



# Connecting In Spirit

## Youth Faith Formation

### Monthly News

October 2022



## Sustaining Wells We Did Not Dig

This month in Youth Faith Formation begins in serenity with a Fall Retreat and ends with festive and often zany Trunk or Treat. Our Worship theme is “Sustaining Wells We Did Not Dig,” an examination of UU History, and includes a week dedicated to money education. Also, this month Whitney Cole and I will introduce you to a family holiday tradition exclusively for UU’s, Chalica, in preparation for the holiday season.

As a storyteller, I pride myself on weaving a common theme to create cohesive, easy to follow narrative. Maybe I’m more in need of Retreat than I thought, but I’m struggling to

connect all the offerings in this spiritual smorgasbord this month. So in the spirit of Trick of Treat, I’ll invite you to use my trick of “when in doubt, turn to questions.”

Here are some questions I’m thinking about in Youth Faith Formation this month. How

can I reconnect with our interconnected web during this most precious of seasons? What waters have I taken from my UU forbearers? What can I leave behind to nourish the faith of the next generation? How does the way I spend, save and invest money align with my UU values? How can our family share and sustain our UU Principles in our home? What's my trunk theme for Trunk or Treat?

If you are like me, you welcome the crisp air that moves in throughout October and savor the changing colors that accompany it. Fall invites us to slow down and take notice. Faith is formed through retreat, reflection, celebration and hopefully, delight. As you move through October, take time to question, wonder and treasure all the season, and life in a UU community, have to offer.

In Care and Faith,  
**Christine**

Christine Rehder (she/her/hers)  
Director of Faith Formation

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## Children's Time

One of the best parts of my job are impromptu sessions with young artists. Earlier this month, I was lucky enough to have my portrait made during Children's Time by Terra Trostad (Joanie Dicken took our photo). It's an honor to be an inspiration to their creativity, and hearing, "make sure you get a white crayon for the hair" made me laugh all day. Being outside on the playground during Children's Time gives children and leaders many opportunities for informal learning, connecting with each other and nature. It's also valuable for releasing energy and opening the mind and heart in preparation for more structured learning during the Faith Formation hour. Our playground time is a valuable ministry. It's also fun! ~Christine





Get your costumes ready, and grab some decorations for your car or truck! Trunk or Treat will be Sunday, Oct. 30 from 1 to 2 p.m.! **Donations of candy and other treats may be dropped off at church during office hours: Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., or on Sundays. Thank you!**

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**Create and Connect (Ages 5-12)**



On Sunday, Sept. 18, during the "Living the Questions" worship series, the theme was, "When Hope is Hard to Find." In the Story for All Ages, Rev. Lisa told a story about a hummingbird not giving up hope while trying to put out a forest fire. In the Create and Connect classroom, we read the poem, "Hope is the Thing With Feathers" by Emily Dickinson. We also talked about Pandora's Box since we had heard that story a few weeks before. The class made birds that symbolized hope using Styrofoam balls, feathers, glitter glue, and anything else they liked.



On Sunday, Sept. 25, we learned about the importance of making mistakes, and discussed a list of things that were invented by mistake. The kids made scribbles or "mistakes" and traded

papers. Then they made a picture out of the scribbles. They also made creations using manipulatives in class. ~Whitney Cole, Multigenerational Coordinator

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## Middle School Class



On Sunday, Sept. 18, the Middle School group got a behind the scenes view of Worship thanks to our Worship Team leaders Anne Scott and Gina Grubb, and tech guru Amanda Sunshine. The Middle School is completing a unit on **“How the Church Works,”** where they met with staff, an Executive Team member, Board member, and Rev. Lisa. One goal of the program was to better understand how decisions are made throughout the church and then how these decisions are carried out within it. Another goal was to meet and connect with church leaders so that they, too, can see themselves as leaders. Many thanks to those who met with the group and shared their stories.

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**Registration is Open for Fall CONs at The Mountain**



*ORUUC Middle School Youth at MountainCON, March 2022 (Sarah Gunter photo)*

CONs are back at the Mountain! **REGISTER for Fall CON TODAY:**  
<https://www.themountainrlc.org/cons>.

**Fall CONs:**

Intermediate CON (Grades 6-8) November 18-20<sup>th</sup>, 2022  
Elementary CON (Grades 3-5) December 2-4<sup>th</sup>, 2022  
Senior High CON (Grades 9-12) December 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>, 2022

**Spring CONs:**

Elementary CON (Grades 3-5) February 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
Intermediate CON (Grades 6-8) March 3-5<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
Senior High CON (Grades 9-12) March 17-19<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Once you have registered, **please contact Director of Youth Faith Formation Christine Rehder @ [crehder@oruuc.org](mailto:crehder@oruuc.org)**, so lists can be compiled, travel arrangements made, and advisors lined up. If you are interested in being an advisor, contact Christine at the same address. Potential advisors need to complete a background check every two years to be eligible.

To EVERYONE  
who helped  
with  
RUMMAGE....



## Teens Earned \$1,000 for the Youth Trip Fund for Volunteer Hours

In case you missed the announcement, Rummage Team Co-Chairs Amanda Fishel and Christina Elliott reported that this fall's rummage sale was a resounding success!

After the sale, we were able to share our abundance with a number of charitable works in the area, including KARM, Ecumenical Storehouse, Holiday Bureau, a sustainable crafting initiative, area clothing closets, Bob Grimac's support for folks in Haiti, children in Sevierville, and a family in Spring City who recently lost their home in a fire. In addition to all that, after expenses, we raised about \$13,500 for the church, \$1,000 of which will be given to the youth trip fund in appreciation for the many hours they contributed.

None of this amazing work would be possible without the generous and compassionate spirit of this congregation. Whether you donated items, shared your time with us, shopped at the sale, or some combination of the above, we deeply appreciate all the ways that you've supported this ministry. Thank you!

**We'll see you again for the spring sale, March 3 & 4, 2023!**



*Senior High Youth Thomas Naughton and Advisor Jami Garner deliver a family-style Spaghetti Dinner prepared by the Senior High.*

## FUNDRAISER LUNCHESES ARE BACK!

Sunday, Sept. 25th was the first Luncheon since 2020. Luncheons have always been an important fundraiser for the youth group as they raise money for trips and other Youth activities. But they also promote team-building, promote hospitality and food preparation skills within the group. In return, the congregation benefits with affordable food and fellowship opportunities.

By feeding Considering Commitment, a group for newcomers, we demonstrate how ORUUCians work together throughout the congregation and the lifespan. When we share a meal, we not only feed each other, we welcome and nourish the Beloved Community.

# Mother Goose



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

**of Oak Ridge**

Mother Goose meets the **First and Third Thursdays of each month at 10:30 a.m. in the Oak Ridge Public Library Auditorium** with "Father Goose" Michael Raymond.

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# UPCOMING

## EVENTS

Check Out What's  
Happening for  
Families in October

at   
ORUUC

Oct

2

Streaming Westside  
UU (Knoxville) Worship  
Service In Person and  
Zoom.

*No Nursery or Youth Faith  
Formation Classes.*

Oct

9

Chalica is Coming!  
*Multi-Generational Faith  
Formation. Learn about this  
new-to-ORUUC holiday tradition!*

Oct

16 & 23

Regular Faith  
Formaton

Oct

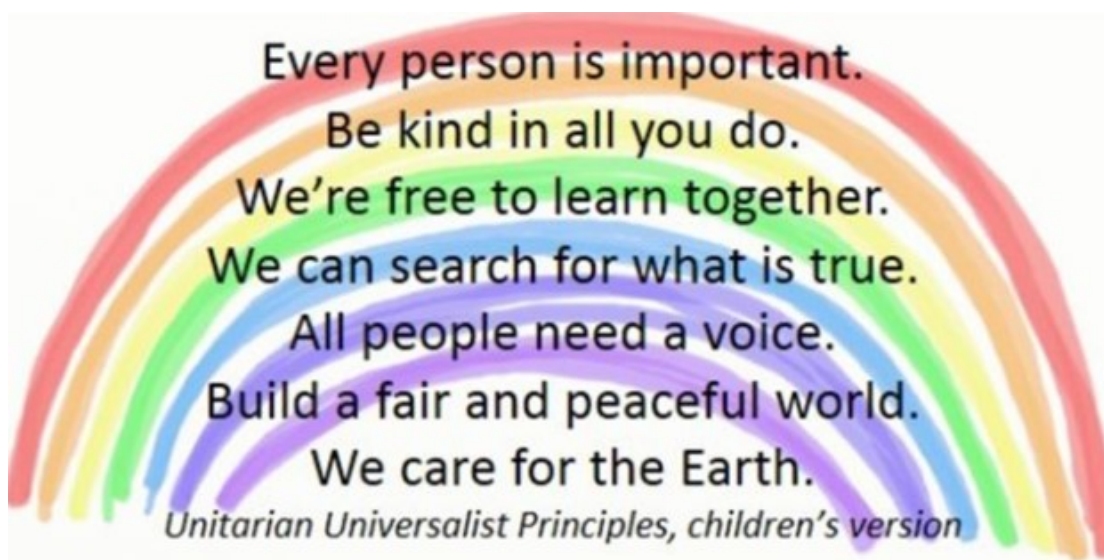
30

- Trunk or Treat!
- *Combined Spirit Play and  
Create & Connect Class  
during FF Hour.*
  - *11:15-12:30 High School  
Luncheon Fundraiser*
  - *1-2 p.m. Trunk or Treat*

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Rev. Lisa Schwartz,  
Interim Minister

Rev. Lisa can be reached by email at [Rev.Lisa@oruuc.org](mailto: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).*

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