

May 5-11, 2023

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News from Oak Ridge Unitarian Universalist Church

The Exponent



The ORUUC Safety Team sent out a questionnaire this week seeking input regarding the team's functions, to gain clarity regarding the roles and needs of the team, what skills the congregation expects team members to have and use, and which church functions the Safety Team is expected to attend. **Please take a few minutes to complete this questionnaire:** <https://forms.gle/inokyB7GAXxpaA8s5>. Your response is appreciated.

The ORUUC Safety Team is an Essential Function Ministry of ORUUC, created in 2008 with the purpose of ensuring the safety of the congregation.

The survey will remain open through the end of May.

Nurturing Faith

Christine Rehder, Director of Youth Faith Formation

What fruit does your life bear that shows your faith? How do we nurture faith?

As Unitarian Universalists, we value our beliefs and do our best to live them. We certainly know them when we see them. However, we often lack the words to explain what they are, I'm no different.

I encounter the same problem when trying to explain what makes a good faith formation leader. Week in and week out, I see leaders who meaningfully engage, care, and guide children and youth in countless ways. Yet, when I try to put into words what I see, I have a difficult time.

One of the important lessons of Youth Faith Formation is not to be afraid to ask for help. So, as I struggle to put the role of a YFF person into words, I decided to ask them for help.

Here are some responses to "what is the job description of a YFF leader":

Treat each child with respect, interest and love.

Act as an intermediary between inside groups (small group ministries and essential functions) and outside groups (PFLAG).

Manage some energetic kids and foster a positive experience. Learn to love chaos and learn to tease meaning from emotional experience.

Modeling a respectful and generous pattern of interaction, while trying to keep each youth engaged at the level of their own comfort.

It is our job to teach our children about being in a sacred circle, about respecting ourselves and each other.

The Doorkeeper "protects" the room from "intrusions" into the sacred space of the circle.

Faith is nurtured in many ways and through many leaders. To nurture faith is a process, a complex and sacred interplay of individual development nurtured in relationships. I am as ever humbled by the engagement and dedication shown by our Youth Faith Formation leaders.

You can show your support for these outstanding leaders on May 7 during Worship for Youth Faith Formation Leader Appreciation. And, on May 21, celebrate the culmination of Youth Faith Formation with our Bridging Ceremony for our high school seniors.



This Sunday, May 7

The End of Faith Formation

Google “the death of Sunday School” and within a second over a quarter million articles appear on your screen, all lamenting the end of an American Church institution. It seems our means for “religious education” have changed, and perhaps our ends have, too. Is Faith Formation what my colleague Tom Owen-Towle describes as “... our principle tilling ground, sacred ground, battleground, common ground, and growing ground?” Interim Minister Rev. Lisa Romantum Schwartz will explore the topic.

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



May Split the Plate: [Second Harvest Food for Kids Backpack Program](#)

This Sunday, we recognize our Youth Faith Formation leaders and award the Bob Kernohan award as we prepare to close out another school year! Please note: There will be no nursery for the first half of the service as we recognize our YFF leaders, including the nursery staff. All school-age children will remain in worship for the entire service.

Adult and Youth 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 Faith Formation Hour.

Have you made your 2023-24 pledge yet?

I'm **IN**



If you'd like to set up your pledge online, or set up automatic payments, please use this link: <https://onrealm.org/oruuc/AddPledge/2023-2024pledge>. Pledge cards are also available at church. Questions? Call Jeannie in 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. **Second Harvest Food for Kids Backpack Program** is a collaborative effort between Second Harvest and an ever-increasing number of public schools within the food bank's 18-county service area. All Oak Ridge and Anderson County elementary schools are participating. On Fridays throughout the school year, a backpack of healthy, easily-prepared food is provided to children who may be missing meals on a regular basis. Currently, 11,407 children at 269 schools receive backpacks. It costs \$100 per year to sponsor one child. (This includes all costs, not just food.)



As additional funding and sponsorships become available, more children will be able to participate.

A tenet of ORUUC is to aid the most vulnerable in society. These include children who do not have sufficient food over the weekend. Child hunger is known to impact not only physical growth, but also behavior and concentration. ORUUC's Fresh Fruit for Kids ministry complements this program by adding a piece of fresh fruit to each backpack. For more information, visit <https://secondharvestetn.org/program/food-for-kids/> "ORUUC" to **73256**.

Announcements



Youth Faith Formation Leaders and Volunteers



During worship this Sunday, May 7, we'll be recognizing the many hands that help with our Youth Faith Formation programs throughout the year.

Nursery

Sarah Gunter
Nancy Lain-Highfill
Kara Raymond
Michael Raymond
Kate Readle

Create & Connect

Melissa Bishop
Jen Stark
Sheila Morton
JD Readle
Sara Weiland

Spirit Play

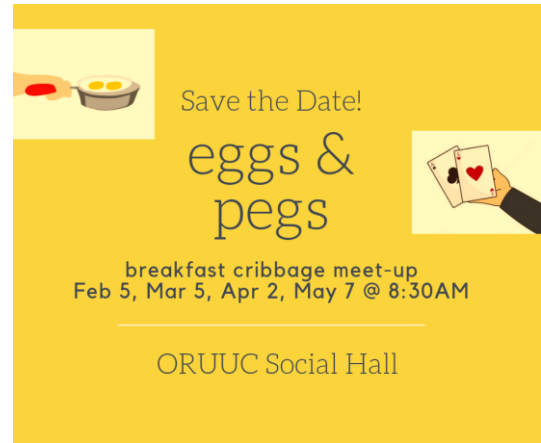
Peter Scheffler
Jim Nutaro
Rebecca Bowman
Erin Read

Middle School

Rachel Smith-Jones
Christa Brelsford
Steven Barker
Jimmy Groton

High School

Jami Garner
Robyn Naughton
Becky Spain-Kaiser



Don't miss Eggs and Pegs this Sunday, May 7 at 8:30 a.m.!
Learn cribbage rules and/or play with more experienced players.

Everyone is welcome!

Breakfast will be provided, but feel free to bring a dish to share.
Questions? Talk to Brandon White, Christina Elliott, Jane Flanagan, or Shelaine Curd.



Register today!

<https://forms.gle/8UrCR5iTIqxivwdL8>

Parents/Guardians: Please fill out the form to reserve a spot for your child(ren), as a Camper, Counselor In Training (CIT), or Camp Counselor. See you this summer!

Endowment Committee Update



The ORUUC Endowment Fund Committee received two requests for grants during the normal grant window in 2023. Both were granted in full by approval of the Board of Trustees.

- Christine Rehder requested **\$570 to help with expenses of *Rainbow Camp***.
- Rebecca Bowman requested **\$2,000 to help fund the *Fruit for Kids* program, which provides fresh fruit to 448 local children in need.**

The Endowment Fund Committee is pleased to grant both of these requests. ~Hal Hoyt, Martin Bauer, Christina Elliott, Allyson Rayfield, Shelaine Curd

Announcements



The youth car wash scheduled for Saturday, May 6 has been canceled due to forecasted rain. The high schoolers are planning to reschedule—stay tuned for a new date!

Be a Delegate to General Assembly!



Unitarian Universalists are a democratically organized faith, so each year our whole faith movement has a business meeting to decide important issues before us, called General Assembly (GA). This year's dates are June 21-25. In 2023 delegates will vote on a new president for the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA), and on whether we should consider a proposal to do away with our Seven Principles in favor of different language.

ORUUC has seven delegates who can vote on these and other issues. Delegates may register to virtually attend the business portion of GA completely free of charge. If you're interested in serving ORUUC and the larger faith movement, talk to a board member or to Rev. Lisa to find out how. If you'd like to register for online access to the workshops, lectures, and worship services, the cost is \$300. Contact Rev. Lisa if you're willing to serve as a delegate and you need some funds to get full virtual access to programming.

This year's GA is hybrid – some folks are traveling to Pittsburgh PA to attend in person. The cost is \$500 through May 15th, and \$600 after that. Some discounts are available through the UUA registration portal. And again, if you're willing to serve as a delegate and you'd like help with the cost of registration, contact Rev. Lisa.

For more information about GA, check out <https://www.uua.org/ga> and for more information about serving as a delegate from ORUUC, contact a board member or Rev. Lisa (rev.lisa@oruuc.org).



JOIN OUR WORSHIP TECH TEAM



Summary

Provide video & Zoom support for Sunday worship services and other ORUUC events as requested and available.



Duties

- Set up video equipment
- Manage Zoom live stream
- Ensure smooth operations during worship service

Apply Now

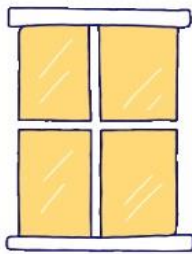
If you are interested in joining our team, send your resume to worship@oruuc.org.

865-485-6761

[ORUUC.org](http://www.oruuc.org)

Our worship tech team is still growing and looking for another video tech. This is a paid position with a commitment of 2-3 Sunday mornings per month. Experience is preferred but not required. High school diploma or equivalent is preferred, but qualified high school students are encouraged to apply. For more information, please visit <http://www.oruuc.org/s/ORUUC-Video-Tech-Job-Description-221127.pdf>. Contact worship@oruuc.org for more information or to submit a resumé.

Caring for Each Other

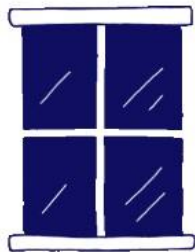


Are you going through a difficult time? Are you in a situation where support and caring are needed--someone to do grocery shopping, take you to a doctor's appointment, or provide a meal following an upcoming surgery? Contact the church office: (865) 483-6761 or office@oruuc.org or a Caring Coordinator!

Caring Coordinators for May

Rachel Smith-Jones smithnjones3@comcast.net 603-252-2295

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



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.

Remembering Sharon Hubbard



November 26, 1949 - March 28, 2023

Sharon Hubbard, 73, passed away peacefully at Ft. Sanders Regional Medical Center several days after suffering an aneurysm. She is survived by her Aunt Shirley, Cousin Cindy in Ohio and dog, Chesney.

Sharon moved to Oak Ridge from Tampa after retiring from teaching kindergarten. It did not take her long to make friends, lots of friends. She was a knitter, crocheter, and weaver. If it involved fiber, Sharon did it. She knitted prayer shawls for the Methodist Church.

Reading was also a passion for Sharon. She belonged to the Anna's Book Club in Oak Ridge and was a member of the Oak Ridge Unitarian Universalist Church. Being a volunteer for several organizations was also a big part of her life.

Sharon will be surely missed by all who crossed paths with her.

The family will have a celebration of life on June 3 at 2:00 pm at the Oak Ridge Unitarian Universalist Church.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the Shelter Animals Rescue Group (SARG) in Sharon's honor. <https://shelteranimalsrescue.org/> SARG, 124 Newell Ln, Oak Ridge, TN 37830

Interment will be in the church's Memorial Garden.

<https://www.holleygamble.com/obituary/sharon-hubbard>

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 rehearsal is **Saturday, May 6 at 3:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.** Last time, we played through several new songs from The Daily Ukulele, as well as a couple of favorites: The Rainbow Connection, We Shall Overcome, Too-Ra-Loo-Ra-Loo-Ral, and When Irish Eyes Are Smiling, Hey Jude, Sunny Side of the Street, Cabaret, and more. When you find new music you'd like to perform, bring it in! We'd love to have you join us. Abbie Moore abbie.moore@icloud.com

Social and Volunteer Opportunities



Needed: Sunday Production Assistants

Looking for a few more people to be on the Sunday Production Assistant rotation. It involves FIRE! (The Fire of Commitment, maybe). Namely preparing the two candle-lighting altars, the chalice, and the nature altar. There are written instructions I can email you if you want to know the details. It does involve arriving by 9:15 a.m. on Sunday when you are doing it. A family member of a person who already has a Sunday role that requires arriving early would be ideal. Email Nancy Starr at starroakridge@gmail.com.



Photo provided by Sarah Gunter after the April 25 game.

The ORUUC Softball team is on a roll! Come out on Tuesdays this spring to play or cheer on the team! Their next game is **May 9 at 6:30 p.m. at Jefferson Middle School v. Oakey's Sports Grill.** Contact Sarah Gunter, Christina Elliot, or Jim Nutaro for more info. The schedule is posted on the church bulletin board.



ORRUC needs to add members to 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



Stone Soup is ORUUC's monthly free meal ministry, a partnership with the Jewish Congregation of Oak Ridge and Kroger Marketplace that has spanned more than a decade! Are you interested in baking, prepping, cooking, bagging, delivering, or serving once a month? Talk to a member of the Stone Soup Team—Mary Beth Robinson, Steven Albright, Hope McAtee, Jen Stark! We need more volunteers to return to in-person dining!

This

Spring at ORUUC



May

- 7 Youth Faith Formation leader recognition and Bob Kernohan Award recipient honored during worship. Please note: There will be no nursery for the first half of the service today as we recognize our YFF leaders, including the nursery staff. All school-age children will remain in worship for the entire service. Last Day of regular Faith Formation classes.
- 14 Youth Faith Formation Year-End Celebration during FF Hour. We'll be back August 6 for a new school year!
- 21 Bridging Sunday! Celebrate our seniors and their families during this all-ages worship service. There will be a churchwide luncheon following worship.
- 28 Memorial Day weekend worship service



Community News

Youth Pride Festival
Open Mic
Music
Writing
Art
Theatre
Meditation
Yoga
Dance
Arts + Crafts
Raffle Prizes
May 6, 2023
12pm to 5pm
ALL Welcome
Theme: Celebrating Our History
1st Presbyterian Church
1051 Oak Ridge Turnpike
Oak Ridge, TN 37830

YOUTH PRIDE! The annual Youth Pride Fest will be held Saturday, May 6 at First Presbyterian Church, 1051 Oak Ridge Turnpike at 12 noon. All area youth through high school are invited to the event. It will be an afternoon of activities, fun, and, of course, snacks. PFLAG and the Gay/Straight Alliances at the Oak Ridge and Clinton High Schools planned the event. No registration is necessary. The event will be held in the Activities Room and Building at the church.

Y'all come! <https://fb.me/e/7CdNA516f>



Have you signed up for Kroger Community Rewards?* Every time you make a purchase at Kroger, if you've designated ORUUC to receive the rewards, a portion of what you spend will go to the church! **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 used to require an annual re-enrollment in August (so if you're thinking, "I've already enrolled," unless it was recently, you should probably check, just in case).*



THE GREATEST SHOW BASH
Free Medical Clinic Fundraiser
Saturday, June 3 at 6 p.m.
The Barn at Maple Creek
107 Gallaher Rd, Kingston, TN 37763

ALL INCLUSIVE TICKETS
\$50 EACH

Includes meal, 2 drink tickets, games, prizes, and Sing Off Show. Get your tickets [here!](#)

Ministerial Search News

Ministerial Search Update April 25: The Nominating Committee has compiled information from the congregation and submitted recommendations to the Board. The Board will soon begin contacting people for the Ministerial Search Committee! ~Nancy Lain Highfill

ORUUC Nominating Committee



Nancy Highfill



Steven Barker



Sheila Morton



Amanda Law



Robyn Naughton

In recent weeks, the ORUUC Nominating Committee and members of the Board of Trustees contacted church members to solicit their preference for nominees to the Ministerial Search Committee. Using the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) guidance, members were asked to consider the following while they ponder on and ultimately provide their preferred candidates.

The UUA recommends that members' consider:

- What are good qualities needed for someone to serve on a ministerial search committee?
- Who in the congregation works well with others?
- Who can represent and serve the whole congregation well (including looking out for the needs of children) and not just a piece or "faction" of the congregation? Who would have no "axe to grind?"
- Who knows (or can learn) the history and culture of the congregation, whether a member of long standing or relatively new? Who can use this history proactively instead of reactively on behalf of the congregation?
- Who has been and/or is active in the congregation and has demonstrated both responsible participation and responsible leadership?
- One of the most attractive qualities a congregation can have is self- awareness – awareness of strengths and weaknesses, what the congregation is like at its best and at its worst, as well as on an average day. Who would be able to know and relate all this to potential candidates?

After thinking about all of these questions, who would you trust to serve on the search committee on behalf of the congregation? Ultimately, the UUA has recognized that Ministers are more likely to be interested in serving a congregation where the Ministerial Search Committee is representative, trusted, in touch, and responsible to the entire congregation.

Announcements

Dialogue with Rev. Dr. Sofía Betancourt candidate for UUA President



all events in person and online

April 29: Evanston, IL
1pm Central

May 20: Santa Barbara, CA
1pm Pacific

June 3: Dallas, TX
1pm Central

June 4: Nashville, TN
4pm Eastern

details and registration: tinyurl.com/sofia-for-uua

Thank you to everyone who attended—online or in person—the first presidential forum last month. It was really meaningful to talk with Rev. KC Kvasnička-Slack, member of the UUA Election Campaign Practices Committee and moderator of the first forum. It was even more meaningful to receive and engage with your questions for me and get to ask questions of those who were present.

I'm looking forward to seeing more of you at one of the three remaining opportunities for dialogue with me prior to General Assembly:

- Saturday **May 20**, 1pm Pacific, Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara, CA
- Saturday **June 3**, 1pm Central, First Unitarian Church of Dallas, TX
- Sunday **June 4**, 4pm Eastern, First UU Church of Nashville, TN

[Register now](#) in order to attend in person or online.

ORUUC Covid-19 Update

Covid-19 Community Levels are a tool from the CDC to help communities decide what prevention steps to take based on the latest data. Levels can be Low, Medium, or High, and are determined by looking at hospital beds being used, hospital admissions, and the total number of new COVID-19 cases in an area. Take precautions to protect yourself and others from COVID-19 based on the COVID-19 Community Level in your area. [COVID-19 by County | CDC](#)

The CDC's Covid-19 Community Levels for Anderson, Knox, Morgan, and Roane counties are **LOW.** Masks are not required at ORUUC in the building; eating and drinking is permitted indoors. For the entire report, check out our webpage: <http://www.oruuc.org/phased-reopening-plan>



What if the Foundation of our Faith is NOT Best Expressed in the Seven Principles?

At General Assembly (GA) 2023, Unitarian Universalists will take an initial vote on proposed changes to Article II of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) Bylaws, which includes the current UUA purposes, principles, sources, and clauses on inclusion and freedom of belief. An affirmative vote this year won't eliminate the principles, but it would start UUs on a year of deep discussion about the new proposed language of our faith.

The UUA's goal is to maximize discussion and engagement with this proposal, which addresses the foundational values and purposes of our faith community. Until April 30, 2023, any Unitarian Universalist may submit suggestions and ideas through an online form for ways they recommend modifying the proposal. Each suggestion or idea should describe specific language changes to the proposal, explain the reason, and be limited to a single section of the proposal. Individuals may submit multiple suggestions and ideas.

Additionally, the UUA Board of Trustees will host public discussion workshops on May 11, 18 and 21, 2023, to review suggestions and ideas. These rounds of public discussion will inform the way amendments are prioritized for discussion and voting at General Assembly.

Here are the links to the proposal and the submission form for suggestions:

[Article II Study Commission \(Webpage\)](#)

[Article II Study Commission proposal \(PDF\)](#)

[Submit your suggestions and ideas on the Article II proposal now! \(Submission Form\)](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions \(Webpage\)](#)

Don't forget, there are still openings for ORUUC members to serve as delegates to General Assembly (GA) June 21-25, and thus vote on the Article II proposal and other major issues. Delegates may serve remotely, and registration for the business portion of GA is absolutely free to delegates.

This Week at ORUUC



Friday, May 5

11am Tai Chi Practice
5:30-8:30 pm Rental (Graduation Party)

Saturday, May 6

8:30am Bridging Senior Parents
~~10am (Canceled) Car Wash Fundraiser~~
3pm Ukulele
4pm-midnight Rental (Graduation Party)

Sunday, May 7

Last Day of Regular Youth

Faith Formation Classes

8:30am Eggs and Pegs
10am Worship (YFF Leadership Appreciation/Kernohan Award)
11am High School
11am Together in Spirit
11:15am Circle of Trust I
11:15am Knitting and Crocheting Group
11:15am Newcomers
11:15am Reflections
12:30pm Bridger Only Meeting
12:30pm Buddhism Study Group
12:30pm Circle of Trust IX
1:30pm Book Club
3pm Line Dancing
4pm Circle of Trust XI
5:30pm Circle of Trust X

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

Monday, May 8

11am Tai Chi Practice

Tuesday, May 9

6pm Presidents Council
6pm Depression & Anxiety Support
6:30pm Softball v. Oakey's Sports Grill

Wednesday, May 10

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

Thursday, May 11

12noon NWUUC & Launchpad Meeting
6pm Shared Pulpit Class—Session 5 (Enrollment closed)

The ORUUC Board of Trustees

President: Michele Thornton
Past President: Jim Nutaro
President-Elect: Jason Fishel
Secretary: Nathaniel Bass
Treasurer: Brandon White
Members-at-Large:
Freddie Nechtow
Charles Davis
Jami Garner
Ethan Coon

The ORUUC Executive Team

Rev. Lisa Schwartz
Christine Rehder
Christina Elliott
Amanda Fishel
Jeannie Cuevas, Office Administrator



In the Gallery through May 31:

Cosima, Fine Artist

<http://www.oruuc.org/current-exhibit>



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



Sunday, May 14

Let's Talk About Family Values



Families are under stress. Kids are growing up in a world that's changing around them, and they and their caregivers are challenged to figure things out as they live their complicated lives. The celebration of "Mother's Day" is a case in point: As UU Family Therapist William Doherty says, "We wouldn't have Mother's Day if everything were fine with motherhood." With gender identity and gender roles changing, expectations about normative family structures in flux, what is the role of a progressive religious community in figuring it all out?