

February 2-8, 2024

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News from Oak Ridge Unitarian Universalist Church

The Exponent



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



Photo courtesy The Oak Ridge International Friendship Bell Facebook page

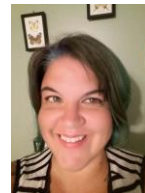
<https://www.facebook.com/ORfriendshipbell>

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!

Justice and Equity

Whitney Cole, Multigenerational Director

February is Black History Month, and our theme is Justice and Equity. In honor of the month, I read, "This Promise of Change: One Girl's Story in the Fight for School Equality" by Jo Ann Allen Boyce and Debbie Levy. It's a poetic book written to tell the story of Jo Ann Allen Boyce who was one of the Clinton 12. For any of you who may not know, the Clinton 12 were a group of 12 high school students who were the first in Tennessee, and one of the first schools in the South, to desegregate an all-white high school right next door to us in the town of Clinton. These amazing high school kids faced extreme discrimination and abuse. This book is as beautiful as it is heartbreaking, and although it's a quick read, I found myself having to put it down several times.



The story of the Clinton 12 shows both the best and the worst of humanity, and while in the end, justice did win and the school was integrated, the stories of many of these 12 students' educational journeys doesn't seem to be just or happy. Out of the 12, only two actually graduated from Clinton High. Jo Ann and her family ended up moving to California after one semester at the school. A few students dropped out, a few more transferred, and one was expelled. The riots, violence, and protests they were forced to endure are difficult to read about. Isn't most of history that way?

Hard to read about, harder still to bear witness to. It's easy to turn a blind eye. To pretend that it didn't happen... that it isn't happening. It's harder still when you realize that we won't be able to fix everything... Maybe we won't be able to fix anything. The road to a fair and just world is long and seems never ending, but that doesn't mean that we can give up. Even if we never see justice, that doesn't mean we can stop trying. The Clinton 12 didn't get educational justice, but because they fought, generations that came after them might. Because of their bravery, we are all better, our world is more just, and our children have one less war to fight.

As parents, guardians, educators, and trusted adults, it is our duty to teach our younger generations to turn away from hate. To look for and demand justice, not just for themselves, but for everyone on this blue boat we call home. We must break the generational curse of hatred that our families may have passed down to us. If we do that, then the next generation is one step closer to justice, to love. If our past generations could pass down the disease of hatred, maybe we can help pass down the cure of love.

If you would like to learn more about the Clinton 12, ORUUC will be visiting the Green McAdoo Cultural Center in Clinton on Saturday, Feb. 10 at 3 p.m. The museum is free and all are welcome.

This Sunday, Feb. 4 If You See a Good Fight, Get In It

The title is a quote by the Rev. Dr. Vernon Johns, a pioneer in the American Civil Rights movement. And, like all pioneers (especially the feisty ones), he faced immense hardships and intense headwinds. But Dr. Johns' story has resonance today, especially for a church in search of a new pastor. Rev. Lisa Romantum Schwartz, ORUUC's interim minister, tells his story.

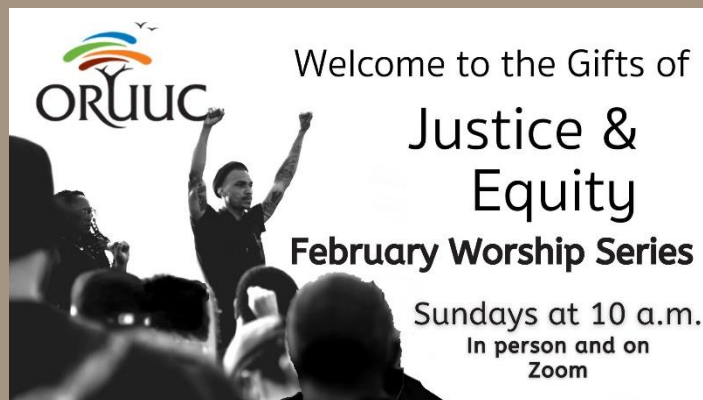
Worship with us at 10 a.m. in person or on ZOOM. Zoom door opens at 9:45 a.m.

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



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.

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.



The rescheduled Leadership InFormation Workshop takes place this Sunday, Feb. 4 from 12:15 to 2:15 p.m. All are welcome to attend; those who pre-registered will receive a boxed lunch. Let's make 2024 the year of leadership growth and community connection at ORUUC!

Nominating Committee 2023-24

Nancy Highfill, Steven Barker, Sue Lasky, Amanda Branche, Cara Jordan

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



ORUUC Labyrinth
Photo by Bill Anderson, 2020

The EMBERS Group (Earth Mindfulness Based on Earth Religions and Spirituality) invites all to an **Imbolc Ceremony TOMORROW (Saturday, Feb. 3)**. The group will work on the Labyrinth, looking for signs of new life and preparing the earth for spring. Work and the ritual will take place from 1 to 5:30 p.m., followed by a potluck in the Hearth Room from 5:30 to 7 p.m. **Contact Whitney Cole or Jen Stark with questions or for more information.**



The Spring Rummage Sale, March 1 and 2, is right around the corner! There will be a planning meeting this Sunday, Feb. 4 at 2:30 p.m. in the Hearth Room for anyone interested in helping.

- Big Rummage is scheduled for Feb 24, 9am-noon. Please let us know if you want to volunteer. Tell Amanda or Christina if you need a pick up.

- We'll need help setting up the church on Feb 25, and throughout the week!

- Donations can be made Sunday 2/25 through Thursday 2/29.

Rummage Week begins Saturday, Feb. 24 with **Big Rummage Pick Up**. Many volunteers are needed to help with various tasks throughout the week and during the sale. Youth who volunteer their time get hourly credit that's applied toward their Youth Trip Fund. And you get first dibs on lots of cool stuff! For more information, including a list of items to donate, visit <https://www.oruuc.org/rummage>.



Eggs and Pegs is this Sunday, Feb. 4! Play cribbage, eat breakfast, have fun. Curious? Talk to Brandon White, Christina Elliott, Jane Flanagan, or Shelaine Curd, or just show up Sunday!



Some people say that a perfect heart would be a flawless heart, stunning in its pristine, never-broken state. Is that a realistic standard? And, if a community was seeking a leader with a perfect heart, what qualifications might they look for? An intergenerational cast of characters will present a play that delves into the questions, and -- just in time for Valentine's day -- **there will be a potluck "Hugs n' Quiches" lunch after the service! Bring a quiche or frittata to share!** The church will provide salad, drinks, and dessert. **There will be no Faith Formation hour classes.**

Announcements



Join partner organizations across the state to advocate for our freedom to live without fear of gun violence. Together, in Nashville, we will demand that Governor Lee and the Supermajority Legislature take action to keep our communities safe. **Tuesday, February 27th 10:30 AM - 6:00 PM CST McKendree United Methodist Church/Cordell Hull in Nashville**

A bus is going from Knoxville. The TN UU State Action Network is working hard to get a great turnout from all of the our TN congregations. You can register by clicking [HERE](#). (Shared on behalf of Mark Mohundro, TVUUC.)

Weather Closure Reminders



Weekdays: If Oak Ridge Schools are closed, the church office 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](#).

2024 OAK RIDGE REC LEAGUE CO-ED VOLLEYBALL

**TUESDAYS AT THE CIVIC CENTER
CHEER ON ORUUC OR PLAY!**

FEB. 6 AT 8:30 PM
VS. HITS & GIGGLES

FEB. 13 AT 6:30 PM
VS. I DON'T KNOW WHO

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

FEB. 27 AT 8:30 PM
VS. FUD

MARCH 5
MAKE UP

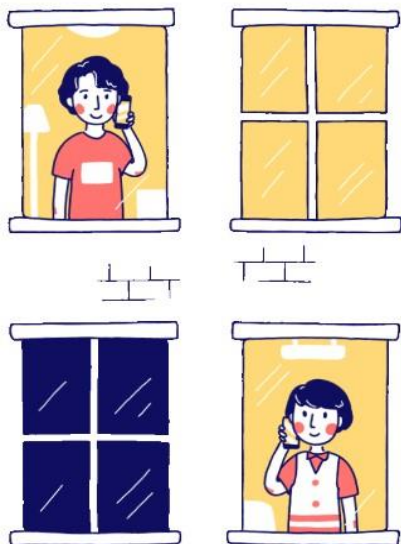
VOLLEYBALL! The 2024 Winter Co-Ed Volleyball season continues on Tuesday, Feb. 6 with ORUUC playing an 8:30 p.m. game against Hits & Giggles. Games are hosted by the Oak Ridge Recreation & Parks Department and are played at the Oak Ridge Civic Center. Contact Shelaine Curd at slovecurd@gmail.com if you're interested in playing, or just show up to play or cheer! Wear blue! (The season runs through mid-March. The schedule posted here will be updated weekly.)

Thank you for
your support, ORUUC!



There are still three dozen Vegetarian tamales in the church kitchen freezer--If you ordered tamales in the fall and haven't picked yours up yet, please do! Thanks!

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.

Meal Trains for the Hicks and Waldo Families



ORUUC Member Josh Hicks has been living with End Stage Liver Disease, awaiting a liver transplant for more than a year. He is now scheduled to undergo transplant surgery on February 6, 2024 at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville. Josh and his wife, Jennifer, live in Oak Ridge and plan to be at Vanderbilt for 30 days. They are foster parents who

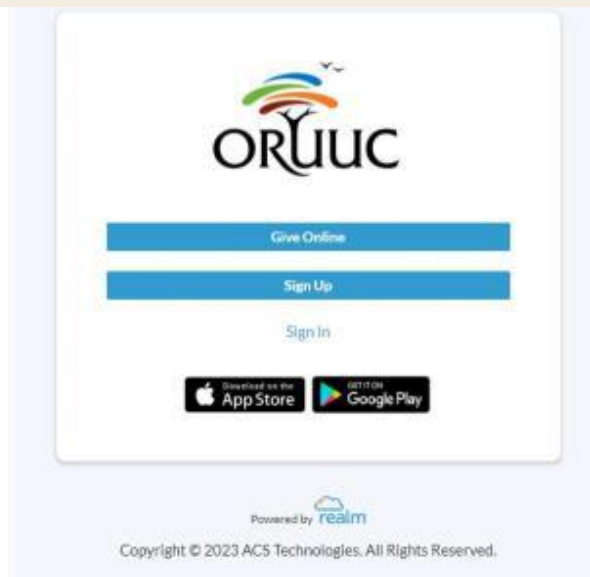
have opened their home and their hearts to five beautiful children, whom they have adopted. Jennifer's mother, Beth, and family friends will be caring for their children here in Oak Ridge until they return. The Caring Team would like to help ease the burden on the family during the next month by providing meals to the Hicks family—sign up here:

<https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/wl77g1> AND the donor's

family, who also live in Oak Ridge. Jenna has graciously volunteered to be a donor to Josh, and will be staying at Vanderbilt post-op for three weeks. Jenna's partner, Katrina, will be caring for their two children in Oak Ridge in the meantime. To provide a meal for the Waldos, sign up here: <https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/6znqgz>. Thank you for supporting both of these families!



It's Tax Time! Need a copy of your giving record?



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.

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. 10 and 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 Martin Bauer at bauermlb@gmail.com for more information.**



Eggs and Pegs are back! Play cribbage, eat breakfast, have fun **Sunday, Feb. 4!** 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 scheduled is February 19 starting at 12 noon.** Questions? Contact Coordinator Cara Weigel at 865-481-8108.

Family News



UPDATE:

This week's OWL 5th/6th Grade OWL Class is as scheduled from 4 to 5:15 p.m. There are six 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
February 15!*

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 - Spring Intermediate CON (Grades 6-8)
- March 8-10 - Spring Elementary CON (Grades 3-5) *(Takes place during Oak Ridge Schools' Spring Break)*
- March 22-24 - Senior High Mountain CON (Grades 9-12) *(Takes place during Oak Ridge Schools' Spring Break)*

Registration will open soon and closes two weeks before each camp. Visit <https://www.themountainrlc.org/cons> for more information and to register. Youth AND adult advisors need to register. Once you've registered, please let Whitney Cole, Multigenerational Director, 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>.



EVENTBRITE.COM
Rescheduled 2024 MLK Prayer Breakfast

Rescheduled 2024 MLK Prayer Breakfast

Saturday, February 10 - 8 - 9:30 a.m.
Green McAdoo Cultural Center, 101 School Street, Clinton

The annual prayer breakfast to celebrate the life and work of Martin Luther King Jr. has been rescheduled due to inclement weather on MLK Jr. Day. Enjoy a hearty breakfast of bacon, eggs, pancakes, juice, and coffee. Special musical guest, Brandon Whitaker, a musician from Knoxville who is also a composer, will be on hand. Several area faith leaders will lead us in prayers so that we may continue to strive to fulfill King's dream. Trevor King will reflect on King's legacy and Paris Ellis of Harriman will offer a solo.

This event is sponsored by the Green McAdoo Cultural Center and the Oak Ridge-Anderson County NAACP. This event is free, but please reserve a ticket on Eventbrite by February 5 so organizers can prepare the necessary amount of food:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/rescheduled-2024-mlk-prayer-breakfast-tickets-815519148727?aff=oddtctcre>

Understanding Appalachia – The Most Misunderstood Region in the Country

Thursday, Feb. 8 at 5 p.m., *
CNS New Hope Center, 602 Scarboro Rd. Speaker: Dr. Chad Berry, Vice President for Alumni, Communications and Philanthropy at Berea College

*Doors open at 5 p.m. for a reception for the speaker. Light food will be served. Presentations start at 6 p.m. For more information on Our American Roots, visit <https://www.roanestate.edu/oar>.



OUR AMERICAN ROOTS
AN EXPLORATION OF CULTURES

The League of Women Voters of Oak Ridge welcomes the community to **Lunch with the League on Tuesday, Feb. 6 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 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.

Anderson County District 7 Chancellor Primary Election Forum

On March 5, Anderson County will hold the Presidential Preference and County Primaries election. Of interest is the election of Chancellor for District 7, which serves Anderson County. Currently, the position is held by James W. Brooks, Jr. who has held this position since April 2023 after the departure of Judge M. Nichole "Nicki" Cantrell. Mr. Brooks was appointed by Gov. Bill Lee to serve until an election could be held.

The four candidates on the Republican Primary are: James W. Brooks, Jr. (incumbent), Daniel Forrester, Evan Hauser and Roger Miller.

The Anderson County Chancery Court hears cases such as adoptions, orders of protection, child support, child custody and divorce; all family law matters as well as lawsuits and contract disputes. Additionally, the court can hear Criminal Court cases and the Judge can sit at the Circuit Court and hear Juvenile Court appeals.

This forum will follow the League's normal procedures with one exception. Since this is a primary and all of the candidates for this position are representing the Republican party, there will be no empty chair stipulation.

Candidates will answer questions sent prior to the forum. Additional questions from the audience will be gathered by cards at the forum and will be vetted by the League for respectfulness to each candidate and appropriateness to this election

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.

This Week at ORUUC



Friday, Feb. 2

11am Tai Chi Practice
5pm Private

Saturday, Feb. 3

1:30 EMBERS Imbolc Ceremony
4-8pm Rental
5:30pm EMBERS Potluck

Sunday, Feb. 4

8:30am Eggs and Pegs
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
12:15pm Leadership InFormation Workshop
12:30pm Buddhism Study Group
12:30pm Circle of Trust IX
1:30pm Book Club
2:20pm Rummage Team Meeting
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. 5

11am Tai Chi Practice

Tuesday, Feb. 6

12noon League of Women Voters
Lunch with the League
6:30pm Depression & Anxiety Group
8:30pm Volleyball v. Hits & Giggles

Wednesday, Feb. 7

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. 8

12pm NWUUC & Launchpad Meeting
12:30pm Lunch Bunch
5pm "A Perfect Heart" Rehearsal

To view the church calendar anytime, visit

<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> 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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ORUUC Executive Team

Rev. Lisa Romantum Schwartz
Christine Rehder
Amanda Fishel
Donna Maloney
Jeannie Cuevas, Office Administrator

Sunday, Feb. 11 **The Perfect Heart**



Some people say that a perfect heart would be a flawless heart, stunning in its pristine, never-broken state. Is that a realistic standard? And, if a community was seeking a leader with a perfect heart, what qualifications might they look for? An intergenerational cast of characters will present a play that delves into the questions, and — just in time for Valentine's day — there will be a potluck "Hugs n' Quiches" lunch after the service!

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