



The Exponent

May 13-19, 2022

WORSHIP



Sunday, May 15, 10:00 AM "Loose Ends"

Rev. Jake, leading worship service

Part of saying good-bye is to acknowledge "loose ends": unfinished business, regrets, disappointments, or things left undone. On this Sunday, as Jake and Tandy continue their series of dialogues in this "Good Goodbye," they'll reflect on the "loose ends" they each see, as they leave.

In-Service and Zoom. ZOOM door opens at 9:45 am. See link below.

Order of Service [here](#) Go to [ORUUC](#) for zoom information.

Send Prayer Requests: prayers@oruuc.org or Text 865-224-6388

UP FRONT



Rainbow Camp Registration is now open!

Rainbow Camp is back this summer! ORUUC will host "Making the Rainbow Connection," in partnership with the Blossom Center for Childhood Excellence, Tuesday, June 28 through Friday, July 1, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. daily. Rising kindergartners through high schoolers can participate—as Campers, Counselors in Training, and Camp Counselors. The cost is \$75 per camper; the registration fee will be collected on the first day of camp. Rising 7th and 8th graders, or high schoolers who have not served as a Counselor in Training (CIT) during a past Rainbow Camp, are invited to be CITs; the camp fee for CITs is \$50. Camp Counselors are high school age youth who will receive payment for working that week. Camp Counselors and CITs will be expected to attend camp setup and training on Monday, June 27 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. All camp participants will need to bring a sack lunch daily. For more information and to register your youth, follow this link: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1-X4vyUz7tPAd2LDUJXzQAw9jjECwY-7IPkE9kLT6ISU/edit> We hope to see you this summer!

Congregation Photo

There will be **Congregation Photo taken THIS Sunday, May 15th, immediately following the worship service.** Please show up to be part of this whole-group congregational photo shoot! We have a top-secret plan for this picture... ~ The Good Goodbye Event
Planners: Christy White, Charlene Luther, Liz McGeachy, Maureen Hoyt, Beth Meyer, and Gina Grubb





Youth Faith Formation Update!

This Sunday, May 15, is the last regular Youth Faith Formation hour. Next Sunday, May 22 during morning worship, we will hold our Bridging ceremony and honor our volunteers during Faith Formation Leader Appreciation. Also, on May 22, the May Day Picnic will take place after worship, and the final OWL classes will close out the afternoon. Starting Memorial Day Weekend, there will be no Youth Faith Formation hour after worship. Nursery will still be offered during worship this summer, and we will take the children out of service for Children's Time (with popsicles!) Youth Faith Formation will resume Sunday, July 31.

The May Day Picnic is on!



When: Sunday, May 22, 2022, 11 AM (yes, we know this isn't actually May Day, however, we're trying to work it in the VERY busy month of May.)

Where: ORUUC, in the Social Hall and the Pavilion

What to bring: Your favorite side dish/dessert that feeds 6 - 8 people to accompany hotdogs. Also, if the weather is decent, bring chairs and/or blankets so that you may dine comfortably outside if you are so moved.

What you can do: VOLUNTEER. Help is needed in all areas, particularly setup and cleanup. This particular Sunday is filled with special events including Bridging and the annual picnic is usually a highlight of the church year (made even more poignant with the departure of Tandy and Jake) so we need you! To officially volunteer, email Val Herd at vhherd@gmail.com

Note: of course, there's always the possibility that a rise in local Covid infection rates could put the kibosh on these plans but, for the time being, we're going to believe in unicorns and plow ahead!

So, again, please volunteer if you can. I look forward to seeing you all!

(Rumor has it that the May Pole will be making an appearance. 😊)

-Val Herd



J U N E 1 8 , 2 0 2 2

Date & Time

Saturday, June 18, 2022

6:30 p.m. Program in the sanctuary honoring Jake and Tandy

7:30-10:30(ish) - The Good Goodbye Party in the Social Hall & Outdoors

Interested in joining the Good Goodbye Event Planning Team? Or do you have questions, concerns, or suggestions? Please reach out to us directly at goodbye.oruuc@gmail.com. Thank you! *Good Goodbye Event Planners: Christy White, Charlene Luther, Liz McGeachy, Maureen Hoyt, Beth Meyer, and Gina Grubb*

Ministerial Boundaries After Departure

Dear Friends,

This is a joint letter from your two Ministers, Jake and Tandy. As you know, on June 30, in less than two months, we will step down from our long-time ministries with ORUUC--Tandy, to retire, and Jake, to pursue other kinds of work.

The letter is about the nature of our relationships with you, the people of ORUUC, after we depart, and the boundaries we'll be upholding. Understandably, we've gotten some questions, so we wanted to take the chance to say it plainly, while there's still time for anyone to respond and discuss it with us, if they'd like.

Departing from Ministry Means Ending Ministry

When a Unitarian Universalist minister ends ministry with a congregation, the professional expectation is for that minister to end ministry in all its forms with the congregation and its members. That means not preaching, not conducting memorial services or weddings, not providing pastoral care, not weighing in on institutional questions. That much may seem pretty clear-cut.

Ending Ministry Means Ending the Deep Connections We've Had

Where it gets murkier is ending other forms of relationship. So, to be clear, we won't initiate or accept invitations to coffee or lunch--any one-on-one meet-ups or group gatherings. We won't exchange emails, phone calls, or online messages. After June 30, Tandy will leave Facebook; Jake will put ORUUC members who are Facebook friends in a special group so that they don't see his posts.

This may seem cold and cruel, after years of meaningful relationship. We don't make these decisions lightly, or easily. But we make them wholeheartedly, supporting the reason why it's important.

Why These Boundaries Matter

The reason it's important for a departing minister to end direct relationship with church-members is to support the congregation's ability to establish connection and trust with a new minister. If a departing minister stays on the scene, or stays connected with

congregants, it's harder for the new minister to build that trust and rapport. So, when we withdraw from regular exchanges with congregants--when we don't return an email or accept an invitation to coffee--it's not out of a lack of care. It's from a sense of care for the congregation's ongoing flourishing, in a new relationship, with a new minister.

Usually, a departing minister also leaves town, which makes ending the ministerial relationship simpler and cleaner. However, both of us will continue to live in Oak Ridge for the foreseeable future. And, as you know, Oak Ridge is a very small town. We will run into you; you will run into us. What to do then?

We Will Probably See You Around Town

Well, we're not going to hide or to pretend we don't know you. We will be glad to see you! (Because, honestly, we are already grieving the loss of this important relationship in our lives, and the loss of connection with such wonderful people.) We will be open for chatting in a light-hearted way. But we'll be keeping boundaries on those exchanges.

We Won't Talk About Church

Specifically, we won't talk about church with you; we don't want to be on the receiving end of news or opinions about church, and we won't offer thoughts about it ourselves. A new minister will likely be very different than either of us. You may have opinions about that. Things may be shaky, as you experience a different kind of ministry and leadership. We hope you will bring ideas, encouragement, and concern directly to that new minister. We will steadfastly support that new minister, and their relationship with you.

We Won't Talk at Great Depth

Also, we won't talk about areas of depth or struggle in your lives, or ours. Again, this is not out of lack of care. In fact, we may be very curious and we do care! But if we run into you out about town, and begin to engage each other about heavy stuff in a way that becomes pastoral care, that would detract from your opportunity to bring it to the new minister, and have a conversation with them. So, if we run into each other, we'll talk about light stuff.

Our Covenant with the New Minister

When the new interim arrives, and the settled minister afterward at some point, we will each initiate relationship with that colleague, and establish a covenant with them, so that we are all clear, as colleagues, about what mutual support looks like and how to uphold it in these unusual circumstances of all living together in a small city. Part of that covenant will include our shared intent to defer to the interim (or settled) minister for all matters related to ORUUC. We want their leadership to take root and thrive!

Our Family Members

We each have family members involved at ORUUC. People have asked about their continued involvement. As we both see it, the decision about the relationship between our family members and the congregation is between our family members and the congregation, and is not for us to decide. Each person involved can think and decide for themselves, in conversation with the congregation.

That said, if family members decide to stay involved, we ask that you are mindful not to use them as conduits to us--asking about us, or trying to pass messages to us through them. For most people, this would seem obvious, but it helps to say it directly.

Exceptions

There will be exceptions for each of us to what we've described.

Tandy's friendship with Nancy Starr and Susan Rosenbaum pre-dates her role as a minister at ORUUC, when she was on staff with them at the church. Nancy and Tandy co-own their dog, Willow. So, Tandy will continue to be in relationship as friends with Nancy and Susan.

As the father to two teenagers, Jake expects to have contact with other parents of teenagers in that parenting role. It's hard to say, exactly, how this will look, except that it will be different than the usual "no-contact-except-running-into-each-other" guideline.

And, really, who knows where any of us will cross paths! The idea is not to disappear, but to dramatically dial down our connection with the congregation, so as to give the new minister a fighting chance to establish a new relationship with you.

Down the Road

Some have wondered when or if we might return, in a different role. ORUUC is familiar with the role that Howard Box played, as Minister Emeritus. In the coming years, down the road, with a new settled minister, ORUUC may want to take up the question of whether or not to elect us to such roles. That would be for you to discuss in a few years with the new settled minister. The answer is not a foregone conclusion; for various reasons, you may decide not to or to delay, in a way that supports your shared ministry at that moment. Or you may decide you want that relationship, at that time, and either or both of us may decide it's not what we want, for some reason. So, let's be careful of being too certain what the future may hold as we depart, and instead trust that love will guide us.

Love Will Guide Us

We can be sure that love will guide us into the future, because it has guided us this far. Our ministries and our relationships together with you haven't thrived through rules and recipes, but through covenant and commitment. So, that's what we're counting on, as we leave: that we'll figure it out, in love, as we go, in ways that support your new relationship with the ministers who come after.

Want to Talk?

If reading this spurs you to want to talk with either of us, or if you've been meaning to make time to talk with us, please do reach out to make time. You can reach Tandy at tandyscheffler@gmail.com and Jake at revjakebmorrill@gmail.com.

Thank You

Thank you for the part you are playing, and will play, in ORUUC's continued health and flourishing. It's not always easy, but it's important. And your willingness to hang in there and do the right thing and the generous thing for your community means a lot to us.

Peace and Grace,
Jake and Tandy

ORUUC Softball Schedule



Photo courtesy of Sarah Gunter

Come out to cheer on the ORUUC Softball Team playing on Tuesdays this Spring at Carl Yearwood Park on Bus Terminal Road! The team plays as part of the City of Oak Ridge's Recreation and Parks Department Spring Co-Ed Softball League.

Tuesday, May 17, 8:00 PM

ORUUC - vs - Ex-Prospects

Tuesday, May 24, 9:00 PM

Hamby's Hitters - vs – ORUUC

Tuesday, May 31, 6:00 PM

ORUUC - vs - Master Batters

Tuesday, June 7, 7:00 PM

Hamby's Hitters - vs – ORUUC

Mother Goose



of Oak Ridge

Join us with your baby, toddler and/or preschooler for bouncing, tickling, touching, clapping and action rhymes, musical circle games, simple songs, and play.

**FIRST and THIRD Thursdays each month
at 10:30 AM
with "Father Goose" Michael Raymond**

We promote positive parent/child interaction as well as language and early brain development through traditional rhymes, circle games, musical activities, and simple play. We provide a meeting place and fellowship for caregivers of young children, especially those new to the community and far from home. Nothing is charged for Mother Goose; it is freely and lovingly offered to all.

Mother Goose of Oak Ridge meets in the Oak Ridge Public Library Auditorium.

Mother Goose of Oak Ridge meets in Oak Ridge Library Auditorium



Line Dancing

Sunday, 3:00 pm

We teach line dancing. Through our dancing, we bring together total strangers through-out the Oak Ridge community. We learn a variety of dances, country, jazz, waltz and cha-chas. Close friendships are developed with the willingness to share individual talents with others. A donation of \$3.00 per session is suggested. For more information, contact Jo Curran or Steven Albright.



Tai Chi

M-W-F, 11-12 am

We minister to health & stability through learning & practicing tai chi. Tai chi has helped individuals maintain & improve their balance, strength, & blood pressure, & reduce knee, arm, shoulder & back pain. It has helped with MS, Alzheimer's, dropped cervix, bunions, & more. For more information, call Janet Hoegler at 865-963-5115.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Introducing a New Pro-Democracy Shared Ministry at ORUUC

"ORUUs Improving Democracy" is a newly-formed Shared Ministry seeking ORUUC authority to request all UUA congregations to petition their state legislatures to pass the National Popular Vote bill.

The National Popular Vote bill (Intrastate Compact) would:

1. Apply the one-person-one vote principle to Presidential elections.
2. Guarantee the Presidency to the candidate who gets the most votes nationwide.
3. Result in campaigns across the nation, instead of seeking wins in a few flip-able states.
4. Ensure that every voter in every state will be politically relevant.

ORUUC's authority would come through a congregational vote. A congregational vote happens when a group follows the process laid out by the Board of Trustees to engage the congregation in discussions leading up to a congregational meeting on a proposed resolution.

In 2020, there were 1027 UU Congregations in the USA and 187,689 UUA congregation members; there were also about 500000 UUs who were not members of a congregation. If the ORUUC congregation approves our efforts, we plan to communicate requests for state petitions to USA congregations in the least expensive manner, email, telephone, and inexpensive website and raise funds necessary for doing so. We, the initiating Shared Ministry currently have 12 members. More members are needed and welcome.

If you want more information on the National Popular Vote— www.nationalpopularvote.com

If you want more information on the UUA congregations –
- www.uua.org/congregations

If you would like to join ORUUs Improving Democracy contact Tim Holt phone 865 482 1821 or Francis Tobin 910 538 5754.

COVID-19 Update

Our Pandemic Action Levels (PALs) risk is now MODERATE: Masks are no longer required in the building; those who are more comfortable wearing one are welcome to

do so. Coffee Hour will be held in the Social Hall. We respectfully ask that if you have symptoms, a positive test, or exposure to someone with COVID-19, please stay home and join us on Zoom.

For the weekly Covid-19 data for Anderson County, click here: [Tennessee Department of Health Covid-19 Data](#). See this [link](#) for ORUUC's PALs reports and resources.

Know Your COVID-19 Community Level

Covid-19 Community Levels are a new tool from the CDC to help communities decide what prevention steps to take based on the latest data. Levels can be low, medium, or high, and are determined by looking at hospital beds being used, hospital admissions, and the total number of new COVID-19 cases in an area. Take precautions to protect yourself and others from COVID-19 based on the COVID-19 Community Level in your area. [COVID-19 by County | CDC](#)

What Prevention Steps Should You Take Based on Your COVID-19 Community Level?

Low	Medium	High
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccinesGet tested if you have symptoms	<ul style="list-style-type: none">If you are at high risk for severe illness, talk to your healthcare provider about whether you need to wear a mask and take other precautionsStay up to date with COVID-19 vaccinesGet tested if you have symptoms	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Wear a mask indoors in publicStay up to date with COVID-19 vaccinesGet tested if you have symptomsAdditional precautions may be needed for people at high risk for severe illness

People may choose to mask at any time. People with symptoms, a positive test, or exposure to someone with COVID-19 should wear a mask.



Get Free At-Home COVID-19 Tests

Every home in the U.S. is eligible to receive **four free at-home COVID-19 tests**. Orders usually ship in 7-12 days. Order tests now so you have them when you need them:

<https://www.covidtests.gov/>

Note: At-home COVID-19 rapid test kits contain a small amount of sodium azide. To prevent accidental poisonings, poison control centers recommend the following tips:

- Store the kit “up and away,” out of the sight and reach of children and pets.
- Leave the kit sealed until needed and throw it away immediately after use.
- Make sure to read and follow the instructions on the package before using.

<https://blog.cincinnatichildrens.org/84/covid-19-home-test-kit-dangers-what-parents-need-to-know>



Habitat for Humanity is an ecumenical nonprofit that builds, rehabs, and repairs homes for income eligible families. They do business in accordance with the Federal Fair Housing Law. We encourage and support an affirmative advertising and marketing program in which there are no barriers to obtaining housing because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin.

Helping homeless families find decent, safe and affordable housing has been a focus of concern for ORUUC for many years. Habitat has shown to be making a difference with the celebration of their 100th build. Let's continue to support the good works of this viable social service group!

Give [HERE](#)

OUR ORUUC FAMILY

Caring for Each Other

Are you going through a difficult time? Are you in a situation where support and caring are needed--someone to do grocery shopping, take you to a doctor's appointment, or provide a meal following an upcoming surgery?

Contact Rev. Tandy Scheffler, Minister of Care & Connection, or the church office: (865) 483-6761 or office@oruuc.org or a Caring Coordinator!

Caring Coordinators for May

Rachel Smith-Jones smithnjones3@comcast.net

603-252-2295

Irene Robbins Robbinsif1@comcast.net 865-207-0743



If you are going through difficult times and would like emotional support, or are in any situation where support and caring are needed, contact

Rev. Tandy Scheffler, Minister of Care and Connection

Jeannie Cuevas, Office Administrator

(865) 483-6761 Office Hours M-F 10 AM to 4 PM office@oruuc.org

Please call at least two days in advance to allow time for Caring Coordinators to find a volunteer to provide the care that you need. Our ability to provide transportation is limited. If your appointment is routine and/or can wait, please reschedule it rather than call a Caring Coordinator. Thank you for reserving our Caring Volunteers for those situations that address serious needs that cannot wait.



Elizabeth Brown Peelle, age 89, died peacefully in her home on April 6, 2022, due to complications of dementia.

MEMORIAL SERVICE

May 28, 2022 at 10:30 AM

**Oak Ridge Unitarian Universalist Church,
809 Oak Ridge Turnpike Oak Ridge, TN 37830.**

The family invites attendees to wear purple, her favorite color. A reception will follow.

Online condolences may be left at weatherfordmortuary.com.

ORUUC LEADERSHIP

The ORUUC Board of Officers

President: Jim Nutaro
Past President: Val Herd
President-Elect: Michele Thornton
Secretary: Jason Fishel
Treasurer: Brandon White
Members-at-Large:
Shelaine Curd
Regina Guy
Nathaniel Bass
Ethan Coon

The ORUUC Executive Team

Rev. Jake Morrill
Christine Rehder
Christina Elliott
Debra Oscarson

Community/UU

Art Workshops

You are invited to join me and a few friends for an Art Class that Manderley Swain and Zen Lane are teaching at my house.. All are encouraged to learn in a warm ad supportive environment. Zen and Manderley teach a variety of techniques and skills. \$25/session \$150 for six. Contact Manderley, Zen or me for details.

Starting Thursday, May 19, 6-8pm
Pre-registration encouraged

For more information, contact Abbie Moore, Manderley Swain, or Zen Lane.



Come visit the Starr garden this month! 117 Cascade Lane, Oak Ridge

Bans Off Our Bodies

Saturday, May 14, 11 AM – 1 PM

Krutch Park, Knoxville

Event by Women's March Coalition



When the U.S. Supreme Court decides *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* this summer, the court could dismantle or completely end our constitutional protection for abortion.

That would throw out nearly 50 years of

Precedent set by *Roe v. Wade* — the decision that established our constitutional right to abortion in 1973.

Even with *Roe* in place, systemic racism and discrimination have left abortion largely out of reach for many, particularly Black, Latinx, Indigenous, AAPI, and other

people of color, as well as people with low incomes. If the court ends federal constitutional protection for abortion, as many as 26 states may move to ban abortion entirely.

Women's March Coalition of East Tennessee is working with local abortion providers and advocacy groups along with allies across the progressive movement to ensure that millions of people turn out for mobilizations across the country to demonstrate that support for abortion is widely and deeply felt. Together we will send a strong message that abortion access must be protected and supported.

We invite you to join these efforts during this moment of crisis. It is necessary that we act now, all across the country, not only to demonstrate that people support abortion access, but to show that we won't back down. We will continue to help people access abortion when they need it in the aftermath of the Supreme Court decision. For more information, go to

<https://www.facebook.com/events/377027824195162?ref=newsfeed>

Oak Ridge Citywide Brush Pickup to Begin May 9:

[CLICK HERE TO VIEW THE 2022 BRUSH PICKUP SCHEDULE](#)

- All tree limbs should be placed near, but not beyond the curb, with the butt end near the street. Keep all materials off sidewalks, parking areas and out of gutters. Residents are asked to not place any brush at the curb more than one (1) week prior to the scheduled pick-up day in order to maintain the cleanliness of our city.
- Limb diameter should be no larger than three (3) inches at any point.
- Yard clippings and leaves must be in plastic bags. It should be noted that yard waste will be collected with the regularly scheduled refuse collection throughout the year.
- There is a limit of one (1) truckload of material per residence. A truckload is defined as one (1) pickup truck or approximately 3' high x 4' wide x 8' long, approximately 100 cubic feet maximum.
- Crews will not pick-up piles that have brush or limbs mixed with rubbish or trash.

- All materials must be in place no later than 7:30 a.m. on the scheduled pick-up day to ensure pick-up. Any materials put out after 7:30 a.m. on the scheduled pick-up day may not be picked up.

The proposed schedule is a general guide and can vary considerably from the actual schedule due to weather conditions and/or the amount of participation by residents. For more information, contact Waste Connections of Tennessee at (865) 482-3656.

Reminder: The deadline to submit news for the weekly Exponent is WEDNESDAY at NOON. Please send news to Rachel at communications@oruuc.org **AND** Debby Crider at newsletters@launchpad.faith

Our mailing address is:
809 Oak Ridge Turnpike
Oak Ridge, TN 37830

oruuc.org | 865-483-6761 | office@oruuc.org

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ON THE CALENDAR THIS WEEK

Friday, May 13

11:00am Tai Chi Practice

Saturday, May 14

2:00pm Tabletop Adventures Group

3:00pm Hoe Down Set-up

Sunday, May 15

10:00am Worship Service

11:00am High School

11:00am Reflections

11:00am Together in Spirit

11:15am Circle IX

11:15am Circle of Trust I

11:15am Newcomers

11:15am **CONGREGATION PHOTO**

12:30pm OWL Grades 7-9

12:30 OWL High School

12:30pm Buddhism Study Group

1:00pm High School OWL

2:00pm Line Dancing Hoe Down

2:30pm OWL High School

4:00pm Circle of Trust XI

5:30pm Circle of Trust X

6:00pm Heritage Trip Youth Meeting

6:30pm Heritage Trip Parent Meeting

Monday, May 16

11:00am Tai Chi Practice

6:50pm Meditation Learning and Practice Group

Tuesday, May 17

2:00pm (Rental) Friends of Literacy

6:00pm Board Meeting

6:00pm Depression & Anxiety Support Group

Wednesday, May 18

6:30am Breakfast Rotary

11:00am Tai Chi

11:00am Circle of Trust VIII

6:45pm Choir Practice

7:45pm Band Rehearsal

Thursday, May 19

3:00pm Executive Team Meeting

5:00pm Potluck

6:50pm Meditation Learning and Practice Group