It has been a long, hard, cold winter. We’re ready for spring and all the promise it holds. And we’re ready for Easter – the celebration of new life and a covenant fulfilled in the resurrection of Jesus Christ! As Lent draws to a close and we head into Holy Week we’re pleased to offer a diverse array of opportunities for you to worship and remember how God has been at work in you and in this Orchard community of faith.

**Palm Sunday Worship Services, April 13th at 9:00 & 11:00**
We remember Jesus’ return to Jerusalem as we open the worship services with a parade of palms led by the children.

**Holy Thursday, Seder Meal & Worship**
April 17th at 6:30 pm
This year, we will celebrate the Passover with a Seder Meal of Jewish tradition concluding with a celebration of Communion in remembrance of Jesus’ last supper with his disciples. This special service of worship and remembrance will take place in the MAC. Reservations are required as seating is limited. Tickets are $10/person. Communion will be available in the sanctuary from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm for those unable to attend the Seder Meal.

**Good Friday Community Service, April 18th at 12:15 pm**
Join us as our own Rev. Carol delivers the message at our ecumenical Good Friday service of worship, hosted by Faith Covenant Church at the corner of Drake and 14 Mile.

**Easter Sunday Worship and Children’s Celebration, April 20th**
9:00 & 11:00 Worship Services will feature special music including the Worship Team, and the Chancel Choir accompanied by brass and handbells. (Our 11:00 service will begin with a children’s butterfly parade!)

**10:00 Children’s Easter Celebration – Fellowship Hall**
Children preschool through 6th grade are welcome to join us for a fun celebration of new life as we make butterflies for the 11:00 butterfly parade, release live butterflies in the courtyard, and enjoy some special Easter treats!
CHRIS STRIFFLER

Faith grown from the roots up creates a strong and flexible tree. Although Chris Striffler didn’t grow up at Orchard, his faith was nurtured by another connectional church - Caro United Methodist in Caro, Michigan - where Chris was baptized and grew up. Chris’s involvement began early as he sang in the children’s choir, participated in dramas, rang handbells, and was active in the youth ministry. But at an early age, Chris began to participate in ministries of connection as he served on both the District and Conference Committees on Youth Ministries (DCYM & CCYM). He also attended the Conference Youth Assembly as well as Chrysalis Walk for youth at age 16.

One of the significant experiences of Chris’s youth came about as he was chosen to be his congregation’s lay delegate at Annual Conference at age 16. For the next three years he represented the interests of his home church and the future of the greater United Methodist Church.

Not long after his graduation from University of Michigan where he earned a degree in Industrial and Operations Engineering, Chris moved to Farmington Hills and began looking for a new church home. What kept Chris coming to Orchard was the balanced representation of all demographics, which meant there were people his own age here, youth he could mentor, and mature adults who could serve as mentors to him.

Although Chris’s job requires extensive travel, he was committed to being home on weekends and being an active part of the Orchard family. Chris signed on right away to be a youth leader assistant with the senior high youth group. Together with Rev. Margo, Chris was instrumental in starting a young adults’ group originally called YAHOO 360 (which later became Soul Connection as its membership matured). He served as a leader on the 2007 Mission Trip team and helped our youth to see the positive side of interacting with people of different faith backgrounds and theologies.

Chris has always had a passion for service and social justice. In 2007, Chris and a couple of his friends left their jobs to begin a new company called 7 Loaves. The purpose of this company was to bring third world artistry to the United States under fair trade practices that would provide the artisans with the means to provide a healthier standard of living for their families and communities. Once the company was up and running, Chris returned to his career as a Managing Consultant, but he remains a side-line partner in this company that seeks to provide a better way of life for others.

Today, you are most likely to find Chris at the controls of the sound booth. He and Justin Hamilton have taken on the responsibilities of maintaining and upgrading the sound in the sanctuary. Together these two have donated a great deal of time and resources to improving our capabilities. He also serves as the leader of our college ministry called Roots*, coordinating service projects and opportunities for students to gather and discuss their faith. Chris has also signed on to be a Mission Team leader for this year’s trip to Sautee, Georgia, and he continues to be an active member of Soul Connection. Chris has a heart for service and a head for thorny theological and social debate.

Orchard is about connection and Chris has found countless ways to be connected and extend connection to others.

WHAT DO YOU VALUE ABOUT YOUR EXPERIENCES HERE AT ORCHARD?

"There are so many things I value about my experiences at Orchard, but I guess the few that stand out are:

- Again, the connections to other people. I’ve built up through our faith - including with former youth group members who are now out in the "real world," or people my own age who I can share my faith with and will challenge me in my faith.
- I feel there is something for everyone here. If we look only at the music at Orchard - you can see so many things. Some of the most memorable and meaningful for me include:
  * This year’s Christmas Cantata
  * Alvin Waddles and the Chancel Choir leading worship with Tim Schoenherr’s "Prepare the Way"
  * Rejoice! opening Palm Sunday with "Prepare Ye the Way"
  * The many times Faith Players/Roots have shared their voices with the congregation - especially with "Go Light Your World" and "O Holy Night."
- The worship experiences I’ve had. I’ve been fortunate to get to experience so many styles of worship in my life - and some of the best have been with Orchard, whether it's been the many messages from Rev. Carol, an EPIC worship experience with the youth, or a memorable sermon from Rev. Vivian where she encouraged all of us to move from a life of success to a life of significance.

*You can find photos from the Roots Mission Experience on Orchard’s Facebook page.
Check it out!
TENDING THE ORCHARD

One of the things that I have always wanted to do at Orchard during Holy Week is to offer an opportunity for people to share in a Passover meal. On Maundy Thursday evening, Jesus and his disciples gathered in the Upper Room to celebrate Passover, the great Jewish feast of redemption and liberation, the memorial of the Israelites’ deliverance from their bondage in Egypt. The word “Passover” means deliverance since, in the story of the Exodus, Yahweh passed over the houses of the children of Israel in Egypt. Passover is a festival of great rejoicing which reveals how God led the Israelites from captivity to freedom, from sorrow to joy, from darkness to light. This sacred story is written on the hearts of our Jewish neighbors.

The faith experience we share as Christians is rooted in the Judeo-Christian tradition, but we are not Jews. Most of us will never have an opportunity to share in a Seder Passover meal with a Jewish family. All we know for sure is Jesus’ last meal was shared with his disciples at a Passover table. On Maundy Thursday night, you will have an opportunity to join Jesus there and honor his sacred tradition as we remember the Passover with a Seder meal.

I have been working with Susan Pfenning-Rice (one of our members), administrative assistant to the Cantor of Temple Beth El, and with Cindy Bolokofsky, a member of Temple Beth El, to prepare this worship experience. Randy Hall will prepare the meal (yes, there will be pot roast instead of lamb). And, yes, there will be a cost to cover expenses and the meal. You will need to purchase a ticket and prepare your heart for a unique experience.

Communion will be available in the sanctuary from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm for those who are unable to participate in the Passover Seder. Those sharing in the Seder meal will receive communion around the table as the disciples did.

Personally, I am always looking for opportunities to enrich my understanding of the roots of the Christian faith that we hold dear. I invite you to join me in this special Holy Week celebration.

Blessings,

P.S. I am preaching this year on Good Friday at Faith Covenant Church. Please keep me in your prayers.

EASTER GARDEN

Lilies, Mums, Tulips, Azaleas & Hydrangeas!

Our sanctuary on Easter Sunday is alive with the sounds of worship and alleluias and a beautiful “Easter Garden!” You can help decorate the sanctuary for Easter Sunday services by ordering from a variety of flowers, including lilies, mums, tulips, azaleas and hydrangeas. All flowers come wrapped in foil with a bow for gift giving or decorating your own home for the spring. Prices vary, depending on the flowers ordered. Make them extra special by including a dedication or memorial to be listed in the Easter bulletin. Order forms are available in Sunday bulletins or in the church office. All orders must be received in the church office by Sunday, April 6th!
Go & Tell is the newest unit in the Power Hour line-up, connecting children with Jesus’ instruction to share the good news with others. This new series of experiential classes provides a fun way for children to learn how to be Easter people as they learn through music, art, science, games, and drama. All children are invited to join us during Power Hour to experience God’s love!

**Children’s Service Project**

This Sunday, March 30th, as part of Power Hour, the children will be making blankets to deliver to seniors in a retirement home.

**VBS 2014**

July 14-18

You can feel the excitement building as the Children’s Ministry Team hammers out the plans for this year’s Vacation Bible School – Workshop of Wonders! This year will feature new characters, a new rotation schedule, and new opportunities for you to share your gifts and talents in ministry with our children. Here are some ways you can get involved right now!

- **Volunteer** to lead a rotation or to be a crew leader by contacting Julie Updyke. This year, we are making plans to finish our recruitment early so that we have time to adequately equip and prepare everyone for the ministry ahead.

- **Spread the News!** Start inviting friends and neighbors to participate! The more kids we have, the more fun kids will have!

- **Donate items needed.** This year we are working to create the decorations and atmosphere to turn Orchard into a workshop of wonders. We will leave a list of needed items at the Connection Point desk. But for now...

  - We need these items ASAP so that we can begin creating over Spring Break:

    Cardboard boxes of all sizes, wooden spring-closure clothes pins, duct tape of any color, yard signs/real estate signs, red, blue, silver, and orange solo cups, solid color paper plates, clean tin cans with safe edges, box cutters, cardboard, poster board, peg board, foam board, primary colors of paint, paint brushes, twine, empty water bottles, wreath forms, extension cords, aluminum foil, empty containers with lids, dryer hoses.

    Please leave donations in the stage room outside the MAC. (Please label anything you want returned.)

**Creative Arts Team**

New Ministry Opportunity!

Do you have artistic or crafty talents? The difference between a mundane experience and an outstanding experience is often found in the details and the atmosphere we set. As Orchard continues to develop new programs and fully live in this awesome facility, we are looking for people who would like to be part of our Creative Arts Team, dedicated to making, painting, and creating the most appropriate environments for worship and programs. If you would like to serve on this team, now is an excellent time to get involved! Please email Rev. Suzanne and see how you can use your God-given talents in ministry!

**Family Movie Night!**

We’re hosting a Family Movie Night! Come join your friends on Sunday, April 6th at 6:30 pm to watch the much talked about movie, “FROZEN.” We’ll be watching the movie in our wonderful Children's Ministry Center. Wear cozy clothes (PJs are good!) and enjoy some quality time with family and friends. Questions, please contact Alyson Gay at (248) 513-0057. For infants thru sixth graders, attending with a parent or grandparent.
NEW SOCIAL GROUP, LAF, BEGINS THIS SPRING

Single or part of a couple, retired or still working, in your fifties or older? You are invited to participate in activities now being planned by Orchard’s new social group, **LAF (Life After Fifty)**! Brunch at a local restaurant, a musical play, and a Tony Bennett performance are the first events you may want to attend to share the fun and fellowship with your Orchard family! Reservations/pre-payment are needed for most events with a limited amount of seats usually available.

**WHAT WE’VE PLANNED SO FAR...**

- **KICK-OFF AFTER-CHURCH BRUNCH** at C.A.Y.A. Smoke House Grill, 1403 S. Commerce Rd., Wolverine Lake on Sunday, April 27th at 12:30 pm. You can check out their website for menus, prices, and location. Contact Barbara DeGrazia at bdegrazia50@gmail.com or (248) 553-5783 by April 18th to make your reservation. We’ll try to plan restaurant gatherings every 4-6 weeks, so if you can’t make this one, look for another opportunity soon!

- **MUSICAL PLAY** The musical version of Shakespeare’s *Taming of the Shrew*, “Kiss Me Kate,” at the Birmingham Village Players on the evening of Saturday, May 17th. Tickets are $17 and must be paid for by April 27th. We’ve reserved 30 tickets for us - come and be one of them! Contact Sandy Catherman at sdscather@aol.com.

- **OUTDOOR CONCERT** Then there’s **Tony Bennett** at Freedom Hill in Sterling Heights on the evening of Friday, August 15th. Group ticket costs have not yet been established (ranging from $45 to $70), but if you’re interested in this wonderful opportunity to see one of America’s legendary vocalists, contact Cathy Albery at cathyalbery@gmail.com by April 1st so we can get an idea of how many tickets to reserve.

Come and LAF with us! And, look for some type of holiday/outdoor/sports event for July!

Questions? Contact LAF chairpersons Donna and John Young at (248) 489-0881.

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**FUNTASTIKS PLANNING EVENTS FOR APRIL & MAY**

**Sunday, April 27th (Matinee & Dinner) and Thursday, May 22nd (Church Tour)**

The Funtastiks, our Seniors’ social group, are planning more outings for April and May!

- **On Sunday, April 27th** at 2:00 pm, they’ll see "Rumors" at the Farmington Players Barn then have supper afterwards at Sweet Lorraine’s. Check with Jo Ann Cline for tickets to the play (limited number available).

- **On Thursday, May 22nd** the group will car pool from church at 10:00 am for a tour of Kirk-in-the-Hills Church in Bloomfield Hills, followed by lunch at the Village Place Restaurant in Orchard Lake.

Sign up sheets are in the office for both events. Call Jo Ann Cline for more information at (248) 553-3686.
Rebuilding Together - Two Opportunities to Help!

Rebuilding Together Oakland County is making plans for the 2014 work day and would like to include you! Teams of volunteers are needed for this year’s projects in Farmington Hills and Southfield. The Farmington Hills work day will be Saturday, April 26th. There will be a new Neighborhood Rebuild Day on Saturday, May 3rd for Southfield. The Neighborhood project will service homeowners in the John Grace Center area of Southfield. Sign up to volunteer online by going to the Rebuilding Together Oakland County website at www.rebuildingtogether-oaklandcounty.org and selecting the “Ready to volunteer?” link on the home page (also accessible with a smartphone). Volunteers are needed from the age of 12 to ?? You do not need to have any special skill, all you need is a willingness to help make a safe and comfortable home for someone who is not able to do it for themselves.

BLOOD DRIVE
April 4th from 1:30 pm - 7:00 pm

The American Red Cross is back to run Orchard’s annual spring blood drive on Friday, April 4th in the MAC. Sign up to donate online at: www.redcrossblood.org (pin code is: oumc), or come by the church office to sign up. For more information please call the church office at (248) 626-3620.

GLEANERS FOOD BANK
SERVICE OPPORTUNITY
Saturday, April 12th @ Noon

Join in a rewarding afternoon of hands-on service as we pack food boxes at Gleaners Food Bank in Detroit on Saturday, April 12th. This is a great opportunity for all—including families with children 12 and older—as well as youth needing service hours. Please sign up on the Opportunities Board as limited slots are available. We will meet and carpool from Orchard at noon and return by 5:00 p.m. Questions? Contact Cathy Albery by email at: cathyalbery@gmail.com

EASTER BASKETS
FOR KIDS!

Help local children, served by the Salvation Army, to wake up on Easter morning to a basket full of joy. The Wednesday Women’s Bible Study is filling 24 Easter baskets with edible and non-edible goodies. If you’d like to help fill these Easter baskets, please bring donations in groups of 12. Names A-L are asked to provide non-edibles (pencils, bubbles, crayons, etc.); names M-Z, edibles (candy, juice boxes, crackers, etc.). You can drop off your donated goodies anytime in the church office.

SAVE THE DATE—CROP HUNGER WALK
Sunday, May 4th at 1:30 pm

Orchard will once again participate in the CROP Hunger Walk on Sunday, May 4th. Participants obtain pledges for this walk and have the option of walking two miles or six. “We walk because they walk” is the rallying cry, representing our recognition that many girls in third world countries must walk miles just to get water for their families, preventing them from attending school. Look for more information soon and consider walking with us. We are blessed to be a blessing!

Thank you Orchard! Due to your amazing generosity, the following items were collected for the pantry at Neighborhood House: 12 rolls of paper towels; 158 rolls of toilet paper; 60 personal hygiene items, including soap and detergent; 21 boxes of cereal, and 35 grocery bags full of canned and dried food items. A big thank you goes to John and Sue Scott who helped me pack up everything and deliver it to the Jon Grant Center. Thank you, John, for also helping me get out the big box buried in back of the storage closet.

Ellen Cogsdill, Missions Committee
In the Life of Orchard
Connecting people to God... to each other... and to the best parts of themselves!

Lt. Col. Alexander Jefferson, a Tuskegee Airman, talks with Bob Mark
Flying Pancakes get a thumbs up!
Jessica Stone & Nick Bonsky
God loves you Snow Much!
Medalists in the our first Soup & Salad Biathlon!

In the life of Orchard, we believe in the power of prayer. Join us in intercession, thanksgiving, celebration and remembrance. Let us pray...

Judy Bayer
Nick Bonsky’s nephew, Zachary
Anna Mae Burke
Dave Catherman’s mother, Eleanor Bulloch
Diana and Jerry Chilson’s friend, Andy Roe, and the family of Mary Wallace
Jean Crawford
Isabelle Davis’ sister, Grace
Charlie and Brent Dexter’s grandfather, Tom Byers
Josh Fincannon
Rosemarie Fincannon’s brother, Dan Jones
Barbara Hayter’s friend, Michael Chiaverini
Marti Kirby’s niece, Hayley
Gregory Kosiba
Elaine Lafer
Theresa Mack’s grandmother, Rita Mack

Christine Majcher’s friend, Crystal Lettie
Mary Oliphint’s sister, Margaret Rosenbalm
Barbara Orchard’s nephew, Bruce
Jim Ragland’s friend, Collin
Marianne Rinker’s mother, Ann Graham
Jenn Roode and family
Brad Snider and family
Frank Stevens
Heather Stewart
Susan and Charley Stone’s friend, Sharon Nemeth
Former Orchard member, Betsy Watson
Mari Anne Wilks’ grandfather, Herb Judd, Sue and Bill Young

We Celebrate...
Thank you so very much for all of your prayers, notes, cards, and phone calls during my recent knee surgery. I so appreciate all of your many kindnesses and please know what a blessing you all are to me.
- Diane Runyan

We Welcome...
Peggy and Norm Schmidt welcome their new grandchild, Gavin Geoffrey Schmidt, born February 25, 2014. Congratulations to their son, Geoffrey, and his wife, Hayley.
Ann and Jim Schuur also welcome their new grandchild. Luke Adam Schuur arrived on March 14, 2014. Congratulations to their son, Adam, and his wife, Katie.

We Remember...
Mike Hecker’s sister, Hilary Hagerman (February 13, 2014)
Mary Dible (March 18, 2014)
The Orchard Harvester is the newsletter of Orchard United Methodist Church. The May 2014 Harvester deadline is April 15, 2014. E-mail articles may be directed to Susan Stone at: susanstone@orchardumc.org

Pastors: Rev. Carol J. Johns and Rev. Suzanne K. Goodwin

Worship Services at 9:00 & 11:00 a.m. Christian Education at 10:00 a.m.

Phone 248 626-3620     Fax 248 626-6836     Web Site: www.orchardumc.org

Orchard United Methodist Church
30450 Farmington Road
Farmington Hills MI 48334-1939

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Mark Your Calendars!

Sat., April 26th  Rebuilding Together (FH)
Sat., May 3rd   Rebuilding Together (Southfield)
Sun., May 4th   CROP Walk
Sun., May 4th   Graduation Sunday
Sat., May 10th  Baldwin Flower Pick-Up
               Trustee Clean-Up Day
May 16-18      Annual Conference
Sun., May 25th  Summer Worship Hours Begin
               (9:00 & 10:30)
Mon., May 26th  Memorial Day - office closed
Sun., June 1st  Confirmation Sunday
June 14th-22nd  Youth Mission Trip
July 14th-18th  Vacation Bible School

Holy Week

Palm Sunday
4/13 @ both services
Children’s Parade of Palms

Holy Thursday
Passover Seder Meal
4/17 @ 6:30 pm in the MAC
Not attending the Seder?
Communion will be available in sanctuary 5-8 pm

Good Friday
4/18 @ 12:15 pm
Faith Covenant Church

Easter Sunday
9:00 & 11:00 - worship
10:00 - Children’s Celebration in the Fellowship Hall