

June 23-July 13, 2023

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News from Oak Ridge Unitarian Universalist Church

The Exponent



Split the Plate Results!



The following nine organizations were chosen during voting by ORUUC members at the June 11 Congregational Meeting to be the recipients of the 2023-24 Split the Plate offerings:

- Free Medical Clinic**
- Stone Soup**
- Blossom Center**
- Ecumenical Storehouse**
- Planned Parenthood**
- TORCH**
- Child Advocacy Center**
- Fresh Fruit for Kids**
- Second Harvest Backpack**

For decades now, ORUUC has donated half of all undesignated offerings on Sunday mornings to an outside organization or a shared ministry. The Split the Plate program is part of how ORUUC builds relationships and maintains connections with the wider community. Three months of each year are left intentionally blank for emergency needs that arise.

Sharing the Pulpit this Summer

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 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 25

Musings in Muir Woods

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 Guest Speaker Jane Flanagan to much pondering about trees, and roots, and generations, and families in general. She will share some of her reflections on this beloved grove this Sunday.

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



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

A message from Rev. Gaye Morris



For almost three years, I have enjoyed my affiliation as Community Minister with ORUUC, despite living far away in the Outer Banks! I was able to visit last year on the weekend of Rev. Jake's and Rev. Tandy's Good Goodbye celebration, but all the other ways I have been involved with the congregation - participation in worship services; providing pulpit supply during the period between ministers; and facilitating several online discussion groups on topics like Women in the Bible, Theology and Film, and Banned Books - I have done virtually. Churches learned an awful lot about creating online community during the pandemic, and I am glad that we could create these online opportunities for me to be a part of this wonderful congregation.

I have also been continuing my ministry in my Outer Banks community: I co-chair (with my husband David) the North Dare Ministerial Association, I serve as Secretary/Treasurer for the UU Justice Ministry of North Carolina, and I am a volunteer chaplain for Outer Banks Health. I am also working on a new project with local colleagues to teach a course on religion and spirituality at our community college, and I will be finishing my final year teaching online communication courses for Augusta University.

I want to let you know that I am retiring from congregational ministry, effective this summer, and I think it is a good time as ORUUC ramps up its search process and will be extremely busy in that endeavor. I will continue with my local roles, but I will end my time with ORUUC. I may pop up from time to time to join Sunday worship online, because I enjoy the services that Rev. Lisa and the worship team work so hard to provide each week.

I deeply appreciate the acquaintances I have made within the ORUUC congregation, and I am confident that your search will result in a wonderful person who can continue to bring excellent ministry leadership to you all and to the Oak Ridge community.

One last thought - if you ever decide to vacation in the Outer Banks please get in touch, it would be great to see you!

Bright Blessings!
Rev. Gaye

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!

Please note: 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.



July 2, 2023

**Ever Willing:
Becoming the People
Our World Needs**

Worship Service on
zoom Only
No In-Person Worship



**The Church Office
will be closed
July 3-10**
for staff vacations and
the July 4 holiday.
We will reopen
Tuesday, July 11.



Announcements

Stone Soup

FREE
Meal!
Groceries
available



Drive
Thru
ONLY

Friday, June 30

5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Or until supplies run out!

**Ranch Chicken Pasta Salad, Fresh Fruit,
and Oatmeal Chocolate Chip Bars**

Drive through the loop near the church entrance and a volunteer will bring meals to your vehicle. Non-perishable groceries available upon request.

Oak Ridge Unitarian Universalist Church
809 Oak Ridge Turnpike, Stoplight #2

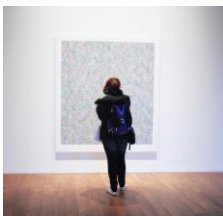
(865) 483-6761



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



Stone Soup needs YOU to help with next week's meal! The menu is: Ranch Chicken Pasta Salad, Fresh Fruit, and Oatmeal Chocolate Chip Bars. We need your support to keep this much needed ministry going, AND to return to in-person dining later this summer. **If you can help in any way, or have questions, please reach out to Jen Stark at jen.stark@hotmail.com or contact the church office at 483-6761.** Make good food, make new friends, make a difference!



Members' Art Exhibit: On Tuesday, July 11, 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 for more information.

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.

Introduction to Zentangle Lesson \$10 including starter supplies

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

*****Cash only. Supplies available to purchase. Offered every week — no RSVP required!*****

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

865-483-8684 (landline)

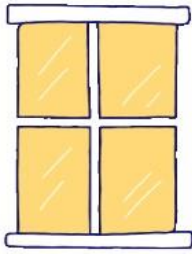
865-742-9993 (mobile/text)

starroakridge@gmail.com



MARK YOUR CALENDAR: ORUUC needs your help on Friday, July 7 at 10 a.m. 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

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 June 23-30

Mare Martell maremartell@gmail.com 616-826-9984 (cell)

Or call the church office at 865-483-6761 or office@oruuc.org

Caring Coordinators for July

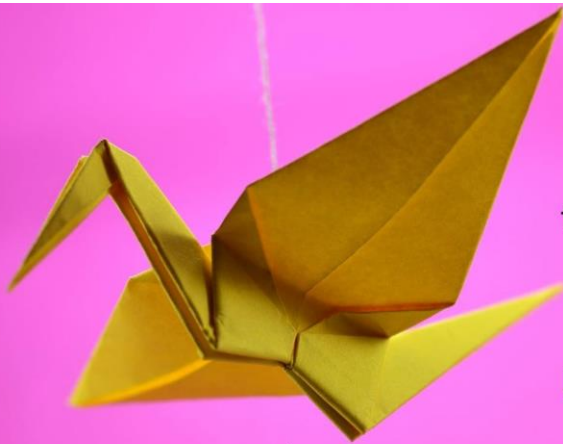
Mare Martell maremartell@gmail.com 616-826-9984 (cell)

Sarah Gunter sarahcjhunter@gmail.com 865-308-2820 (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.



Make Paper Cranes in memory of Shigeko Uppuluri



Cranes for Shigeko

Make an origami crane to be shared in memory of Shigeko Uppuluri at her August 5 Memorial Service.



Make origami cranes to honor Shigeko Uppuluri: Origami paper and printed instructions may be found at various locations throughout the church, along with baskets where you may place your cranes. I found this YouTube video to be helpful. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GC_Szxdqh2Y&feature=youtu.be All cranes must be completed by July 23 so that they may be turned into a display for Shigeko's Memorial Service to be held at ORUUC on Saturday, Aug. 5 at 2 p.m. 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 upcoming rehearsals are July 1, 15, and 29 at 3:00 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 Baccus backusanne@comcast.net for more information about PFLAG Oak Ridge.

Help with Ecumenical Storehouse Pick Ups Saturday, July 15



Saturday, July 15, 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 bauermlb@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.,



ORUUC needs to add members 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



Photo provided by Sarah Gunter after the April 25 game.

ORUUC Softball Update: The team got rained out June 20, so they'll play in the playoffs Tuesday, June 27 at 6:30 p.m. at Carl Yearwood Park. Contact Sarah Gunter, Christina Elliot, or Jim Nutaro for more info.



Last minute reminders for Campers and Counselors: Please bring a lunch every day, and make sure you come with sunscreen already applied. On Friday, bring a towel and a change of clothes for water fun! We're looking forward to seeing everyone next week!

Donate toys for Rainbow Camp bingo prizes!



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



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

Please note that we'll meet first & FOURTH Thursdays in June & July!
Upcoming dates: July 6 and 27 at 10:30 a.m. Oak Ridge Public Library Meeting Room.

Sign up for the Oak Ridge Public Library's newsletter here: <https://mailchi.mp/oakridgetn/orpljun23>

High School Lock-In Saturday, June 24 beginning at 8 p.m.



Hi everyone,

We have a lock in scheduled for tomorrow! As usual, we'll need the overnight permission form, which was sent to parents by email, but will also be available on-site when the youth are dropped off.

Some things we could use:

Snacks and refreshments for staying up late and having fun.
Bagels and cream cheese for some folks in the morning.

All of the chaperone shifts are covered as follows:

8-12 Brandon and Christy White and Robyn Naughton with Jason Fishel there for part

12-4 Becky Spain-Kaiser and Rob Cole

4-8 Ted Biewer and Thomas Naughton Sr.

There are a lot of 18 year olds at this one, so as a reminder, **the youth agree to stay the whole time. As always, if anyone decides to leave the lock in, their parents will be notified before they can leave.** We want to keep everyone safe while having a good time! Kind Regards, Jason Fishel



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!

Community News



A message from Bob Grimac

PLEASE JOIN ME in welcoming the Estrada-Giralt family to Knoxville at this Independence Day potluck supper, to be held on Tuesday, July 4, 6 p.m at the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church, 2931 Kingston Pike.

Mom Eudenia arrived in Knoxville with two sons last October, and dad Ernesto arrived in February from the central Cuban city of Camaguey.

Ernesto's traveled through six countries to arrive in the U.S. He first flew to Guyana, South America, and then traveled to Jamaica, Nicaragua, Honduras, Guatemala and Mexico before joining his family in Knoxville.

West High student Elier dances at a near-professional level, having studied eight years at one of Cuba's four national dance schools, beginning at age eight. Elier promises to share his Cuban folk and interpretive dances before and after the meal. Elier now studies at Dancers' Studio under a full scholarship for the summer, and is a member of IGNITE, a semi-professional youth dance ensemble which is the reincarnation of the Tennessee Children's Dance Ensemble.

If you plan to attend, RSVP to bobgrimac@gmail.com; text Bob at 865-936-0081; or just show up that day.

Please bring a dish to share and label it as containing meat, vegan, or vegetarian.

I'm looking for a Spanish-English interpreter to help relay the family's immigration story ---let me know if you can do that, or want to help in any other way.

Please spread the word! Let's fill the fellowship hall and give this wonderful family a big "bienvenido".

Gracias,
Bob Grimac

P.S. The family is looking for a second car, as they have two emerging drivers in the family. The parents would like English tutoring. Mom Eudenia is looking for weekend work, possibly cleaning houses, etc.



Oak Ridge Schools proudly presents an exciting free community event in conjunction with premiere week for the acclaimed blockbuster film, *Oppenheimer*. **The event will be held at the Oak Ridge High School Auditorium on Wednesday, July 19, from 6-8:30. The event will include a 90-minute panel discussion and a screening of the documentary film, *Oppenheimer After Trinity* (60 minutes in length).**

The movie's premiere offers an unparalleled opportunity for the residents of Oak Ridge, and our students, to re-examine the conversations held over 80 years ago surrounding the splitting of the atom and the aftermath those decisions had on society. Furthermore, the experience provides a framework for discussing the development and deployment of emerging technologies, such as artificial intelligence, and the impact it will potentially have on future generations.

The panel aims to position our Oak Ridge students alongside community leaders to encourage their intellectual growth and prepare them as the next generation of industry leaders on the global stage. **Featured panelists will speak alongside Oak Ridge High School Students** Aaliyah Herron, senior • Dakota Forelle, senior • Isabella Zolnierczuk, senior • Odelia Kneiser, junior • Elena Vogt, sophomore

For more information, visit https://www.ortn.edu/oppenheimer/?fbclid=IwAR28xRrjq2BpNI6_nNrfUAvzuhHpIuDjblJbq83zB6ZBcufq42NUBkdbVgA

Ministerial Search News

Introducing ORUUC's Ministerial Search Committee: Sarah Gunter, Dave Dunkirk, Carol Beene, Beth Meyer, Michael Bjerke, Patton Fishel, and Christy White. ORUUC members voted on this slate of candidates at the Congregational Meeting Sunday, June 11. To read more about the committee members, check out the bios in the June 9 *Exponent*: <http://www.oruuc.org/newsletters>.

ORUUC's Ministerial Search Committee Members



Sarah Gunter



Dave Dunkirk



Carol Beene



Beth Meyer



Michael Bjerke



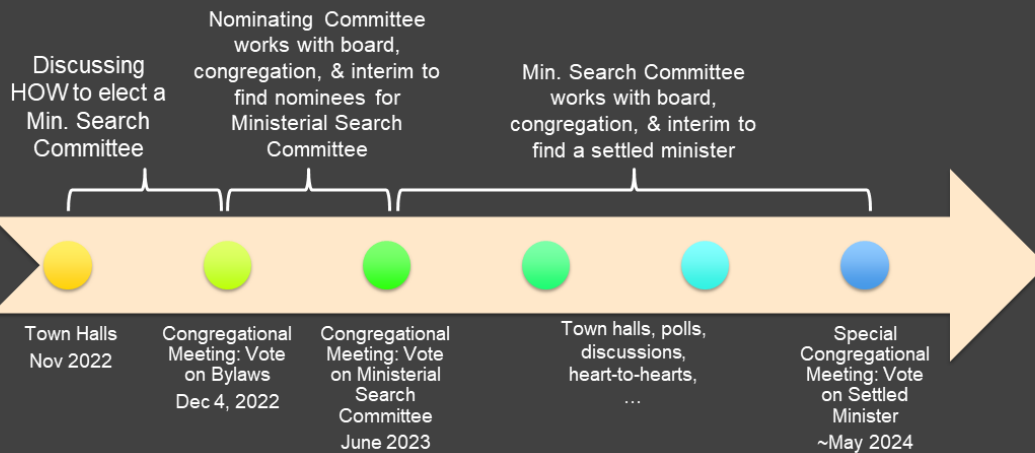
Patton Fishel



Christy White



Ministerial Search Timeline



Announcements

Standing Strong Planned Parenthood Fundraiser: Donate online today!

<https://standing-strong.org/donate>. For more information on how to donate or get involved locally, contact Natalie LaRose at 865-567-2675.

STANDING STRONG

NO MATTER WHAT.

PPTNM is committed to health equity and are bold and unapologetic in our demands — people need to control their own bodies, lives, and futures, no matter where they live. With you by our side, we'll make it happen.

DONATE ONLINE
to Planned Parenthood of
Tennessee and North Mississippi

The graphic features a modern apartment building, a large pink circle, a blue circle, and the Planned Parenthood logo.



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](#)

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.



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 ORUUC

Friday, June 23

11am Tai Chi Practice

Saturday, June 24

8pm-8am High School Lock-In

Sunday, June 25

8:15am Circle of Trust VII

10am Worship

11am Together in Spirit

11:15am Circle of Trust II

11:15am Newcomers

11:15am Reflections

11:30am Circle of Trust IV

12pm Circle of Trust V

12:30pm Buddhism Study Group

12:30pm Circle of Trust IX

1pm Circle of Trust VI

3pm Line Dancing

5-7pm Zentangle Group

5pm Christian Fellowship

Communion Service

Monday, June 26

Rainbow Camp Set-up and

Training 8am-4pm

11am Tai Chi Practice

Tuesday, June 27

Rainbow Camp 9am-3pm

6pm Depression & Anxiety Support

Group

Wednesday, June 28

Rainbow Camp 9am-3pm

9am Stone Soup prep

11am Tai Chi Practice

5:30pm Circle of Trust III

6:45pm Choir Practice

7:45pm Band Rehearsal

Thursday, June 29

Rainbow Camp 9am-3pm

12:30pm Thursday Lunch Bunch

Friday, June 30

11am Tai Chi Practice

1pm Stone Soup prep

5:30pm Stone Soup Community Meal

July

To view the July church calendar, log into the members page on the ORUUC website:

<http://www.oruuc.org/members-section>

Contact the church office if you need the password.

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

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Charles Davis

Jami Garner

Jen Stark

The ORUUC Executive Team

Rev. Lisa Schwartz

Christine Rehder

Amanda Fishel

Donna Maloney

Jeannie Cuevas, Office Administrator

Sunday, July 2 Rebroadcast of the General Assembly Worship Service

Zoom only. The church will be closed. All Adult Faith Formation Hour classes are canceled.



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