

February 9-15, 2024

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News from Oak Ridge Unitarian Universalist Church

The Exponent



Donate Food To Rummage Volunteers!



It's almost time for our semi-annual – big money generating, lots of fun, great bargains, treasures for a pittance – **RUMMAGE SALE! Pick up day is February 24, drop off days are February 25 – 29, and sale days are March 1 and 2.** There will be an army of volunteers getting ready for and working the sale. Just like the army, volunteers need nourishment to keep up their energy while sorting, pricing, displaying and organizing sale items. This is where we need your help! **Please donate food to keep our volunteers energized and super productive!** On certain days, we'll need more meals than others. If you can supply meal(s) or grazing foods to snack on, **contact Charlene Luther to reserve your day: 865-567-2216 or email lutherca@comcast.net** Note: bringing hot food in Crock Pots is a great idea. Suggested meals items: casseroles, soups, sandwiches, veggies trays, fruits, chips, sloppy joes, and salads. Suggested grazing foods: grapes, cheese cubes, crackers (including gluten free), cookies, apple slices, chips, baby carrots, celery sticks, pretzels. Desserts are always appreciated.

Segregation in Oak Ridge, Even After Death

Rev. Lisa Romantum Schwartz, Interim Minister

We've all heard stories of segregation and its lasting effects on social dynamics and the demographics of wealth. Sometimes we talk about the psychological effects, too. When I read some of the history of segregation in Oak Ridge, I was dismayed to read that, as recently as the 1950s, even the cemetery was segregated. Our ORUUC history book tells part of the story, and how it intersects with our church.

ORUUC member Robert Officer died in February 1958, and he was refused burial in the Oak Ridge Memorial Park except in the "area reserved for Negroes." His wife, Arizona Officer, asked for the church's help, and Board members interviewed officials of Oak Ridge Memorial Park and learned that the cemetery was indeed segregated. Non-white persons other than Blacks could be buried anywhere in the cemetery, but Black people were restricted to a designated section at the eastern boundary of the cemetery property. This was the practice, even though the Atomic Energy Commission had donated the land to the City for a cemetery.

Our board members were told by cemetery managers that they were following the policies of the National Association of Memorial Parks, and that if

we were looking for trouble, they would see that we got plenty of it.

ORUUC was not ready to enter a head on fight against entrenched bigotry at this time, but the board found out that churches could reserve tracts for their members, and that they were free to specify who was eligible for burial in their sections. ORUUC took advantage of the cemetery rules to reserve a Unitarian burial section, where no segregation of the deceased would be allowed.

The church publicized the availability of cemetery plots in the Unitarian section of the Oak Ridge Memorial Park regardless of race, color, or creed. Sadly, by that time it was too late for Mrs. Arizona Officer who had buried her husband Robert in Algood, Tennessee, their ancestral home. Our church still owns those plots to this day, and it's a meaningful part of our story.

People study history in order to ponder how great changes have come about, and learn to navigate the momentous changes that face us in our own era. As we learn about the deep wounds of segregation, may we learn to heal from the past indignities that followed people even unto death.

Rev. Lisa



This 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!

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

"The Perfect Heart"

and

Hugs n' Quiches

Sunday, Feb. 11

at  ORUUC

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

After worship, all are welcome to join us for a potluck luncheon; please bring a quiche or frittata to share. Salad, drinks, and dessert will be provided. All Faith Formation hour classes are canceled.

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.



February is Black History Month, and our worship theme is Justice and Equity. Last Sunday, Multigenerational Director Whitney Cole shared the book, "This Promise of Change: One Girl's Story in the Fight for School Equality" by Jo Ann Allen Boyce and Debbie Levy during the Story For All Ages. Jo Ann Allen Boyce was one of the Clinton 12, a group of 12 high school students who were among the first in the South in 1956 to integrate an all-white high school. To learn more about the Clinton 12, ORUUC will be meeting at the Green McAdoo Cultural Center in Clinton tomorrow, Saturday, Feb. 10, at 3 p.m. The museum is free and all are welcome. For more information, visit <https://greenmcadooculturalcenter.org/about/>

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



Tennessee Legislation of Interest to LGBTQ

Community: What legislation is proposed in this session of the Tennessee Legislature that will affect the LGBTQ community? Gabe Rutan-Ram, Executive Director of ChangeTN, will review bills that have been introduced and suggest ways to interact with state legislators at the **February 12 PFLAG meeting. All are welcome to attend the meeting, held this month at the Jewish Congregation of Oak Ridge, 101 W Madison Lane. Come at 6:45 p.m. for a social time; the meeting begins at 7 p.m.**

Originally from the North Georgia mountains, Rutan-Ram moved to Knoxville in 2015, shortly after graduating from the University of Georgia with a background in media management. He spent the next five years traveling around Tennessee with a special interest in rural counties. He joined ChangeTN in the fall of 2020 with the goal of giving everyone in Tennessee a voice at the table to move the state forward. The focus of ChangeTN is to assist candidates running for office in Tennessee, from town councils to governor's seat and everything in between and help provide the support they need to win regardless if their district is blue, red, or purple.

Oak Ridge has an active PFLAG group which meets the second Monday of the month, rotating the venue among Oak Ridge faith communities including the First Presbyterian, First United Methodist, United Church - Chapel on the Hill, and Oak Ridge Unitarian Universalist Churches, and the Jewish Congregation of Oak Ridge. PFLAG (formerly known as an acronym for Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) is the United States' largest organization uniting families and allies with people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or queer (LGBTQ). Its mission is to provide opportunities for dialogue about sexual orientation, gender identities, and to create a society that is healthy and respectful of human diversity.

For more information, contact Anne Backus at backusanne@comcast.net.



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. You may 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. **Please register here:**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/.../the-vernon-johns-story...> by **FEBRUARY 14 to let us know how many lunches to order.**

Please come! Black History is EVERYONE'S history! There is a movement across the U.S. to erode access to, and the teaching of, Black History, but the church does not answer to the Caesars of our day. It is vital to our communities to talk about history, to deepen our trust with each other, and build relationships. The United Methodist membership vows say, "will you stand against evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves?" Absolutely yes. I will. We hope you will come. Your voice matters in this conversation. Rev. Annette Flynn, FUMCOR



The EMBERS Group (Earth Mindfulness Based on Earth Religions and Spirituality) invites all to their meeting Monday, Feb. 12 at 6 p.m. in the Hearth Room. Contact Whitney Cole or Jen Stark with questions or for more information.

Announcements



The Spring Rummage Sale, March 1 and 2, is right around the corner!

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

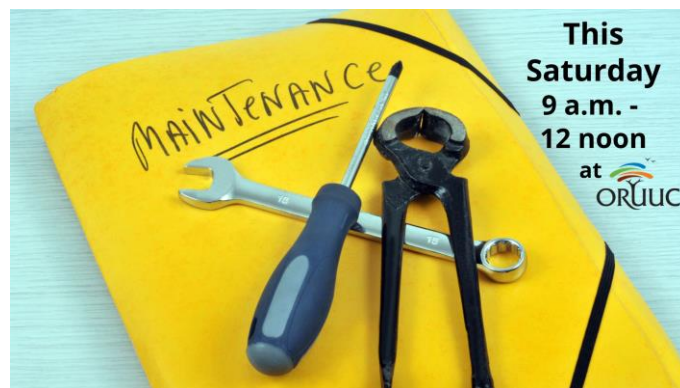
- We'll need help setting up the church on Feb 25, and throughout the week!

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

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>.



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.



Looking for something to do this Saturday, Feb. 10? Stop by the church between 9 a.m. and noon and lend a hand on Maintenance Day!

Check your church keys! If you have a church key and it has just an A on it (NOT A2), please email Martin Bauer at bauerm1b@gmail.com.



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.

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. On Tuesday, Feb. 6, he underwent transplant surgery 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 AND donor Jenna's family. Jenna's partner, Katrina, is caring for their two children in Oak Ridge. Thank you for supporting both of these families!

The Hicks Family Meal Train:

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

The Lukis/Waldo Family Meal Train:

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



Update on Duane Starr



Duane Starr is now at home under Hospice care. To reach out to Nancy, please email starroakridge@gmail.com. The Caring Team is holding 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 Albricht.



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, 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 scheduled is February 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 five 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 - Intermediate (Grades 6-8)
Registration closes TODAY, Feb. 9.
- March 8-10 - Elementary (Grades 3-5)
Registration is open now!
- March 22-24 - Senior High (Grades 9-12)

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



EVENTBRITE.COM

Rescheduled 2024 MLK Prayer Breakfast

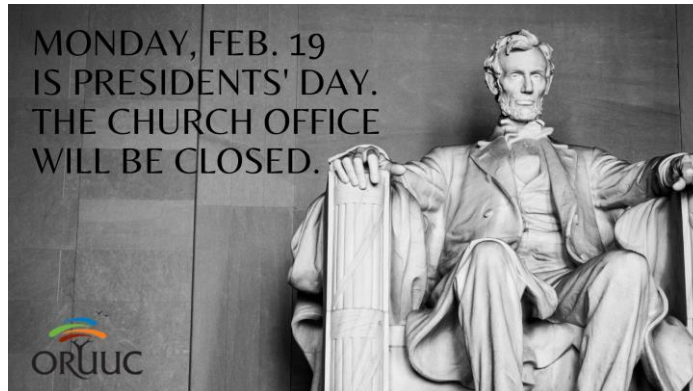
Rescheduled 2024 MLK Prayer Breakfast

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>



FLATWATER TALES PRESENTS

SCARBORO 85

AS TOLD BY MASTER STORYTELLER SHEILA ARNOLD

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS:

Sheila tells the "secret" story of the 85 brave Scarboro students who were FIRST to desegregate a school system in the Southeast.

PUBLIC PERFORMANCES:

- Feb 20 - 3:00PM Scarboro Community Center, 148 Carver Ave.
- Feb 21 - 11:00AM ORICL Roane State Community College, 701 Briarcliff Ave. Goff Building #107
- Feb 21 - 7:00PM Oak Valley Baptist Church, 194 Hampton Road
- Feb 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
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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 ORUUC



Friday, Feb. 9

1pm Community Sermon Viewing
11am Tai Chi Practice

Saturday, Feb. 10

9am-12noon Maintenance Day
3pm Green McAdoo Cultural Center visit—meet at the museum at 101 School Street, Clinton. Admission is free--all are welcome!
3pm Ukulele

Sunday, Feb. 11

8:15am Circle of Trust VII
10am Worship
11:15am Hugs n' Quiches Potluck
11am High School (Canceled)
11am Together in Spirit (Canceled)
11:15am Circle of Trust IV
11:15am Newcomers (Canceled)
11:15am Reflections (Canceled)
11:30am Circle of Trust II
12:15pm Circle of Trust V
12:30pm Buddhism Study Group
1pm Circle of Trust VI
3pm Line Dancing
4pm 5th/6th Grade OWL
5-7pm Zentangle Group

Monday, Feb. 12

11am Tai Chi Practice
6pm EMBERS

Tuesday, Feb. 13

6pm Presidents Council
6:30pm Depression & Anxiety Group
6:30pm Volleyball v. I Don't Know Who

Wednesday, Feb. 14

6:30am Breakfast Rotary
11am Tai Chi Practice
5:15pm Circle of Trust III
7pm Choir Practice
7:45pm Band Rehearsal

Thursday, Feb. 15

12:30pm Lunch Bunch

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. 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? Interim Minister, the Rev. Lisa Romantum Schwartz, will delve into ancient and modern sources to reflect on the axial age we're in.

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