

January 19-25, 2024

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News from Oak Ridge Unitarian Universalist Church

The Exponent



Cultivating Community During Snowmageddon

Rev. Lisa Romantum Schwartz, Interim Minister

To “cultivate” means to prepare something, as for planting, and growth. Sometimes it means expanding capacities, and it often implies a kind of nurturing of the newly created thing, too.

I know that a lot of thought went into developing the ORUUC mission statement, whose first word and only verb is “cultivate.”

What is the church cultivating, when it’s at its best (i.e. when it’s living out its mission)? “A community,” by which I believe you mean both a church community and its surrounding location, too. And what kind of community are we cultivating? One that is “alive with justice and joy!”

So just to paraphrase, here you are preparing yourselves and Oak Ridge for expanding your capacities and nurturing the bonds you’ve created among yourselves and your neighbors, so that all can live with equity and pride.

And along comes... SNOWMAGEDDON.

Plenty of churches would have hunkered down and canceled all activities. But at ORUUC, you responded differently: You cranked up the energy and stepped up the leadership (thanks, Christina Elliott and Amanda Branche).

You found some natural partners to help with the execution of this bold plan. You opened up the building and stocked it with warm blankets and coats and food. And in a very short amount of time, you opened up an emergency shelter to care for our unhoused neighbors in this town.

Have we learned some lessons in the execution of this loving embrace of our neighbors? You bet we have.

But there will be time for debriefing later. Right now, folks are busy making sure people are safe and warm and fed. Church members have been generous with time and food and money and air mattresses and blankets and on and on. Thanks to everyone who helped in any way.

A mission statement is just a set of words on a piece of paper. Sometimes church members can’t even recite their own mission statements, which can be fine IF the church stays engaged actually living out its mission. ORUUC, hat tip to all of you for your support of this week’s immense effort to cultivate a community alive with justice and joy!

Rev. Lisa

Many thanks to all of the many volunteers who have helped with the Warming Center at ORUUC this week! They opened the church doors on Monday afternoon--a day earlier than originally planned, during a snowstorm—and have been there around the clock, offering a warm, safe place for people to come in out of the cold, get a snack or meal, and spend the night. The Warming Center will be open through this Sunday, Jan. 21. For updates, visit the ORUUC Facebook group:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/oruuc>. To donate money for supplies via our partner, TORCH, visit:

<https://oakridgetorch.org/donate/> (in the comment section, please write "Warming Center.") Thank you for your support!

This Sunday, Jan. 21

Snow Day: Winter is Here

We're thankful that technology exists to allow us to connect in real time and across space to worship together, even when we can't physically be together. This live Zoom service is brought to you by winter's cold and ice. Join us (virtually) at 10 a.m. to make warm connections on this cold Sunday.

Worship with us at 10 a.m. on ZOOM ONLY.
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



January Split the Plate Offering: [YAIPak Outreach \(Tornado Relief in Middle and West Tennessee\)](#)

Due to the icy road conditions and predicted frigid temperatures, there will be no in-person worship or Faith Formation classes this Sunday. Stay safe and warm!

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.

ORUUC
Leadership
InFormation
Workshop
Sunday, Feb. 4
12:15-2:15 p.m.
Lunch provided
Led by Rev. Lisa Romantum Schwartz and ORUUC Leaders. Hosted by the Nominating Committee.



January Split the Plate Offering: YAIPak Outreach (Tornado Relief in Middle and West Tennessee)

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. Each year, members chose nine organizations, leaving three months open for emergency needs. The Executive Team recently voted to direct the January Split the Plate offering to Tornado Relief in Middle and West Tennessee, specifically YAIPak Outreach. Named for their motto, "You Are Important," YAIPak Outreach is a non-profit local to the Clarksville region that, in normal times, operates a free household "shopping" warehouse, works



with unhoused people and those transitioning to housing, provides new foster children with clothing and school supplies, and more. Since the tornado outbreak in December, their volunteers have been on the ground serving area residents. As needs have shifted from chainsaws, work gloves, and generators to clothes, household items, toiletries, and space heaters, YAIPak has kept pace with the day to day needs of survivors in the area. We here at ORUUC can help the residents of Middle Tennessee recover from this devastating storm by supporting YAIPak's work. You can learn more at <https://www.yaioutreach.org/project/rebuildhope>. Please [GIVE HERE](#) as you are willing and able, or text "ORUUC" to 73256.

Due to this week's inclement weather and the Warming Center effort, the Leadership InFormation Workshop originally scheduled for Sunday, Jan. 21 has been postponed until Sunday, Feb. 4. If you're interested in being part of this event, sign up [HERE](#). Thanks for your understanding! 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

January Worship Series

Liberating Love



January 7: **Plumbing the Depths of Spirit**

Rev. Lisa Romantum Schwartz

Happy New Year! Faith Formation classes for all ages resume.

January 14: **Someone to Stand**

Guest Minister Rev. Chris Battle,
Battlefield Farms, Knoxville

January 21: **Snow Day: Winter is Here** *(ZOOM ONLY SERVICE)*

Rev. Lisa Romantum Schwartz

Due to inclement weather, there will be no in-person worship or Faith Formation hour this Sunday.

January 28: **How to Hypnotize a Chicken**

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's Volunteer Day at Ecumenical Storehouse is Saturday, Jan. 20, 9 a.m.-12 noon



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. Last year, Ecumenical Storehouse volunteers picked up and distributed an estimated \$180,000 worth of used furniture, household goods, and appliances to 316 families in need. The families helped consisted of 437 children and 482 adults. Families served live in Anderson, Roane, Morgan, Campbell, and Scott counties. Volunteers worked an estimated 3,150 hours to serve clients and pick up used furniture. Get involved! There are many ways you can help! **Please contact Martin Bauer at bauermlb@gmail.com for more information.**

ORUUC Weather Closure Policy Reminders



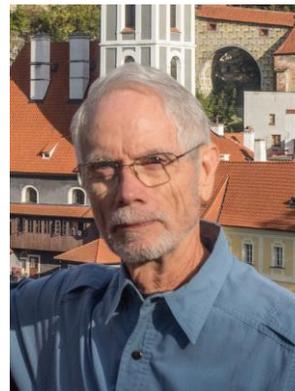
Weekdays: If Oak Ridge Schools are closed, the church office will be closed.

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](#).



The Spring Rummage sale is fast approaching! 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>. Start cleaning out those closets!



Now on Exhibit in the ORUUC Gallery: Photography by Bob McLaren

ORUUC member Bob McLaren has been interested in photography since Junior High, and still has his first camera. Wildlife and landscapes were always his focus. The digital revolution, concurrent with his retirement, rejuvenated his interest and involvement, as experimentation was freed from the cost of film and processing. He enjoys all aspects of photography, from image capture through editing and printing. He also credits the support, participation, and patience of his wife, Lynda, who takes very good pictures of her own. His photography will be on display through February 23.

Announcements

Stone Soup

FREE Community Meal!



DINE IN!
Take out meals available

Friday, Jan. 26
5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.
Or until supplies run out!
White Chicken Chili
Fresh Fruit
Corn Muffin

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, Stoplight #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 gearing up for another delicious meal next week: White Chicken Chili, Fresh Fruit, and Corn Muffins! Contact Jen Stark at jen.stark@hotmail.com to help!



Caring Update on

Carole Yust: On Wednesday, Jan. 3, Carole moved to NHC Healthcare, 300 Laboratory Road, Oak Ridge to begin rehab following hip surgery. She is in Room 130 and welcomes visits. The direct phone line in Carole's room is 865-535-0249. We continue to send healing wishes to Carole, and thank all those who have supported her and cared for her during this time.

2024 OAK RIDGE REC LEAGUE CO-ED VOLLEYBALL

TUESDAYS AT THE CIVIC CENTER
CHEER ON ORUUC OR PLAY!



JAN. 23 AT 6:30 PM
VS. 671

JAN. 30 AT 8:30 PM
VS. CHEWBLOCKA

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
THAT'S WHAT SHE SET

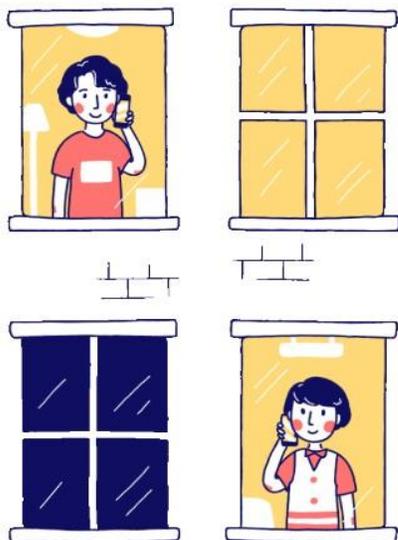
VOLLEYBALL! The 2024 Winter Co-Ed Volleyball season continues on Tuesday, Jan. 23 with ORUUC playing a 6:30 p.m. game against 671. Games are hosted by the Oak Ridge Recreation & Parks Department and are played at the Oak Ridge Civic Center. Contact [Shelaine Curd](#) if you're interested in playing, 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 stop by the church office weekdays between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m., or next Sunday (please see Jason Fishel). Thank you!

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

Freddie Nechtow freddien123@gmail.com 865-599-4359

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.

Margarete Ohnesorge

April 18, 1934 – January 9, 2024



Margarete Ohnesorge, age 89, of Oak Ridge, passed away on Tuesday, January 9, 2024, at Commonwealth Senior Living, attended by her daughter. Margarete was a member of Oak Ridge Unitarian Universalist Church.

She was born Margarete Kirchner on April 18, 1934, to the late Gerhard Kirchner and Erna Vogt, in Bremen, Germany. In 1950, she moved to California at the age of sixteen. Once living in the States, Margarete preferred to be considered American. In 1962, she moved to Oak Ridge with her husband, Jim Ford. There she had her first child, Jimmy, who passed away in 1968 from leukemia.

Margarete was an avid photographer who joined the Carbide Camera Club in 1975. After 23 years of marriage, Jim passed away at age 50 in 1984.

Margarete then went back to school to qualify as a Health Physics Technician and found work at Oak Ridge National Laboratory in bioassay.

Margarete met Walter Ohnesorge at ORNL, and they married in 1991. They were kindred spirits who loved being outdoors as much as possible. After Walt retired, they traveled and went hiking more than ever. Margarete's photography captured their wonderful experiences together until Walt passed away in 2013.

Margarete was preceded in death by son, Jimmy Ford; first husband, Jim Ford; second husband, Walter Ohnesorge; sister, Erika; and brother, Peter. Survivors include children, Susan Ford and Kenneth Ford, both of Tennessee, and sister, Heide, of Australia.

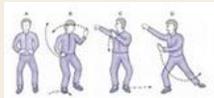
The family will host a memorial service at 2 pm on Saturday, March 30, 2024, at Oak Ridge Unitarian Universalist Church. Online condolences may be left at www.weatherformortuary.com.

Ongoing Activities at ORUUC



Line Dancing

CANCELED THIS SUNDAY, JAN. 21 DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER. 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 had a fantastic time at the NYE Coffeehouse! We're scheduled to meet next on Saturday, Jan. 27 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.

Ecumenical Storehouse Pick Up Saturday, Jan. 20, 9 a.m.-12 noon Volunteers needed!



Each month, ORUUC picks up donations for Ecumenical Storehouse, which supplies furniture and household goods to those in need. 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.



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



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 January 29 starting at 12 noon.** Questions? Contact Coordinator Cara Weigel at 865-481-8108.



Due to the closure of the church this Sunday, Jan. 21 because of inclement weather, this week's 5th/6th Grade OWL Class has been cancelled. We'll see you all next Sunday, Jan. 28!



Some high schoolers have expressed interest in having a video chat over Discord for Faith Formation hour this Sunday, Jan. 21. If a high schooler isn't already in our discord group, they can contact High School Coordinator Jason Fishel via email at solarmanj@gmail.com. Jason will send them the invite to get them in so they can join Sunday. He will start the video call at 11 AM.



Mother Goose with ORUUC's own "Father Goose" Michael Raymond! Babies through preschoolers will have fun singing, clapping, dancing, and moving with their parents, grandparents, or other caregivers.

**First and Third Thursdays at 10:30 a.m.
in the Oak Ridge Public Library Meeting Room**

*Don't miss the next gatherings
February 1 and 15!*

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

<https://mailchi.mp/oakridgetn/orpljan24>

Youth CON Dates:



Spring PAL
Planning Weekend
Jan 19-21, 2024



Spring Intermediate
CON
6th - 8th grade
Feb 23-25, 2024



Spring Elementary
Youth CON
3rd - 5th grade
Mar 8-10, 2024



Spring Senior High
CON
9th - 12th grade
Mar 22-24, 2024

Spring Mountain CON Dates

- February 23-25 - Spring Intermediate CON (Grades 6-8)
- March 8-10 - Spring Elementary CON (Grades 3-5)
- 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.



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! ⁸

Community News



We are super excited to kickstart 2024 and keep the momentum moving! We are offering two dates to come get to know us and learn about Oak Ridge Periodic Tables, as well as how we teach table hosting. We're covering the same material in each supper, so just pick the date that works best for you and your schedule. The gatherings will include food, a presentation, and should run around 90 minutes.

Whether you're new to this movement, or well acquainted with us and just looking to sharpen your skills, we hope to see you at the table in January! It's a great place to make new friends, equip our hearts and minds with new information, and add value to community building.

Both of these opportunities will be held in the lobby of the Historic Grove Theater and an RSVP is requested so that we can plan appropriately for food. The two dates are:

- Sunday, January 28 at 5:00 PM
- Monday, January 29 at 6:00 PM.

If neither of these dates work, do not worry we will be adding more as the year goes on! RSVP

[HERE!](#)



Community invited to Breakfast with the Legislators

The League of Women Voters of Oak Ridge will host Breakfast with the Legislators on Monday, Jan. 22 from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. in the Social Room of the Oak Ridge Civic Center located at 1401 Oak Ridge Turnpike.

Lieutenant Governor Randy McNally, Senator Ken Yager and Representatives John Ragan and Monty Fritz have been invited to bring us up to date on what's happening in the Tennessee Legislature. Members of the audience may ask questions and give opinions. A light continental breakfast is provided at no charge. The public is encouraged to attend.

2024 marks the 37th year that League of Women Voters has held Breakfast with the Legislators. Subsequent Breakfasts will be held at the same time and place on the 4th Monday of each month: Feb. 26th, Mar. 25th, and April 22nd, or as long as the General Assembly is in session.

If Oak Ridge Schools are closed due to inclement weather, Breakfast with the Legislators will be canceled.

For additional information, call Dan Robbins at 865-250-9177.



OUR AMERICAN ROOTS
AN EXPLORATION OF CULTURES

**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>**

This Week at ORUUC



Friday, Jan. 19

WARMING CENTER OPEN

11am Tai Chi Practice

Saturday, Jan. 20

WARMING CENTER OPEN

9am-12pm Ecumenical Storehouse

Pick Up

Sunday, Jan. 21

WARMING CENTER OPEN

10am Worship (ZOOM Only)

11am High School (on Discord)

11am Together in Spirit (Canceled)

11:15am Circle of Trust I

(Canceled)

11:15am Knitting & Crocheting

Group (Canceled)

11:15am Newcomers (Canceled)

11:15am Reflections (Canceled)

12:30pm Buddhism Study Group

12:30pm Circle of Trust IX

3pm Line Dancing (Canceled)

4pm 5th/6th Grade OWL (Canceled)

4pm Circle of Trust XI

5-7pm Zentangle Group

5:30pm Circle of Trust X

Monday, Jan. 22

11am Tai Chi Practice

7pm OR Chorus Practice

Tuesday, Jan. 22

6:30pm Depression and Anxiety

Group

6:30pm Volleyball v. 671

Wednesday, Jan. 24

6:30am Breakfast Rotary

11am Tai Chi Practice

1:30pm Executive Team Meeting

5:30pm Circle of Trust III

6pm Finance Committee Meeting

7pm Choir Practice

7:45pm Band Rehearsal

Thursday, Jan. 25

12noon NWUUC & Launchpad

Meeting

12:30pm Lunch Bunch

To view the church calendar anytime, log into the Members' Section of the ORUUC website: <https://www.oruuc.org/members-section> Need password help? Contact the church office!

ORUUC Board of Trustees 2023-24

President: Jason Fishel

Past President: Michele Thornton

President-Elect: Kara Raymond

Secretary: Nathaniel Bass

Treasurer: Brandon White

Members-at-Large:

Freddie Nechtow

Charles Davis

Jami Garner

Jen Stark

ORUUC Executive Team

Rev. Lisa Romantum Schwartz

Christine Rehder

Amanda Fishel

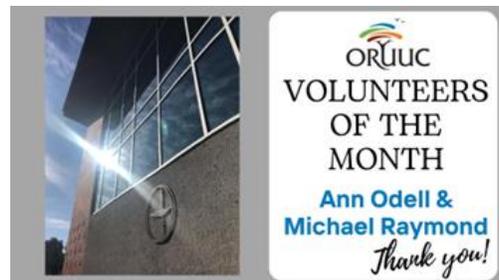
Donna Maloney

Jeannie Cuevas, Office Administrator

Sunday, Jan. 28 **How to Hypnotize a Chicken**



Here we are, four weeks into the New Year. How are those resolutions working out for ya? ORUUC's interim minister, Rev. Lisa Romantum Schwartz, explores how we're doing after that calendar-based reset, and what real transformation might mean.



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



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