



Connecting In Spirit

Youth Faith Formation

Monthly News

Summer 2023

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Youth Faith Formation classes are on Summer break. We look forward to welcoming your children back on Sunday, Aug. 6 for a new year of YFF!



The Final Milestone

On May 21, we officially ended our Year in Youth Faith Formation with our Bridging Service, sending 6 Bridging Seniors into young adulthood. During the service, our Bridgers told us what this Church has meant to them, their parents shared their hopes and dreams for their children moving forward, and church and faith formation

leadership and children and young adults in the congregation formed the Bridge that

they crossed over. Worship concluded with our traditional Arch building sequence, with those in the center aisle rising to form an Arch for them as they left the Sanctuary. For this service, we asked everyone who was comfortable to touch each other's shoulders, so that we were all connected as they crossed the Bridge.

For me, this service symbolized everything we are trying to achieve in Youth Faith Formation. We celebrated a fine group of young adults who grew up in a community that cared for and nurtured them, instilled Unitarian Universalist values in them, and gave them a sense of meaning and purpose in their lives. As many of you know, I wore a couple hats in this service, so it was especially poignant for me. As a Director of Faith Formation, I saw the goals of our program come to fruition as the seniors walked beneath that Arch. As a mother, I felt a deep spiritual peace knowing that my child, now a young adult, was equipped to go out and love the hell out of this world. I am humbled and honored in all my roles to be a part of this community,

Bridging represents the final Milestone in our Milestones program, which traditionally has started with a Kindergarten Welcoming Milestone, a Journeying Milestone in 4th grade, the Coming of Age Milestone completed every other year for 9th/10th Graders, and then ending with the Bridging Milestone for Seniors.

Part of my work this summer and much of next year will be revisiting and revising this much loved program--some born out of necessity, as our Journeying Milestone covers our 7 Principles, which are in the process of being revised at GA this summer and therefore may become obsolete. This year we have a large incoming Coming of Age group; High School Coordinator Jason Fishel and our leaders will be working Coming of Age material and experiences into our HS curriculum next year. More details to come as we work through this process together.

Unitarian Universalism is a faith based on the idea of continuing revelation. We are a congregation about to begin a search for a new leader and new direction for ORUUC. These are milestones for our entire community. Though we are in the midst of change, our core values and commitment to one another remain constant. That is the greatest milestone achievement we can ever reach.

This is the last Connecting in Spirit Newsletter for the 22/23 church/school year. The newsletter will return in August for the 23/24 school year. In the meantime, join us at Rainbow Camp the last week of June, and have a restful and joyful, albeit maybe too short, summer.

In Care and Faith,

Christine

Christine Rehder (she/her/hers)

Director of Faith Formation

I'm **IN**

 **IN**VESTED

 **IN**SPIRED

 **IN**VOLVED

Have you made your 2023-24 pledge yet? Set up your pledge online today!
<https://onrealm.org/oruuc/AddPledge/2023-24pledge>

Even if you have your pledge set to auto-draft, ORUUC still needs you to fill out a pledge card at church or online for the new fiscal year. Pledge cards were mailed out April 20. Please take a few minutes to fill yours out, and return it by mail or drop it off at church. Questions? Call Jeannie in the church office at 483-6761. Pledging is crucial to our budgeting process--if we don't know how much income to expect, we can't plan for our future! All pledges are important--whether it's \$5 a month, or 5% of your annual income, your pledge makes a difference!

Rainbow Camp 2023

June 27-30

at



Last chance to register for Rainbow Camp!

<https://forms.gle/8UrCR5iTjxvewdL8>

ORUUC will host Rainbow Camp 2023: "Color in Motion" Tuesday, June 27 through

Friday, June 30th, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. daily. The cost is \$100 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 26 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. All camp participants will need to bring a sack lunch daily.**

Parents/Guardians: Please fill out the form linked above to reserve a spot for your child(ren), as a Camper, CIT, or Camp Counselor. We look forward to seeing you this summer!

SMALL TOYS NEEDED FOR BINGO PRIZES AT RAINBOW CAMP!



**PLEASE DONATE
BY DROPPING OFF
TOYS IN THE BOX
IN THE CHURCH
LOBBY. THANKS!**



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!



Kick off Pride Month with Knox Pride & Zoo Knoxville on Friday, June 2 from 5:30 to 8 p.m. for a night of fun, food, community, and animals! Proceeds benefit the Knox Pride Community & Resource Center and the Knox Pride Fest & March in October 2023. Tickets are available at <https://store.zooknoxville.org/WebStore/Shop/ViewItems.aspx?CG=Pride&C=Pride23>

Oak Ridge Unitarian Universalist Church

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

SUNDAY, JUNE 11, 2023

11:30 A.M.

IN THE SANCTUARY
AND ON ZOOM

AGENDA

- I. Meeting Called to Order
- II. Opening Words
- III. Present and Approve December Meeting Minutes
- IV. President's Report
- V. Minister's Report
- VI. Treasurer's Report
- VII. Endowment Committee Report
- VIII. Vote on Budget
- IX. Vote on Board and Committee Nominees
- X. Vote on Split the Plate
- XI. Closing Words
- XII. Adjournment



The Annual Congregational Meeting is set for Sunday, June 11 following worship, in person and on Zoom (stayed logged in after the service, or log in using the Sunday worship ID: <https://pwa.zoom.us/jc/> Zoom Meeting ID: 946 8973 5846. The Board will provide a light snack before the meeting.

Important: Proxy voting requires a form to be filled out, with a signature. The proxy must be given to someone attending in-person, and any in-person proxy voter may represent no more than two proxy votes, in addition to their own. On the day of, proxy voters should print their name on the attendance roll next to the person(s) they proxy for, with the word proxy, and initial.



Members' Art Exhibit: On Friday, July 7, ORUUC members are invited to bring your (or your children's) original art to the church for the next exhibition. Also bring an 8.5 x 11 (or email a file) with a headshot and text-- a little about you, and about the art piece(s). The number of pieces is flexible, depending on their size and the available space. Any hangable canvas or object is fine. Contact Nancy Starr (starroakridge@gmail.com) for more information.

Bridging Sunday, May 21, 2023

Congratulations to our Bridgers--**Jack Biewer, Gus Morrill, Cedric White, Thomas Naughton, Tobi Bass, and Laurel Hetrick**--and to all of the high school graduates in our ORUUC family: **Arlo Bishop, Rowan Bishop, Boru Kneiser, Gaby Kyle, Georgia Gunter, Phoenix Wadley, Sophie Alexander, and Joe Blair**. Best wishes to you all!







Special thanks to Ben Keeler for providing photos of the service and reception!



Hiring Childcare Workers

- Must be 14+ years old and reliable
- Experience and/or certification required
- Pay is \$10 an hour

Please contact Childcare Coordinator,
Laura Scott, at **(865)-591-8550**
with any questions or applications.



ORUUC still needs childcare workers for meetings and special events. If you're 14 years of age or older, contact [Childcare Coordinator Laura Scott at 865-591-8550](#).

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.

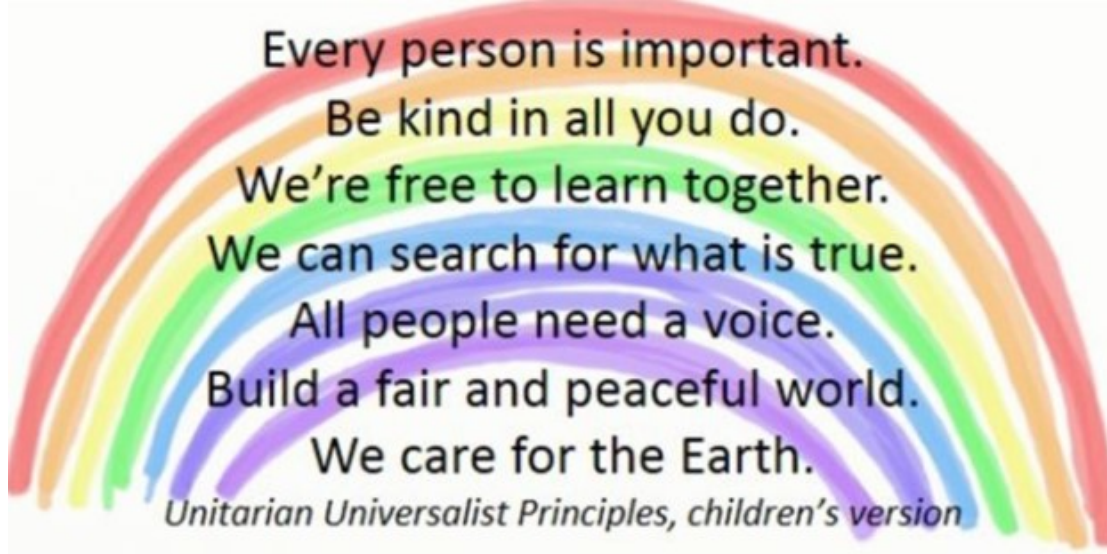
Mother Goose meets this month on **Thursday, June 1 and 15, and July 6 and 20 at 10:30 a.m. in the Oak Ridge Public Library Auditorium** with "Father Goose" Michael Raymond. All are welcome to this free program!

For more information about the Oak Ridge Public Library, visit their new website: https://orpl.ent.sirsi.net/client/en_US/default.

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 or Christine at crehder@oruuc.org. To take a look at past issues of Connecting in Spirit, visit <http://www.oruuc.org/connectinginspirit>.

This is a joint issue of Connecting in Spirit for June/July 2023. The next issue will be out in August 2023. Have a wonderful summer!

Visit our
Website



ORUUC | Contact Us

ORUUC | 809 Oak Ridge Turnpike, Oak Ridge, TN 37830 865-483-6761

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