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News from Oak Ridge Unitarian Universalist Church

The Exponent



Candidating Week is Here! Lóre Stevens, Ministerial Candidate

It is with profound gratitude and excitement that I address you today as your candidate for settled ministry! I am honored to potentially serve as your spiritual companion on this journey of faith and discovery.

I especially want to express my heartfelt appreciation for the dedication and thoughtfulness of the Search Team:
Michael Bjerke, David Dunkirk, Beth Meyer, Carol Beene,
Sarah Gunter, Patton Fishel, and Christy
White. While of course I was nervous for my PreCandidating Weekend with them, by our last meal together we were talking biblical exegesis and cracking up. What a fantastic crew you chose to seek your next minister.

From the moment I saw your search portfolio, I felt a sense of serendipity, of longstanding interdependence. I'm from the area originally, growing up amid the rivers and misty mountains of East Tennessee. My father worked at Methodist Medical Center and we lived down the road in Powell. We moved away when I was a teenager and I have longed for a sight of the Sunsphere ever since. As I got older, I developed a fascination with Oak Ridge's one-of-a-kind history as the Secret City.

This past year, I've had the pleasure of acquainting myself with the UU community in the Knoxville area. Back in October, I joined Rev. Chris Buice of Tennessee Valley UU Church to lead a protest of the "grand opening" of the Smith & Wesson headquarters in Maryville. I've gained wisdom from the monthly meetings of the local UU ministers' cluster, the Shinn Splints. And imagine my surprise

when I entered your social hall for the first time to see the gorgeous and detailed mural, which was made by Carl Gombert, a member of the congregation I am currently serving as contract minister: Foothills UU Fellowship in Maryville.

While FUUF, as they call themselves, are sad to potentially see me go, we are both glad we'll continue to share in the UU community in East Tennessee. I've lived and worked in UU settings across the country and

can safely say that Unitarian Universalism in the South is something special. This is where the rubber meets the road. This is where spirituality, science, and social justice synthesize. Most especially here in Tennessee: from the Memphis sanitation workers strike that Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King risked his life to support, to the lunch-counter sit-ins in

downtown Nashville, to the complex, inspiring, and proud history of Oak Ridge itself. There is no place I would rather be.

I am so looking forward to getting to know you during Candidating Week, April 20th-28th. Whether through Sunday services, small group discussions, or casual conversations over a meal, I am eager to hear about your history and your hopes for the future. Please accept my deepest gratitude to each and every one of you for your dedication to the future of Unitarian Universalism. Let us continue to embody the spirit of curiosity and hope, as we work together to create a world that reflects our highest aspirations.

This Sunday, April 21 Mystic Seeking Moonbase

Join our ministerial candidate Lóre Stevens as she introduces herself, and her special blend of science and spirituality, to ORUUC. Stick around after worship for a Coffee Hour Meet & Greet with Lóre in the Social Hall!

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

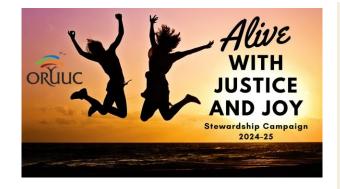
prayers@oruuc.org



April 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.



Help us come Alive with Justice and Joy at ORUUC—fill out your pledge card today! Stewardship Sunday was April 7. If you weren't able to attend in person or if you forgot to pick up your pledge packet, the packets were mailed last week to the address the church office has on file for you. If you didn't receive a packet, please call the church office at 483-6761 or email Jeannie at office@oruuc.org.

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.

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.

April Worship Series Interdependence ORUUC

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

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 and 6!

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.

Questions?

Please contact the Ministerial Search Team with any questions or concerns, <a href="mailto:church:ch

MEET LÓRE STEVENS AT ORUUC



SUN APRIL 21

COFFEE HOUR MEET & GREET

11:15 a.m. in the Social Hall following morning worship. Everyone is welcome!

VIRTUAL MEET & GREET 5-6 p.m. on Zoom. Go to Zoom.com

and use Meeting ID: 682 663 607 Passcode: 678820 Everyone is welcome!

TUES APRIL 23

THURS APRIL 25

ALL CHURCH POTLUCK

5:30 - 7:30 p.m. in the Social Hall and Pavilion Please bring a dish according to your last name: A-E: Salad F-R: Main Dish (some vegan) S-Z: Dessert

MEET & GREET AFTER STONE SOUP

7 p.m. in the Social Hall. Everyone is welcome!

FRI APRIL 26



MORE INFO:

https://www.oruuc.org/ ministerialcandidate

ORUUC CANDIDATING WEEK SCHEDULE

GROUP MEETINGS WITH MINISTERIAL CANDIDATE LÓRE STEVENS

SATURDAY, APRIL 20	1-2:30 p.m. Critical Function SMAs (<i>Group Leaders Only</i>): Safety Team, Rummage Team, Memorial Garden/Services, Grounds, Maintenance, Auction, Coffee Hour 5 p.m. Dinner with Board, Finance, Executive, and Search Teams, Nominating Committee. Spouses welcome.
TUESDAY, APRIL 23	9:30 a.m. Pastoral and Caring Committees/Coordinators 1-2 p.m. OR Ministerial Association
WEDNESDAY, APRIL	1-2 p.m. Staff Meet & Greet
FRIDAY, APRIL 26	10:30 a.m. Circles of Trust (<i>Group Leaders Only</i>) 5:30-6:30 p.m. Stone Soup Community Meal 7p.m. Open to ALL Meet & Greet, especially Outreach Ministries: Fresh Fruit for Kids, Line Dancing, Community Education
SATURDAY, APRIL 27	10:30 - 11:30 a.m. <i>Group Leaders Only:</i> Buddhism, Humanism, Meditation Group, Embers, Reflections, Christian Fellowship, Tai Chi 12-1 p.m. Worship Team (Bring a bagged lunch, if desired) 5:30-6:30 p.m. Youth/Family/Young Adults/Religious Education Staff Pizza Party (Please bring a dessert.)
SUNDAY, APRIL 28	10 a.m. Worship Service 11:30 a.m. Congregational Vote! Voting will be IN PERSON ONLYno proxies, no Zoom voting

Announcements

Editor's Note: It was recently brought to my attention that there were members who joined ORUUC in 2020 and 2021 who weren't recognized during a Welcome New Members event at ORUUC due to Covid closures. In the coming weeks, we will introduce those folks, many of whom are familiar faces now, in The Exponent as "new" members.



Jill Adler

As a child my mother brought me to a Unitarian Church once or twice & despite the brief introduction, I never forgot the wonder and sense of peace I experienced during our visits. I initially joined a small UU Church up in Southern Maine during a period of crisis in my life. I was in the middle of a divorce and had just lost my only child to suicide, and knew in my heart I needed the strength of a Spiritual Community. I was a member there for 10 years, participating in Small Group Ministry, and serving in various ways such as the Nomination Committee, the Caring Committee, monthly coffee hour duty and Holiday Fair Committees.

After relocating to rural NC for five years (where the closest UU Church was more than an hour's drive away) I decided to relocate once again to Oak Ridge where I'd visited my family through the years (and even ORUUC at its previous location!) I have a wonderful Aunt and 3 cousins here, so I decided to come and join "the gang" in 2020: just as Covid was shutting everything down.

I am a person who loves to create, whether through writing or painting or design. I enjoy gardening, observing nature, swimming (especially in the ocean) photography, kayaking, cooking and baking, listening to music. My daily companion and walking partner is a 6 1/2-year-old Belgian Malinois named Sky, who I love dearly. After living for a few months with my amazing 93-year-old Aunt, we decided to make our situation permanent, and I love sharing a home with her. I currently work as an Activity Assistant at a local retirement home. The principles of Unitarian Universalism are intrinsically embedded in my heart and I'm so grateful to be slowly setting my roots down here!



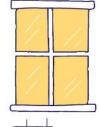
Stone Soup is next Friday, April 26! Volunteers prepare a delicious free community meal each month. There are many ways you can help—meal plan, shop, prep, cook, bake, bag, greet, serve, and clean up! Reach out to Jen Stark at jen.stark@hotmail.com if you have questions or you'd like to help!

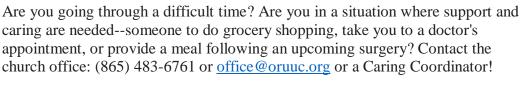


Contact Steven Albright for more information. All are welcome!

Caring for Each Other











Caring Coordinators for April



Amanda Fishel <u>amsfishel@gmail.com</u> 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



church this week planting hostas and Gabriel Hicks, and the ORUUC Line Dancers. Thank you all!

Steven Albright was hard at work at Lenten roses near the church entrance. The plants were donated by Jan Lyons,

WANTED: A few people to be on the Production Assistants Team. We prepare the candles, chalice fuel, and nature altar or the Sunday morning service. A written procedure is available. Requires arriving at church by 9:30 a.m. one Sunday a month (or less). Please contact Nancy Starr at starroakridge@gmail.com if you can help.



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 bauermlb@gmail.com for more information.



Play cribbage, eat breakfast, have fun at **Eggs and Pegs, 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.



ORRUC 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 nonperishable foods for preschool and elementary students to take home on weekends. The next packing date is Monday, May 6 starting at 12 noon. Questions? Contact Coordinator Cara Weigel at 865-481-8108.

Family News



Don't miss your chance to meet Ministerial Candidate Lóre Stevens next Saturday, April 27 at 5:30 p.m. at a pizza party for all youth and their families, young adults, and Religious Education staff! Please bring a dessert!

Can't make it to that event? Check out the Candidating Week Schedule on page 5 of this issue of The Exponent, and find a time to meet Lóre!

Every person is important.

Be kind in all you do.

We're free to learn together.

We can search for what is true.

All people need a voice.

Build a fair and peaceful world.

We care for the Earth.

Unitarian Universalist Principles, children's version

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



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.



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 gatherings

May 2 and 16!

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

https://mailchi.mp/oakridgetn/orplapr24



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!



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 -

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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.



The League of Women Voters of Oak Ridge welcomes the community to Lunch with the League Tuesday, May 7 and 21 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. 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** <u>HERE!</u>

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 19

11am Tai Chi Practice

Saturday, April 20 Candidate Week Begins

9am Ecumenical Storehouse Pickup
1pm Candidate Meeting with
Critical Function SMA group
leaders
3pm Ukulele
5pm Candidate Dinner with select
groups

Sunday, April 21 Candidate Week

10am Worship with Lóre Stevens

11am High School11am Together in Spirit

11:15am Candidate Coffee Hour

Meet & Greet

11:15 am Circle of Trust 1

11:15am Knitting & Crocheting Group

11:15am Newcomers

11:15am Reflections

12:30pm Buddhism Study Group

12:30pm Circle of Trust IX

4pm Circle of Trust XI

3pm Line Dancing

5-7pm Zentangle Group

5:30pm Circle of Trust X

Monday, April 22 Candidate Week

11am Tai Chi Practice

Tuesday, April 23 Candidate Week

9:30am Candidate Meeting with Caring Coordinators

5pm Candidate Virtual Meet & Greet (Zoom Only)

6pm Depression & Anxiety Group

Wednesday, April 24 Candidate Week

6:30am Breakfast Rotary
11am Tai Chi Practice
1pm Candidate/Staff Meet & Greet
2pm Candidate/Executive Team Meet &
Greet

5:30pm Circle of Trust III 6:30pm Finance Committee Meeting 7pm Candidate/Music Meet & Greet during Coir Practice 7:45pm Band Rehearsal

Thursday, April 18 Candidate Week

12pm NWUUC & Launchpad Meeting12:30pm Lunch Bunch5:30pm Churchwide Potluck! MeetMinisterial Candidate Lóre Stevens!

The deadline to submit news for the next *Exponent* is Wednesday, April 24 at noon.

Please send news, comments, and feedback to Rachel at communications@oruuc.org.



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

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Charles Davis

Jami Garner

Jen Stark

ORUUC Executive Team

Rev. Lisa Romantum Schwartz

Christine Rehder

Amanda Fishel

Donna Maloney

Jeannie Cuevas, Office Administrator

Coming up... Sunday, April 28 Deep Roots & Fresh Blooms



As we conclude the week with our ministerial candidate Lóre Stevens, let us honor the past and hope for the future. After the service, ORUUC members will gather for a brief congregational meeting at 11:30 to vote on whether to call Lóre Stevens as our settled minister. There will be no Faith Formation classes. Childcare will be provided.