

April 14-20, 2023

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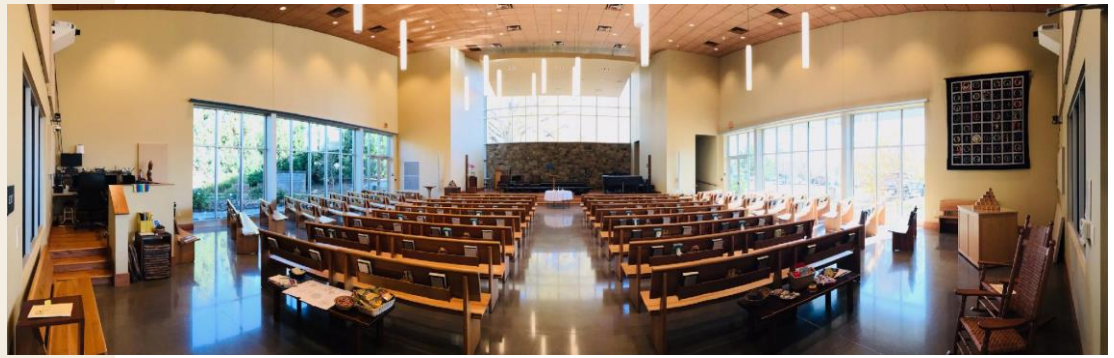
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News from Oak Ridge Unitarian Universalist Church

The Exponent



Chili Luncheon This Sunday During Faith Formation Hour

Sunday, April 16 is our Stewardship Campaign Kick-Off! After worship, head to the Social Hall to pick up your pledge packet and listen to a brief presentation by Rev. Lisa, then enjoy a chili luncheon with fixings, provided by the High Schoolers (donations to the Youth Fund are welcome and appreciated!) Middle Schoolers may choose to help with lunch, or join the Preschool and Elementary-age children in the Sanctuary to learn a song to be shared on Big Music Sunday, April 23 (this age group will eat lunch after the Story for All Ages). Nursery will be provided during FF Hour. **All regular Faith Formation classes are canceled.**



I'm In: Inspired, Involved, Invested

Rev. Lisa Romantum Schwartz, Interim Minister

Think back to your earliest memories about money. Did you put your baby teeth under your pillow and dream of money? Did you wheedle money from your parents in the store to buy bubblegum? At some point, did you receive an allowance? Was it contingent on the completion of your chores? And, were there expectations that you would save some, or donate some, or was your money all “disposable income?”

In your family of origin, was money considered abundant, or scarce? Did your parents talk about how much money they made, how much they spent, saved, or donated, or was yours one of the many American families who didn't talk about money unless they were fighting about it?

Most UUs came from families where money was seldom discussed in a calm and rational way. For some it was an absolutely forbidden topic. I knew not to ask my parents how much they made, or spent, or owed. So, as a grown person I had to figure money out on my own, and let's just say... mistakes were made.

I made a conscious decision to parent my daughter differently than I'd been raised, and yet I followed my parents' example on the topic of money. Which is weird, because I taught my kid how to ride a bike and how to drive a car, how to

cook and clean up, to reduce/reuse/recycle, and I even taught her about sexuality and relationships.

Of course some families think kids should never hear about sexuality in church or school. Yet since it's a taboo subject at home, too, those kids are particularly vulnerable to the many negative consequences that stem from ignorance and misinformation about sex.

I wonder if our church's silence about money makes our kids especially vulnerable



to the dominant cultural messages about money (i.e., money is the best measure of self-worth, or that the most important thing about money is to keep as much of it as you can).

I think UU Churches like ORUUC exist in part to counter the destructive messages of the dominant culture: messages about sexuality, and caring for the earth and each other, that a life of service is a life well-lived, and that money is no yardstick to measure a person's worth.

We teach our kids that life should be measured by justice, equity, compassion. We teach them about the importance of a free and responsible search for truth and meaning. I think we should teach them that includes sharing in the responsibility for supporting the church of their choosing, that being a generous person is one of life's great privileges. What do you think?

This Sunday, April 16

Buried Treasure

The Biblical scholar Walter Brueggemann says, "Telling parables was one of Jesus' revolutionary activities, for parables are subversive re-imagining of reality...These stories haunt us and push us in directions we never thought we would go." Interim Minister the Rev. Lisa Romantum Schwartz examines a story from the past that might help us envision our bold future.

Worship with us at 10 a.m. in person or on Zoom. Zoom door opens at 9:45 a.m. Go to [Sunday Worship Info — ORUUC](#) for Zoom information. The Order of Service may be found [here](#). Email or Text Prayer Requests to prayers@oruuc.org



April Split the Plate: [The Free Medical Clinic](#)

This Sunday, join us for our Stewardship Campaign Kick-Off after worship in the Social Hall. Pick up your pledge packet and listen to a brief presentation, then enjoy chili and fixings, provided by the High Schoolers (donations to the Youth Fund are welcome and appreciated!) Nursery is available. All regular Faith Formation classes are canceled.

This week, the CDC Covid-19 Community Levels are Low for Anderson, Knox, Morgan, and Roane counties. Masks are not required in the building; however, we encourage you to do what makes you feel comfortable.

I'm **IN**



April's Split the Plate Offering Recipient:

The Free Medical Clinic is a non-profit, primarily volunteer-staffed organization offering free medical services to those who live in Anderson, Roane, and Morgan Counties. It serves people who do not have insurance and cannot afford to pay for medical services due to their income level. Because they are a primarily volunteer organization they rely on donations from individuals, churches, groups, etc.

This clinic provides medical care to those who have no other resources. It can literally mean the difference



Free Medical Clinic
"We Serve From The Heart"

between life and death for some people (such as undiagnosed cancer). We all deserve adequate health care and to be treated with worth and dignity (our first principle). Our support for the Free Medical Clinic helps us live our principles while providing support to the disadvantaged.

For more information about The Free Medical Clinic, visit <http://www.fmc.org/>.

Each month, half of the undesignated offering is given to our Split the Plate recipient. Please [GIVE HERE](#) as you are willing and able, or text "ORUUC" to 73256.

Join us and say, I'm in!

Stewardship Sunday
April 16, 2023

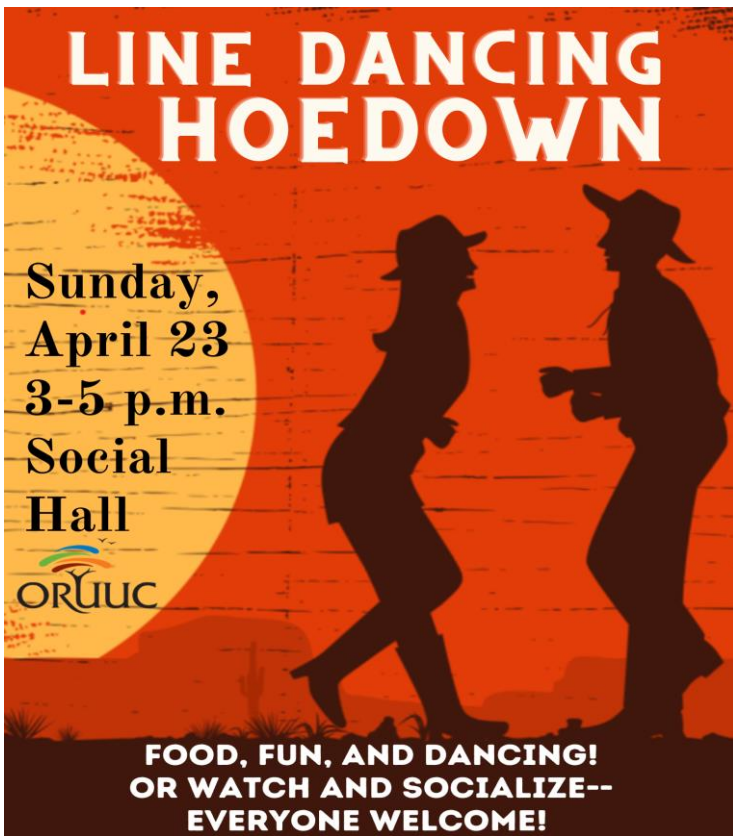
Announcements



Maintenance Day is this Saturday, April 15! Show up at church between 9 a.m. and noon to lend a hand! Reach out to Martin Bauer with questions.



Registration is now OPEN!
<https://forms.gle/8UrCR5iTIqxvewdL8>



Bring a side dish that feeds at least 6 people. Hot dogs, buns, and condiments will be provided. If you're planning to sit outside, bring a chair or a blanket. For more information, contact Val Herd.

There will be no Faith Formation classes or childcare during the May Day picnic.



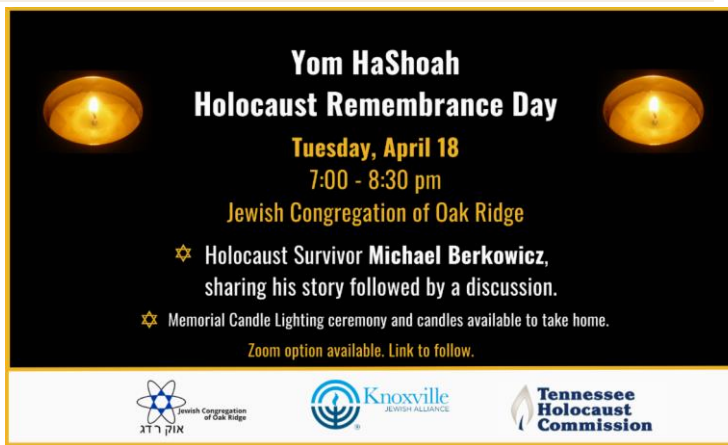
Thursday Night Potluck Group Update:

The potluck group has decided to reorganize and will no longer be meeting on Thursday evenings. Contact Betsy Speed or Diane Nelson with questions, or to share ideas or interest in being part of a lunch group.



Thursday evening art classes continue this month! If you want to join any given week, **please message Abbie or Manderley by Tuesday night.** Abbie prepares a healthy, delicious meal for all, and Manderley spends a lot of time preparing plans. A head count is vital! Hope to see you next week in art class!




Announcements



**Yom HaShoah
Holocaust Remembrance Day**
Tuesday, April 18
7:00 - 8:30 pm
Jewish Congregation of Oak Ridge

- ★ Holocaust Survivor **Michael Berkowicz**, sharing his story followed by a discussion.
- ★ Memorial Candle Lighting ceremony and candles available to take home.

Zoom option available. [Link to follow.](#)

The Jewish Congregation of Oak Ridge invites all to a special Holocaust Remembrance Day service on Tuesday, April 18 at 7 p.m. Holocaust Survivor Michael Berkowicz will share his story.

Zoom Link for Holocaust Program
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82854693928...>
Meeting ID: 828 5469 3928
Passcode: 853075



Many of you know that Marge Swenson, who recently marked her 101st birthday, has been in and out of the hospital since the first of the year. Most recently, she was admitted to Methodist Medical Center last week, and while she was initially doing well, she experienced a decline. On Friday afternoon, her family let the church staff know that Marge was being discharged from the hospital and placed in hospice care. She will be spending her final days in her beloved home on Ontario Lane, where her family can be with her. Marge is comfortable and at ease with the situation, her daughter, Marie Bell, said Friday. The family appreciates all of the support ORUUC has shown over the years. "She knows the amount of love for her could never fit in one room," Marie said. "We hope that she continues to feel that comfort and love, and that she has an easy transition to whatever's next."

Be a Delegate to General Assembly!



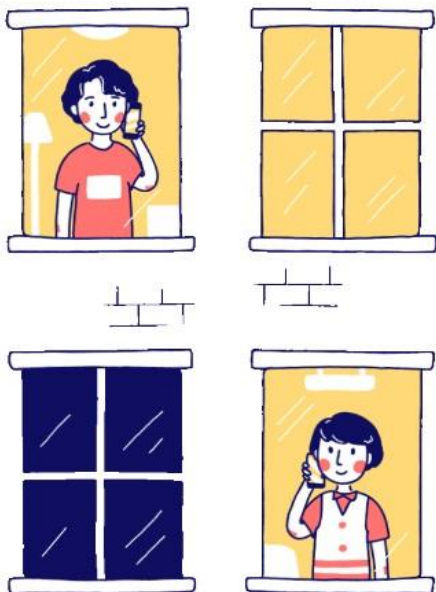
Unitarian Universalists are a democratically organized faith, so each year our whole faith movement has a business meeting to decide important issues before us, called General Assembly (GA). This year's dates are June 21-25. In 2023 delegates will vote on a new president for the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA), and on whether we should consider a proposal to do away with our Seven Principles in favor of different language.

ORUUC has seven delegates who can vote on these and other issues. Delegates may register to virtually attend the business portion of GA completely free of charge. If you're interested in serving ORUUC and the larger faith movement, talk to a board member or to Rev. Lisa to find out how. If you'd like to register for online access to the workshops, lectures, and worship services, the cost is \$300. Contact Rev. Lisa if you're willing to serve as a delegate and you need some funds to get full virtual access to programming.

This year's GA is hybrid – some folks are traveling to Pittsburgh PA to attend in person. The cost is \$500 through May 15th, and \$600 after that. Some discounts are available through the UUA registration portal. And again, if you're willing to serve as a delegate and you'd like help with the cost of registration, contact Rev. Lisa.

For more information about GA, check out <https://www.uua.org/ga> and for more information about serving as a delegate from ORUUC, contact a board member or Rev. Lisa (rev.lisa@oruuc.org).

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

Kate Holtkamp-Readle Kate.holtkamp@gmail.com 423-231-5482

Rachel Smith-Jones smithnjones3@comcast.net 603-252-2295

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 Resources



Did you know Roane State offers a monthly **Community Dental Clinic** with **limited free dental services** to low-income, uninsured adults aged 18 and older? The monthly clinics are held at Roane State's Oak Ridge Campus, 701 Briarcliff Avenue, in Oak Ridge. The clinic is staffed by volunteer dentists, dental hygienists, dental assistants and dental hygiene students; it **does not provide dentures, crowns, root canal or orthodontics**. Patients are seen **by appointment only**. If you wish to be added to the waiting list, call **(865) 481-2000 (press 9), extension 2016**.

Roane State also hosts a **Dental Hygiene Clinic**, offering **cleanings, sealants, and teeth whitening**. Phone: 865-481-2016

DENTAL HYGIENE CLINIC HOURS: SPRING SEMESTER

Mon - Thurs: 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Fri: 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Please note: The Dental Hygiene Clinic is closed May - August.

For more information, visit

<https://www.roanestate.edu/?6718-Community-Dental-Clinic> or <https://www.roanestate.edu/?6753-Dental-Hygiene-Clinic>.



ORUUC needs to add members to its Caring Team! **Contact Rachel at 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

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 rehearsal is scheduled for Saturday, April 22 at 3:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

If you're interested in trying something new this year, stop by! We'd love to have you join us. Abbie Moore abbie.moore@icloud.com

Job Opportunity at ORUUC



JOIN OUR WORSHIP TECH TEAM



Summary

Provide video & Zoom support for Sunday worship services and other ORUUC events as requested and available.



Duties

- Set up video equipment
- Manage Zoom live stream
- Ensure smooth operations during worship service

Apply Now

If you are interested in joining our team, send your resume to worship@oruuc.org.

865-483-6761

[ORUUC.org](http://www.oruuc.org)

Our worship tech team is still growing and looking for another video tech. This is a paid position with a commitment of 2-3 Sunday mornings per month. Experience is preferred but not required. High school diploma or equivalent is preferred, but qualified high school students are encouraged to apply. For more information, please visit <http://www.oruuc.org/s/ORUUC-Video-Tech-Job-Description-221127.pdf>.

Application information: People with disabilities, people of color, indigenous people, Hispanic/Latinx, and LGBTQ candidates are encouraged to apply.

ORUUC is an Equal Opportunity Employer and is committed to the full inclusion of all.

Contact worship@oruuc.org for more information or to submit a resumé.

This

Spring

at ORUUC

April

16 Stewardship Campaign Kickoff Luncheon during FF Hour provided by High Schoolers. Middle Schoolers can help, eat, or sing. Preschool and Elementary age children will learn a song for Big Music Sunday with Anne Scott and Michael Raymond in the Sanctuary. Nursery provided. All regular Faith Formation classes are canceled.

23 Big Music Sunday! Regular FF Hour.

30 Embers Sunday! Churchwide May Day Picnic during FF Hour. Details coming soon!

May

7 Last Day of regular Faith Formation classes. Leader recognition during worship.

14 Youth Faith Formation Year-End Celebration during FF Hour. We'll be back August 6 for a new school year!

21 Bridging Sunday! Celebrate our seniors and their families. Churchwide luncheon following worship.

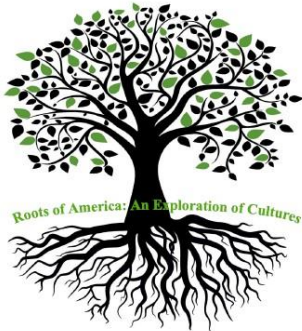


Community News

Roots of America: Hate Crimes Conversation

Thursday, April 20 at 5 p.m.

Pollard Auditorium, 201 Badger Ave. Oak Ridge, TN



Speaker: Andy Crabtree, FBI Special Agent
The focus of this discussion will be centered around the roots of hate crimes in America that are focused on ethnic and religious persecution. Immediately following the presentation, Oak Ridge Periodic Tables will host a free dinner and conversation about hate in our community and how we can build a better Oak Ridge. RSVP for this dinner is required.

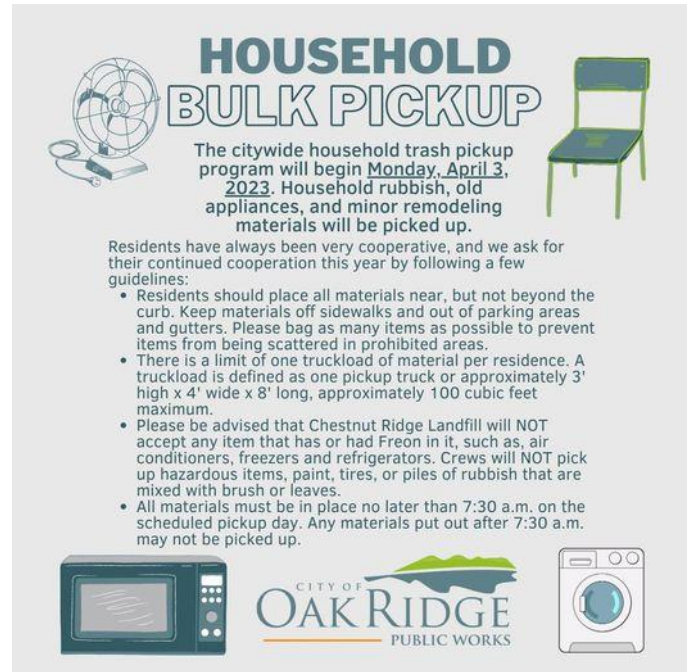
Both the lecture and the dinner are free. Attendees for the lecture do not have to stay for the dinner; however we are asking all dinner participants to attend the presentation. TO RSVP, VISIT - <https://www.oakridgeperiodictables.com/april20r0a>

The implementation of Roots of America is based on the following premise: The 'us vs. them' mentality is pervasive in many areas. And yes, as members of the human race, we are all more alike than we are different. Even so, there are differences among us - differences in culture, language, beliefs, and values. If we can understand, respect, and appreciate these differences, we can bridge the gap between 'us and them.' Roots of America is designed to build these bridges.

Roots of America is presented by the Oak Ridge Institute for Continued Learning, in partnership with the Oak Ridge Breakfast Rotary Club. For more info on the Roots of America Lecture Series [Click Here](#)

The City of Oak Ridge's household trash pick up is ongoing through April:

<https://www.oakridgetn.gov/citywide-bulk-pickup-begins-april-3?fbclid=IwAR1bOgudddKpWVQSRyVwLPzQUQMylALGuK41mB1pdQGR7i2SGxaib49VwWEK>.



Please note that 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.

3rd Week

Monday, April 17: New York Avenue and side streets, Utah Avenue and side streets, Outer Drive from New York Avenue to Michigan Avenue, Orchard Lane and Circle, Orkney Road

Tuesday, April 18: Pennsylvania Avenue and side streets, Vermont Avenue and side streets, N. Tulane Avenue, Outer Drive and side streets from Pennsylvania Avenue to New York Avenue

Wednesday, April 19: West Outer Drive and side streets from Illinois Avenue to Pennsylvania Avenue, Hillside Road and side streets from Highland Avenue to Pennsylvania Avenue

Thursday, April 20: Robertsville Road from N. Illinois Avenue to Highland Avenue, Raleigh Road, Robin Lane, Ivanhoe Road and side streets, East side of N. Illinois Avenue and side streets, Hillside Road and side streets from Illinois Avenue to Highland Avenue, Henley Road and Henley Place, Highland Avenue and side streets

Friday, April 21: West side of N. Illinois Avenue and side streets, Iroquois Avenue and side streets, Robertsville Road from Jefferson Avenue to N. Illinois Avenue, Valley Forge Drive

Ministerial Search News

Ministerial Search Update: We are still meeting and attempting to contact church members. **Please contact a Board member or Nominating Committee person to give your suggestions for the Ministerial Search Committee.** Thank you! Nancy Lain Highfill

ORUUC Nominating Committee



Nancy Highfill



Steven Barker



Sheila Morton



Amanda Law



Robyn Naughton

In recent weeks, the ORUUC Nominating Committee and members of the Board of Trustees have been contacting church members to solicit their preference for nominees to the Ministerial Search Committee. Using the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) guidance, members are asked to consider the following while they ponder on and ultimately provide their preferred candidates.

The UUA recommends that you consider:

- What are good qualities needed for someone to serve on a ministerial search committee?
- Who in the congregation works well with others?
- Who can represent and serve the whole congregation well (including looking out for the needs of children) and not just a piece or “faction” of the congregation? Who would have no “axe to grind?”
- Who knows (or can learn) the history and culture of the congregation, whether a member of long standing or relatively new? Who can use this history proactively instead of reactively on behalf of the congregation?
- Who has been and/or is active in the congregation and has demonstrated both responsible participation and responsible leadership?
- One of the most attractive qualities a congregation can have is self- awareness – awareness of strengths and weaknesses, what the congregation is like at its best and at its worst, as well as on an average day. Who would be able to know and relate all this to potential candidates?

After thinking about all of these questions, who would you trust to serve on the search committee on behalf of the congregation? Ultimately, the UUA has recognized that Ministers are more likely to be interested in serving a congregation where the Ministerial Search Committee is representative, trusted, in touch, and responsible to the entire congregation.

Announcements



Have you signed up for Kroger Community Rewards? Every time you make a purchase at Kroger, if you've designated ORUUC to receive the rewards, a portion of what you spend will go to the church! To enroll:

1. Go to:
<https://www.kroger.com/signin?redirectUrl=/account/communityrewards>
2. Sign in or create an account
3. Choose organization #63422.
4. You're done! Every time you shop at Kroger and use your Kroger card or "Alternative ID" at check-out, a percentage of what you spend will get sent to ORUUC. Thank you!

**This used to require an annual re-enrollment in August (so if you're thinking, "I've already enrolled," unless it was recently, you should probably check, just in case).

ORUUC Covid-19 Update

Covid-19 Community Levels are a 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](#)

The CDC's Covid-19 Community Levels for Anderson, Knox, Morgan, and Roane counties are **LOW.** Masks are not required at ORUUC in the building; eating and drinking is permitted indoors. For the entire report, check out our webpage: <http://www.oruuc.org/phased-reopening-plan>



What if the Foundation of our Faith is NOT Best Expressed in the Seven Principles?

At General Assembly (GA) 2023, Unitarian Universalists will take an initial vote on proposed changes to Article II of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) Bylaws, which includes the current UUA purposes, principles, sources, and clauses on inclusion and freedom of belief. An affirmative vote this year won't eliminate the principles, but it would start UUs on a year of deep discussion about the new proposed language of our faith.

The UUA's goal is to maximize discussion and engagement with this proposal, which addresses the foundational values and purposes of our faith community. Until April 30, 2023, any Unitarian Universalist may submit suggestions and ideas through an online form for ways they recommend modifying the proposal. Each suggestion or idea should describe specific language changes to the proposal, explain the reason, and be limited to a single section of the proposal. Individuals may submit multiple suggestions and ideas.

Additionally, the UUA Board of Trustees will host public discussion workshops on May 11, 18 and 21, 2023, to review suggestions and ideas. These rounds of public discussion will inform the way amendments are prioritized for discussion and voting at General Assembly.

Here are the links to the proposal and the submission form for suggestions:

- [Article II Study Commission \(Webpage\)](#)
- [Article II Study Commission proposal \(PDF\)](#)
- [Submit your suggestions and ideas on the Article II proposal now! \(Submission Form\)](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions \(Webpage\)](#)

Don't forget, there are still openings for ORUUC members to serve as delegates to General Assembly (GA) June 21-25, and thus vote on the Article II proposal and other major issues. Delegates may serve remotely, and registration for the business portion of GA is absolutely free to delegates.

This Week at ORUUC



Friday, April 14

11am Tai Chi Practice

Saturday, April 15

9am Church Maintenance Day

Sunday, April 16

Stewardship Campaign Kick-off

10am Worship

11am High School (Canceled)

11am Together in Spirit

(Canceled)

11:15am Circle of Trust I

11:15am Knitting and

Crocheting Group (Canceled)

11:15am Newcomers (Canceled)

11:15am Reflections (Canceled)

11:15am Stewardship Kick-off

Presentation and Luncheon

12:15pm Fresh Fruit for Kids

Meeting

12:30pm Buddhism Study Group

12:30pm Circle of Trust IX

12:30pm Youth Faith Formation

Leader Meeting

2pm(3-5pm) Line Dancing

4pm Circle of Trust XI

5:30pm Circle of Trust X

Monday, April 17

11am Tai Chi Practice

Tuesday, April 18

12noon Lunch with the League of Women Voters

6pm Board Meeting

6pm Depression & Anxiety Support

7pm Holocaust Remembrance Day

Service- JCOR (in person and on

Zoom)

Wednesday, April 19

6:30am Breakfast Rotary

11am Tai Chi Practice

11am Circle of Trust VIII

3pm Interment: Kenneth Toth (Private)

6:45pm Choir Practice

7:45pm Band Practice

Thursday, April 20

2pm Executive Team Meeting

6-9pm Shared Pulpit Class Session 3 (Enrollment closed)

6:30pm Zenderley Art Workshop



**In the Gallery through May 31:
Cosima, Fine Artist**

<http://www.oruuc.org/current-exhibit>



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

The deadline to submit news for The Exponent is Wednesday at noon! Please send news, comments, and feedback to Rachel at communications@oruuc.org.

The ORUUC Board of Trustees

President: Michele Thornton

Past President: Jim Nutaro

President-Elect: Jason Fishel

Secretary: Nathaniel Bass

Treasurer: Brandon White

Members-at-Large:

Freddie Nechtow

Charles Davis

Jami Garner

Ethan Coon

The ORUUC Executive Team

Rev. Lisa Schwartz

Christine Rehder

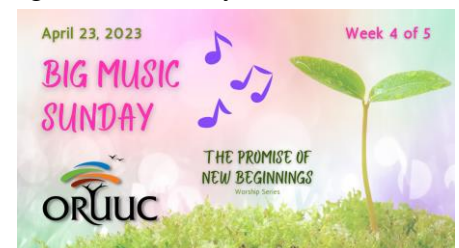
Christina Elliott

Amanda Fishel

Jeannie Cuevas, Office Administrator

Sunday, April 23

The Promise of New Beginnings
Big Music Sunday!



Share in the musical talents of all ages during this special worship service!

