

February 16-22, 2024

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News from Oak Ridge Unitarian Universalist Church

The Exponent



Meal Trains for the Hicks and Lukis/Waldo Families



The Hicks Family Meal Train:

<https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/wl77g1>

The Lukis/Waldo Family Meal Train:

<https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/6zngnz>

ORUUC Member Josh Hicks underwent liver transplant surgery February 6 at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville. His family met donor Jenna Lukis years ago in a foster parent training class. Josh's wife, Jennifer, shared an update this week: "Josh's recovery from live donor liver transplant (thank you, Jenna Lukis!) has definitely been the most challenging thing Josh and I have ever been through in our almost 22 years together, and it's not over yet. There have been complications, and additional procedures, and times when I began to wonder if he was going to be ok. There is still an immense amount of healing ahead, but I do believe he's over the worst of it now. Thank you all for the prayers, love, time, meals, and financial support you have provided and continue to provide for our family and Jenna's family. We couldn't have done any of this without all of you!"

Black History Is More Than The Civil Rights Movement

Rev. Lisa Romantum Schwartz, Interim Minister

Among my childhood board games was a small cardboard canister of Charades printed on popsicle sticks. My favorite to enact was by Patrick Henry: Give me liberty, or give me death! I knew he was one of America's Revolutionary heroes, and I imagined him saying the line while under fire from British muskets. (He delivered his bold declaration during a speech in the peaceful confines of St. John's Church during the Second Virginia Convention.)

I didn't know about Patrick Henry's claim of ownership of over a hundred human beings, or that the graves of three generations of enslaved people are still part of the historical site of Henry's plantation in Virginia (his other two properties that depended on the labors of enslaved people were in New York).

I wonder what Patrick Henry would have made of this statement by Harriet Tubman: "I had reasoned this out in my mind; there was one of two things I had a right to; LIBERTY, OR DEATH: If I could not have one, I would have the other; for no man should take me alive."

I guarantee that Tubman's revolutionary words weren't stamped onto popsicle sticks and tucked into Charades sets. While we were taught to revere the brave revolutionary spirit of white men we called "Fathers of the Nation," most of us were denied the history of revolutionary Blacks who fought for their own liberation.

Contrary to what was taught in American classrooms for more than a century, enslaved Africans and African Americans fought for freedom from colonial days to the Civil War. The Stono Rebellion of 1739 was the first documented revolt, and just two years later The New York Conspiracy ignited fires and tempers and resulted in public hangings and burnings at the stake of Black revolutionaries.

The list goes on: Gabriel's Conspiracy in 1800; the German Coast Uprising of 1811; Nat Turner's Rebellion in 1831. Modern scholars find evidence of 313 revolutions of enslaved people on Colonial or American soil. All resulted in horrific, deadly consequences for the rebels, all of whom had heard the rallying cry: I have a right to liberty, or death: If I cannot have one. I will have the other.

Why are you reading this in your church newsletter? (Congratulations, BTW, for reading your church newsletter.) Because Black history that focuses only on the heroes of the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and '60s is woefully incomplete. I'm just beginning to learn about the powerful history that's been actively suppressed, wiped from history books and classrooms and the minds of Americans.

Of all the challenges we face today, ignorance might be the most dangerous of all. May we continue to learn, together.



This Sunday, Feb. 18

Preaching to the Choir

Is Unitarian Universalism's message relevant for 21st century seekers? Or do we spend too much time in a theological echo chamber? Rev. Lisa Schwartz will delve into ancient and modern sources to reflect on the axial age we're in.

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

Justice and Equity
Worship Series

Week 3 of 4

Preaching to the Choir

Rev. Lisa Romantum Schwartz
Interim Minister

February 18, 2024



February Split the Plate Offering: [Planned Parenthood of Tennessee and North Mississippi](#)

After worship, please stay for coffee and treats in the Social Hall. Faith Formation classes for all ages meet from 11:15 to 12:15. The Nursery is available during worship and 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.



Still No Heat in the Sanctuary: Bundle up this weekend!

Earlier this month, Martin Bauer noticed an issue with the Sanctuary not heating properly. A technician came out on February 6 to check out the system (on the roof), but due to a mix up, the company didn't order the parts needed to make the repairs.

Please dress warmly if you are attending the Helen Jernigan Memorial Service this Saturday, Feb. 17 at 2 p.m., or Worship on Sunday morning. Outside temperatures are predicted in the 20s.

Please leave the Sanctuary and Hearth Room doors open to allow warm air from other areas of the building to circulate. Thank you!

February Split the Plate Offering: Planned Parenthood of Tennessee and North Mississippi



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 Split the Plate offering goes to Planned Parenthood of Tennessee and North Mississippi.

The first Planned Parenthood chapter in the state was formed in Oak Ridge in 1961, and many of the first volunteers and board members were from ORUUC. This organization provides affordable health and reproductive care to individuals regardless of health insurance,

along with sex education and gender affirming care for transgender people over 18. Following an arson fire that destroyed their Knoxville building in 2022, local staff have continued to provide care via a mobile health unit (an R.V.) For more information, visit [Planned Parenthood of Tennessee and North Mississippi](#).

Please [GIVE HERE](#) as you are willing and able, or text "ORUUC" to 73256.

February Worship Series

Justice and Equity



February 4: ***If You See a Good Fight, Get In It*** Rev. Lisa Romantum Schwartz

Leadership InFormation Workshop 12:15-2:15 p.m. Lunch provided if you register before the event.

February 11: ***The Perfect Heart***

Special service hosted by the ORUUC Drama Group. Hugs n' Quiches potluck luncheon following worship. Bring a quiche or fritatta to share! **There will be no FF Hour classes.**

February 18: ***Preaching to the Choir***

Rev. Lisa Romantum Schwartz

February 25: ***From the Crush of Wealth and Power***

Rev. Lisa Romantum Schwartz

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.

Nursery is available during Worship and the FF hour.



Announcements

Stone Soup

FREE Community Meal!



DINE IN!
Take out meals available

Friday, Feb. 23
5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.
Or until supplies run out!

Creamy Chicken Noodle Soup
Fresh Fruit
Snickerdoodle bars

Come inside the Social Hall and share a meal with others, or pick up a take out meal. Bags of non-perishable groceries will also be available. All are welcome!

Oak Ridge Unitarian Universalist Church (865) 483-6761
809 Oak Ridge Turnpike, Stoptlight #2

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



Stone Soup is coming up next week! Contact Jen Stark at jen.stark@hotmail.com to volunteer.



It's tax time! Need a tax statement detailing your charitable giving to ORUUC in 2023? **Call Jeannie in the church office at 865-483-6761 or email office@oruuc.org and she will print a copy and mail it to you. OR you can log into your Realm account and download the information.** Go to <https://onrealm.org/oruuc/Account/Start> Once you've logged in, select "Giving" and then "Year to Date." Change the date frame by typing it or clicking on the calendar icon. Then select "Filter." The result will be a report of your giving record. Click the printer icon and then select "Download" to generate a pdf of your record that you can save to your computer and print.

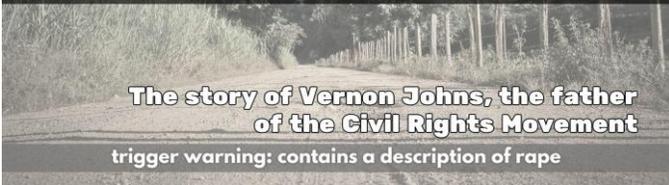
Deepening Our Conversations On Race

film and discussion

THE ROAD TO FREEDOM

The Vernon Johns Story

Saturday, February 17 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.



The story of Vernon Johns, the father of the Civil Rights Movement
trigger warning: contains a description of rape

ORUUC and the First United Methodist Church Social Concerns Committee are pleased to co-sponsor a Black History Month event! We will be screening "The Road to Freedom: The Vernon Johns Story" on Saturday, Feb. 17 from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at First United Methodist Church in Oak Ridge. View the trailer here:

https://youtu.be/c_6lZJe9yiU?si=Seo8hhnKUU79itTi. Following the film, we will have a box lunch and small group discussion using a discussion guide created for the film. **Registration has closed for this event.**

Mortality: The Final Journey or The Labor of Dying

Join Mare Martell at the Oak Ridge Senior Center

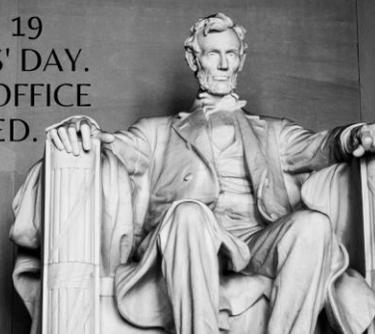
February 28, 2024 at 12PM

A lively presentation about a topic we don't talk about but should



Mare Martell, a certified Death Doula, will be presenting a program on the stages of death labor at the Oak Ridge Senior Center on Wednesday, Feb. 28 at noon. This program is free and open to the public. Mare has created this program with input from hospice nurses and her own experience. The purpose is open up a dialogue to talk about what happens in this process so that loved ones have a general idea of what to expect. For more information, contact Mare at maremartell@lightoflove.net or 616-826-9984. More resources may be found at maremartell.com and lightoflove.net.

MONDAY, FEB. 19 IS PRESIDENTS' DAY. THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED.



Announcements



Save your plastic lids and drop them off in the yellow tub in the church lobby! Local friends of Aimee Dixon are hosting a drive to collect enough plastic lids to create memorial benches at Linden Elementary School in honor of Aimee. Thanks to your donations, we have taken four garbage bags full of lids to one of the collection spots, Calamity's Coffee in Jackson Square. Organizers said any plastic lids are welcome—volunteers will sort them. Keep those lids comin'! Thank you!



Can Artificial Intelligence Bridge Divides, Or Will it Separate Us Further?

Oak Ridge Periodic Tables and the "Healing Starts Here" grant initiative from the New Pluralists combined forces last year to help get the "Secret City" talking again about issues that matter. We've paid careful attention over the past 14 months to reclaiming stories and featuring histories that have for too long been on the edges of our city's conversations. Our desire has been to bring those to the center, and to talk honestly about how what we choose to

On Sunday, March 17 at 5 p.m., join us for dinner, followed by a short demonstration of how ChatGPT works, then we'll generate a few questions and test the AI at our tables before coming back together as a large group to share what we've uncovered and how we feel about the conversations we had – both with AI and with each other.

To learn more about this event, visit [Oak Ridge Periodic Tables](https://www.oakridgeperiodictables.com/). To sign up for updates, visit <https://www.oakridgeperiodictables.com/>.



Thanks for the continuing donations to ORUUC's Non-Perishable Food Pantry! **This month's greatest needs are canned fruit, soups, and beans.** 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!

2024 OAK RIDGE REC LEAGUE CO-ED VOLLEYBALL
TUESDAYS AT THE CIVIC CENTER
CHEER ON ORUUC OR PLAY!

FEB. 20 AT 8:30 PM
VS. THAT'S WHAT SHE SET

FEB. 27 AT 8:30 PM
VS. FUD

MARCH 5
MAKE UP

MARCH 12
MAKE UP

The 2024 Winter Co-Ed Volleyball season continues on Tuesday, Feb. 20 with ORUUC playing an 8:30 p.m. game against That's What She Set. Games are hosted by the Oak Ridge Recreation & Parks Department and are played at the Oak Ridge Civic Center. Contact Shelaine Curd at slovecurd@gmail.com if you're interested in playing, or show up to cheer on the team! Wear blue!

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 February

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

Sarah Gunter sarahcjhunter@gmail.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.

Helen Jernigan Memorial This Saturday, Feb. 17 at 2 p.m.



Helen Chastain Jernigan, 98, of Oak Ridge passed away January 18 at Canterfield Senior Living in Oak Ridge. She was a longtime community leader and political activist, and a cherished member of ORUUC. A memorial service will be held at ORUUC on Saturday, Feb. 17 at 2:00 p.m. For more information, visit <https://www.knoxnews.com/obituaries/kns063878>.

Please note: The heat is not working in the Sanctuary. Dress warmly for this service.

Update on Duane Starr



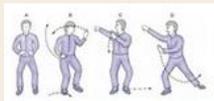
Duane Starr is at home under Hospice care. To reach out to Nancy, please email starroakridge@gmail.com. ORUUC continues to hold Duane and Nancy in love and care during this time.

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

We're scheduled to meet this month on Saturday, Feb. 24 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



Meets monthly at various churches in Oak Ridge. Visit

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

Anne Backus

backusanne@comcast.net for more information about PFLAG Oak Ridge.



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

Ecumenical Storehouse Pick Up Saturday, Feb. 17, 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. It is an important part of our community. There are many ways you can help! **Please contact Michael Bjerke at michaelbjerke@comcast.net for more information.**



Eggs and Pegs are back! Play cribbage, eat breakfast, have fun **Sunday, March 3!** 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.



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, Feb. 19 starting at 12 noon.** Questions? Contact Coordinator Cara Weigel at 865-481-8108.



UPDATE:

This week's OWL 5th/6th Grade OWL Class is as scheduled from 4 to 5:15 p.m. There are four more Sundays left in the schedule, with a double session scheduled for Sunday, March 10 from 2:15 to 5:15 p.m. to make up for the Sunday missed due to snow and ice. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Cara Jordan. Thank you for your understanding and flexibility!



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
March 7 and 21!*

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

<https://mailchi.mp/oakridgetn/orplfeb24>



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!

Spring Mountain CON Dates

- February 23-25 - Intermediate (Grades 6-8)
Registration has closed.
- March 8-10 - Elementary (Grades 3-5)
Registration now! Deadline is February 23.
- March 22-24 - Senior High (Grades 9-12)
Registration opens soon.

Visit <https://www.themountainrlc.org/cons> for more information and to register. *Registration closes two weeks before each camp.* Youth AND adult advisors need to register. Once you've registered, please let Multigenerational Director Whitney Cole know by emailing her at whit.cole79@gmail.com so that she can plan for transportation and background checks for adults.



Check out ORUUC's monthly Family newsletter, *Connecting in Spirit*, by visiting <https://www.oruuc.org/connectinginspirit>.

Community News



The League of Women Voters of Oak Ridge welcomes the community to **Lunch With the League on Tuesday, Feb. 20 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. This week's topic is Critical Race Theory.**

Dr. Michelle Christian is an Associate Professor in the Department of Sociology at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. She helped develop sociology's concentration area in critical race and ethnic studies and co-founded the Critical Race Collective. Her research and teaching focus is centered on understanding how racism reproduces in the United States and globally and how we can implement anti-racist praxis. She is widely published in academic journals and has a forthcoming book that applies critical race theory principles to a global understanding of race and racism with Stanford University Press.

Dr. Dorian L. McCoy serves as the University of Tennessee, Knoxville College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences' Director of Access and Engagement. His research centers on Peoples of Color experiences in higher education. More specifically, he examines how historically underrepresented students and faculty/administrators access and are socialized to academia. His scholarship is grounded in critical theories including critical race theory, social reproduction theory, and community cultural wealth. Dr. McCoy has worked in higher education for 30 years as a student affairs (residential life) and human resources administrator, and as faculty.

Lunch with the League welcomes League members and nonmembers alike to this informative presentation. The League of Women Voters of Oak Ridge is a nonpartisan political organization for men and women. It encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

FLATWATER TALES PRESENTS	
SCARBORO 85	
AS TOLD BY MASTER STORYTELLER SHEILA ARNOLD	
EVENT HIGHLIGHTS: Sheila tells the "secret" story of the 85 brave Scarborough students who were FIRST to desegregate a school system in the Southeast.	
PUBLIC PERFORMANCES: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Feb 20 - 3:00PM Scarborough Community Center, 148 Carver Ave.Feb 21 - 11:00AM ORICL Roane State Community College, 701 Briarcliff Ave. Goff Building #107Feb 21 - 7:00PM Oak Valley Baptist Church, 194 Hampton RoadFeb 22 - 7:00PM Oak Ridge Heritage & Preservation Association at American Museum of Science and Energy, 115 E. Main Street	
FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FIND MORE INFORMATION AT WWW.FLATWATERTALES.COM	OUR SPONSORS: TENNESSEE ARTS COMMISSION, CNS Y-12 CONSOLIDATED NUCLEAR SECURITY, PINNACLE FINANCIAL PARTNERS, SUNSET ROTARY, BREAKFAST ROTARY AND THE ROTARY CLUB OF OAK RIDGE

For more information, visit <https://www.flatwatertales.com/>.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



Photo courtesy The Oak Ridge International Friendship Bell Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/ORfriendshipbell>

Volunteers are needed to serve as curators for the Karesansui/ contemplative/rock garden near the International Friendship Bell in Bissell Park. Shigeko Uppuluri was actively involved as the group of volunteers received training and began raking five years ago. The group is looking for a few more individuals to help. Deb Hotchkiss coordinates the raking schedule—volunteers sign up for one or more weeks each quarter. The rakes are stored in the ORUUC shed. If you'd like to learn more and/or are interested in this endeavor, contact Deb Hotchkiss at 865 414-5233 or debbie.hotchkiss@gmail.com. Thank you!

This Week at ORUUUC



Friday, Feb. 16

11am Tai Chi Practice

Saturday, Feb. 17

9am-12noon Ecumenical

Storehouse Pickups

10am The Vernon Johns Story

Film, Discussion, and Lunch, First

United Methodist Church

2pm Memorial Service for Helen

Jernigan

Sunday, Feb. 18

10am Worship

11am High School

11am Together in Spirit

11:15am Circle of Trust I

11:15am Knitting & Crocheting
Group

11:15am Newcomers

11:15am Reflections

12:30pm Buddhism Study Group

12:3pm Circle of Trust IX

3pm Line Dancing

4pm 5th/6th Grade OWL

4pm Circle of Trust XI

5-7pm Zentangle Group

5:30pm Circle of Trust X

Monday, Feb. 19 Presidents' Day

Church Office is Closed

11am Tai Chi Practice

12pm Pack Food For Kids (Second
Harvest) *See pg. 8.*

7pm OR Chorus Practice

Tuesday, Feb. 20

11:30am Lunch with the League

6pm Board Meeting

6:30pm Depression & Anxiety Group

8:30pm Volleyball v. That's What She
Set

Wednesday, Feb. 21

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, Feb. 22

12pm NWUUC & Launchpad Meeting

12:30pm Lunch Bunch

**To view the church calendar anytime,
visit [https://www.oruuc.org/members-
section](https://www.oruuc.org/members-section) Need password help? Contact
the church office!**

**In the ORUUC Gallery:
Photography of Bob McLaren**
Visit [https://www.oruuc.org/current-
exhibit](https://www.oruuc.org/current-exhibit) for more information.



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



ORUUC Board of Trustees 2023-24

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Charles Davis

Jami Garner

Jen Stark

ORUUC Executive Team

Rev. Lisa Romantum Schwartz

Whitney Cole (for Christine Rehder)

Amanda Fishel

Donna Maloney

Jeannie Cuevas, Office Administrator

Coming up...Sunday, Feb. 25 From the Crush of Wealth and Power



Income inequality is a fact of life — the consistent presence of the poor is mentioned in Leviticus, which dates to the 7th Century BCE. Yet in every age there have arisen prophets who call societies to build a more equitable economic system. In the 20th Century, the Unitarian Universalist Whitney Young was the “money guy” in the Big Six leadership pantheon of the Civil Rights movement, and he advised presidents Kennedy through Nixon. Rev. Lisa will lift up the story of this great leader as a frame for addressing justice and equity today.

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