A Few Words from the Moderator...

by Kathy Borkowski

Dear Members & Friends of ORUCC,

Be well. That’s how I’ve been signing my emails for these past weeks. Nothing else seemed quite right. Nothing else seems to matter. It is a wish, a hope, and a prayer.

And while I am praying for physical health for all of us at Orchard Ridge, I know that there are so many struggles right now beyond our physical health. As we work through the COVID-19 pandemic in isolation, many of us are dealing with job loss, loneliness, and feeling overwhelmed by the needs of work and family.

Like many of you, I am learning how to interact with the world in new ways—virtual meetings via Zoom with colleagues and friends; and theater performances, concerts, and even exercise classes online.

I am grateful to Laura, Ken, Tammy, and so many others for enabling us to connect with our church community. It has been delightful to see one another through the Wednesday evening prayer meetings on Zoom, and to attend church via Facebook live. Someone said to me recently, we are not a “TV church” sort of church, but I have so appreciated the ability to connect in this way on Sunday morning. We can be in community with one another, even in our distance. We are able to bring our prayers to God in communion with each other.

One of my favorite parts of our service is holding hands during the benediction, and we will likely not be able to do this for a long time. And yet, as I sit in front of my computer on a Wednesday evening, or watch a recording of Tru Function on a Sunday morning, I feel that hand in mine. We are no less a community. Even though we are not together in body—we are certainly together in spirit.

The pastoral staff, Leadership Team, and Ministries are all still meeting regularly (virtually) and making plans for the present, and the future—whatever that looks like. We are reaching out to those who are most isolated, and finding ways to help those who are most impacted by the pandemic.

Please take my hand, and the hand of the person on the other side, walk with me through this very unfamiliar and uncharted territory, as we say a prayer that we will all be well.
And a Few More Words from Your Pastors...

Discovering New Ways to be the Church Together by Ken Pennings

At the start of “Social Distancing” and the Governor’s “Safer at Home” order, none of us knew how we might be able to be the church together. But after a month of staying in our own homes, we have discovered numerous ways to connect with one another and meet the needs of our neighbors! Here is a sampling...

- Easter Sunrise Zoom Service & Weekly Sunday live-streaming worship;
- Weekly Wednesday evening Zoom Prayer Services;
- Monthly Zoom meetings of our Leadership Team and Ministries;
- Bi-weekly Zoom Java & Jesus discussions;
- A spontaneous gathering of women in the church parking lot, where they sat and conversed six feet apart from one another;
- Phone calls, Emails, Cards and Letters;
- Three weekly emails from Laura Crow on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, all packed with helpful information, resources and invitations to get involved in the life of the church;
- Zoom support for some who are isolated in care facilities;
- Zoom, email, or phone connections for the Meditation Group, Men’s Group, and Women’s Book Group;
- Contributions of homemade videos of art, music, poetry, and lessons for children;
- Zoom discussion on a topic (e.g. Lord of the Rings) and Plans for many more gatherings by affinity groups (e.g. Game Nights, Cooking Demonstrations, Craft Demonstrations, Church History, etc.);
- Lots more of us joining the “Members and Friends Group” on our church Facebook page (the postings are so inspiring, hopeful, often amusing!);
- A reactivation of E-Prayer for sharing our Joys & Concerns;
- A special—and successful—appeal through our April Compassion Offering designated for Eviction Prevention.

“When the going gets tough, the tough get going!” Right?!!!!

This is a time for creativity and innovation! This is a time for self-starters to launch something new and imaginative! This is a time for every one of us to ask ourselves, “How can I stay connected with the people of Orchard Ridge Church and strengthen our ministries?” This is a time to celebrate that ORUCC is alive and well; functioning and flourishing!

Revisiting Relationships by Tammy Martens

In the world of texting that took over most of our lives before Covid-19, it seems absolutely strange to be making phone calls and writing letters that I send through the mail. But this is what I’ve been doing. The pandemic is helping us switch patterns and I think some of that is good.

I came across an article through BuzzFeed_news that speaks of how others are using this time to change some patterns as well. The title of the article is The Pandemic is Pushing People to Revisit Relationships by Michael Blackmon. Dozens of BuzzFeed News readers responded to a request for stories of fractured relationships with friends, family, and former partners that they’ve recently revisited. One woman, Stephanie, shares that “there’s something about feeling like the world is going to end that makes you fearless to becoming vulnerable.” She had been estranged from a once-close friend of nearly a decade for the past two years...but as the coronavirus pandemic made its way around the world she decided to reach out. And that experience of vulnerability was eye-opening to Stephanie. She said, “I guess this is how we should all live in the first place.”

Have you had some experience with revisiting relationships? Reconnecting with people that you were distant or cut-off from? I’d love to hear how this pandemic is changing some of your patterns with friends or family.
Worship in the Time of COVID-19 by Laura Crow

It has been seven weeks since we have been able to gather in person. It feels like a lifetime. And, like churches, mosques, temples, and synagogues across the world, the structure and style of our worship at ORUCC is evolving, as we adapt our needs for both content and community to new platforms. After seven weeks, I can tell you that both present challenges and opportunities.

The first few weeks we focused heavily on content – providing prayers, readings, music videos and sermons in easily accessible links, adapting our existing order of worship into something you could recreate in your home, on your schedule, in whatever-sized chunks you felt ready for. We also engaged Facebook as a platform for connecting people more regularly through social media. These were early weeks of the “Safer-at-Home” order and worship was finding a variety of touch points to ground us and help us feel secure when the world we knew was falling apart.

Then we organized our first Wednesday night Zoom Prayer Gathering, and the emotional impact of seeing faces (even if on a screen) was visceral. Gathering as a virtual community, sharing space and time together, was definitely holy ground. Worship is communal. Worship is being able to look into the faces of other and see Jesus there. Worship is enacted through our presence in body and mind together, a reminder that we become Church when we connect with one another.

We have continued to work on content innovations – turning your pictures into a parade of palms, videotaping Sunday School lessons, finding archive recordings from TruFunction and the Handbells, and sharing new music, poetry, and videos offered by ORUCC members. We have turned coffee tables into Communion tables and shared a sacrament of bread and cup. We even this past week figured out how to add pictures and hymn lyrics to recordings of Vicki playing the piano. These are all pieces that members can access, share, and return to in moments when a connection to one another and to God’s Spirit is most wanted.

Our latest experiment is with “LIVE” worship on Sunday mornings. This is a hybrid of sorts with some elements being live, some recorded, and most of the congregation tuning in via YouTube or Facebook streaming. Being on the “live” end of it is certainly an experience of community where we can see and sing and dance along with one another (“Trees of the Field” was a hoot!). We have also sent anxious chat messages when things were a bit rocky. But through it all, we are together, connected, and hopefully some of our engagement and energy with one another spills over into the livestream. It has been great to see “hello’s” and comments popping up in the Facebook feed as people check in with one another.

Coming next, we are looking to expand the ways in which we connect as a community for things like small groups, virtual coffee hour, and fellowship events – and congregational meetings and a candidating weekend! Our digital presence and profile continues to evolve. And I am hopeful that things like “live” church with its ability to connect us with one another across distances will be a part of our life together in some way into the future.

The “church” has never been a building and “worship” has never been restricted to a set of practices that take place for an hour on Sunday morning. The boundaries that we can sometimes draw between the sacred and secular have been blurred during these last several weeks, as we see small acts of kindness and community through new eyes. God is in this time, shining a light for us all to see and follow. I am grateful for the many “silver learnings” of this time, and for all the ways we continue being the church together even when we are apart.

WORSHIP WITH US ON SUNDAYS at 10:00 am
Join us for a "LIVE" worship experience via YouTube Live or FaceBook Live
Links for each Sunday's service will be sent in Saturday's Worship Resources email.
Those without an internet connection will be able to join by phone.

We will also continue to provide the "WORSHIP AT HOME" resource and our Mid-Week Prayer Gatherings on Wednesdays at 7pm. These ZOOM gatherings are a great opportunity to check-in with one another, offer joys and concerns, and simply connect face-to-face in virtual space.
Prayers of Joy
For our Earth Day Celebration last Sunday
For our new Communications Coordinator Marji Dupuis
For generous donations to ORUCC’s Housing Emergency Assistance Fund
For the faithfulness of our Pastoral Search Team
For the creative ways we’ve discovered to continue being the church even though we aren’t able to gather in person
For the many signs of spring that remind us of Resurrection

Prayers of Concern
For Cherie & Bruce Olsen grieving the death of Cherie’s father Maurie, who died of Covid-19
For Jane Ilgen who is on hold for receiving chemotherapy for lung cancer
For Chris Thomas’ daughter who lost her job at an adult day care facility which closed permanently
For Thea Brunsell’s friend, Paula Bennett, who is receiving chemotherapy for cancer
For John Lemke’s and Pam Oliver’s friend Stevie who has had some set-backs in securing housing

For Jack Schairer and his extended family grieving the death of Jack’s cousin Betty
For the family and friends of a Falk Elementary fifth grade boy, Stephen Hubbard, who died suddenly of an asthma attack
For a woman who lives in Ruthanne Landsness’ apartment complex who is having heart palpitations and pain in her chest
For people who have been laid off of work and are no longer receiving a paycheck; for those who are working fewer hours and have received a cut in pay
For children and teenagers who have learned they will not be able to return to school to finish out the school year
For undocumented residents who have learned they will not be able to return to school to finish out the school year
For all those working diligently to provide solutions to the pandemic
For all of us trying to find courage, patience, peace and hope as we cooperate with the “Safer at Home” order
For the people of Nova Scotia, Canada following the mass shooting

ORUCC at Prayer
Beginning April 30, we have re-activated E-Prayer, which is a list of current joys & concerns shared by the people of ORUCC. In the past, we’ve only included in E-Prayer the joys and concerns for you and the members of your immediate family. During this pandemic, we will also include your joys and concerns for your friends and colleagues.

To have your joys and concerns included in E-Prayer, click the link which is always included in Saturday’s Worship Resource, or email them to ken@orucc.org.

If you’ve ever received E-Prayer in the past, you will begin receiving it again. If after Thursday, April 30th you have not received E-Prayer, and you would like to receive it, email ken@orucc.org and ask to be added to the E-Prayer List.

Another great way to enter into prayer with the ORUCC community is to attend the weekly Wednesday Zoom Prayer Service, 7-7:45 pm.

Prayer is one of the many ways we hold one another in comfort, hope, and support during this time when we are the Church dispersed.

Although we are temporarily not distributing Prayer Shawls until the "Stay at Home" order has been lifted, this is a great time to be active knitting or crocheting! Prayer Shawls may be delivered to the church after the "Stay at Home" order has been lifted. We are looking forward to a time when we can gather and together bless the work of our hands.

Keep those nimble fingers moving!
Thank You!

Prayer Shawl Blessing
May God’s grace be upon this shawl… warming, comforting, enfolding and embracing.
May this mantle be a safe haven… a sacred place of security and well-being… sustaining and embracing in good times as well as difficult ones.
May the one who receives this shawl be cradled in hope, kept in joy, graced with peace, and wrapped in love.
Blessed Be!
Weekly Meditation Group
Gathering in-person is canceled until further notice. The group is continuing to gather “in Spirit” and is sharing their weekly readings via email so anyone can use in their own practice.

The usual routine is to find a quiet, comfortable space and spend about 5 minutes in preparation. If you have never meditated before, this can be focusing on your breath and finding a place of calm in your own body.

Next, read a short poem or reflection and spend some time (20 minutes, more or less that suites you) in silent meditation, letting the words sit in your mind and heart.

When finished, spend a few minutes reflecting on your experience — maybe even share your thoughts with a friend or family member!

New Daily Devotional
From Ministry of Adult Faith Formation

“Laugh. Be joyful though you have considered all the facts…Practice Resurrection.” —Wendell Berry

Now that Easter has passed, Jeanne Moberly and the Ministry of Adult Faith Formation are continuing to provide daily readings to uplift and inspire.

Readings will be posted daily to the "Members & Friends" FaceBook group and will be available each week in the link below. If you are checking on someone who doesn’t have email and would like the readings mailed to them, please contact Julie Wombacher in the office (office@orucc.org).

Join this Mission Team!

The Ministry of Congregational Life is looking for a couple more volunteers to serve on the Directory Mission Team. If you are interested in helping out, please contact Rachael Lancor.

This will be a homemade directory. Church members will submit photos and information. Volunteers will assemble into a booklet.

We plan to do the bulk of the work over the summer and have a directory ready for our new pastor when that person arrives.

Stay tuned for details about how to submit your photos.
Garden Tenders
As you have probably assumed, we will not have a Worship and Work Sunday this May. The major landscaping project will be delayed (but hopefully will start this year) and we may decide on some group projects as we make plans.

Many things have been pushed back or put on hold for an undetermined amount of time. The progress of the virus makes the timetable - not us.

We still need to do basic care of our church flower beds. We are hoping to keep those garden tenders from last year in the same areas. Please contact Joyce if you have questions about where your flower beds fit into the new plan.

Safety Guidelines:
• We cannot have a big group of people working together, but we can work in pairs
• Wearing masks and gloves and stay 6 feet apart.
• We also should not share tools (so bring your own tools to church).
• The tools and handles must be cleaned with disinfecting soap and water after use and not touched by others.

We especially need people to adopt:
1) the small bed around the sign on Gilbert Road
2) the Meditation garden (which usually has colorful annuals planted in them by mid May)
3) the neglected bed outside the kitchen window on the south side of the building.

Please call Joyce Pohl at 608-206-5697 or email at japohl@gmail.com with questions. I am willing to give guidance and support and look forward to collaboration.

Pantry Plot Volunteers
LuAnn Greiner and Leslie Linser are looking for volunteers to tend our Veggie Village Food Pantry Garden.

Volunteers would sign up for 2 hour blocks of time a couple of times per month. Tuesday evenings or Thursday mornings are opportunities to join 1-2 others. You may also sign up for shifts on other days/times to work on your own.

Tasks include planting, weeding, harvesting in the garden and/or delivering food to the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Food Pantry (Thursday mornings).

Green thumb not required but helpful. An orientation will be provided. We will limit the number of people in the garden at any one time and practice physical distancing.

Soon there will be an on-line Sign Up option. Until then, if you are able to help, please contact LuAnn Greiner (greinerlu@gmail.com).

Greeting Cards: FLOWERS AND NEW MADISON SCENES!
Dianne Stevens has a nice selection of photo cards on hand, with new Madison scenes and Spring flowers. Cards are a GREAT way to stay in touch and spread joy! All the proceeds will go to the two church neighborhood charities, Pastor’s Discretionary Fund and Keeping Neighbors Connected.

Go to website: https://dianneandpaul.net/Photos/ to pick the photos you like, write down the Number of each photo you want, send Dianne an email with the numbers (dianne@dianneandpaul.net). She will fill your order and contact you about payment and delivery options. Cards are $4 each or 6 for $20.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Clothing Drive for Casa Alitas
We have CLOTHES. We have BOXES. We are looking at June/July for a time when our youth can complete their trip to Dig & Save and then gather to sort and get these items ready to send. This timing is being coordinated with our partners at Casa Alitas so that they have the resources to receive and distribute our donations.

While we isolate at home, perhaps there is time to make another trip through your closet to see if you have donations of fall & winter wear.

A HUGE “THANK YOU” to all who have donated from your ORUCC/MMENO Sanctuary Mission Team!

Update on Youth Mission Trip—from Tammy Martens
Because of the Covid-19 virus, we have had to make the painful decision to cancel this year’s mission trip. It’s a big let-down for sure.

I have scheduled for our group to go to the same place next year: Deep Roots, Earlville, Maryland. The dates are June 19-26, 2021.

All graduating seniors (class of 2020) are invited to join us next year if their schedule allows and they are interested.

The one silver lining of this is we will be in very good shape with fundraising. We have had very successful fundraisers this year and all of that money will be applied to next year’s trip.

I’m so grateful that we were able to hold our Tru Function/Tru Gumption concert on February 1. I appreciate how many people attended and all the good fun we had. I’m glad we have that as a very heartwarming memory.

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A HUGE “THANK YOU” to all who have donated from your ORUCC/MMENO Sanctuary Mission Team!
OUR CHRISTIAN WITNESS AND SERVICE IN THE TIME OF THE PLAGUE

"Plague in the Bible is not a storm weathered before a return to normalcy. It’s a call to come together in new ways in order to survive, hold the powerful responsible for their unjust policies and the lies they’ve told to cover up injustice, and rebuild on foundations of love and justice.” Liz Theoharis.

The COVID ‘plague’ spotlights injustice and dysfunction in our society that preceded the current public health emergency and recession. At the same time, COVID and the recession aggravate the socio-economic and racial inequities of our society – literally, killing more people of color and pushing economically vulnerable people into deep poverty. We at ORUCC are responding to the immediate needs of the pandemic – and we recommit to the work of advocating just policies and changes in systems so all people and creation can thrive.

Due to your generosity, the Christian Witness and Service Ministry (CWS) worked in March and April to:

- Sustain our commitment to the Church’s wider mission through One Great Hour of Sharing.
- Replenish the Pastors Discretionary Fund ($5000) so pastors can help our own members and friends who are suffering financial hardships.
- Increase eviction-prevention efforts through Keeping Neighbors Connected, an ecumenical neighborhood effort, and our new Emergency Housing Assistance Fund. We will be able to contribute at least $15,000 more to this, based on the April compassion offering. Look for a complete report on this after we finalize plans in mid-May with our partners!
- Sustain 6 Heart Room families in long term housing. See the separate report below.
- Financially aid the Mellowhood Foundation in their door to door delivery of meals to needy families, and explore other ways to help with basic needs of families. This includes a plan to provide Woodman Gift Cards for needy people through neighborhood partners.
- Plan a May compassion offering for Madison Area Urban Ministry – see separate article.
- Arrange the June compassion offering for a Voter Engagement Project, jointly sponsored by the Wisconsin Council of Churches and Faith Voices for Justice.

Heart Room Update

Heart Room, an ORUCC initiative with partners The Road Home, Early Childhood Initiative, and Joining Forces for Families, offers rental subsidies and other help to families with young children. Last fall, its first-year evaluation informed us that housing stability has improved child and family well-being.

Update: All families remain in stable housing, but 3 of the 6 families have lost income due to the COVID situation. These families are not eligible for federal economic stimulus payments and some other financial resources. CWS authorized a full rental payment for one family recently.

Case managers report that families are coping and getting active support. Like other families, they’re challenged to work, deal with kids at home from school, and access therapy and health care they need. Our partners and the CWS Housing Mission Team will review financial projections and longer-term plans. Stay tuned for more information this summer and fall.

Sanctuary Mission Team

It is clear that our immigrant neighbors are among the hardest hit by the economic hardships of this pandemic. Many have lost their jobs and undocumented immigrants and their families have been left out of most sources of aid, federal and state. To give a sense of the scale of the need, Centro Hispano raised $400,000 for economic relief and had over 2200 families request assistance with rent payments and other bills, quickly outstripping the funds available.

The Dane Sanctuary Coalition is hosting a webinar on May 14 for representatives from various non-profits to strategize on how to best coordinate services and help workers, both short- and long-term. We will keep you posted as more is known.

In May, look for an opportunity to continue our discussion of “The Death and Life of Aida Hernandez” by Aaron Bobrow-Strain. The author event hosted by the DSC has been postponed until October 8.

Ruthanne Landsness is working on a letter writing campaign that we can all participate in from home to keep the rights of our immigrant neighbors and those in detention centers in the hearts and minds of our state and national policy makers.

Dear God,
We ask that all who are affected by this virus be held in your loving care. In this time of uncertainty, help us to know what is ours to do. We know you did not cause this suffering but that you are with us in it and through it. Help us to recognize your presence in acts of kindness, in moments of silence, and in the beauty of the created world. Grant peace and protection to all of humanity for their well-being and for the benefit of the earth.

AMEN.

Helene Nelson
(prayer to begin a CWS meeting)
Compassion Offering for May: Madison-Area Urban Ministry (MUM)

MUM is an interfaith social justice organization that serves as a prophetic voice for justice, spurring social change in and about Dane County for over forty years. MUM invites and facilitates avenues for individuals to engage in social action with an emphasis on outreach and support to the incarcerated, the homeless and the disenfranchised. Orchard Ridge has been a supporter for these entire 40 years. MUM offers an array of direct service programs for individuals and families impacted by the criminal justice system, including prison re-entry programming (since 1999), services for children who have an incarcerated parent (since 1999), community events designed to help people understand what it’s like to walk in the shoes of someone newly released from prison, and jail and prison in-reach programming. For credit on your church statement, on your check write the “MUM” or “Compassion” in the memo line. While this will not count toward your annual pledge, we will acknowledge the contribution on your statement.

MUM’s Executive Director, Linda Ketcham recorded a short vide for us on MUM’s response to these vulnerable communities which are being hit disproportionately hard by the COVID-19 pandemic. You can find the link in the weekly emails or go to: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=APFLiLH5ays.

You can make a donation by check: mail to ORUCC, 1501 Gilbert Rd., Madison, WI 53711

Note: The office is closed. If you need to hand deliver a check, there is a drop box on the Gilbert Road entrance.

To donate online: https://www.orucc.org/volunteer/ and click on the “DONATE” button

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

On-line Giving Options Starting May 1

Beginning Friday, May 1, you will three options for designating your Online Donation from our web page:

- May Compassion Offering: MUM-Donation Only
- Emergency Housing Assistance (this fund will remain open as congregational and community needs become known and are assessed)
- Pledges and General Giving

If you have any questions, please contact Julie Wombacher in the church office (office@orucc.org)

SEARCH TEAM UPDATE

These are such strange times we live in as we adapt to our new ways of gathering as a congregation.

As it becomes clear that there is no way of knowing exactly when we can gather in person as a congregation, we have been thinking about Plan B. In order to facilitate the search process proceeding to a conclusion, we are beginning our discussion of having a Candidating Sunday using technology.

We are not certain yet when that date may be, but we will let you know as soon as we know. We will be working with our candidate, church staff and our technology folks to see what will be possible.

If you have any questions about the process, you can contact Brian Lanier, Barbara Stretchberry, Chris Thomas, Dana Dobbins, Doug Piper, Kim Kaspar, Mary Bucknell or Sara Roberts.

COVID-19-Related Scam Alerts

The FBI has issued a warning of an increase in COVID-19-related fraud schemes. Please be alert to phony messages from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and World Health Organization (WHO) with phishing emails and offers of phony treatments. Campaigns particularly target the elderly, promising extra social security, investment schemes, or COVID-19 relief payments in exchange for bank account information. Some even send a realistic looking check in the mail and then gather bank account information when the check is deposited.

Please be cautious. If something seems fishy - it probably is. Ask for a second opinion before acting and remember that the church and the pastors will NEVER send emails asking for “help” purchasing gift cards or personal banking information.

2020 Monthly Compassion Offering Summary:

January—David’s Educational Opportunity Fund: $2441.11
February—Dane County Foster Care Youth Retreat: $2238.00
March—One Great Hour of Sharing: $4281.05
April—Emergency Housing Assistance: TBD
May—Madison Urban Ministry (MUM): TBD
**Words of Comfort and Joy**

*O Lord,*  
the helper of the helpless,  
the hope of those who are past hope,  
the Saviour of the tempest-tossed,  
the Harbour of the voyagers,  
the Physician of the sick;  

You know each soul and our prayer,  
each home and its need;  
become to each one of us what we most dearly require,  
receiving us all into Your kingdom,  
making us children of light;  
and pour on us Your peace and love,  
O Lord our God.  
Amen.

The Liturgy of Basil the Great (330-379)

Therefore prepare your minds for action: discipline yourselves; set all your hope on the grace that Jesus Christ will bring you when he is revealed.  
1 Peter 1:13 (NRSV)

**I See Things**

I see the blue sky and breathe its precious air. Birds, clouds, rain and thunder mar her purity like wrinkles in our grandmothers’ face.  
I see the trees, the backbone of the landscape, living in communion, within a community of life. Wind dance and advancing seasons make every moment unique.  
I see the prairies gently waving, dancing within the breath of God, marking the seasons with flowers and fire.  
I see all of the living things that we can perceive in intimate interrelationship with each other, a web of life, pulsing, moving, and never the same.  
I see a universe, the nest from which we came, an outward scattering of a billion galaxies with a billion stars all like our own sun, each with an ongoing story to tell that began with the creation so very long ago.  
I see all of our children, infused with the beauty and grace of god, faces so full of pure love.  
I see that God is love, the only hope for peace and harmony.  
I see you walking in beauty all around.  
Can you see me?  

Tim Andrews

In all the uncertainty, fear and helplessness that surrounds us today, here’s where I am:  
I am able to listen to the birds in the morning and at sunset, and to give them good clean food and water.  
I am able to watch the families walk by my house as they get a break from being home bound and too on top of each other.  
I am able to connect with my children daily and to thank God that I am here close to them in the midst of this pandemic.  
I am able to laugh at the silliness on the internet and on T.V.....Shows that try mightily to lighten our mood.  
I am able to walk my dogs in a huge off leash dog park where I can watch them suddenly break into a jog then throw themselves on the ground rubbing their backs in ecstasy.  
I am able to NOT look at the latest in stock market reports. I can feed myself and my dogs. I won’t worry about the rest.  
I am able to connect with friends by e-mail and be encouraged by their strength in facing this struggle.  
I am able to read good books, do jigsaw puzzles, read new poetry and to plan for a new day tomorrow.  
I am thankful for my faith in God that gives me hope that we can fix this.  
I am able to pray and to sleep and to watch as Spring sends up new green shoots reminding me that life does renew itself, and we can grow, even in this.  

Jeanne Moberly

**Day 46:** This evening I tried a zoom experiment during a lesson with a very advanced fifth grader who has been working on a challenging duet to play with me since before we left the school building. She muted and we played the duet together, so to her it sounded like we were playing together! Then I asked her to reverse it so I could hear what she heard, and darn if it didn’t sound like we were actually playing together! I absolutely teared up. It was amazing. I haven’t played music with another human in over six weeks. What a highlight!

Bethany Schultz

For I know the plans I have for you,” says the Lord. “They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope. In those days when you pray, I will listen. If you look for me wholeheartedly, you will find me.  

Jeremiah 29:11-13 (NLT)
The church is still open, still active, and still bringing the GOOD NEWS of love and grace and hope to one another and to our communities.

In response to the corona virus COVID19, ALL in-person activities of the church, including Sunday worship, are migrating to an on-line form or cancelled until further notice.

News changes quickly, and we are adding new ways to connect as we learn and grow more comfortable with digital platforms. Please be sure we have your current, preferred Email address.

If you don’t have reliable access to Email, let us know you need alternative communication. We will do our best to meet your needs in a way that works for you.

Church Contact Information
Office Manager Julie Wombacher:
608-271-7212 or office@orucc.org
Interim Pastor Laura Crow:
608-616-2325 or pastorlaura@orucc.org
Pastor Tammy Martens:
608-975-3184 or tmartens@orucc.org
Pastor Ken Pennings:
608-556-2371 or ken@orucc.org
Communications Coordinator Marji Dupuis:
305-790-8797 or marji@orucc.org

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

AV Technicians
May 3—Jared Erickson
May 10—Paul Hedges
May 17—Chuck Kaspar
May 24—Jarrett Gersten
May 31—Jared Erickson

Liturgists
May 3—Youth (Tammy M)
May 10—Deanna Blanchard
May 17—Ken Psycy
May 24—OPEN
May 31—OPEN

Mid-Week Prayer Gathering
Facilitator (Wednesdays 7pm)
May 6—OPEN
May 13—OPEN
May 20—OPEN
May 27—OPEN

As we bring more ideas to life, there are more opportunities to be involved. Please use Signup Genius to schedule your volunteer shifts!

Visit: http://orucc.org/volunteer/ and click on “Sign Up Genius”

Coming Soon: Sign Ups for Pantry Plot Volunteers!