlos Aguilera's surgery Oct 31st
For family and friends of Rev. Mark Showalter who died Tues., Oct 29th



How to Give More and Pay Less:

The 2018 Tax Law Included changes that make it harder for many of us to get tax credits for Charitable Contributions to churches and other 501 (c)(3) organizations. However, if you are 70 ½ or older and have an IRA, you may be able to give your contributions entirely tax free by using part or all of the annual Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) – which otherwise is considered as taxable income.

For more information there are flyers on the table in the Crossroads

Women's Book Group— November 7:

Our next gathering will be on Thursday, November 7, from 1:30 to 3:00 in the Dorothy Day Room. We'll discuss *A Gentleman in Moscow* by Amor Towles. This 2016 *NY Times* fictional best seller is the story of Count Alexander Rostov, who is sentenced to house arrest in Moscow's Metropol Hotel by a Bolshevik tribunal for writing a "revolutionist" poem. For the next 30 years as a "former person," he explores the nooks and crannies of the hotel and bonds with the staff and guests. His conduct, his resolve, and his commitment to his home and to the hotel guests and staff form a triumph of the human spirit. (Adapted from library summary.)

On December 5, we will discuss two books; participants can decide which one to read. Choose from *Passing* by Nella Larsen or *The Training School for Negro Girls* by Camille Acker. Through our discussion, we will try to get a partial picture of what it meant to be a black girl/woman in the 20th century. If you plan to attend the November meeting, please let Jan Christian know (jlchrist@wisc.edu or 827-0500).

Men's Group — November 11 & 25:

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.

Women's (and Men's!) Breakfast—November 1:

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 meet on Monday, November 4, 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.

Movie Group

The group will meet on Friday, November 15, 7:00pm-9:00pm in the Dorothy Day Room. All are welcome to discuss movies of interest. Contact Steve Sheets for information.

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.

9:00am Adult Ed Hour :

Several special events are on the schedule for this month. Be sure to mark your calendars for these dates:

Nov 3—Confirmation for ALL ages, part 2 with Tammy Martens

Nov 10—Stories from the Border, reflections on a month at Casa Alitas in Tucson, AZ, with Ruthanne Landness

Nov 17—HeartRoom mid-point Update, with John Lemke and friends

Nov 24—Java & Jesus

All are welcome. Nov 3, 10, and 17 will be offered in Friendship Hall. Nov 24 will be in the Lemuel Haynes Music Room.

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!



Family Game Night:

Family Game Night meets on Friday, November 1, 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 Lancor (rachael.anderman@gmail.com)

Care Packages for College Students:

If your son or daughter is in college and would enjoy receiving a care package from the church the week of December 1st, please email Ken Pennings (ken@orucc.org) with a current address and any food allergies.

If you are able to provide fresh baked goods for the care packages, please bring 18-20 individually wrapped and sealed baggies of baked goods to the church on the morning of December 1st.

THANK YOU to all who help extend a warm hello and an encouraging word to our college students!

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. 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.

Greeting Card Sales Help Families in Need:

All proceeds from the sale of greeting cards go to help families in need in the Meadowood and Allied Drive neighborhoods. This summer we were able to send over \$600 to Keeping Neighbors Connected (KNC), a collaborative effort between Joining Forces for Families (JFF), ORUCC, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, St. Maria Goretti and local school social workers. KNC provides small grant opportunities designed to help families on the southwest side stay in permanent housing. Referrals are made through school social workers to the JFF office. This process ensures there is a long-term relationship established with each family who participates in the program.

Cards are available in the Crossroads. \$4 per card or 6 cards for \$20. Place money in brown envelope with the cards. Autumn scenes now available.

Lectionary Bible Study:

Come and explore the weekly scripture texts in a Lectionary Bible Study Group that meets on Mondays from 12:00pm-1:00pm.

Together, we 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—*feel free to bring your lunch*—come as you are able! Contact Laura Crow at pastorlaura@orucc.org.

Kettlewood Retreat—Bread for the Advent Journey:

Rev. Holly Whitcomb who recently led ORUCC's Wayfinding Retreat will lead an Advent-themed retreat on Friday, December 13, 9:30am-3:00pm at Cedar Valley, 5349 County Rd D, West Bend, WI (just 35 miles north of Milwaukee).

Jesus says, "I am the bread of life." Poet Mary Oliver writes, Eat bread and understand comfort." In this Advent retreat we will ask, "How is Jesus our bread? What does genuine nourishment look like? How do we give and receive comfort?"

To register, write a check for \$50 to Rev. Holly Whitcomb and send it to 2095 Elm Tree Ct., Elm Grove, WI 53122. Include your name, address, email and phone number(s). Upon registration, you will receive a map. For more information, call 262-784-5593

**ALL CHURCH RETREAT**

January 17-19, 2020

Pilgrim Center Camp

Ripon, WI

Community Volunteer Opportunities

Thea's Table is in Need of Drivers: They deliver food for weekends for homeless families who have children in the Madison Metropolitan School District. They serve 54 families in 26 schools. On Thursday mornings, at the First United Methodist Church, a group of volunteers pack and label bags of food. Then each driver delivers bags to two or three schools. Directions to the schools and instructions are provided. Drivers need to be able to load grocery bags of food into their cars. It only takes an hour or 1.5 hours to do this on a Thursday morning. If you have time on Thursday morning, why don't you consider being a volunteer driver for Thea's Table. Our church has supported Thea's Table on two different compassion offerings. Contact Carolyn Carlson at 273-1114 for more information

Intentional Mentors: With guidance from coaches, mentors interact with school staff, community members, and families in order to strengthen the support network for students facing adversity. Intentional Mentoring is looking for adult mentors to invest one on one time (1-2 hours per week) with students both in and out of school. If interested, please see the flyer on the bulletin board or visit www.intentionalmentoringmadison.org



REMEMBER
to set your
clocks **BACK**
one hour on
Sunday,
November 3

Poinsettia Orders

Name _____

In Honor _____

In Memory _____

No. of plants _____ **at \$15 each** **Total Enclosed \$** _____

Please collect your plant after the 7 p.m. service on December 24th.



Please return this form to the church office by Monday, December 10

Care of Creation Green Corner:

November 6—Climate

Crisis Program: Why Local Governments Matter

This is the second in a series of programs sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Dane County. Ralph Peterson will be on the program discussing an overview of the federal government's role in providing climate services. Other speakers will present information on local initiatives to address climate change, including city and county perspectives. See Ralph or Sara Roberts for more information.

UCC Climate Care Discussion Guide for Congregations:

The United Church of Christ has released a church-based discussion guide for *No One Is Too Small to Make a Difference*. by Greta Thunberg, the 17-year-old Swedish climate activist,

Copies are available on the table in the Crossroads and via the link in the weekly E-post.

If you use the guide for a discussion with friends, family or church members, let the Conference know about it in a brief email to resourcecenter@wcucc.org. They would love to have your feedback!

UCC Webinar—Worker Justice is Climate Justice:

On November 14, the Creation Justice Webinar of the UCC will ask, "How can we ensure that the transition to our country becoming fossil free will be just for workers?"

One of the guests will be Michael Leon Guerrero of the Labor Network for Sustainability.

Register at: https://www.ucc.org/creation_justice_webinar_series

Community Trainings & Events

Wisconsin Anti-Violence Effort (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.

WAVE is also holding a rally at the Capitol on November 7 to show our elected officials that we, 80% of their constituents, support the stronger gun violence prevention laws, including background checks on all gun sales and the ability to petition the court for extreme risk protection orders, which are being addressed in the November 7th special legislative session.

For more information on WAVE contact Joyce Pohl at 206-5697 or ja-pohl@gmail.com.



Spirit of the Water :

At the 9:00 hour on September 29th, several people expressed interest in the symposium that Kathy Heskin mentioned. Even if you don't plan to attend, you can go to the website to learn about it and watch the videos. The 2020 symposium will be August 2-6 near Hayward in Lac Courte Oreilles, Wisconsin.

The website is:

www.spiritofthewater.org

Just Bakery Fundraiser— "Chopped" November 2:

"Chopped" inspired cooking competition and fundraiser for Just Bakery Program, a program of Madison Urban Ministry, at Madison College, Truax Culinary Dining Room, 6-9 pm. Please see the flyer on the bulletin board for more information. .

Responding to Hate: Public Talk and Student Workshop—November 12:

The Crossing Campus Ministry invites us to, **Responding to Hate**, a Public Talk and Student Workshop featuring former white supremacist Arno Michaelis and Pardeep Singh Kaleka whose father was killed in the Sikh Temple shooting in Milwaukee. The Public Talk runs 6:00-7:00pm, with workshop 7:30-9:00pm. This event is at The Crossing, 1127 University Ave. Co-sponsored by Madison Urban Ministry. For more information, please see flyer on the bulletin board.

Dane Sanctuary Coalition "Know Your Rights" Training—November 13:

First Unitarian Society, 900 University Bay Dr., Madison, 7pm-9pm. Light snacks will be provided. This training is offered to encourage all to complete their requirements to be an active volunteer with our guest family. It is open to anyone interested in learning about the rights of undocumented immigrants and how to protect those rights for a member of our vulnerable immigrant community.

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

Weekly Adult Ed E-post reminders and links to topics and readings

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

INSTAGRAM AND TWITTER

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS—November 2019

Nov 1	8:30 am	Women's Breakfast
	6:00 pm	Family Game Night
Nov 2	5:00 pm	High School Youth Cook
Nov 3	9:00 am	Java & Jesus
	10:00 am	Worship
Nov 4	12:00 noon	Lectionary Scripture Study
	1:30 pm	Knitting Group
Nov 7	8:30 am	Meditation Group
	1:30 pm	Women's Book Group
Nov 10	9:00 am	Java & Jesus
	10:00 am	Worship
Nov 11	12:00 noon	Lectionary Scripture Study
	7:15 pm	Men's Group
Nov 12	11:30 am	OVER 55
	6:30 pm	Care of Creation Meeting
Nov 13	6:00 pm	Adult Faith Formation Meeting
	6:00 pm	Resource Meeting
Nov 14	8:30 am	Meditation Group
	5:30 pm	Labyrinth Walk
Nov 15	7:00 pm	Movie Group
Nov 17	9:00 am	Java & Jesus
	10:00 am	Worship
Nov 18	12:00 noon	Lectionary Scripture Study
	4:00pm	CULVERS EAT OUT-YOUTH
Nov 19	7:00 pm	Leadership Team Meeting
Nov 20	6:00 pm	Congregational Life Meeting
Nov 21	8:30 am	Meditation Group
	7:00 pm	Christian Witness & Service Meeting
Nov 24	9:00 am	Fair Trade Sale
	10:00	Worship
Nov 25	12:00 noon	Lectionary Scripture Study
	7:15 pm	Men's Group
Nov 26	7:00 pm	Sanctuary Mission Team Meeting
Nov 28	8:30 am	Meditation Group
Nov 28		THANKSGIVING—OFFICE CLOSED

Open Office Hours

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

Upcoming Newsletters:

December 1

Information to be included in the December Newsletter is due Monday, Nov 25 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