

April 12-18, 2024

In this issue >>>

This Sunday (pg.2)

April Worship Series (pg.3)

Introducing Lóre Stevens! (pgs.1, 4-5)

Announcements (pgs.6,7, 10)

Social and Volunteer Activities (pg.8)

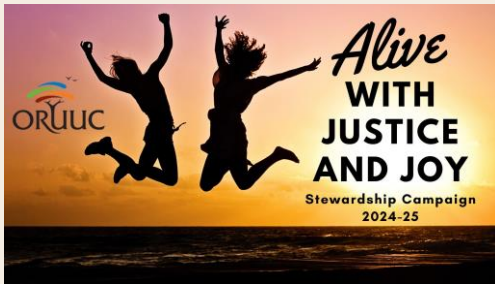
Family News (pg.9)

Church Calendar (pg.12)



News from Oak Ridge Unitarian Universalist Church

The Exponent



Stewardship Packets Are In The Mail!

What a difference our Church makes in the world. Generous and transformational giving makes our vital and vibrant community possible. As our church welcomes a new minister, let's ensure that ORUUC continues to have a role to play in shaping the larger community by giving boldly.

ORUUC hosted a Stewardship Kickoff Luncheon on Sunday, April 7 after worship, with a brief budget discussion by Rev. Lisa. If you weren't able to attend and or if you forgot to pick up your pledge packet, the packets were mailed this week to the address the church office has on file for you. If you don't receive your packet in the next week, please call the church office at 483-6761 or email Jeannie at office@oruuc.org.

ORUUC Welcomes Lóre Stevens April 20 – 28 For Candidating Week

After three intense and successful pre-candidating weekends in February and March, the Ministerial Search Team unanimously voted to make **Lóre Stevens** our first choice of ministerial candidate, and it turns out she chose us too. That means that in a sea of hundreds of searching churches, and considerably fewer searching candidates, we managed to find (and choose) each other.

Lóre (rhymes with story) is originally from Powell, TN. She is of Mexican and European heritage and part of the LGBTQ+ community. After gaining two degrees from Eastern Michigan University, she worked part-time as First UU Nashville's Membership Coordinator, followed by a full-time role at the Nashville Public Library. After carefully deciding on ministry, Lóre graduated from Harvard Divinity School (HDS) in 2022. One faculty advisor said Lóre was one of the most gifted students they had ever had. She was the winner of the UU Office at the United Nations' Greeley Sermon Award, she has received the UU History & Heritage Society's Research Prize (for

a paper on the UUA's evolving responses to ministerial misconduct), and received the Hopkins Award for Demonstrated Ministerial Promise given by the HDS faculty.

Lóre also brings experience with Unitarian Universalism on the national level, having served on the board of the Church of the Larger Fellowship and worked for both the UUA New England Region and UU Service Committee. After her internship at First Universalist Minneapolis, Lóre wished to return to East Tennessee,



where she is currently the contract minister for Foothills UU Fellowship in Maryville. She will be ordained May 18th at First UU Nashville. More personally, Lóre considers herself an atheist mystic, with a passion for transcending gaps: between spirituality and science, between races, between humanity and the natural world. She lives with her younger brother, Zachary, and two cats, Tezzy and Twinkle. She enjoys science fiction, illustrated journaling, and volunteering at the local cat shelter.

(continued on page 4)

This Sunday, April 14

We Are the Earth

Is there a way for humanity to align our needs with the needs of our planet? Can we harness the power of our individual and collective imagination to forge a future where all life can live well on Earth? Our guest speaker is Dr. Peter Thornton, a scientist in the Climate Change Science Institute and the Environmental Sciences Division of ORNL, will help us find hope in the face of the climate crisis. Please bring a bit of dirt for Dirt Communion.

Worship with us at 10 a.m. in person or on ZOOM. Zoom door opens at 9:45 a.m. To Zoom: Please install the Zoom app on your device and use Zoom Worship Service Meeting ID: 946 8973 5846. The Order of Service may be found [here](#). Email or Text Prayer Requests to prayers@oruuc.org

April 14, 2024

We Are the Earth

Dr. Peter Thornton
Guest Speaker



Interdependence
Worship Series
Week 2 of 4



April Split the Plate Offering: [The Child Advocacy Center of Anderson County](#)

After worship, please stay for coffee and treats in the Social Hall. Adult and Youth Faith Formation classes take place from 11:15 to 12:15. The Nursery is available during Worship and the Faith Formation Hour.

Covid-19 Update: Masks are not required in the building. We have masks and hand sanitizer available, and we encourage you to do what makes you feel comfortable.

Dirt Communion

Sunday,
April 14



Bring a small amount of dirt.

April Split the Plate Offering: The Child Advocacy Center of Anderson County



Every Sunday we share our offering 50/50 with a local agency chosen by our members during a vote at the Congregational Meeting each June. This month, the recipient is the Child Advocacy of Anderson County.

The mission of this organization is "Healing and Justice for Abused Children". It serves approximately 400-500 children annually. At the center, staff provide forensic interviews, forensic medicals, trauma focused - cognitive behavioral therapy, and other victim services including education and advocacy. CAC coordinates the

Anderson County Child Protective Investigative Team and are trained in diversity, inclusion, and equity for all clients. ORUUC's support of the Child Advocacy Center has helped many children heal and recover from traumatic abuse, thus supporting the dignity and worth of each child served. These are the most vulnerable members of our community. ORUUC's support makes a positive difference in their lives. Please [GIVE HERE](#) as you are willing and able, or text "ORUUC" to 73256.



Join Mare Martell for a presentation on the Labor of Dying during Faith Formation Hour on Sunday, April 14. This talk will include topics surrounding palliative care and hospice, the stages of dying, and grief. Mare is a caregiver, end-of-life doula, and UU lay chaplain. For more information, visit <https://lightoflove.net/> or reach out to Mare at maremartell@lightoflove.net.

April Worship Series

Interdependence



April 7: ***Giving Voice to Our Vision***

Rev. Lisa Romantum Schwartz

Stewardship Kickoff Luncheon to follow worship. Adult Faith Formation classes are canceled. Youth Faith Formation classes will take place as scheduled.

April 14: ***We Are the Earth***

Peter Thornton, Guest Speaker

April 21: ***Mystic Seeking Moonbase***

We welcome Ministerial Candidate Lóre Stevens!

April 28: ***Deep Roots & Fresh Blooms***

Ministerial Candidate Lóre Stevens

Congregational Vote after worship. **IN PERSON VOTING ONLY!**



**Join us for Sunday Worship at 10 a.m.
in person and on Zoom**

Youth and Adult Faith Formation classes meet from 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. every Sunday unless. Nursery is available during Worship and the FF hour.

Oak Ridge Unitarian Universalist Church Welcomes Lóre Stevens April 20-28 *continued*



The Ministerial Search Team feels that Lóre is a living representation of what congregants wished for ORUUC in the survey and cottage meetings last fall: *A caring community where diversity is welcomed; an outward-looking community working to embody a just world; a liberal community that celebrates the earth and the interdependent web of all existence.* We hope you will enjoy getting to know her this week!

What is Candidating Week?

For the last year, the ORUUC Ministerial Search Team has engaged in an intensive campaign to find our next settled minister, and we have made a choice! But the work is not done yet. Candidating week is **the** opportunity to get to know our ministerial candidate and show our candidate what a Welcoming Congregation we are. All members and friends are invited to participate in this exciting week of activities. At the end of the week, members will vote to call our settled minister.

To help the week run smoothly, please consider the following:

- DO attend at least one event during the week outside of Sunday Services.
- DO ask the candidate all your questions.
- DO show the candidate that we are a Welcoming Congregation.
- DO be sensitive to this intense, tiring, and overwhelming week for our candidate; please be considerate.
- DO share your time with the candidate and invite others into the conversation.
- DO bring any questions or concerns to the Ministerial Search Team. Please email churchsearch2324@gmail.com.
- DO attend the congregational meeting after the service on April 28 to cast your vote.

Candidating Week Schedule: Check out Page 5!

Voting on April 28, 2024

Candidating Week will end with a congregational meeting and vote immediately after the service on April 28 at 11:30 to vote on calling Lóre as our settled minister. Please make every effort to attend this meeting since we need a quorum of 25% of all members. As we take the next big step in the history of Oak Ridge Unitarian Universalist Church, it is critical to hear from every voice and for all to participate in this process.

85% of voting members must vote YES to Lóre as our next settled minister.

Note: According to ORUUC bylaws, special elections are IN PERSON voting ONLY with NO proxies allowed.

This means that **members must be PHYSICALLY PRESENT at church in order to cast your vote.**

We will be broadcasting the vote on Zoom, but no virtual votes will be taken or counted.

If you need transportation or assistance getting to church to vote, please contact the Ministerial Search Team at churchsearch2324@gmail.com.

Oak Ridge Unitarian Universalist Church Welcomes Lóre Stevens April 20 – 28 continued

Candidating Week Schedule:

A schedule chock FULL of candidating week events has been finalized and will be made available in printed flyers, a mailer to members next week, and on the ORUUC website. Here are the events to which EVERYONE IS INVITED!

Sunday, April 21

11:15 a.m. Coffee Hour Meet and Greet with Ministerial Candidate Lóre Stevens

Tuesday, April 23

5 - 6 p.m. – Virtual Meet & Greet with Ministerial Candidate Lóre Stevens - ZOOM link to follow

Thursday, April 25

5:30 - 7:30 p.m. WHOLE COMMUNITY POTLUCK MEAL with Ministerial Candidate Lóre Stevens

PLEASE bring a dish according to your LAST NAME:

A-E bring a salad

F-R bring a main dish (some veg/vegan)

S-Z bring a dessert

Friday, April 26

5:30 - 6:30 p.m. Stone Soup community meal

7 p.m. Open to ALL Meet and Greet with Ministerial Candidate Lóre Stevens after Stone Soup

Questions?

Please contact the Ministerial Search Team with any questions or concerns, churchsearch2324@gmail.com.

Thank you for your participation in this important occasion as we build our future with Oak Ridge Unitarian Universalist Church

In faithful partnership,
Your Ministerial Search Team

Patton Fishel, Carol Beene, Beth Meyer, Sarah Gunter, Dave Dunkirk, Michael Bjerke, and Christy White

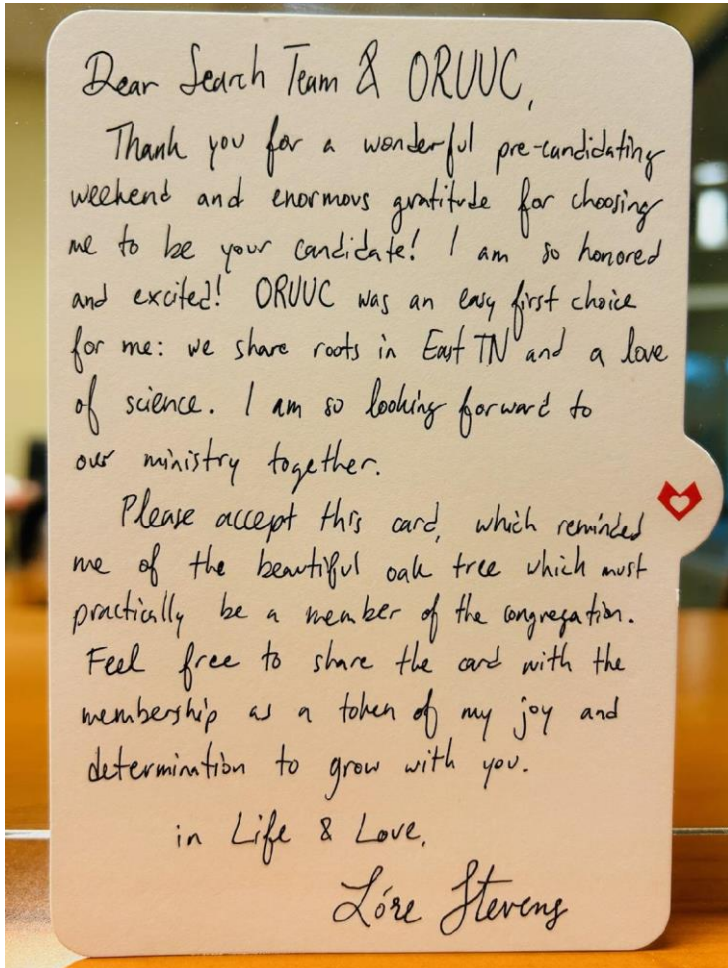


Announcements



UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY
VIRTUAL GA • JUNE 20 - 23, 2024

A beautiful card from Ministerial Candidate Lóre Stevens, shared with the congregation on Sunday, April 7 during the Ministerial Candidate announcement.

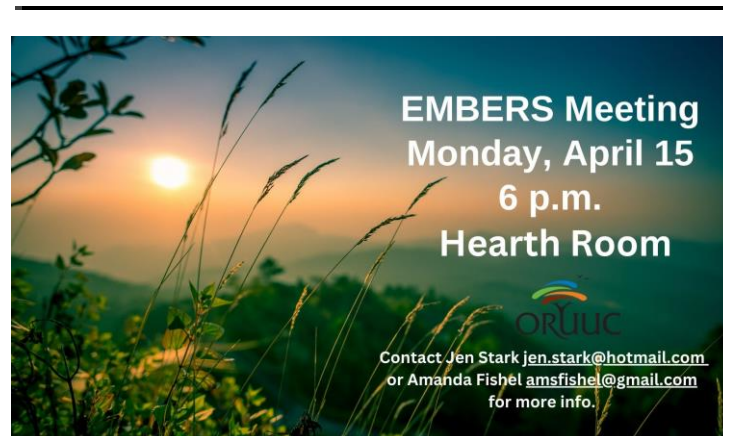
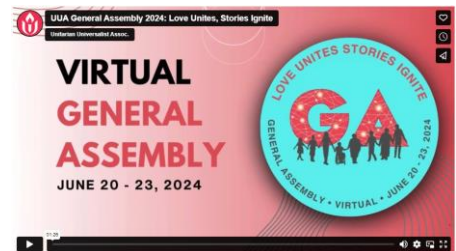


General Assembly Volunteers Needed Deadline to sign up is TODAY--Friday, April 12!

ORUUC has the opportunity to send, virtually, six voting delegates to the General Assembly this summer. The Board is looking for a few church members who are interested in listening to and reading about various things being voted on, including the Article II Study Commission's proposed change to Article II.

The date for GA is June 20-23 and this will be a completely virtual GA. You will attend from the comfort of your own home. Being a voting member is free (donation accepted), but this does not include the non-voting activities. Attending the conference and all other activities costs \$350 before May 15 and \$400 after that date.

ORUUC would like to send six (6) voting delegates. If you are interested in volunteering, contact the church office (office@oruuc.org or 865-483-6761) by April 12. The Board must vote and turn in the names of our delegates by April 15. Thank you!



EMBERS' (The Earth Mindfulness Based on Earth Religions and Spirituality) regular meeting will take place Monday, April 15, 6-8 p.m., in the Hearth Room. For more information, please contact Jen Stark or Amanda Fishel.

Announcements



It's time for a Church Maintenance Day this Saturday, April 13 from 9 to noon. The To Do list is growing: change the filters on the rooftop HVAC units, downspout repairs, pre-installation research for a water fountain with built-in bottle filler, and more! Show up at church and lend a hand! Contact Martin Bauer with questions.



Thanks for the continuing donations to ORUUC's Non-Perishable Food Pantry! **This month's greatest needs are canned fruit, soups, pastas (mac n' cheese), and peanut butter.** Please bring your donations and leave them in the box in the church lobby, or in the box in the pantry, located in the kitchen. Thank you for helping us make this community resource possible!

Stone Soup volunteers prepare a delicious free community meal each month. There are many ways you can help—meal plan, shop, prep, cook, bake, bag, greet, serve, and clean up! Reach out to Jen Stark at jen.stark@hotmail.com if you have questions or you'd like to help!

Contact Steven Albright for more information. All are welcome!

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 the church office: (865) 483-6761 or office@oruuc.org or a Caring Coordinator!

Caring Coordinators for April

Amanda Fishel amsfishel@gmail.com 865-804-7033

Ellen Faby elfab418@gmail.com 865-363-1092

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.

Caring and Gratitude



Richard Martel moved recently and would love visitors, mail, or email/phone calls!

Richard Martel

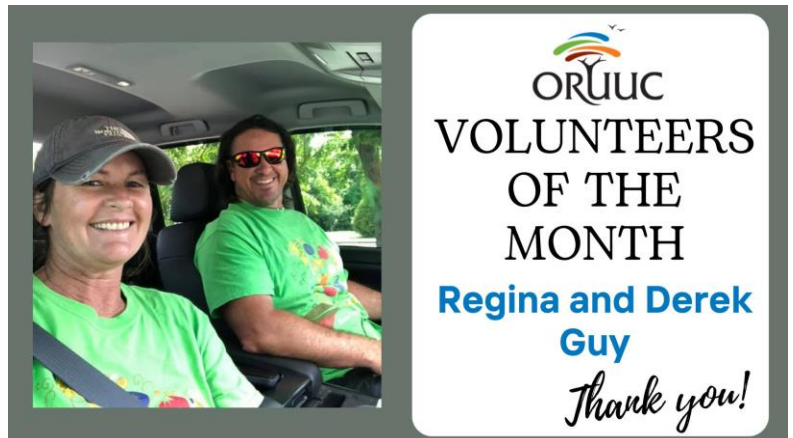
Victorian Square

241 South Chamberlain Avenue

Rockwood, TN 37854

Phone(865) 314-6729

Where2beaware@proton.me



ORUUC's Volunteers of the Month are...Regina and Derek Guy! If you've been around ORUUC any length of time, you've seen the Guys hard at work: They're often doing the coffee ministry on Sunday morning, and are always helping out at our Stone Soup community meal. They recently took time out of their schedules to hook up the ORUUC washer and dryer, since we'd had the appliances for some time but hadn't been able to use them.

Basically, when you ask these two to help out, they always say yes if they're in town, even if it means they have to rearrange their schedules to do some act of service.

They're known for reaching out to folks who need a little extra TLC, and they're also active in SO many ways in the Oak Ridge community – you see 'em everywhere, or see the fruits of their many labors.

The Executive Team has named Regina and Derek Guy April's Volunteers of the Month. Thank you both!

Ongoing Activities at ORUUC



Line Dancing

Sundays at 3 p.m. We learn a variety of dances: country, jazz, waltz and cha-chas. Through our dancing, we bring together total strangers in the community and develop close friendships with the willingness to share individual talents with others. A donation of \$3 per session is suggested. For more information, contact Jo Curran or Steven Albright.



Tai Chi

**Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays
11 a.m. – 12 noon**

We minister to health & stability through learning & practicing tai chi. Help maintain & improve balance, strength, and blood pressure, and reduce knee, arm, shoulder & back pain. For more information call Janet Hoegler at 865-963-5115.



Ukulele Group

Our next scheduled meetup this month is Saturday, April 20 at 3 p.m. in the Sanctuary. We'd love to have you join us! Abbie Moore abbie.moore@icloud.com.

Social and Volunteer Opportunities



Zentangle Group Sundays 5 to 7 PM

Introductory and Continuing Classes \$10 including starter supplies (cash only)
For more information, contact Nancy Starr, Certified Zentangle Teacher
865-483-8684 (landline)
865-742-9993 (mobile/text)
starroakridge@gmail.com

Ecumenical Storehouse Pick Up Saturday, April 20, 9 a.m.-12 noon Volunteers needed!



Each month, ORUUC picks up donations for Ecumenical Storehouse, which supplies furniture and household goods to those in need. There are many ways you can help! Please contact Martin Bauer at bauermib@gmail.com for more information.



Eggs and Pegs is back! Play cribbage, eat breakfast, have fun **Sunday, May 5!** These get togethers will be held the first Sunday of each month at 8:30 a.m. in the Social Hall. Questions? Talk to Brandon White, Christina Elliott, Jane Flanagan, or Shelaine Curd.



ORUUC is always looking for members to add to its Caring Team! **Contact Rachel in the church office (865-483-6761) or communications@oruuc.org** if you would be willing to be called upon occasionally to

- Provide transportation to Sunday services, evening events at church, or medical/dental appointments
- Run errands or grocery shop
- Provide/deliver meals
- Visit
- Perform minor home repairs
- Provide computer repair and support
- Haul items by truck
- Provide pet care
- Help with Memorial Service receptions
- Support new parents
- Perform yard work
- Sit with someone during Worship



Pack "Food for Kids" with Second Harvest at First United Methodist Church of Oak Ridge. This program provides backpacks with non-perishable foods for preschool and elementary students to take home on weekends. **The next packing date is Monday, April 15 starting at 12 noon.** Questions? Contact Coordinator Cara Weigel at 865-481-8108.



TCAP Test Break for Children and Youth Wednesday, April 17 from 4 to 6 p.m. at ORUUC!

Standardized tests can not only test our knowledge, but also our patience and stamina. Please join Miss Whitney and our Bridging Seniors in the Social Hall on Wednesday, April 17th from 4 to 6 p.m. for games, pizza and fun in a supportive environment. No multiple choice about it, we are here to help!

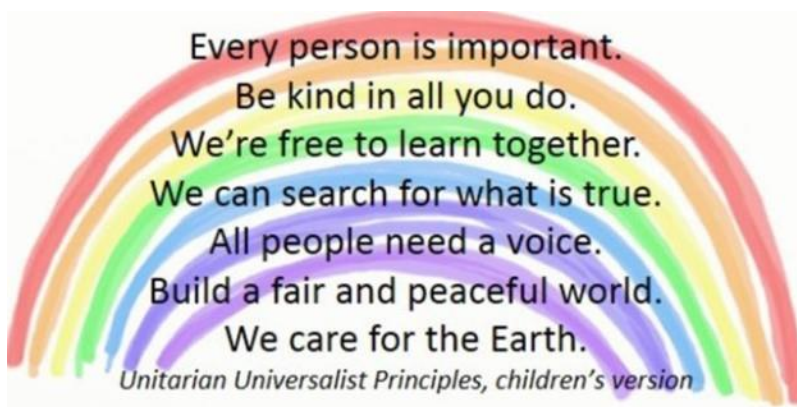
Mother Goose with ORUUC's own "Father Goose" Michael Raymond! Babies through preschoolers will have fun singing, clapping, dancing, and moving with their parents, grandparents, or other caregivers.

**First and Third Thursdays at 10:30 a.m.
in the Oak Ridge Public Library Meeting Room**

*Don't miss the next gathering
April 18!*

View and sign up for the Oak Ridge Public Library's newsletter here: :

<https://mailchi.mp/oakridgetn/orplapr24>

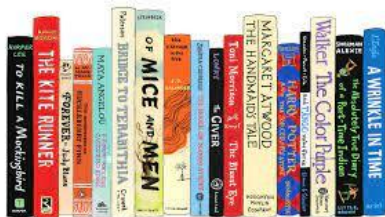


There are **only five more Sundays left in our Youth Faith Formation schedule** this school year! Don't miss out! Join us this Sunday, won't you?



Childcare is provided for children ages 10 and under for church meetings and events. Please complete this form **TWO WEEKS** in advance:

<https://form.jotform.com/231284551294053>. Thanks!



ORUUC is starting a banned book library in the Middle School room! If you are willing to donate any banned books you already have, please leave them in the that room or in the church office with a note specifying that they're for the banned book library. Questions? Contact Multigenerational Director Whitney Cole.



Meets monthly at various churches in Oak Ridge. Visit

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/371268369619360>

or email

Anne Backus backusanne@comcast.net.

Check out ORUUC's monthly Family newsletter, *Connecting in Spirit*, by visiting

<https://www.oruuc.org/connectinginspirit>.

Community News



Check it out! In partnership with the National Week of Conversation's Better Together Film Festival, **Oak Ridge Periodic Tables** is excited to host an opportunity to build a stronger community and enhance understanding through two films:

#1 "List(e)n," Friday, April 19 at 6:00 p.m. EVENT RSVP - <https://bridgealliance.app.neoncrm.com/.../eventRegistrat...>

#2 "Black, White, and the Greys," Sunday April 21 at 5:00 PM (this film contains adult language and themes, 17+ strictly enforced) EVENT RSVP -

- <https://bridgealliance.app.neoncrm.com/.../eventRegistrat...> Films will show at the Historic Grove Theater. Visit www.oakridgeperiodictables.com/film-festival for details!



Now on Exhibit in the ORUUC Gallery: Photographs by David Kocher

David began his adventures in nature photography when he realized at age 44 that he needed a hobby. He especially wanted to photograph wildflowers. He joined camera clubs and entered their competitions, read books, magazines, and photo traveler newsletters, attended workshops, and pored over Sierra Club calendars. David's photographs showcase some of his favorite places: the Smokies and Blue Ridge Parkway, Colorado Rockies, Glacier National Park, Canadian Rockies, Oregon's Columbia River Gorge, and Denali National Park in Alaska. His photographs will be on display through the spring.

Visit <http://www.oruuc.org/current-exhibit> for more information!



The League of Women Voters of Oak Ridge welcomes the community to Lunch with the League Tuesday, April 16 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at ORUUC. All are welcome to bring their lunch or purchase a boxed lunch for a nominal fee. Coffee and tea will be served. **The presentation will begin at noon. Dr. Bruce Borchers will discuss the state of the Oak Ridge schools.** For more information, visit <https://my.lwv.org/tennessee/oak-ridge>.



Free Meditation at Westside UU

Saturday, May 18

12:30 - 2:00 p.m.

Westside Unitarian Universalist Church

616 Fretz Road, Knoxville

Register [HERE!](#)

We all want more well-being and comfort in our life, but the happiness we find is often elusive and disappointing. Buddhist teachings explain that real happiness stems from inside ourselves. By learning how to meditate, we enter the path to true happiness.

Join us for this special event and learn the meaning and practice of meditation from Lama Lobsang Samten, a Tibetan Buddhist monk and spiritual director of the Paramita Centers in Canada, France, and the US. During the conference, Lama Samten will share his deep knowledge of the meaning of meditation and guide you through simple but profound meditation practices that you can immediately apply. Discover how to start a path to inner peace and mindfulness in your daily life.

This event is free but we are asking for donations to cover travel costs and expenses.

This Week at ORUUUC



Friday, April 12

11am Tai Chi Practice

Saturday, April 13

9am-noon Maintenance Day

1pm Safety Event

Sunday, April 14

8:15am Circle of Trust VII

10am Worship

11am High School

11am Together in Spirit

11:15am Circle of Trust IV

11:15am The Labor of Dying

11:15am Newcomers

11:15am Reflections

11:15am Circle of Trust II

12:15pm Circle of Trust V

12:30pm Buddhism Study Group

1pm Circle of Trust VI

1:30pm Book Club

3pm Line Dancing

5-7pm Zentangle Group

Monday, April 15

11am Tai Chi Practice

12pm Pack Food for Kids (Second Harvest) at First United Methodist Church

6pm EMBERS

Tuesday, April 16

10:30am League of Women Voters

Lunch with the League

6pm Board Meeting

6pm Depression & Anxiety Group

Wednesday, April 17

6:30am Breakfast Rotary

11am Tai Chi Practice

11am Circle of Trust VIII

1:30pm Executive Team Meeting

7pm Choir Practice

7:45pm Band Rehearsal

Thursday, April 18

12:30pm Lunch Bunch

To view the church calendar anytime, visit <https://www.oruuc.org/members-section> Need password help? Contact the church office!



Oak Ridge Co-ed Softball started this week! Let Christina Elliott know if you'd like to play! christina.r.elliott@gmail.com Or show up to cheer on the team! Games are played Tuesday nights at Jefferson Middle School and Carl Yearwood Ball Park off Bus Terminal Road. For scheduling information, visit



809 Oak Ridge Turnpike
Oak Ridge, TN 37830
Contact us at 865-483-6761
<http://www.oruuc.org/>



ORUUC Board of Trustees 2023-24

President: Jason Fishel

Past President: Michele Thornton

President-Elect: Kara Raymond

Secretary: Nathaniel Bass

Treasurer: Brandon White

Members-at-Large:

Freddie Nechtow

Charles Davis

Jami Garner

Jen Stark

ORUUC Executive Team

Rev. Lisa Romantum Schwartz

Christine Rehder

Amanda Fishel

Donna Maloney

Jeannie Cuevas, Office Administrator

The deadline to submit news for the next *Exponent* is **Wednesday, April 17 at noon.** Please send news, comments, and feedback to Rachel at communications@oruuc.org.

Coming up... Sunday, April 21 Mystic Seeking Moonbase

Welcome to The Gift of
Interdependence



April Worship Series
Sundays at 10 a.m.
In person and on Zoom



Join our ministerial candidate, Lóre Stevens, as they introduce themselves, and their special blend of science and spirituality, to ORUUC.