

October 20-26, 2023

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News from Oak Ridge Unitarian Universalist Church

The Exponent



Plant Smiles, Grow Laughter, Harvest Love at the ORUUC Auction This Sunday, Oct. 22!



The party starts at 3 p.m. with hors d'oeuvres, and a gallery of diverse items and baked goods to bid on (and childcare!) Look for images and information on the ORUUC website here:

<http://www.oruuc.org/gallery-of-auction-items>. **Silent Auction bidding closes at 5 p.m. sharp**, and the highest and final bid will get to take home their item, or make arrangements later to receive the items (in the case of made-on-demand cakes and other tasty treats!) **There will be a break at 5 p.m. to allow time to register a paddle, grab your snacks and your choice of adult beverage (beer and wine will be available), and have a seat in the Social Hall. The Live Auction begins at 5:30 p.m.** Bid on a place at the table for a delicious Cuban dinner, join a Wine Tasting Event with a virtual connection to the Gilpin Estate in Vacaville, CA, or take home a memento from the old sanctuary with a beautiful dreamcatcher design using wood from the sanctuary "trees." A gorgeous wooden kayak has just joined the offerings for the live auction. We offer unique door prizes (so hold on to your ticket!) and enjoy an evening of fun, food and fellowship!

Putting the Fun in "Funambulism"

Rev. Lisa Romantum Schwartz, Interim Minister

Funambulists (tightrope walkers) know: It's the tension that makes the whole thing work. Tension is inherent in the system because, if a funambulist's rope goes slack, they fall.

Tension is equally important in churches. Like tension in music, it may beg to be resolved, but like tension on the high wire, we lose it at our peril.

For instance, creative tension is clearly found in the line between tradition and change. Community stability is a good thing, and so is adaptation and innovation. Should ORUUC continue to do things the way we've always done them? When is it OK to adapt, and when are we giving up too much? Walking the line between the two can be tricky, but tension is necessary to the navigation.

A tension that pulls at us regularly is the delicate balance between personal freedom and responsibility to community. We all have free will, and UUs are people who place our personal freedom very high on a scale of things we value. Yet we regularly choose to limit our actions for the good of the larger group, just as we do in many public settings. I am technically free to play my harmonica in the middle of a

symphony concert, or make repeated trips to the snack bar during a movie, or talk to my friends during Sunday services. But in entering the symphony hall or movie theater or sanctuary I agree to an implicit contract with the others present.

I'm honored to be present for ORUUC's ongoing discussions about weapons in our sacred space. I

recognize that tension is inherent in the diverse opinions we bring to the discussion, and I respect the covenantal approach this church is bringing to the dialogue.

Creative tensions always exist between two good things. And the desire to resolve the tensions once and for all can make the line go slack, causing us to fall. The key, just as in funambulism, is balance. May we cultivate the grace to support each other as we walk the tightrope of community!

The next in-person discussion of weapons at ORUUC will be after service on Sunday, Nov. 5th. A Zoom meeting will be held at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 2nd. Look for the link in communications next week.



This Sunday, Oct. 22

Good Trouble

Now retired, Rev. Gordon D. Gibson has 40 years in the UU ministry, including serving as the only Unitarian Universalist minister in Mississippi 1969-1984. He co-founded the Living Legacy Project, authored "Southern Witness: Unitarians and Universalists in the Civil Rights Era," and is a past president of the Unitarian Universalist History and Heritage Society. Rev. Gibson will share from his depth of experience about our heritage of working on civil rights.

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

October 22, 2023

Good Trouble

Rev. Gordon D. Gibson
Guest Minister


Heritage
Worship Series
Week 4 of 5




This month's Split the Plate Offering: [Stone Soup](#)

After worship today, join us in the Social Hall for coffee and treats. Adult and Youth Faith Formation classes take place from 11:15 to 12:15. Nursery is available.

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.



Our Whole Lives

Adult OWL
Classes
Sundays at
11:15 a.m.
at


Lifespan Sexuality Education

Adult OWL Classes begin this Sunday, Oct. 22 at 11:15 a.m. during Faith Formation Hour. These classes will take place weekly through December 3--attend one, or a few, or all of them--it's up to you!

For more information on these classes, contact Christine Rehder at crehder@oruuc.org.

To find out more about the OWL program, visit <https://www.uua.org/re/owl>.

This Month's Split the Plate Offering: Stone Soup

The Split-the-Plate recipient for the month of October is Stone Soup. Stone Soup is a ministry of ORUUC. With our community partners at the Jewish Congregation of Oak Ridge (JCOR), volunteers prepare and distribute 150 meals to community members on the final Friday of each month. We also maintain a pantry and give out bags of non-perishable groceries as needed. Stone Soup served the first meal in September 2010 and has never missed a meal.



Financial contributions from ORUUC and JCOR keep Stone Soup going every month, along with a donation of fresh fruit from Kroger. Thanks to ORUUC for your support of this vital community ministry!

Please [GIVE HERE](#) as you are willing and able, or **text "ORUUC" to 73256**.

Announcements

MINISTERIAL SEARCH COMMITTEE Cottage Meetings

- Thursday, Oct. 19 at 5:30 p.m. Hearth Room
- Sunday, Oct. 22 at 11:15 a.m. Middle and High School rooms. Parents are invited to meet at the same time in the Hearth Room.
- Saturday, Oct. 28 at 10:00 a.m. Hearth Room

Share your input this month!



Ministerial Search Committee Cottage Meetings This Month:

- ~~Saturday, October 14 at the Church Retreat~~
- ~~Sunday, October 15, 11:15 a.m., in the Hearth Room~~
- ~~Thursday, Oct. 19, 5:30 p.m. in the Hearth Room~~
- **Sunday, Oct. 22, 11:15 a.m.** Middle and High School Faith Formation Hour classes will offer their input. A parent meeting will be held at the same time in the Hearth Room
- **Saturday, Oct. 28, 10:00 a.m.** in the Hearth Room

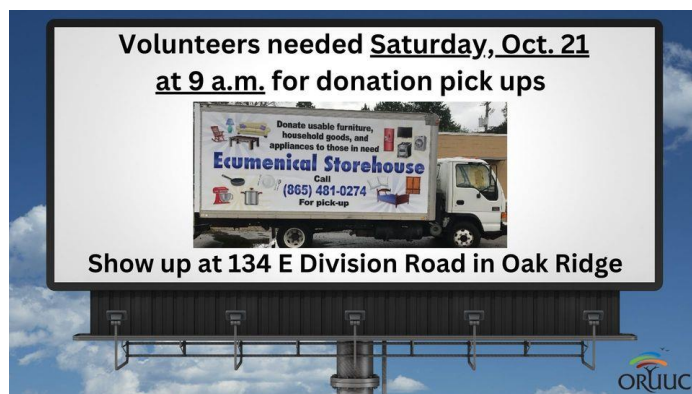
In these meetings you will be asked to:

1. Describe the church to a prospective minister
2. Looking back, after our minister has been with us a year, what will be your measures of success?
3. What achievements will make you say you're glad the minister is among us?

These sessions are a good way for those who prefer verbal communications rather than written - i.e. survey - to tell us what they think. They will be limited to one hour--no need to register, just show up and share your ideas. Thank you!

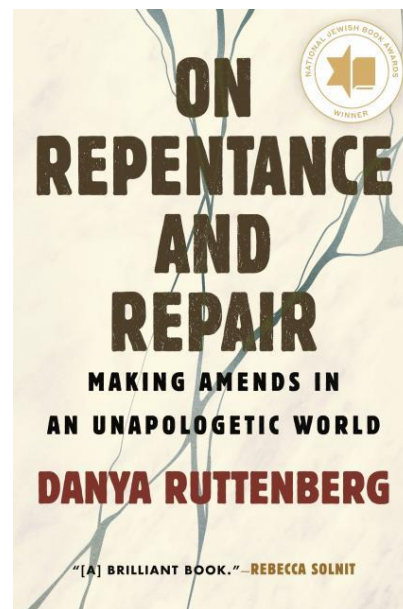
The Ministerial Search Committee

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



Ecumenical Storehouse pickups are this Saturday, Oct. 21, 9 a.m. -noon. Help is always needed and appreciated! For more information, contact Martin Bauer.

Books are in! Pick up your copy in the church office!



If you haven't paid for your copy (\$18 covers the book and shipping), please visit <https://onrealm.org/oruuc/-/form/give/now> and under "Fund," click on the drop down menu. The second option is the title of the book, "On Repentance and Repair." Select that option, and make your payment. Please consider 'buying' a second copy to cover someone who might not be able to come up with the payment right now.

There will be more information in the coming weeks about getting groups together for the UUA workshop(s) on the book. We are looking for a few coordinators for small discussion groups — if you are interested, contact Rev. Lisa at rev.lisa@oruuc.org or Nathaniel Bass at nathaniel.k.bass@gmail.com.

Announcements

Stone Soup

FREE Community Meal!



DINE IN!
Take out meals available

Friday, Oct. 27
5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.
Or until supplies run out!

Brown Rice & Vegetable Soup with Chicken
Fresh Fruit
Oatmeal Scotchies

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



Last month during Stone Soup's return to in-person dining, Stone Soup served 38 inside guests, 65 take-out meals, and made 30 deliveries to Callaghan Towers. Thanks to our 19 volunteers, it went off great! We're going to be short three people this month, so **we could use a few more helpers next Friday, Oct 27 to serve.** Contact Jen Stark at jen.stark@hotmail.com to help!



ORUUC
CHILI COOKOFF
Sunday, Oct. 29
11:15 a.m.
Enter your best chili!
\$5 to taste/judge

Get those recipes ready for the Chili Cookoff! Sunday, Oct. 29 during Faith Formation hour (before Trunk or Treat!) Free to enter! \$5 suggested donation to taste/judge.

Beyond Categorical Thinking Workshop

Saturday, Nov. 4
10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

at  ORUUC and on Zoom

Inclusion is
not a trend.

It's a way of
life.

THINK OF A MINISTER. DON'T THINK OF AN ELEPHANT. Chances are you thought of both of them! And distinct images perhaps came to mind. In terms of a minister, what images came to mind? Was it a person of a particular gender, race, or age? Through our Congregational Survey and in Cottage Meetings, you have described our congregation and your ideal minister. We are ready to move on, to think "outside the box" as we continue our search.

Beyond Categorical Thinking Workshop is the highly recommended next best step in the search process for our congregation. In finding the person who would be the best match for our minister, we could potentially overlook someone or even let biases keep us from knowing that a particular person would be the best match for us. Other congregations have assumed that their ideal minister looks a certain way, and often ministers who are not white or male or heterosexual or able-bodied or of a particular age or class are discounted and seen as "less than" in some ways. Credentialed ministers in our faith who are People of Color, LGBTQ+, disabled, young, old, working class, etc. still face discrimination as part of the ministerial search process.

In our efforts to find the best match, **our congregation will host a Beyond Categorical Thinking Workshop on November 4.** The whole congregation is invited. **Keith Kron, a UUA trainer, will facilitate the workshop and then give us a sermon on Sunday, Nov. 5. PLEASE come in person or by ZOOM to the Saturday workshop which begins at 10 AM and ends at 1PM (light lunch provided for those in-person).** There we will have the opportunity to examine how we can avoid letting prejudice become a part of our search process. This is yet another way for us to put our beliefs into lived experience and improve the odds that regardless of identity, we will find the minister who is the best match for us and who will serve us well.

Please register for the in-person workshop by filling out this form:
<https://forms.gle/WU4nMarxcRnYugME8> or stop by the table in the lobby on Sundays after service. ~ The Ministerial Search Committee

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 October

Janet Fryer fryerjanetr@gmail.com 847-821-1205 (cell)

Christina Elliott christina.r.elliott@gmail.com 865-214-0756 (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.

Pantry Needs and Thanks

Thank you!

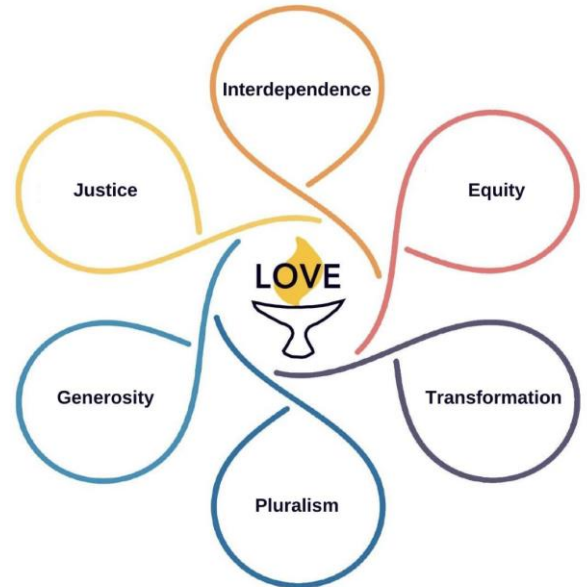
This Month

- Peanut Butter
- Canned green veggies
- Canned fruit
- Canned meats (tuna, chicken)
- Soups
- Kidney beans
- Mac & Cheese
- Hamburger Helper
- Ravioli/SpaghettiOs

ORUUC Pantry Needs

Thanks to all those who have donated generously to the church pantry in recent weeks. **Our ongoing needs are still peanut butter, canned green vegetables, and canned fruit** to pack grocery bags for those in need. Please consider picking up a few of these the next time you go grocery shopping. Donations may be dropped off any time during church office hours (Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.) or on Sunday. Thank you! Your donations are greatly appreciated!

Article II Study Commission News



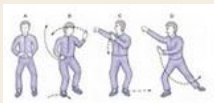
For more information on the Article II Study Commission, visit <https://www.uua.org/uuagovernance/committees/article-ii-study-commission>.

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. **Line Dancing is canceled this Sunday, Oct. 22 due to the Church Auction.**



Tai Chi

Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays 11 a.m. – 12 noon

We minister to health & stability through learning & practicing tai chi. Help maintain & improve balance, strength, and blood pressure, and reduce knee, arm, shoulder & back pain. For more information call Janet Hoegler at 865-963-5115.



Ukulele Group

We're scheduled to meet tomorrow, Saturday, Oct. 21 at 3 p.m. in the Sanctuary. The next Coffeehouse has been announced - December 31. It's not too early to start thinking about what we could perform! We'd love to have you join us! Abbie Moore abbie.moore@icloud.com.

Social and Volunteer Opportunities



Meets monthly at various churches in Oak Ridge. Visit

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/371268369619360> or email

Anne Backus

backusanne@comcast.net for more information about PFLAG Oak Ridge.



ORUUC 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

October is ORUUC's turn to run the Ecumenical Storehouse



We need your help! This organization, which supplies furniture and household goods to those in need, will be open **every Tuesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. to noon. For each day we need two people to gather up the small items for the clients, and two people to help load the heavier items.** The work is easy and very much needed in this community. **Please sign up by contacting Michael Bjerke at 865-567-8385.**



Eggs and Pegs are back! Play cribbage, eat breakfast, have fun! These get-togethers will be held the first Sunday of each month at 8:30 a.m. in the Social Hall.



Pack "Food for Kids" with Second Harvest at First United Methodist Church of Oak Ridge

Monday, Nov. 6 at 12 noon in the Multipurpose Room. The bins of food will be delivered to the schools Tuesday, Nov. 7. Other packing dates for the fall are **November 27 & 28, NONE IN DECEMBER.** Questions? Contact Coordinator Cara Weigel at 865-481-8108.

Family News

Faith Formation Dates for 2023-24

- August 6 — First Day of Youth Faith Formation
- September 15-16 — Rummage Sale (Teens who volunteer during Rummage Week can earn money for the Youth Trip Fund!)
- September 30 — October 16 — OR Schools Fall Break
- October 1 — Church Potluck (No Faith Formation)
- October 13-15 — All Church Retreat (Harrison Bay State Park) (No Faith Formation)
- October 29 - Trunk or Treat
- November 3-5 - [Fall Elementary Mountain CON](#)
- November 17-19 - [Fall Intermediate Mountain CON](#)
- November/December - Tamaladas (A tamale making party!) TBD
- December 1-3 - [Fall Senior High Mountain CON](#)
- December 3 - Cocoa and Caroling
- December 10 - 5th/6th OWL Parent Orientation
- January 7 - 5th/6th OWL Begins
- February 11 - Hugs and Quiches

Registration for Mountain CONs is NOW OPEN! Registration closes two weeks prior to the CON date. Please email Christine Rehder at crehder@oruuc.org when you register to let her know so that she can plan for advisors and transportation.

It's never too late to join Youth Faith Formation! Bring a friend! Check out our updated programming at <http://www.oruuc.org/religious-education>.



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>. Once you click "Submit," the form goes to ORUUC's Multigenerational Coordinator Whitney Cole, who will work with Childcare Coordinator Laura Scott to arrange childcare. Thank you!



Get ready for ORUUC's Trunk or Treat, Sunday, Oct. 29, 1-2 p.m., right after the Chili Cookoff! **Treat donations are appreciated! There's a bin in the church lobby where you may drop off bagged candy, small toys, books--whatever you'd like to donate to help make it a fun day for all! Thank you!**



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
November 2 and 16!*

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

<https://mailchi.mp/oakridgetn/orploct23>

October Worship Series

Heritage

October 1:

*How to Live A Life of Courage, and
Compassion*

October 8:

Rooted in Love

October 15:

Your Questions, Please

October 22:

Good Trouble

October 29:

Welcoming the Spirits of our Ancestors

**Join us for Sunday Worship at
10 a.m. in person and on Zoom**

Youth and Faith Formation classes are from
11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. There is no FF October 1
(multigenerational potluck) or October 8 (Oak
Ridge Schools' Fall Break).

Nursery is available during the FF hour.



Community News

More than 5,000 children have been served in the past 15 years through the Child Advocacy Center of Anderson County



Join us for a
15th Anniversary Celebration!
MUSIC | FOOD | SILENT AUCTION
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2023
2ND BAPTIST CHURCH
FAMILY LIFE CENTER
777 PUBLIC SAFETY LANE, CLINTON, TN 37716
DOORS OPEN AT 5:30PM,
PROGRAM 6PM - 8:30PM
With Special Guests:
McKamey Legacy
Heather Haley, Chief Meteorologist - WVLT
Don Hudson, News Anchor - WATE

Child Advocacy Center of Anderson County
www.childadvocacycenter.net

SCAN HERE FOR TICKETS & DONATIONS

Need more info? Call Jerri Bottom, 865-566-7045

Join the Child Advocacy Center on Thursday, Oct. 26 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Second Baptist Church in Clinton as they celebrate 15 years of services provided to help the children of Anderson County heal and recover from the trauma of abuse. The evening event will feature a silent auction, networking, live music by the McKameys, a delicious dinner and guest keynote speaker, Heather Haley, *Chief Meteorologist for WVLT News*. All proceeds from the Silent Auction will be used to provide services for the children at our center in Clinton. For more information, visit <https://givebutter.com/c/CAC-15thAnniversary>.



LWV
Lunch with the League
MONTHLY SPEAKER SERIES

Religion, Violence, and Gender
Tuesday, Nov. 7
11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
ORUUC Social Hall

Dr. Rosalind Hackett, Professor Emerita, Department of Religious Studies, UTK, will discuss the intersectionality of religion, violence, and gender in the U.S., Europe, and Africa.

To find out more about upcoming League of Women Voters events, visit <https://my.lwv.org/tennessee/oak-ridge/calendar>.



Fresh Fruit for Kids Soup and Dessert Lunch is Back!

Fall is in the air and that means it's time for the **Fresh Fruit for Kids Soup and Dessert fundraiser lunch on Sunday, Nov. 5 following the morning worship service at ORUUC**. Vegan/vegetarian soups will be available. Join us for our popular classics of New Mexico Green Chili Stew and Pasta Fagioli and yummy homemade desserts.

Funds from these lunches are used to buy fresh fruit (usually apples) to supplement Second Harvest's Food for Kids Backpack program. The ORUUC program currently provides 482 pieces of fruit per week. All elementary schools in Oak Ridge, along with the Preschool/Head Start program, participate.



On **October 16th**, winter coat collection will begin at **all locations of Knoxville Area Rescue Ministries (KARM) Stores and Prestige Cleaners**. Please encourage individuals, families and groups to **gather unused coats and deliver them to a KARM Stores location**. Beginning **November 13th**, customers with a Coats for the Cold ticket can "purchase" a coat at a KARM Stores location. ORUUC will receive coat vouchers to be given out at Stone Soup and on request. Last year, we distributed more than 150! More information on Coats for the Cold can be found at karm.org/coats-for-the-cold/.



Join Westside UU Minister Rev. Carol Bodeau for an earth-centered gathering each month, on third Sundays. We will sit in a sacred circle, share experiences of inspiration in nature, create ritual together, and set intentions for the coming month. Then we'll have time for food and fellowship. Meetings outdoors (weather permitting) at Westside at 3-6 p.m. <https://fb.me/e/bK9hRhIth>

This Week at ORUUUC



Friday, Oct. 20

11am Tai Chi Practice

4pm Party Setup

Saturday, Oct. 21

9am Ecumenical Storehouse Pickup

3pm Ukulele

5-10pm Rental (Wedding Shower)

Sunday, Oct. 22

8:15am Circle of Trust VII

10am Worship

11am High School

11am Together in Spirit

11:15am Adult OWL

11:15am Circle of Trust II

11:15am Ministerial Search Input Meeting (Middle/High School)

11:15am Ministerial Search Input Meeting (Parents)

11:15am Newcomers

11:15am Reflections

11:30am Circle of Trust IV

12:15pm Circle of Trust V

12:30pm Buddhism Study Group

1pm Circle of Trust VI

3pm Church Auction (3-5pm Silent

Auction, 5:30-6:30pm Live

Auction)

3pm Line Dancing (Canceled)

5-7pm Zentangle Group (Canceled)

Monday, Oct. 23

11am Tai Chi Practice

Tuesday, Oct. 24

6pm Depression and Anxiety Group

Wednesday, Oct. 25

6:30am Breakfast Rotary

11am Tai Chi Practice

5:30pm Circle of Trust III

5:30pm Finance Committee Meeting

7pm Choir Practice

7:45pm Band Rehearsal

Thursday, Oct. 26

12pm NWUUC & Launchpad

Meeting

12:30pm Thursday Lunch Bunch

7pm Cornhole Game

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



If you have a flyer you would like to share on the church bulletin board about a community event, please leave it with the church office staff. Thank you!

Sunday, Oct. 29 Welcoming the Spirits of our Ancestors

Jane Flanagan, Guest Speaker



It is part of our tradition this season to honor our ancestors. It is said that the early Celts believed that, as the sun disappears and the days grow darker and colder, the spirits of those who died this past year would return to their families - haunting them, scaring them, tricking them. Halloween is our latter-day version of this celebration service for you.

The deadline to submit news for

***The Exponent* is**

Wednesday at noon.

**Please send news, comments, and
feedback to Rachel at**

communications@oruuc.org.



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

