

December 30, 2022-
January 5, 2023

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News from Oak Ridge Unitarian Universalist Church

The Exponent



**Stone Soup is Today
at 5:30 Drive Thru Only**

Pick up a delicious meal of Sausage and Potato Goulash, fresh fruit, and Red Velvet Cookie Bars!

Thanks, as always, to our community partners, the Jewish Congregation of Oak Ridge and Kroger Marketplace, and to all of our volunteer cooks and bakers. **All are welcome to take part in this meal!**



**Church Office Closed
Until Tuesday, Jan. 3**

We wish you and yours a memorable time shared with friends and family. See you in 2023!



New Year, New You (UU)

Gina Grubb, Worship Coordinator

Ah, another new year is upon us. For many, this is a time of reflection. Organizations have traditionally compiled review pieces to recap the year that is ending. Some are glad to see the year end, as if a date on a calendar will somehow end their irritation or pain. But for most of us, this is a time of renewal and hope, a time for self-evaluation and resolve.

The month of January is named after the Roman god Janus, to whom Romans began each year making promises. Many religious traditions use this time to recommit to covenants and reflect on self-improvement.

Here at ORUUC, we are preparing to embark on a journey together to find a new settled minister. With that comes much reflection, self-evaluation, recommitment, and resolve as a religious organization. So, this month our worship theme is intended to prompt and support that effort.

On January 1st, for the first time ever, there will be no in-person or Zoom worship at ORUUC. Instead,

you are invited to watch a pre-recorded service compiled by the worship team and featuring the UUA President, Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray, who delivers a powerful message about the possibilities inherent in liminal times. The recording will be available for viewing anytime after 9:00 a.m. at oruuc.org/sunday-worship.

On January 8th, Rev. Lisa will challenge us to “Live the Life You Dream,” and the following Sunday, Jan. 15th, as we celebrate the birth of the Great Dreamer, Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., we will explore the power of our collective dream of a more just reality.

On January 22nd, in a multi-generational event, we will celebrate our own history here at ORUUC as we dream about the possibilities that lie ahead. And wrapping up the series on January 29th, TVUUC minister Rev. Chris Buice will lead us to imagine our church in 20, 30, 100 years from now.

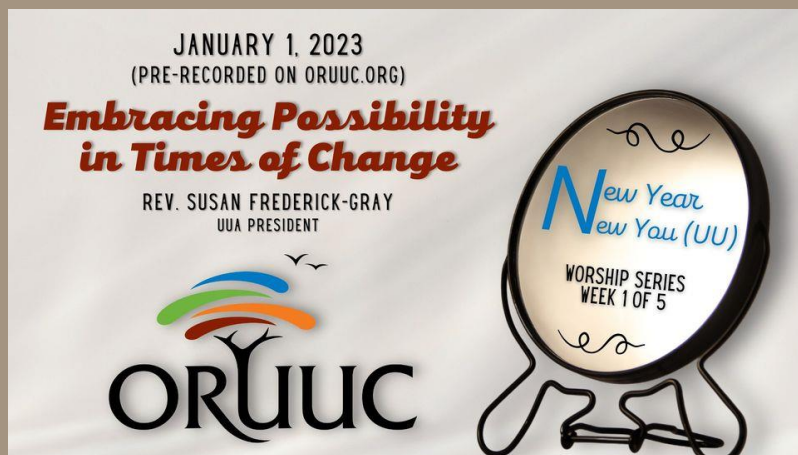
I hope you embrace the opportunity this month to dream big for yourself and for ORUUC. And I hope to see you at church or on Zoom each Sunday morning (except January 1st, of course). Happy New Year, Beloveds!



This Sunday, Jan. 1

Embracing Possibility in Times of Change

Watch this Sunday Service whenever you roll out of bed on New Year's Day! This pre-recorded service features UUA President, the Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray, ORUUC staff, and ministers in this exploration of liminal space. *This service will be available to be streamed anytime after 9 a.m. on New Year's Day at <http://www.oruuc.org/sunday-worship>. The church will be closed Sunday, Jan. 1.*



Stream this Sunday's Worship Service anytime after 9 a.m. Sunday at <http://www.oruuc.org/sunday-worship>
Email or Text Prayer Requests to prayers@oruuc.org
January Split the Plate: [Ecumenical Storehouse](#)

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

Next Sunday, Jan. 8

Live the Life You Dream



Can we really start over, start fresh, in the new year? Rev. Lisa will explore transformation, and whether it's worth it.

Adult and Youth Faith Formation classes resume Sunday, Jan. 8. Check out what ORUUC has to offer our youngest UU's (nursery-age) through high school youth on our website at oruuc.org/religious-education, and for adults at oruuc.org/faith-formation-for-adults. Groups meet in person, online, and some both (hybrid). [CLICK HERE](#) for more information.

January Split the Plate: Ecumenical Storehouse



Since 1984, members of ORUUC, along with volunteers from other Oak Ridge churches, have collected and distributed household goods to thousands of area families in need during emergency situations, including those impacted by fires, flooding, and family crises. This ministry has repurposed tons of useful items, redirecting them from landfills into the hands of those who need them. For more information, visit

For more information, visit <http://thestorehouseinc.org/>. Please give as you are willing and able. [GIVE HERE](#) or text "ORUUC" to 73256.

Announcements

NEW YEAR'S EVE EVENTS AT ORUUC ARE CANCELED!



Canceling Coffeeshouse Saturday due to positive COVID-19 tests in homes/families of both coordinators. We will reschedule it soon. Keep your acts warm. ~Nancy Starr



It is with sadness that I announce we will be **cancelling** the New Year's Eve party this Saturday. Maybe next year! ~Susan Rosenbaum

Stone Soup

FREE
Meal!
Groceries
available



Drive
Thru
ONLY

New Time! **Friday, Dec. 30**
5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.
Or until supplies run out!

**Menu: Sausage and Potato Goulash
Fresh Fruit, and Red Velvet Cookie Bars**

Drive through the loop near the church entrance and a volunteer will bring meals to your vehicle. Non-perishable groceries available upon request.

Oak Ridge Unitarian Universalist Church
809 Oak Ridge Turnpike, Stoplight #2

(865) 483-6761



Special thanks to our Community Partners for making this Final Friday Monthly Meal possible:
Kroger Marketplace
Jewish Congregation of Oak Ridge



Contact Miria at meg.harrison84@gmail.com if you would like to volunteer!



ORUUC Weather Closure Policy

Weekdays: If Oak Ridge Schools are closed, the office at ORUUC will be closed.
Sundays: A decision will be made by 9 a.m. whether to have in-person worship. Please check your email and the ORUUC Facebook group for updates.
Weeknight and Saturday events: A decision will be made one hour prior. Check email and Facebook.

Coming Up at ORUUC



SOPHIE LABELLE

INTERNATIONAL TRANS AGENDA SPEAKING TOUR

SUNDAY, JAN. 29, 2023
2:00 PM IN THE SANCTUARY
AT


<https://www.serioustransvibes.com/>

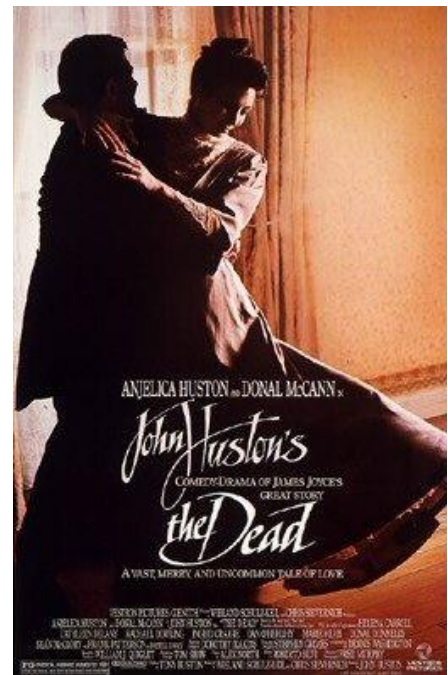


See Sophie Labelle at ORUUC Sunday, Jan. 29 at 2 p.m.

To donate to Sophie's honorarium, go to <https://onrealm.org/oruuc/give/Sophie>. Or text "ORUUC Sophie" to 73256 to give using your mobile device. Thank you!

Sophie Labelle is a neurodivergent trans cartoonist and novelist from Montréal, in French Canada. She is the author of the webcomic *Assigned Male*, which has been running since 2014, and the Ciel novel series. She likes to collect rocks and lives in Finland with her Finnish husband. "The Best of Assigned Male" was recently published by Hachette UK.

During her talk, she will speak about her art and activism, her artistic process, comic-making, community building and empowerment through art. She also has a bunch of great jokes about TERFs (trans-exclusionary radical feminists). She will answer questions from the audience and sign books at the end. For digital books, children's books, novels, and more, check out <https://www.serioustransvibes.com/> Follow Sophie on Instagram at <https://www.instagram.com/labellesophie/?hl=en>



Mark the Feast of the Epiphany with a special Film Screening and Discussion of John Huston's *The Dead* on Zoom with Rev. Gaye Morris Friday, Jan. 6, 7:00-9:30 p.m.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86000288772?pwd=bzUzZWp5K050SzMjRmThlcUp1TmIrQT09>

Every New Year, my husband and I make time to watch *The Dead*, a wonderful film set in Ireland in 1904 on the Feast of the Epiphany. This is a 1987 film adaptation of James Joyce's short story of the same name that appears in his 1914 short story collection *The Dubliners*. It was director John Huston's final film and it stars his daughter Angelica Huston.

In *The Dead*, teacher Gabriel Conroy and his wife Gretta attend a dinner with friends at the home of his spinster aunts; it's an evening that results in an epiphany for both of them. The screenplay was written by another member of the Huston family, John's son Tony, and the film was nominated for two Academy Awards. It is a beautifully filmed story full of emotion and Irish humor; the setting gives us a real sense of the festive season as celebrated in a Dublin household in the early years of the 20th century. *The Dead* also helps us to reflect on how we learn things about ourselves and others in unexpected ways.

The film, which is 83 minutes long, will be screened on Zoom; we will follow it with a short discussion. Feel free to bring your popcorn! ~Rev. Gaye

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!

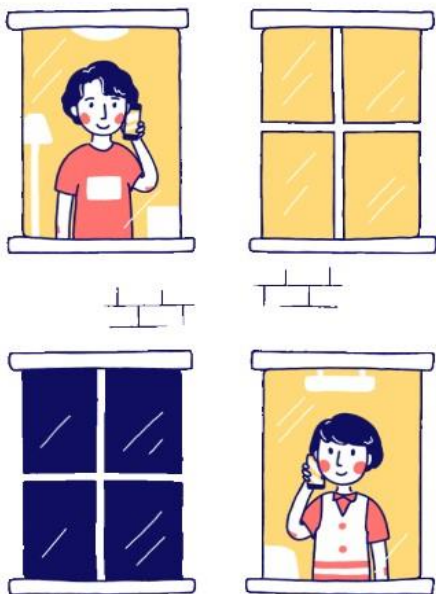
Caring Coordinators for January

Christina Elliott Christina.r.elliott@gmail.com 865-214-0756

Jami Garner Jamigarner@me.com 865-250-5505

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.

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**Jean Box contacted the church office and asked us to share that, following a recent surgery, she is now temporarily residing at NHC HealthCare Oak Ridge, 300 Laboratory Road, Oak Ridge, TN 37830, Main Office Phone: (865) 482-7698, She expects to be there until sometime in January. She can also be reached by calling 865-535-0206. Her cell phone is broken.**



# The Mountain is Hiring for Summer 2023! Ages 16+

<https://www.themountainrlc.org/jobs>



*Perfect opportunity for our young adults looking for summer work. Please share as the Mountain is hiring positions for summer camp now. Housing and lodging is included. ~Sarah Gunter, ORUUC MountainCON Advisor*

Are you interested in changing the life of a youth by being a positive Unitarian Universalist role model? Do you want to motivate and inspire a camper to be the best that they can be? If you are, then you may be a good fit for a Summer Staff position at MountainCamp!

MountainCamp is one of several youth programs offered by The Mountain Retreat and Learning Centers Inc. At The Mountain, each camper is treated with respect, kindness, and consideration; we celebrate their individual gifts. A balance is maintained between establishing structure and boundaries to keep youth safe and creating opportunities for them to "test their wings." MountainCamp fosters belonging and acceptance.

During MountainCamp, several opportunities for rewarding experiences and possibilities for personal growth exist. Salaries run from \$145 to \$250 per week, dependent on position and experience, plus room and board.

## **Positions Available**

Counselors and Program Staff  
Outdoor Adventure Staff  
Mentors (21+)  
Counselor in Training Mentor  
Camp Leadership  
Assistant Camp Director

Cabin Counselors (including Lifeguards)  
Program Leads  
Outdoor Adventure Lead  
ASCENDER Mentor  
Camp Director

## Weekly Activities at ORUUC



### Line Dancing

**Sundays at 3 p.m. (No classes until Sunday, Jan. 8. Happy Holidays!)**

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.



### Join the Ukulele Group!

**Saturday, Dec. 30 practice is canceled.** While practicing on your own isn't as productive as working on a piece together, it might give you the chance to work on chord progressions for "Hotel California." Our next scheduled date to meet is Saturday, Jan. 14 at 3:00 in the Sanctuary. Happy Holidays and keep strumming through the New Year! Abbie Moore  
[abbie.moore@icloud.com](mailto:abbie.moore@icloud.com) & Linda Osborne  
[lindadrly@bellsouth.net](mailto:lindadrly@bellsouth.net)

## Announcements

Save the Date!

# eggs & pegs

breakfast cribbage meet-up  
Sunday, January 8, 8:30AM

ORUUC Social Hall

The graphic features a yellow background with illustrations of a hand cracking an egg into a pan, a hand holding playing cards, and the text 'Save the Date!' and 'eggs & pegs' in a large, casual font. Below the title, it specifies the event as a 'breakfast cribbage meet-up' on 'Sunday, January 8, 8:30AM' at the 'ORUUC Social Hall'.

**Eggs and Pegs--A Cribbage Breakfast Meet Up! Sunday, Jan. 8 at 8:30 a.m.** Everyone is welcome! It will be an opportunity for folks to learn cribbage rules and/or play with more experienced players. Breakfast will be provided, but feel free to bring a dish to share. *Questions? Talk to Brandon White, Christina Elliott, Jane Flanagan, or Shelaine Curd.*

## 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>



## ORUUC's 2022-2023 Board of Trustees



**Michele Thornton**  
President

Board term expires in 2024



**Jim Nutaro**  
Past-President

Board term expires in 2023



**Jason Fishel**  
President-Elect



**Brandon White**  
Treasurer



**Nathaniel Bass**  
Secretary



**Ethan Coon**  
Member-At-Large

Board term expires in 2023

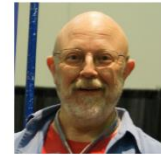


**Jami Garner**  
Member-At-Large



**Freddie Nechtow**  
Member-At-Large

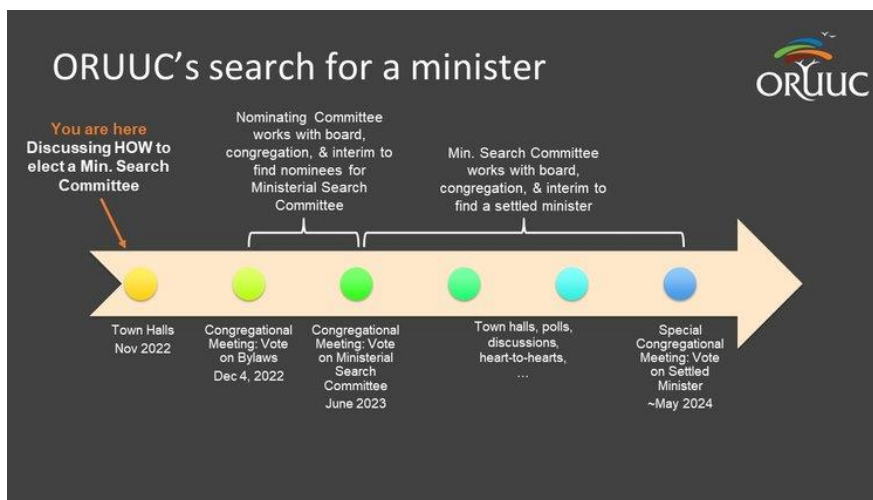
Board term expires in 2024



**Charles Davis**  
Member-At-Large

Board term expires in 2024

On Sunday, Dec. 4, the Board held a special meeting to formalize the vacancy created by the resignation of President-Elect Sue Lasky last month. The result: **Jason Fishel has stepped in to fill the President-Elect vacancy. Nathaniel Bass will fill the role of Secretary. Jami Garner has agreed to fill the Member-At-Large vacancy created by Nathaniel's reposition.** Each of those positions will be part of the slate of nominees elected by ORUUC members during the June 2023 Congregational Meeting.



Worship Coordinator Gina Grubb created a new **Ministerial Search Information** page in the **Members Section** of our website, which will be updated regularly. <http://www.oruuc.org/min-search-hub> (Password ORUUC809)

**Check Out What's Happening  
for Youth and Families at**



**Events**

**January**

**8**

Youth Faith Formation resumes regular Sunday programming.

3 p.m. OWL Meeting for 5th and 6th Grade Parents

**14-15**

Bridging Retreat at Camp Wesley Woods, Townsend, TN

**22**

Where do we come from? Where are we going? ORUUC celebrates the strong foundation of our history, and the mystery that is our future. We will tell our communal story by constructing a church timeline during a Multi-Gen FF Hour.

**29**

2 p.m. Sophie Labelle stops by ORUUC on her International Trans Agenda Speaking Tour. Labelle is the author of "Assigned Male" a web comic about trans and non-binary teens. For more info, go to <https://www.serioustransvibes.com/>

**February  
17-19**

Elementary MountainCON  
(Grades 3-5)

**March  
3-5**

Intermediate MountainCON  
(Grades 6-8)

**March  
17-19**

Senior High MountainCON  
(Grades 9-12)

For more information, contact Christine Rehder, Director of Faith Formation, at [crehder@oruuc.org](mailto:crehder@oruuc.org) or the Church Office at [office@oruuc.org](mailto:office@oruuc.org) or 865-483-6761.



# This Week at ORUUC



## Friday, Dec. 30

### **Church Office Closed**

11am Tai Chi Practice  
1pm Stone Soup Prep  
5:30pm Stone Soup Community  
Meal (pgs.1 and 3)

## Saturday, Dec. 31

3pm Ukulele (Canceled)  
6:30pm **CANCELED** - Coffeehouse  
**Talent Show (pg. 3)**  
8pm **CANCELED** - New Year's  
**Eve Party (pg. 3)**

## Sunday, Jan. 1 New Year's Day

**The Church will be closed.**

**Worship is Streaming Only,  
anytime after 9 a.m. at**

<http://www.oruuc.org/sunday-worship>.

11am High School (Canceled)  
11am Together in Spirit (Canceled)  
11:15am Circle of Trust I  
11:15am Newcomers (Canceled)  
11:15am Reflections (Canceled)  
12:30pm Buddhism Study Group  
12:30pm Circle of Trust IX  
1:30pm Book Club  
2pm(3-5pm) Line Dancing (Canceled)  
4:00pm Circle of Trust XI  
5:30pm Circle of Trust X

**The deadline to submit news  
for *The Exponent* is  
Wednesday, Jan. 4 at noon!**  
Please send news, comments,  
and feedback to Rachel at  
[communications@oruuc.org](mailto:communications@oruuc.org).

## Monday, Jan. 2

### **Church Office Closed**

11am Tai Chi Practice  
6:50pm Meditation Learning and  
Practice Group

## Tuesday, Jan. 3

6pm Depression & Anxiety  
Support Group

## Wednesday, Jan. 4

6:30am Breakfast Rotary  
11am Tai Chi Practice  
11am Circle of Trust VIII  
6:45pm Choir Practice  
7:45pm Band Practice

## Thursday, Jan. 5

1:30pm Executive Team Meeting  
6pm Potluck  
6:50pm Meditation Learning and  
Practice Group

**The church office will be closed  
Monday, Dec. 26 until Tuesday,  
Jan. 3 for the holidays. Circles of  
Trust and other groups: Check  
with your group leaders to see if  
your meeting/event is scheduled  
to meet over the holidays.**



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

## **Coming up on Sundays in January... Worship Theme: New Year, New You (UU)**



**Sunday, Jan. 8**  
*Live the Life You Dream*  
**Rev. Lisa Romantum  
Schwartz, Interim Minister**

**Sunday, Jan. 15**  
*The Meek and the Mighty*  
**Rev. Lisa Romantum  
Schwartz, Interim Minister**