



# Connecting In Spirit

## Youth Faith Formation

### Monthly News

August 2023

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**Youth Faith Formation 2023-24 Information:**

**[Link to Registration Form and Schedule](#)**

Rainbow Camp Recap in Photos

PFLAG Visioning and Planning Day August 5

Fall Rummage Sale Info: Youth Volunteers Needed!

And More!



### **Faith Formation: Living Lives Centered in Love**

Welcome to a new year in Youth Faith Formation, the time when we are planning, hoping, and visioning. Now is the time when we roll out new Worship themes and curriculums, put event dates on the calendar, and start planning our yearly rituals and programs.

All of these things are necessary and important, that's what we do here. Our Worship theme of Discernment in August invites us not only to consider how we do Youth Faith

Formation, but also to remind ourselves why we do it.

Our UU Faith is the underlying beliefs, values, and traditions that sustain and ground us. It's the moral compass that guides our decision-making. Our faith calls us into deeper connection with the sacred and each other. It holds us through life's inevitable suffering and uncertainty.

Faith formation is the process of awakening, developing, understanding and ultimately living these ideals. It's how we decide what it means to live with integrity, to advocate for justice, to show our authentic selves. It's how we show up for our beliefs, pursue right relationships, especially our intimate ones. It's how we make meaning in our lives and connect with something greater than ourselves.

That's a tall order. How do we do that? We practice. We do it over and over with intention, patience and dedication. As individuals we do it through ritual and reflection. And as a community we do it by sharing our joys and sorrows, laughter and tears, and many milestones in between. Here at ORUUC, we practice living lives based on the values, traditions, and aspirations that our faith tells us are worthy of being fully alive.

It's not a group, a curriculum, a leader or even a minister that forms a faith. It's the process of seeking meaning, forming relationships, learning, forgetting, relearning, changing and growing in our understanding of how to live an authentic life with integrity. Faith is the commitment we make within ourselves and with each other to practice living lives centered in love.

Faith Formation is the process of getting us there. It's every interaction in our congregation. It's rolling tamales and washing cars. It's checking in with small groups. It's making over 1,500 (and counting) origami cranes. It's forming a covenant. It's facing conflict with compassion. It's stepping away when needing some rest and reflection. It's serving on the Board or the Memorial Team. It's sorting baby clothes at the Rummage Sale. It's finding a new minister.

I think you get the picture. It's you. It's me. It's we. It's all the big and small ways we practice living into flourishing lives. Throughout this year, there are many opportunities to practice. I encourage you to participate in the community in many ways, because forming a faith centered in love requires each of us.

In Care and Faith,

**Christine**

Christine Rehder (she/her/hers)

Director of Faith Formation



**Parents: This Sunday, July 30 at 11:15 a.m., join us for the 2023/24 Youth Faith Formation Parent Information Meeting in the Sanctuary.**

Find out what's in store for YFF in 23/24. Join the YFF Staff for program information, dates for the calendar, and fellowship with other families.

***Childcare for ages 0-10 is provided.***

**Next Sunday, August 6 at 11:15 a.m.: A new year of Youth Faith Formation begins! Check out our**

## Youth Faith Formation 2023-2024 Dates

August 6 - First Day of Youth Faith Formation

September 15-16 - Rummage Sale

September 29 - October 16th OR Schools Fall Break

October 1 - Community Potluck

October 13-15 - All Church Retreat (Harrison Bay State Park)

October 29 - Trunk or Treat

November 3rd-5th - Elementary Fall Mountain CON

November 17-19 - Intermediate Fall CON

November/December - Tamaladas (A tamale making party!) TBD

December 3 - Cocoa and Caroling

December 10 - 5th/6th OWL Parent Orientation

January 7 - 5th/6th OWL Begins

February 11 - Hugs and Quiches

February 23-25 - Spring Elementary CON

March 1-3 - Spring Intermediate CON, Rummage Sale

March 9-25 - OR Spring Break (Special Programming)

March 15-17 - Senior High Mountain CON

March 31 - Easter Egg Hunt

April TBD - Ministerial Visits

April TCAP Test Break TBD

May 12 - Last Day of Youth Faith Formation

May 19 - Bridging/Reception

June 24-28 - Rainbow Camp

Get ahead of the game--print and fill out this year's registration forms at home and bring them with you Sunday, July 30. Paper copies will also be available Sunday. Thank you! **Youth Faith Formation 2023-24 Registration Form**

## Rainbow Camp 2023









***Thanks to Christine Rehder and Whitney Cole for sharing their photos, and to the many volunteers and staff who made this amazing camp possible! Mark your calendars for Rainbow Camp 2024: June 24-28!***



# Rainbow Camp

June 24-28, 2024



**PFLAG**  
OAK RIDGE

**Please join PFLAG Oak Ridge for a day of visioning and planning on August 5.**

Board members will be at the Oak Ridge Library between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. in the Conference room. Please drop in to see us. We will have opportunities for visioning where you would like our chapter to go. In addition, we will have opportunities to sign up to attend Library board and county commission meeting. Hopefully this will help us support our libraries in a more sustainable manner. We will have our official board meeting at 3 p.m. to determine our programming for the year. Based on the way things are moving in Anderson County, there may be even more ways to take action!

Hope to see many of you there!

Anne Backus

[backusanne@comcast.net](mailto:backusanne@comcast.net)



**Thanks to everyone who organized, chaperoned, donated snacks (special shout out to Aubrey Wick-Sebastian) and helped our high school youth have a fantastic time at the June 24 lock-in!**

"The kids were amazing as usual," Robyn Naughton wrote. "(There were) lots of games, laughter, and bonding." Thank you all!



## Get ready to Rummage! Rummage Week is September 9-16

The Church Office has already been getting calls: “When’s your next Rummage Sale?” “When can we start dropping off donations?” **This year's Fall Sale is Friday, Sept. 15 and Saturday, Sept. 16. There are plenty of ways YOU can help the week leading up to, during, and after the sale! Teens can even earn Youth Trip funds for hours spent volunteering.** Start cleaning out those closets, and keep an eye out in the ORUUC Facebook Group and in weekly church communications to sign up to lend a hand!

## Need Childcare for a Church Meeting or Event?

If you or your group need childcare for a church meeting or event, please complete this form **TWO WEEKS** in advance: [ORUUC Childcare Request Form \(jotform.com\)](https://jotform.com) Childcare is provided for children ages 10 and under only. Once you click "Submit," the form will go directly to ORUUC's Multigenerational Coordinator Whitney Cole, who will work with Childcare Coordinator Laura Scott to arrange childcare for your church function. Thank you!





ORUUC Pantry  
Needs

## This Month

Fruit (small cans or cups)  
Tuna  
Peanut Butter  
Soups  
Vegetables (corn, green beans)  
Kidney beans  
Mac & Cheese  
Hamburger Helper  
Ravioli/SpaghettiOs



**Can your family help restock the church pantry?** These items are greatly needed! Donations may be dropped off any weekday between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m., or on Sunday mornings. Individuals and families in need are always grateful for the food ORUUC provides!

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

**Mother Goose meets on August 3 and 17 --the First and Third Thursdays of the month-- at 10:30 a.m. in the Oak Ridge Public Library Auditorium.** ORUUC's own "Father Goose" Michael Raymond leads this FREE program. All are welcome!

**View and sign up for the Oak Ridge Public Library's newsletter here:**  
<https://mailchi.mp/oakridgetn/orpljul23>.

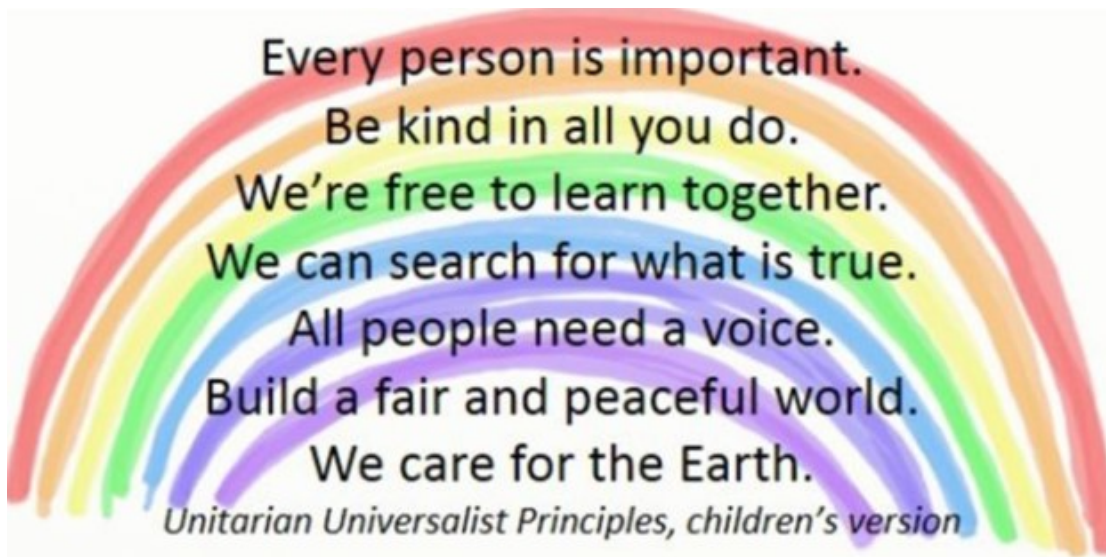
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**Rev. Lisa Romantum Schwartz,  
Interim Minister**

Rev. Lisa can be reached by email at



Rev.Lisa@oruuc.org or by phone at 865-483-6761  
ext. 102.



*Connecting in Spirit: Youth Faith Formation Monthly News is a digital publication designed to serve ORUUC families with children from birth through high school. **If you have ideas or suggestions for content, or would like to add someone to the mailing list, please email Rachel at [communications@oruuc.org](mailto:communications@oruuc.org) or Christine at [crehder@oruuc.org](mailto:crehder@oruuc.org).** To take a look at past issues of Connecting in Spirit, visit <http://www.oruuc.org/connectinginspirit>.*

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