



COMMUNION

*Spiritually Alive,
Joyfully Inclusive,
Committed to Justice*

Sunday Mornings

February 2

9 am Java & Jesus

10 am Laura Crow preaching
"Winning at Life"

Music: TruFunction

11:15 Annual Meeting

February 9

9 am Insights from Prison

10 am Laura Crow preaching
"Law & Order"

Music: Handbell Choir

11 am Fellowship

February 16

9 am Youth & the Justice System

10 am Laura Crow preaching
"You Have Heard It Said..."

Music: ORUCC Choir

11 am Fellowship

February 23

9 am Racial Justice-Helene Nelson

10 am Laura Crow preaching
"Listen to Him"

Music: Special Music

11 am Fellowship

Lent Begins Feb 26

February 25—PARTY GRAS

5:30 pm—7:30 pm; see article on
Page 2

February 26—Ash Wednesday

7 pm Joint Worship with Madison
Mennonite Community

Look for information on Lenten
Book Study Home Groups, Lenten
Devotional Booklets, Labyrinth
Walks, and other opportunities to
make the most of this season com-
ing soon!

IN THE INTERIM by Laura Crow

Parents are like shuttles on a loom. They join the threads of the past with threads of the future and leave their own bright patterns as they go.

Fred Rogers

The work of a faith community is similar—pastors and congregation weaving together a common life in the service of a holy vision, our objective being to keep God’s dream for a just world alive by nurturing our individual dreams and passions for a better world. Putting together the Annual Report each year is a way of taking a snapshot of that tapestry.

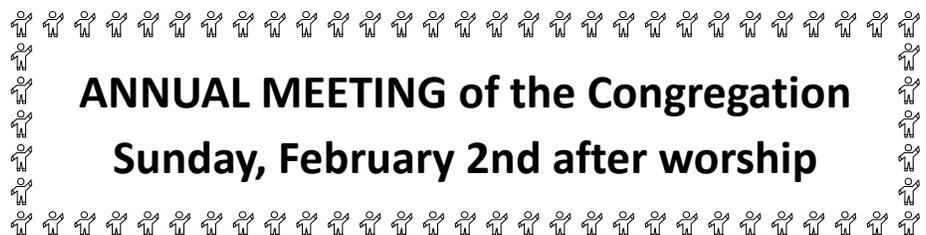
It is never the same picture twice—there are often common patterns and motifs, but maybe this year we pick up the distinct presence different threads or colors, familiar images flipped or rearranged. Sometimes the changes can be pleasing, other times startling. When we can step back and take in the whole tapestry, we often find there is a purpose in both.

And, of course, there are some mistakes. It can be tempting to want to pull out those threads, the ones we would prefer not to see, but doing so would unravel other bits and change the beauty of the whole. Better to leave those in, make amends as best we are able, and learn once more the value of grace and forgiveness. We are each doing the best we can.

There will always be a variety of loose threads, ideas begun but unfinished. Some threads I hope will be picked up again in the new year...

- Hiring a Communications Coordinator—this will start again in earnest after the Annual Meeting. If you know someone who might be a good fit to help us update our website and social media presence, create useful and inviting communication pieces, please let us know! While we will use traditional job posting sites, we know that the best people often are found through networking.
- Updating the Constitution and creating a Policies and Procedures Manual—we made a great deal of progress last year identifying places where the congregation has evolved in practice from what is captured in our formal documents. And then we hit summer and could not find the needed traction to keep moving. This is an important piece to complete as a gift to a new settled pastor.
- Worship—this is ALWAYS a loose thread! We have done a variety of things, both using the lectionary and away from it—a whole summer of “Stumbling Blocks or Stepping Stones?” and an Advent of “Welcoming the Stranger.” Looking forward to Lent, we will explore “Faith Practices.” And there is a fledgling interest in a Wednesday evening series, and some kind of Saturday Easter Vigil.

All of these are work we do together as a community. Let’s begin!


ANNUAL MEETING of the Congregation
Sunday, February 2nd after worship

The Many Ways God Speaks to Us by Ken Pennings

I'd like to share with you the conclusion of a sermon I preached on Jan. 19, 2020, a sermon I titled "Making Peace with the Bible:" "How do we responsibly discern where the Bible is right and where it is wrong? How do we avoid treating the Bible like a buffet, a smorgasbord, a cafeteria from which we choose what we like and leave the rest off our plate? These are part of a much larger question in my mind, 'How do we hear God speaking?'

The Methodists have helped the Christian Church a great deal in attempting to answer this question.

The Wesleyan Quadrilateral, or Methodist Quadrilateral, is a methodology for interpreting the scriptures, doing theological reflection, and gaining guidance for moral questions and dilemmas faced in daily living. It is credited to John Wesley, leader of the Methodist movement in the late 18th century.

Here's the gist of the Quadrilateral -- We hear God speaking through at least four sources: scripture, tradition, reason, and human experience. These four are like the stabilizing supports or legs of a chair.

I couldn't be more proud of the United Church of Christ, which has gone public with its conviction that God is still speaking.

Indeed, we hear God speaking through a collection of ancient documents which over time we've come to regard as sacred and holy. But God is still speaking through other writings, through tradition, through reason, through nature, through human experience. In fact, God is still speaking through all that is!

Discovering the Wesleyan Quadrilateral profoundly changed my life.

I was raised in a Christian tradition that cited seven biblical passages that clearly condemned homosexuality, and I honestly believed there was no way for a practicing homosexual to be Christian. Therefore, I stayed in the closet, constantly conflicted over my orientation and my place in the Christian world.

I then attended a conference in Waukesha for LGBTQ-Allied people where Episcopal Bishop John Shelby Spong explained how the Wesleyan Quadrilateral might set many of us free from our internalized homophobia. For the first time in my life, a Christian leader was giving me permission to silence the homophobic voices I had heard in the church and were still ringing in my ears, and pay attention instead to my own nature, reason and experience. Spong asked, "What is natural and normal for you? What is the most reasonable and responsible way for you to live in the world?" I knew in my heart it was to self-identify and live as a gay man.

To clarify, I didn't come out because Spong told me it was okay. I came out because I heard God speaking through my own nature, reason and human experience.

Eventually, I was able to unpack those seven texts of terror in the Bible which supposedly condemned homosexuality, and appreciate how and why those texts were written in the way they were. More importantly, I came to understand that those texts had absolutely nothing to do with me.

So in this congregation, we engage in an ongoing conversation with each other and with a collection of ancient documents, which over time have come to be regarded as sacred. And we listen for all the ways God may be speaking in and through each other, in and through the scriptures, in and through all that is."

PARTY
GRAS!

PARTYGRAS! – An ALL-Church Intergenerational Event

Tuesday, February 25, 2020, 5:30-7:30 pm

in the Friendship Hall.

We'll don our beads, and enjoy plenty of pizza, and Cajun cuisine prepared by our Catering Mission Team!

Following on the success from last year, **PLEASE BRING YOUR FAVORITE BOARD GAME!** We will also have activities for younger children, and games & mixers to entertain the whole church family!

Of course, we'll sing the traditional "When the Saints Go Marching In," and conclude with a ritual prayer and symbolic burning of palm branches.

We are hoping your donations will cover the cost of the meal.

We'll also need help with clean-up, if you can stay as late as 8 p.m.

Any questions, please contact Ken Pennings at 271-7212 or ken@orucc.org



Transitions by Tammy Martens

My curiosity was ignited this past year to learn more about leadership transitions. A retired pastor from the Milwaukee area recommended to me the book *The Elephant in the Boardroom: Speaking the Unspoken about Pastoral Transitions* by Carolyn Weese and J. Russell Crabtree. This book can be a very helpful resource as we face leadership transitions in the future. It caught my attention immediately as I read these words in the introduction: "This book is for today. Unfortunately, we often operate out of a church paradigm that worked fifty years ago. In that era of high denominational loyalty, transitions were much less disorienting...but today ministry is much more localized, customized, specialized, and complex...The high-stress culture in which we all swim is not one in which many people can survive a long period of tumult in their primary resource for emotional and spiritual stability. They move on to another congregation. This book calls us to imagine a transition process that fits the church of today rather than the one of fifty years ago. For a moment imagine a church:

- That is so invested in its mission that it is willing not only to break the taboo and talk about leadership changes but also to manage them
- Where the vision manages change, rather than change managing the vision
- Where veteran leaders mentor emerging leaders
- Where the sheep are not scattered by the wolf of denial and ambush but instead dwell in a confidence that is the fruit of studied readiness"

What I appreciate about the guidance from the book is that it includes scripture study and reflection. The authors share: "It is difficult to imagine a man more insistent and articulate regarding his own leadership transitions than Jesus of Nazareth, as described in the record of the New Testament. At the beginning of his ministry, he is clear and unambiguous. In Luke 4:16, he enters the synagogue in his hometown, reads a passage from the prophet Isaiah, and unmistakably lays his hand to the reins of leadership: 'Today these words are fulfilled in your hearing.' At the end of his ministry, he is equally clear and unambiguous; in John 16:16 Jesus says, 'A little while and you will see me no more.' Jesus seems to be very candid and forthright about his arrival on the scene and equally transparent regarding his departure. Although the people on both ends tried to deny this reality, Jesus was unrelenting in his focus."

I look forward to reading and studying this book with others in our church in the months ahead as a way to think and learn about pastoral transitions in the future.

Volunteers

Sunday Coffee

Feb 2 Rachael &
Brian Lancor
Feb 9 Sue & Steve
Pearson, Rich Hoard
Feb 16 Diane Jungblut
Feb 23 Chuck Kaspar
Diane Jungblut

Liturgists

Feb 2 Deanna Blanchard
Feb 9 OPEN
Feb 16 Alice Anderman
Feb 23 OPEN

Ushers

Feb 2 Peter Fabian
Jerry Nelson
Joyce Binder
Feb 9 Larry Goss
Carol Prugh
Robert Prugh
Feb 16 Jon Blanchard
Jarrett Gersten
Jerry Nelson
Feb 23 Phil Winkel
Judy Winkel
Carolyn Carlson

AV Team

Feb 2 Jarrett Gersten
Feb 9 Chuck Kaspar
Feb 16 Andrew Beckett
Feb 23 Paul Hedges

Welcomers

Feb 2 OPEN
Donna & John
Lillethun
Feb 9 Mary & Doug
Loving
Kurt Jaehnig
Feb 16 Barbara Mcleod
Carol & Dick
Karls
Feb 23 Dianne Stevens
OPEN
OPEN

Financial Secretary

Feb 2 Gene Dyar
Feb 9 Joyce Dingman
Feb 16 Marge Wennen
Feb 23 Meg Stevens



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

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

Prayers of Joy

- **For** Celeste Kaspar (daughter of Kim & Chuck Kaspar) who is beginning a semester of study in South Africa.
- **For** Joyce Dingman who has been able to return to church after dealing with a broken foot.
- **For** Ali Blanchard who has completed a month of treatment at a mental health facility.
- **For** the dedication and work of our bands Tru-Gumption and Tru-Function, and all who helped with the concert fundraiser for the Youth Mission Trip.
- **For** the Feb 1st Leadership Retreat at Holy Wisdom Monastery and for the faithful work of all who serve in leadership roles in the church.
- **For** last month's "Chili Cook-Off" which was planned and hosted by the Ministry of Congregational Life.
- **For** the 75 people who attended the "All Church Retreat" at Pilgrim Center Jan. 17-19.

2019 Annual Report:

Four Convenient Locations—Get yours TODAY!

- 1) On the table in the Crossroads
- 2) In the literature rack by the parking lot entrance
- 3) As an attachment to the weekly E-news
- 4) On-line at <https://www.orucc.org/2019-annual-report/>

Bridging Faiths for a Stronger Democracy—February 13:

Wisconsin Council of Churches (WCC) and Wisconsin Faith Voices for Justice (WVJ) are organizing faith communities across the state to encourage voter engagement.

Join us on Feb. 13, 6:00 pm-8:30 pm for our kick-off event - an evening of dialogue to explore what civic and democratic engagement means to those gathered, and how that connects to their faith. The evening will include training on the historical intersection of faith and social justice, and challenges and opportunities for religious organizations to be engaged in the voter education, registration and Get Out the Vote activities. Featuring a performance from Forward Theater's 2019 Monologue Festival and a performance by singer/songwriter Chris Crain.

The event will be held live in Milwaukee, and simultaneously facilitated using remote conferencing technology. **The Madison event will take place at First United Methodist Church, 203 Wisconsin Avenue, Madison.**

Prayers of Concern

- **For** LeRoy Erickson who fell at school and broke his arm
- **For** Vicki & Marv Nonn grieving the death of Marv's 97 yr. old father Alfred Nonn.
- **For** Pierre Sosa (Kathy Borkowski's son-in-law) whose father died on Sunday, Jan. 19th.
- **For** Ellen Reuter & Phil Haslanger grieving the death of their 8 month old grandson Clark.
- **For** Sharon & Larry Goss' daughter Laura who has been diagnosed with an aggressive breast cancer.
- **For** Jeanne Garnett who is at Meriter Hospital for assessment of a couple of health issues.
- **For** Char Klossner who is in palliative care and is struggling to recover from the flu.
- **For** Karen Falkner who fell and broke her hip, and is at UW Health Rehab near Sun Prairie.
- **For** Stan & Marylin Boyer who are living at Oakwood West, and are challenged by Stan's health issues.
- **For** Darcy Luoma's Mother who has stage 4 cancer, and has just been diagnosed with another cancer.
- **For** Jen Walker's cousin who has bladder cancer and is now receiving immunotherapy.
- **For** Tony Holt's daughter Sara's family who lost everything in a fire in Australia.



Sing with the Choir on Ash Wednesday:

Join the ORUCC Choir for our Ash Wednesday service!

- Attend just one rehearsal—Wednesday, February 19 at 7:00pm
- Learn just one piece of music—*Lord, Who Throughout These 40 Days*
- Get to know new friends from both ORUCC and the Madison Mennonite Church
- Start Lent with a new song in your heart!

Our Ash Wednesday service is February 26 at 7:00pm. If you would like the music before February 19, please contact the church office.

February Compassion Offering:

Dane County Foster Care Youth Retreat

The February Compassion Offering will go to the Dane County Independent Living Skills Unit. Funds will support an April retreat for Dane County teens who will be exiting out of foster care. The objective of this retreat is to provide a unique opportunity for teens in foster care to connect with each other and with supportive adults in a positive and healthy way; to be exposed to new and different experiences; and, to learn and practice independent-living social-emotional, and leadership skills in an immersive space. Youth will be encouraged to identify their strengths and the strengths of others, problem-solve, communicate effectively, and step out of their comfort zone to try new things.

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!

Frank E. Page College Scholarships

Available:

Members of Orchard Ridge UCC are invited to apply for 2020-2021 college scholarships of \$1,000 to \$2,000 from the Frank E. Page Scholarship Fund. Applicants should be planning to begin or continue education at any accredited 2- or 4-year college or university, and should have a record of academic achievement, service to church and community, and demonstrated financial need. **The application deadline is February 15, 2020;** contact scholarships@firstcongmadison.org for an electronic application.



Summer Camp Registration OPEN:

Registration for summer camps at Moon Beach, Pilgrim Center, and Cedar Valley are OPEN. There are camps for EVERYONE!

Visit <https://ucc.org> for information on camps and to register. Scholarships are available.

Secrets From the Garden Greeting Cards Take a Break:

Secrets from the Garden greeting cards, often found on the table in the Crossroads, are going to hibernate for awhile.

If you want cards in the meantime, you can view them at dianneandpaul.net. Simply view the cards, make your selection, and then email your order to dianne@dianneandpaul.net.

Thank you everybody for your support of this important ministry to our needy neighbors in times of disaster. Sales this year were over \$1700. Dianne Stevens.

2020 Monthly Compassion Offering Summary:

January—David's Educational Opportunity Fund: \$2441.11

February—Dane County Foster Care Youth Retreat: TBD

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!



August Camp-out at Governor Dodge State Park:

Swimming, hiking, kayaking....or just sitting around the campfire all day and talking with friends. Care of Creation's summer campout is a great way to be outdoors with friends. We also tend to eat a lot, particularly on Saturday night when we share a meal.

So please make your reservations soon. (choice sites fill up quickly.) The dates are August 14-16th at Governor Dodge State Park in the Cox Hollow campground. My family will be at site 65. All the nearby campsites are shaded; 67 and 68 is a double campsite—perfect for two or three families. Contact Jill Westberg, with any questions and/or to let her know you will be going: jillwestberg@gmail.com

Women's Book Group— February 6

Our next gathering will be on Thursday, February 6, from 1:30 to 3:00 in the Alfred Swan Room. We'll discuss *Go, Went, Gone* by Jenny Erpenbeck. Erpenbeck writes about Richard, a retired German academic, whose privileged, orderly life is transformed by his growing involvement in the lives of a number of African refugees—utterly powerless, unaccommodated men, who have ended up, via the most arduous routes, in wealthy Germany. This novel explores the central moral question of our time.

For March 6, we will read *Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston. Born in 1901, Hurston left home at the age of 17 and ultimately became one of the most prolific writers in the Harlem Renaissance. According to Saturday Review, this novel "belongs in the category ... of enduring American literature." Protagonist Janie Crawford sets out to be her own person -- no mean feat for a black woman in the '30s. Janie's quest for identity takes her through three marriages and into a journey back to her roots.

If you plan to attend the February meeting, please let Jan Christian know (jlchrist@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 with questions

Family Game Night— February 7:

Family Game Night meets on Friday, February 7, 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)

Movie Group February 21— ORUCC Movie Group Awards Oscars

Well, sorta kinda. When the **Movie Group meets at 7 pm on February 21st** we will be reviewing our thoughts on the Academy Awards Nominees. Bring your opinions, for the discussion is usually lively! Jan and Jack Christian will facilitate the discussion. Christians and Cindy Fillingame will provide dessert. Coffee and tea will also be available. You need not be a "regular", all are welcome.

Please RSVP Steve Sheets:
im1042@tds.net

Knitting & Crafts Group— February 3:

The group will meet on Monday, February 3 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.

Over 55—February 11:

We meet again on Tuesday, February 11 at 11:30 for a buffet luncheon, costing \$8.

Our presenter at 12:30 will be Jim Lattis, Director, UW Space Place: faculty associate, astronomy College of Letters and Science. Professor Lattis will speak on "*The history of astronomy at UW. The history of the Washburn Observatory, and the development of space astronomy and large telescopes at UW*".

All are welcome, you need not be a regular attendee.

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 pastor-laura@orucc.org.

Care of Creation Green Corner:

February 15—Movie Screening and Discussion

THE HUMAN ELEMENT

An award-winning documentary about climate change, its impacts on everyday Americans, and what we can do about it.

Saturday, February 15, 4-7 pm, Orchard Ridge UCc—Friendship Hall

Soups, breads, dessert, beverages and childcare provided.

RSVP helpful but not required.

About the film: We humans are a force of nature. At the same time human activities alter the basic elements of life—earth, air, water, and fire—those elements change human life. With rare compassion and heart, THE HUMAN ELEMENT inspires us to reevaluate our relationship with the natural world.

Sponsored by ORUCC Care of Creation Mission Team. Questions or to RSVP, email jillwestberg@gmail.com

Wisconsin Anti-Violence Effort (WAVE) Meetings:

Wisconsin Anti-Violence Effort meetings will no longer be held regularly at ORUCC. The January Wisconsin Anti-Violence Effort meeting will be held at McFarland Lutheran Church on January 29, 2020 at 6:30 PM. Plans will be made to join Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America on their Advocacy Day at the state Capitol on February 19, 2020. This is to commemorate the mass shooting at Parkland High School and to show lawmakers the power of voters who want to see changes in gun laws in Wisconsin (universal background checks, red flag laws and waiting periods to buy guns). Go to their websites for more information.

Poetry & Potluck:

The adult Poetry and Potluck group will be meeting again in February. The tentative date is Friday, February 28 at 5:30. We are not a group of poets or wannabe poets or even critics of poetry. We are people who enjoy good food, wine (or your favorite beverage) and meaningful discussion. Poetry inspires our discussions of the Sacred, our own spiritual growth, and our self understanding. The focus for this session is on the Poetry of Self Compassion. This will be our second meeting. If you are interested in joining us, please e-mail Jeanne Moberly at JMoberly2@me.com.



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.

Make a joyful noise to the Lord! All are invited to join!

Women's (and Men's!) Breakfast—February 7- Oakwood Village:

The Breakfast Groups will meet Friday, February 7 at 8:30 at the Village Inn, Oakwood Village University Woods, 6201 Mineral Point Road.

Directions: Mineral Point Road to Island Drive, turn South into the Oakwood Campus. Follow Island Drive (do not take the immediate right turn) Keep going over two speed bumps until you get to a stop sign. Turn right and in a short block Heritage covered entrance will be on your right. When inside, turn left and follow the walk until you get to the Village Inn, which is located in Heritage.

Parking: There are spaces in the front circle for parking. Indoor parking is also available on Island Drive, the second entrance to Parking Garage labeled Heritage Oak Parking. Press the button, a voice will assist you and open the garage door. Park in any place designated Visitor Parking. Take elevator to 1st floor and follow the walk leading to the Village Inn.

Please join us for casual conversation on many topics.

Men's Group— February 10 & 24:

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

February Programming: The Need for Justice System Reforms:

Ten years have passed since Michelle Alexander's book, The New Jim Crow, was published. Yet mass incarceration of people of color and poor people remains a fact of life in our state and nation. Despite work and advocacy by many, reforms have been modest. We must be honest about racist history and current day racism that is fueling mass incarceration (and also the mass deportation and stripping of political rights of people of color more generally). In February, we will have a chance to learn more and consider how to respond to some of the realities in the Dane County and Wisconsin adult and youth justice systems.

February Art Exhibit at ORUCC – DarRen Morris, Inmate and Artist- Morris entered prison at age 17, serving a life sentence for being party to death of an innocent man. He is an artist whose work is on display in ORUCC's Friendship Hall in February. Morris says: "I want to create art that will help save youth from making thoughtless choices. I also want to create art that will help you on the outside understand what we face on the inside – the very real need for prison reform in Wisconsin ...to involve more people in working toward prisoner rehabilitation rather than punishment..."

February 9 at 9 a.m. – Insights from Prison Experiences and Support of Returning Prisoners- Judy Adrian, a retired college teacher and published author, has co-written a book with DarRen Morris. She will tell us about Morris' life and his art, including an in-depth look at some of his art on display at ORUCC. John Givens coordinates the Circles of Support for Madison-area Urban Ministry (MUM) and assists with the monthly Service Fairs and Returning Prisoner Simulations. John was formerly incarcerated, as are many of the MUM employees, and has been out of prison for around 30 years. He will speak to his MUM work and his prison insights.

February 16 at 9 a.m. – The Youth Justice System – A chance to learn from Andre Johnson, Manager of Youth Justice Services for Dane County Human Services. Look for a detailed announcement in the February 9 Sunday bulletin.

More to come: stay tuned.

UNPACKED: Refugee Baggage: This multimedia exhibit that seeks to humanize the word "refugee" features the sculptures of Mohamad Hafez, a Syrian-born, Connecticut-based artist and architect who re-creates war-torn domestic interiors within suitcases. Each piece is based on interviews with refugees who were forced to leave their homes in countries ranging from Syria and Afghanistan, to the Democratic Republic of Congo, and who now reside in the United States. As visitors view Hafez's sculptures, they can both hear and read these recorded interviews, which were collected by Iraqi-born Wesleyan University student, writer, and speaker, Ahmed Badr. Included in the series are Hafez and Badr's own stories, which detail Hafez's inability to return to Syria, and the bomb that entered Badr's family home.

A variety of programs will be held in conjunction with the exhibition's sponsoring partner, the University of Wisconsin–Madison Middle East Studies Program. A conference on the topic of refugees in and from the Middle East will take place on March 6 and 7, 2020, during which Hafez will address *UNPACKED*.

UNPACKED: Refugee Baggage will be on view in the Lynn Mecklenburg Textile Gallery from February 5 – March 15, 2020. For information, visit: <https://sohe.wisc.edu/events/unpacked-refugee-baggage/>

Feb 2 Java & Jesus Honors Black History Month:

On February 2, Ken Pennings will lead a discussion of "Unfulfilled Dreams," a sermon preached by the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. about one month before he was assassinated. We remember Dr. King for his "I Have a Dream" speech. This sermon presages the latter and acknowledges his realization that his life's work may remain unfinished. All are invited to join the discussion at 9:00am on February 2.

ORUCC Private Screening of Just Mercy—March 7:

Steve Sheets has arranged for a private screening of the film *Just Mercy* for ORUCC members and families. The film is based on the book by Bryan Stevenson and tells the true story of Walter McMillian, an African American death row inmate in Alabama who, with the help of young defense attorney Bryan Stevenson, appeals his murder conviction. The film is rated PG-13

More details coming soon, but save the date to see this critically acclaimed movie on the big screen with your ORUCC family!

When: Saturday, March 7, 10:00am

Where: Marcus Point Cinema

Cost: Only \$3 per person (thanks to an anonymous donor!)

Senior Exercise Class:

The last class for the season is Thursday, February 6. Feel free to drop in at 10:00 Tuesday and/or Thursday to learn a simple balance and strengthening program with the group.

Contact Joyce Pohl with questions (206-5697 or japohl@gmail.com)

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

Open Office Hours

Monday-Thursday

8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Friday: CLOSED

Church Emails

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

Upcoming Newsletter:

March 1, 2020

Information to be included in the February Newsletter is due Thursday, February 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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS—FEBRUARY 2020

Feb 1	9:00 am	Leadership Retreat @ Holy Wisdom
	7:00 pm	Tru Function/Tru Gumption Concert
Feb 2	9:00 am	Java & Jesus—Ken Pennings
	10:00 am	Worship
	11:15 am	Annual Meeting
Feb 3	12:00 noon	Lectionary Scripture Study
	1:30 pm	Knitting Group
Feb 5	6:30 pm	Congregational Life Meeting
Feb 6	8:30 am	Meditation Group
	1:30 pm	Women's Book Group
Feb 7	8:30 am	Women's (Men's Breakfast)
	6:00 pm	Family Game Night
Feb 9	9:00 am	DarRen Morris Art & Life & Work with Returning Prisoners
	10:00 am	Worship
Feb 10	12:00 noon	Lectionary Scripture Study
	7:15 pm	Men's Group
Feb 11	11:30 am	OVER 55
	6:30 pm	Care of Creation Meeting
	7:00 pm	Leadership Team
Feb 12	6:00 pm	Adult Faith Formation
	6:00 pm	Resources Meeting
Feb 13	8:30 am	Meditation Group
Feb 15	4:00 pm	Care of Creation Movie
Feb 16	9:00 am	The Youth Justice System
	10:00 am	Worship
Feb 17	12:00 noon	Lectionary Scripture Study
Feb 20	8:30 am	Meditation Group
	7:00 pm	Christian Witness
Feb 21	7:00 pm	Movie Group
Feb 23	9:00 am	TBD
	10:00 am	Worship
Feb 24	12:00 noon	Lectionary Scripture Study
	7:15 pm	Men's Group
Feb 25	5:30 pm	Party Gras
Feb 26	7:00 pm	Ash Wednesday Worship w/Mennonites
Feb 27	8:30 am	Meditation Group



TruFunction & TruGumption Concert

Saturday, February 1, 7:00pm

Tickets available ON-LINE and
AT THE DOOR

THANK YOU to ALL who have helped make this event happen!