

June 16-22, 2023

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## News from Oak Ridge Unitarian Universalist Church

# The Exponent



### Congregational Meeting Results!



### Congregational Meeting Sunday, June 11 at 11:30 a.m.

In the Sanctuary and on Zoom



Last Sunday, June 11, ORUUC members voted to approve the \$422,011.25 budget presented by the Board for FY2023-24. The budget includes an 8.7% cost of living increase for staff, and a 14% market-leveling increase for the Officer Administrator's position, bringing that position more in line with what the UUA recommends.

Members also approved various Board and Committee nominations (see page 3) and voted by paper ballot for nine Split the Plate recipients. Those results will be available soon.

Members also learned that Worship Coordinator Gina Grubb will be stepping down June 30. Gina took on the role of producing online worship services March 13, 2020 at the start of the pandemic. A celebration of her service will be held later this summer.

### Sharing the Pulpit

Rev. Lisa Romantum Schwartz, Interim Minister

Most UU congregations say they value "shared ministry," but we don't often talk about what that looks like in practice. Of course there are many ways members live out their ministries of caring, teaching, and serving, rooted in ORUUC's shared mission. But the most public expression of shared ministry is when congregants step into the pulpit and offer a sermon.

This is hardly a new practice at ORUUC. When I arrived at this church and began work with the Worship Team, several of them expressed a desire to have a training course to hone the skills of lay speakers to deepen this existing tradition. Over the winter, six brave people ventured forth into a class called The Shared Pulpit, and we've been working together ever since on writing, speaking, editing, and polishing sermons for a 2023 summer series.

You have a lot to look forward to, in terms of the skill of the speakers and the wide diversity of stories and styles. I don't want folks to miss the

underlying core value at the heart of this tradition: UUs believe that you don't have to be a member of the ordained clergy in order to speak powerful truth to our gathered congregation. That's a powerful part of our democratic faith, and what Renee Ruchotzke calls our "trust-based, mission-based, permission-giving way of doing church."

This summer the theme of Sharing the Pulpit is especially timely, as ORUUC prepares to enter the active search for a new ordained minister. The six class members you'll hear from beginning on June 18th and continuing through the month of July (with the exception of July 2nd, over the holiday weekend, when we will stream the GA service) are skilled, insightful, and bring their own experiences passed through the fire of theological reflection. They come from diverse backgrounds and hold a variety of theological perspectives.

Please plan to show up, or tune in, to participate in the celebration of this radical practice of sharing our pulpit!



# This Sunday, June 18

## The Giving Heart

Do you think everything happens for a reason? A participant in the Shared Pulpit class, Janet Fryer will share the story of a miracle (her word) that occurred for her family. For her, the connections between people and the timing of events are the marvel. The ending makes the local press, but the how is the mysterious driving force. Join us for an appropriate story on Father's Day.

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

Go to [Sunday Worship Info — ORUUC](#) for Zoom information.

The Order of Service may be found [here](#).

Email or Text Prayer Requests to [prayers@oruuc.org](mailto:prayers@oruuc.org)



### This month's Split the Plate Offering: [Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning \(TCWP\)](#)

Adult Faith Formation classes meet from 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. The Reflections group hosts a conversation on the sermon topic every Sunday during Faith Formation Hour in the conference room. All are welcome to join in. Nursery is available during the FF Hour. Youth Faith Formation classes are on summer break until Sunday, Aug. 6.

*Covid-19 Update: Masks are not required in the building; however, we encourage you to do what makes you feel comfortable.*

## Make your 2023-24 pledge TODAY!

I'm **IN**



It's not too late to say, "I'm IN!" Visit <https://onrealm.org/oruuc/AddPledge/2023-2024pledge> and add your pledge for the 2023-24 church year, or fill out a **green pledge card** at church. Would you like to set up autopay or have other questions about pledging? Contact the church office at 483-6761. Thank you!

## This Month's Split the Plate Offering Recipient:



Each Sunday, half of the undesignated offering is given to our Split the Plate recipient. **Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning (TCWP)** achieves and perpetuates protection of natural lands and waters through public ownership, legislation, or cooperation of the private sector. TCWP's strength lies in researching information pertinent to an issue, informing and educating our membership and the public, interacting with groups having similar objectives, and working through the legislative, administrative, and judicial branches of

government. The organization partners with Advocates for the Oak Ridge Reservation, Emory River Watershed Association, UT Arboretum Society, The Nature Conservancy, Tennessee Parks and Greenways Foundation, the Oak Ridge League of Women Voters, and others. TCWP believes that working together with the community is an important means to protect wild lands and waters. For more information, visit <https://tcwp.org/>. Please **GIVE HERE** as you are willing and able, or text "ORUUC" to 73256.

# Announcements

At the Congregational Meeting last Sunday, June 11 the following Board and Committee nominees were approved by a vote of the membership.

## Board of Trustees

President-Elect - Kara Raymond  
Member-At-Large - Jen Stark  
President - Jason Fishel  
Secretary - Nathaniel Bass  
Member-At-Large - Jami Garner

**ORUUC's 2023-24 Board of Trustees**

**Michele Thornton**  
Past-President  
Board term expires in 2024

**Jason Fishel**  
President  
Board term expires in 2025

**Kara Raymond**  
President-Elect  
Board term expires in 2026

**Brandon White**  
Treasurer

**Nathaniel Bass**  
Secretary

**Freddie Nechtow**  
Member-At-Large  
Board term expires in 2024

**Charles Davis**  
Member-At-Large  
Board term expires in 2024

**Jami Garner**  
Member-At-Large  
Board term expires in 2025

**Jen Stark**  
Member-At-Large  
Board term expires in 2025

## Nominating Committee

Sue Lasky  
Steven Barker  
Nancy Highfill  
Amanda Law  
Cara Jordan

## Charter & Bylaws

Ann Miller  
Jane Flanagan

## Endowment Committee

Janet Fryer  
Steve McAtee

## Ministerial Search Committee

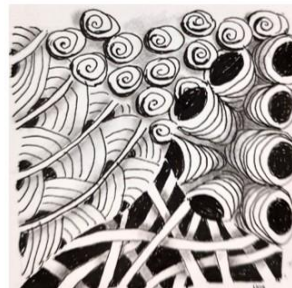
Carol Beene  
Beth Meyer  
Dave Dunkirk  
Michael Bjerke  
Patton Fishel  
Sarah Gunter  
Christy White

## Zentangle Group

Sundays 5 to 7 PM

Beginning June 18

Oak Ridge Unitarian Universalist Church  
809 Oak Ridge Turnpike



3½-inch tile from  
Introduction  
to Zentangle  
class

The Zentangle™ Method uses simple, repetitive pen strokes to create beautiful, structured patterns. Zentangle requires NO drawing skill, is easy to learn, and has many therapeutic benefits.

**Offered every week — no RSVP required!**

**Introduction to Zentangle Lesson \$10** including starter supplies

**Continuing Zentangle \$5** suggested donation. Each week stands alone.

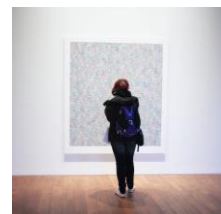
**Cash only. Supplies available to purchase.**

**For more information, contact Nancy Starr, Certified Zentangle Teacher.**

865-483-8684 (landline)

865-742-9993 (mobile/text)

[starroakridge@gmail.com](mailto:starroakridge@gmail.com)



**Members' Art Exhibit:** On Friday, July 7, ORUUC members are invited to bring your (or your children's) original art to the church for the next exhibition. Also bring an 8.5 x 11 (or email me a file) with a headshot and text-- a little about you, and about the art piece(s). The number of pieces is flexible, depending on their size and the available space. Any hangable canvas or object is fine. Contact Nancy Starr [starroakridge@gmail.com](mailto:starroakridge@gmail.com) for more information.

# Announcements



Juneteenth celebrations take place Friday, June 16 and Saturday, June 17 in Oak Ridge, and will include the first communitywide Freedom Day. Activities hosted at the Scarboro Community Center, 148 Carver Ave., and the field where the historical Scarboro School was located below Oak Valley Baptist Church on Hampton Road. All are welcome!



**The Church Office will be closed Monday, June 19 in observance of Juneteenth. This is a federal holiday. For more information on Juneteenth, visit <https://nmaahc.si.edu/explore/stories/historical-legacy-juneteenth>.**

## Summer Worship at ORUUC

- June 18 Janet Fryer
- June 25 Jane Flanagan
- July 2 **GA Worship Service (ONLINE ONLY. Church closed. FF classes canceled.)**
- July 9 Christa Brelsford
- July 16 Christy White
- July 23 David Savoie
- July 30 Esther Dyer

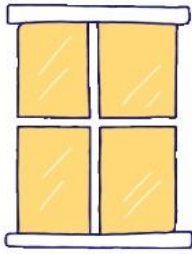


August 6 Rev. Lisa introduces a new worship series - *Discernment* - and a new year of Youth Faith Formation programming!



**MARK YOUR CALENDAR:** ORUUC needs your help on Friday, July 7 at 10 a.m. to to work with Aid to Distressed Families of Appalachian Counties (ADFAC) to pack 116 bags for Grand Oaks Elementary students. We will be packing at the ADFAC SCHOOL SUPPLY office, which is located off of East Division Road, next to the Free Medical Clinic and across the parking lot from Ecumenical Storehouse. Please contact Patsy Stacy at 865-399-1370 or [pstacy@comcast.net](mailto:pstacy@comcast.net) if you have questions, or if you're interested in helping. For more information on the backpack program, visit <https://www.adfac.org/>. Thank you!

## Caring for Each Other

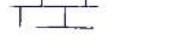


Are you going through a difficult time? Are you in a situation where support and caring are needed--someone to do grocery shopping, take you to a doctor's appointment, or provide a meal following an upcoming surgery? Contact the church office: (865) 483-6761 or [office@oruuc.org](mailto:office@oruuc.org) or a Caring Coordinator!

### Caring Coordinators for June

Freddie Nechtow [nechtowf@gmail.com](mailto:nechtowf@gmail.com) 865-599-4359 (cell)

Mare Martell [maremartell@gmail.com](mailto:maremartell@gmail.com) 616-826-9984 (cell)



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.

## New Childcare Form



If you or your group need childcare for a church meeting or event, please complete this form **TWO WEEKS** in advance: <https://form.jotform.com/231284551294053>. Childcare is provided for children ages 10 and under only. Once you click "Submit," the form will go directly to ORUUC's Multigenerational Coordinator Whitney Cole, who will work with Childcare Coordinator Laura Scott to arrange childcare for your church function. Thank you!

## 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

Our next scheduled rehearsal is **June 17 at 3:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.** We'd love to have you join us! Abbie Moore  
[abbie.moore@icloud.com](mailto: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 Baccus [backusanne@comcast.net](mailto:backusanne@comcast.net) for more information about PFLAG Oak Ridge.



ORUUC needs to add members to its Caring Team! **Contact Rachel in the church office (865-483-6761) or [communications@oruuc.org](mailto: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

### Help with Ecumenical Storehouse Pick Ups Saturday, June 17



**This Saturday, June 17, is the third Saturday of the month--ORUUC's turn to volunteer at Ecumenical Storehouse! Show up at 134 E Division Road at 9 a.m.--no training required, just a willingness to help!** The items picked up range from heavy furniture to linens, lamps, and pots and pans, so don't think you have to be able to lift a sofa to help. Questions? Contact Martin Bauer at [bauerm1b@gmail.com](mailto:bauerm1b@gmail.com).



ORUUC Pantry Needs

**Fruit (small cans or cups) • Tuna • Peanut Butter • Soups • Vegetables (corn, green beans) • Kidney beans • Mac & Cheese • Hamburger Helper • Ravioli/SpaghettiOs**  
Donations may be dropped off any weekday between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m.,



*Photo provided by Sarah Gunter after the April 25 game.*

**Tuesday evenings this Spring: Play or cheer on the ORUUC Softball team!** Their next game is **Tuesday, June 20 at 6:30 p.m. at Carl Yearwood Park v. Kangaroo Dingers.** Contact Sarah Gunter, Christina Elliot, or Jim Nutaro for more info.

# Family News

*The countdown continues!*



**Register today!**

<https://forms.gle/8UrCR5iTjqxvewdL8>

**Last chance to get a Rainbow Camp shirt!** Camp registration is still open, but the shirt order has been placed, so there are only a few extras remaining. Please fill out the form linked above to reserve a spot for your child(ren), as a Camper, Counselor In Training, or Camp Counselor. We look forward to seeing you at the end of this month!

**Donate toys for Rainbow Camp bingo prizes!**



Any type of small toy or game is accepted. Drop off donations this month in the collection bin located in the church lobby. Thank you!



**Mother Goose with ORUUC's own Michael Raymond! First and Third Thursdays (July 6 and 20) at 10:30 a.m. Oak Ridge Public Library Meeting Room.**

Sign up for the Oak Ridge Public Library's newsletter <https://mailchi.mp/oakridgetn/orpljun23>. And don't miss the re-opening of the renovated Children's Library Tuesday, June 20 at 5 p.m.!



**ORUUC's own Odelia Kneiser has started a summer project to address the issue of trash on Oak Ridge's trails and greenways, and beyond:** "We're a group of hs students in the oak ridge/knoxville area hoping to encourage teens to keep their local environment healthy. Over the next few summer months, we hope to visit dozens of local, state, and national hiking trails (including the oak ridge quarry) and pick up all of the litter there. We also plan on doing a little bit of field research on invasive species to encourage students to understand their environmental impacts. **Follow our project @litterally\_green\_project on instagram and tiktok!**" Any teens are welcome to join this group if they need something to do this summer.

**Empower students with next-gen technology.**



**Free summer STEM enrichment program for middle school students**

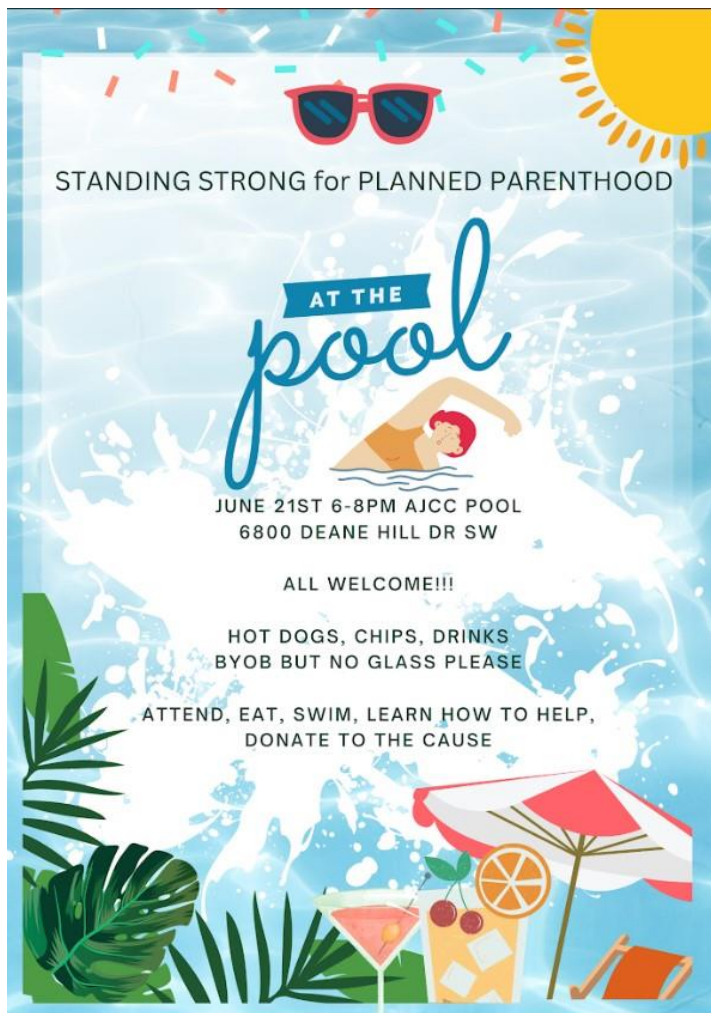
The Verizon Innovative Learning STEM Achievers program: an engaging, hands-on program developed to enrich learning through design thinking, 3D printing, augmented reality, social entrepreneurship and mentorship. No prior knowledge or experience is required. Two 3-week sessions. June 12 - June 29 or July 10 - July 27, from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m., Monday - Thursday of each week on the Oak Ridge campus.

**To register, visit**

<https://bit.ly/RSCCSTEMCampRegistration>

For more information, please contact Holly Hanson at [hansonha@roanestate.edu](mailto:hansonha@roanestate.edu) or 931-456-4910.

# Community News



**Standing Strong Planned Parenthood Fundraiser: Wednesday, June 21 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Allen Rosen Aquatic Center, Arnstein Jewish Community Center Pool, 6800 Deane Hill Dr SW, Knoxville.**

Come meet individuals from Knox Abortion Justice Alliance, local abortion advocacy workers here in Knoxville, and find out about what projects are currently underway. Also, find out how to become involved and where your niche is. Hot dogs, chips, watermelon, and pink lemonade will be served. For more information on how to donate or get involved, contact Natalie LaRose at 865-567-2675.



**From The Backyard: 317 Belgrade Road, Oak Ridge**  
<https://www.facebook.com/thebackyardpark> Looking for a fun way to support a good cause? Join our upcoming leashed dog event, which includes a mural competition benefiting our local PFLAG during Pride Month. PFLAG works with our community to support young LGBTQ+ people on their journey to adulthood and provide education and resources to their families.

**Participants can paint a portion of our fence for \$30, with the theme of "Oak Ridge" in mind. This can be based on Oak Ridge's history or its natural beauty!** Some of the proceeds will go toward PFLAG, while the winner of the mural competition will be chosen by popular vote and receive a portion of the funds raised. Each section of fencing purchased will be pre-primed for the artist but the artist is in charge of bringing their own materials necessary for the artwork. Extra brushes will be available as well.

This exciting event will take place on June 24th from 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. and welcomes visitors and artists of all ages. You can sign up on our website ([www.thehoundryllc.com/mural-fundraiser](http://www.thehoundryllc.com/mural-fundraiser)) and **submit drafts of your intended artwork to: [thebackyard@thehoundryllc.com](mailto:thebackyard@thehoundryllc.com) by Saturday, June 17th.** Don't miss out on the chance to enjoy local vendors and food trucks while supporting a great cause!



# Ministerial Search News

Introducing ORUUC's Ministerial Search Committee: Sarah Gunter, Dave Dunkirk, Carol Beene, Beth Meyer, Michael Bjerke, Patton Fishel, and Christy White. This slate of candidates was voted in at the Congregational Meeting Sunday, June 11. To read more about the committee members, check out the bios in last week's *Exponent* here: <http://www.oruuc.org/newsletters>.

## ORUUC's Ministerial Search Committee Members



Sarah Gunter



Dave Dunkirk



Carol Beene



Beth Meyer



Michael Bjerke



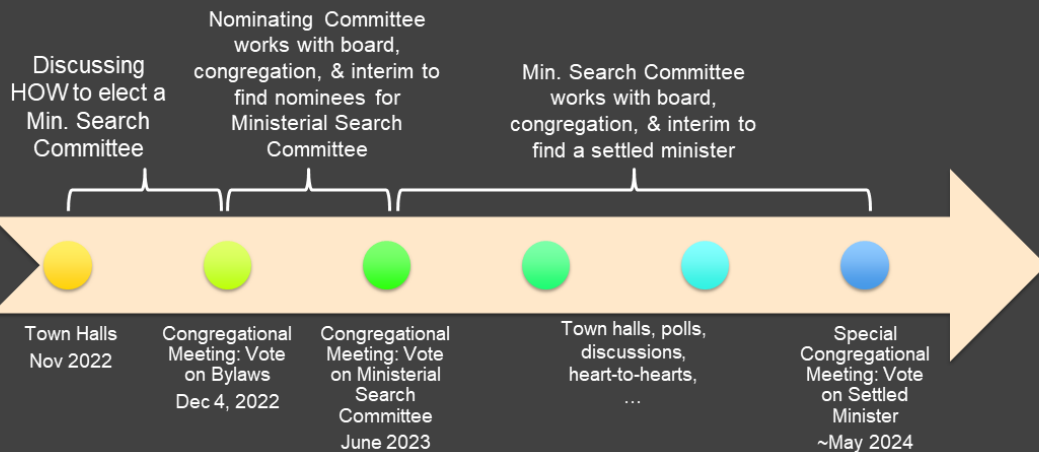
Patton Fishel



Christy White



## Ministerial Search Timeline



# Announcements

## Ready for Pride!



Thanks to Steven Albright and John Jaruzal, who decorated the Sanctuary last week for Pride, and to the Line Dancers, who paid for the decorations!



### ORUUC Covid-19 Update

With the expiration of the Covid-19 national public health emergency on May 11, the CDC has ceased tracking community level transmission because it no longer receives the data needed to do so. Therefore, ORUUC is ending its weekly Pandemic Action Levels (PALs) report. **Masks are not required inside the building;** however, if you have symptoms or have had a COVID exposure, please stay home and follow us on Zoom. We appreciate your continued cooperation as we work to keep our community safe and healthy.



Video of some events from General Assembly (GA) 2023 will be live-streamed, June 21-25—no registration required. Live-streamed events will include the General Sessions, Service of the Living Tradition, Synergy Bridging Worship, and Sunday Morning Worship. **ORUUC's Sunday morning worship service July 2 will be the recorded GA Service. This will be an online service only, using our regular worship link. ORUUC will be closed that morning. All Faith Formation Hour classes are canceled.**

The [Ware Lecture](#) will not be available for public live-stream or on-demand viewing. In-person registration will be required to attend the event in Pittsburgh. In-person or full virtual registration is required to live-stream the event on June 24, or access the video on-demand.

If health and safety protocols permit, congregations and groups are encouraged to conduct watch parties for GA events that are streamed to UUA.org and the UUA's YouTube channel. [Using GA Video for in-person or online events](#)

- [Stream GA events](#)
- [Videos of GA 2022](#) General Sessions, Service of the Living Tradition, Synergy Bridging Worship, and Sunday Morning Worship
- [Program Book](#) PDF
- [Program Schedule/Agenda](#)



**Have you signed up for Kroger Community Rewards? To enroll, go to: <https://www.kroger.com/signin?redirectUrl=/account/communityrewards>. Sign in or create an account. Choose organization #63422.** That's it! Every time you shop at Kroger and use your Kroger card or "Alternative ID" at check-out, a percentage of what you spend will get sent to ORUUC!

# This Week at ORUUUC

## Friday, June 16

11am Tai Chi Practice

## Saturday, June 17

9am Ecumenical Storehouse Pickup  
1pm-12am Rental (Baptism Party)  
3pm Ukulele

## Sunday, June 18

### 10am Worship

11am Together in Spirit  
11:15am Circle of Trust I  
11:15am Knitting & Crocheting Group  
11:15am Newcomers  
11:15am Reflections  
11:30am Safety Team Meeting  
12:30pm Buddhism Study Group  
12:30pm Circle of Trust IX  
3pm Line Dancing  
4pm Circle of Trust XI  
5-7pm Zentangle Group  
5:30pm Circle of Trust X

## Monday, June 19 Juneteenth

### Office Closed

11am Tai Chi Practice

## Tuesday, June 20

6pm Board Meeting  
6pm Depression & Anxiety Support Group  
6:30pm Softball v. Kangaroo Dingers

## Wednesday, June 21

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

## Thursday, June 22

12pm NWUUC & Launchpad Meeting  
12:30pm Thursday Lunch Bunch



2023

The City of Oak Ridge Presents  
The Lavender Festival  
Saturday, June 17, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
in Jackson Square  
FREE ENTRY | FREE PARKING  
Find out more by visiting  
<https://jacksonsquarelavenderfestival.org/>

### Reminder:

When leaving the church following a meeting or music practice, **please make sure the bathroom lights are turned off, and all of the front doors are locked before setting the security alarm.** Thank you!



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



## The 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

## The ORUUC Executive Team

Rev. Lisa Schwartz

Christine Rehder

Amanda Fishel

Donna Maloney

Jeannie Cuevas, Office Administrator

## Sunday, June 25 Musings in Muir Woods Guest Speaker Jane Flanagan



Muir Woods is a redwood grove not far from San Francisco, named after naturalist John Muir, founder of the Sierra Club. A recent trip to the grove led me to much pondering about trees, and roots, and generations, and families in general. I share some of my reflections on this beloved grove.

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