

September 8-14, 2023

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## News from Oak Ridge Unitarian Universalist Church

# The Exponent



Take the Congregational Survey TODAY! Visit

<https://forms.gle/V8myCbtyFov1cZcv5>

Prospective ministers want to know as much as possible about a congregation they are considering serving at. They want to know not only the history of our church, but also what its members think are the important things we've done. Above all, they want to know what kind of a minister we are looking for. There are many ways that a minister can serve a church, some essential, some less so. This 15-minute survey will ask you to rank the most important tasks for the minister. Do you want good sermons more than anything else, or maybe great pastoral care? What about administration of the staff? No minister can be great in all of these tasks, so it's important for us to be honest about what we are looking for.

**Please fill out the survey, either online or on paper, by September 29.** Thank you! ~The Ministerial Search Committee

## Taking Stock This Fall

Christine Rehder, Director of Youth Faith Formation

As a child in elementary school, I remember September being represented on the monthly calendar as a red brick school house signifying the beginning of school. It's one of those memories that feels outdated now as in Oak Ridge we are past mid-term (also, I never really knew anyone who went to the red-bricked A-line shape school even then).

For me, September now evokes images of change as opposed to beginnings. It usually means a much appreciated change in temperature and colors in leaves. It also means a birthday for me, and with that comes the inner considerations of where I am in my life and deeper questions that arise when examining age-related change. What to leave in? What to leave out?



Fortunately for me and all of us at ORUUC, this September is Fall Rummage. This means all metaphorical sorting can manifest itself into a giant pile at the landing of my staircase.

Every six months or so, our congregation is invited to take stock of the necessities and desires of our individual circumstances and station in life, box them up and take them to church. Once there, they are graciously taken from us and offered to someone else at a deep discount (double on Fridays-I see you, Betsy). The sorting and dropping of my rummage is always cathartic to me. Momentarily at least, someone has relieved me of my burden and I feel free and light.

But the beauty of the Rummage Sale is that taking my things is only the beginning

of the experience. Once my personal stuff is offloaded, I can join a team of hardworking and friendly people working to sort, stack and price the variety of things other people have donated. Newly unburdened and refreshed me is welcomed into a community of shared purpose, common goals, and lots of snacks.

The Rummage Sale is a major fundraiser for the church. It's also one of our most important multigenerational events. People of all ages and abilities work together to transform the church into a bargain paradise and then back into a church in a week. That's a logistical feat. It's also a meaningful spiritual endeavor.

Donating to the Rummage sale asks us to look at the things in our lives which may no longer be useful or the right fit anymore and to get rid of it, not just for ourselves, but for the good of others. Working the Rummage sale invites us into community, to labor side by side with people we know well or not at all, for a collective achievement that is greater than what we can do alone. Each of us lets go of small pieces of ourselves to serve and share in a larger, purpose-driven mission. The more people we bring together and the more ways we work together gives us a clearer picture of the Beloved Community. That's faith formation.

Rummage Week is September 9-16. Youth can earn money toward trips by helping out; children of all ages can experience the spiritual practices of unloading, stacking, and pricing. Welcome to Worship!

# This Sunday, Sept. 10

## Love Meets the Dragons

When 16th century explorers charted the oceans, a vast area was outside their ken. Of that uncharted realm, old maps designate “Here Be Dragons.” As the Fellowship leans into welcoming a settled minister, Interim minister Rev. Lisa Romantum Schwartz will lean into the work of Rev. Tom Owen-Towle to explore what that might entail.

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: [TORCH](#)

Adult and Youth Faith Formation classes meet his Sunday from 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Nursery is available during the FF Hour.

*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. **There are currently Covid cases in our community. If you have recently tested positive, please stay home and worship with us on Zoom. We care for one another!***

**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 & run 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 [rev.lisa@oruuc.org](mailto:rev.lisa@oruuc.org).

865-483-6761 | [ORUUC.org](http://ORUUC.org)

**The Worship Tech Team needs you!** We're low on staff to run Zoom for worship services. Interested in learning more or applying? Check out the job description [here](#) and email your resume and cover letter to Rev. Lisa at [rev.lisa@oruuc.org](mailto:rev.lisa@oruuc.org). We also need **Zoom Doorkeepers** - a simpler, but necessary job! But no financial compensation, just the joy of helping and seeing folks on Zoom.

## This Month's Split the Plate Offering:



The Split-the-Plate recipient for the month of September is **Tennessee Out-Reach Center for Homeless (TORCH)**. Using a Housing First model, TORCH serves the homeless by providing assistance with a permanent housing address, thus allowing them to gain better access to stable employment, promotions, success in school and disability benefits. Eligible clients are connected to needed resources until housing is available. In the spring of this year, TORCH celebrated the opening of Brookhart Village, which will provide temporary housing

for six homeless families or up to 30 individuals.

Please donate to TORCH to help in their mission to make homelessness part of our past instead of our present.

To learn more about the various programs available to assist the homeless, visit <https://oakridgetorch.org/>.

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

# Fall Rummage Week is *HERE!*

## BIG RUMMAGE PICKUP

Saturday, Sept. 9  
9-12 noon

**Trucks**

We need: **Volunteers**  
**Donations**



To schedule pick up of large items or tables, please contact Amanda Fishel or Christina Elliott by sending an email to [oruucrummage@gmail.com](mailto:oruucrummage@gmail.com), calling or texting (865) 804-7033 (Amanda) or (865) 214-0756 (Christina).

## RUMMAGE SALE

### Donation Drop off Begins Sunday, Sept. 10

We'll gratefully accept the following items in resalable condition:

- **Clothing & Linens:** Washed, no tears, stains, mildewed, or strong odors from cigarettes, pets or mothballs. It would be helpful to fold clothing and put in clean trash bags.
- **Upholstered Furniture & Area Rugs:** No significant tears, no stains, no mildew, or strong cigarette or pet odors.
- **Wood or Solid Furniture:** Not broken or badly dented or water damaged, and not missing any vital parts. Minor dents or scratches are acceptable.
- **Televisions:** Flat screens, still in good working condition, less than 5 years old, with no missing knobs or buttons. Minor dents or scratches are acceptable. No big projection TVs or consoles.
- **Electronics:** Still in good working condition stereo components and speakers, computers only with flat screen monitors.
- **Appliances:** Only small, still in good working condition such as toasters and microwave ovens, mixers, etc. No missing knobs or buttons. Minor dents or scratches are acceptable.
- **Miscellaneous Items:** Toys, tools, music instruments, patio furniture and décor items, knickknacks, books (no school textbooks or magazines please,) artwork, clean area rugs, dishes, pots/pans, shoes, antiques, and jewelry.

### Things we are **UNABLE** to accept:

- Anything that is wet from rain or floods, etc. or otherwise damaged
- Combustible fuel in any tanks or containers
- Console stereos or TVs, big projection TVs, or any that are older than 5 years, are not working, and those missing knobs or buttons
- Child car-seats
- Baby cribs with a sliding side rail
- Building materials, including paint and carpet remnants\*\*
- Auto parts
- Electronics not in working condition
- Mattresses\*
- Large appliances such as dishwashers, stoves and refrigerators, etc.\*
- Large exercise equipment (treadmills, elliptical machines, etc.)\*
- Pianos or organs
- Slate-top pool tables
- Safety helmets, including baseball, football, and cycling helmets

\*Call Ecumenical Storehouse: (865) 481-0274

\*\*Call Habitat ReStore: (865) 483-5433

### DONATE MEALS AND SNACKS TO RUMMAGE WORKERS!



**Volunteers are still needed to provide snacks/desserts for Rummage workers a few days next week.** Your help will be greatly received and highly appreciated! **Call Sue Lasky at 731-588-4448 to add your name to the list!** *If you would like to be reimbursed for the cost of ingredients, please give Amanda Fishel a receipt with only that meal's groceries on it.*

Yummy Victuals Committee members  
Sue Lasky, Jo Curran, and Janet Hoegler

# Announcements



# ORUUC FALL RUMMAGE WEEK

## DONATION DROP OFF

- Sunday, Sept. 10 12:30-4 pm
- Monday, Sept. 11 9 am - 8 pm
- Tuesday, Sept. 12 9 am - 8 pm
- Wednesday, Sept. 13 9 am - 8 pm
- Thursday, Sept. 14 9 am - 8 pm

## ORUUC Fall All-Church Retreat

OCTOBER 13-15  
HARRISON BAY  
STATE PARK

REGISTER TODAY!



### Re-TREAT Yourself! Register for the ORUUC All-Church Retreat TODAY!

Join your friends or make new ones October 13 thru 15 at Harrison Bay State Park group camp. There will be fun, fellowship, games, and more!

Register [HERE](#) today! Pay online via Realm:

<https://onrealm.org/oruuc/-/form/give/now>

Choose "All Church Retreat" from the drop down menu under "Fund." (Cash and checks are also accepted.) Registration closes October 1.

### A Thank You from



Dear wonderful church folks,

I am writing to express my sincere gratitude for your generous support of Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning (TCWP). Your commitment to our cause is truly inspiring, and I am thrilled to have the opportunity to extend my heartfelt thanks to you as the new Executive Director of TCWP.

Your financial contribution to our organization plays a pivotal role in our efforts to conserve and protect the pristine wilderness areas of Tennessee. Your belief in our mission enables us to continue advocating for the preservation of these invaluable natural spaces, ensuring that they remain accessible for generations to come.

With warm regards,  
Nancy Manning  
Executive Director, TCWP

*In July, ORUUC sent \$1,581.49 to TCWP from our Split the Plate offering.*

# Announcements



Friday, Sept. 29

5:30- 6:30 p.m.

**SOCIAL HALL**

Welcome back to dining in person!

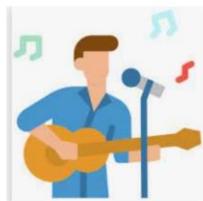
**Celebrate 13 years of Stone Soup!**



Contact Jen Stark at [jen.stark@hotmail.com](mailto:jen.stark@hotmail.com) to join the team!

**Stone Soup is returning to in-person dining September 29!**

The Stone Soup team is going to need even more volunteers to help set tables, serve diners, box up to go meals, and clean up after the meal. Contact Jen Stark at [jen.stark@hotmail.com](mailto:jen.stark@hotmail.com) if you'd like to help!



## COFFEHOUSE TALENT SHOW

FRIDAY, SEPT. 22  
6:30 P.M. FOOD AND SOCIAL  
7 P.M. PROGRAM  
AT

### Coffeehouse Talent Show

Friday, Sept. 22

Food & Social starts 6:30 p.m.

Program starts at 7:00 p.m.

Start getting your act together! Any kind of rehearsed, presentational act is possible, from the silly to the sublime. All ages and all kinds of talent are encouraged. Past shows have included one-act plays, singer-songwriters, vocal and instrumental solos or ensembles, joke telling, dancers, and novelty acts. This is your chance to live out a performance fantasy, to ham it up, to build some experience performing in front of people, or to blow people's minds by unveiling a unique talent you've been keeping to yourself. Advance sign-up is required for all performers. **The sign-up deadline is Sunday, Sept. 17.** Contact Nancy Starr, [starroakridge@gmail.com](mailto:starroakridge@gmail.com), mobile 865-742-9993

**Adult OWL Orientation**  
Sunday, Sept. 24 at 11:15 a.m.



ORUUC is offering *Adult OWL* this fall during Faith Formation hour. Show up at the informational meeting September 24 to find out more! The 7-week course begins October 22 and runs through December 3. You do not have to attend all sessions.

## ORUUC Auction

Sunday, Oct. 22

3-7 p.m. at

**The Auction Returns!** On Sunday, October 22, ORUUC will hold an auction from 3 p.m. – 7 p.m. One item being offered: a beautiful quilt from our own Carol Mason! **We need your treasures (arts, crafts, heirlooms), your talents (offering a dinner party, a concert or gourmet meal perhaps), and your time (setting up, serving, cashiers and more) to make this fun and exciting event a success.** So save the date and donate items and events for the silent and live auctions. **Contact Michael Bjerke at 865-567-8385 or through [michaelbjerke@comcast.net](mailto:michaelbjerke@comcast.net) with questions, donations or for more information.**



## 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 September

Rachel Smith-Jones [smithnjones3@comcast.net](mailto:smithnjones3@comcast.net) 603-252-2295 (cell)

Janet Fryer [fryerjanetr@gmail.com](mailto:fryerjanetr@gmail.com) 847-821-1205 (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.

## Barbara Katherine Moon July 3, 1928 — August 26, 2023



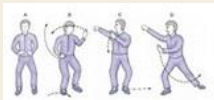
Barbara Katherine Longfellow Moon, age 95, passed away peacefully on Saturday, August 26, 2023. Barbara met her husband, Ralph, during their senior year of high school in Kansas City, MO and they married in 1950 after her graduation from Vassar College. In 1963 they moved to Oak Ridge, TN with their four children and Barbara began her involvement in numerous community activities. She served as a Camp Fire group leader for each of her daughters and eventually became President of the Clinch Valley Council. She served the Oak Ridge League of Women Voters in many capacities, notably as newsletter editor and Co-President of the Board. She also served on the League's state board and was editor of the state newsletter. At the Oak Ridge Unitarian Church she taught Sunday School, was on countless committees and served twice on the Board, once as President and once as Assistant Treasurer. Barbara loved supporting a good cause and spending time with friends and family. She instilled in her children her passion for reading, the arts and civic involvement. Her hobbies included needle work, family genealogy research and travel. Barbara is preceded in death by her beloved husband, Ralph; parents, George and Isabelle Longfellow; daughter, Mary Ann Moon; and brother-in-law, John J. Moon. She is survived by children, Kathy (Gary) Kelly; Laura (Grant) Gardner; David (Naomi) Moon; son-in-law, Dave Pierce; sister, Lois Longfellow Moon; and sister-in-law, Mary Alice Moon. She is also survived by grandchildren Patrick (Heather) Kelly, John (Jessi) Kelly, Daniel (Maya Wagner) Gardner, Philip Gardner, Emma Moon, Alli Moon and David (Angela) Pierce, nine great grandchildren and the rest of her extended family. The family would like to express its deep appreciation to the staff at Commonwealth Senior Living for the years of respect, care and compassion they provided. They also thank the nurses from Amedisys for their advice and assistance. **A memorial is planned for Saturday, November 18. Details will be announced at a later date.** In lieu of flowers, donations in Barbara's name may be made to the Oak Ridge Unitarian Church, 809 Oak Ridge Turnpike, Oak Ridge, TN 37830 or to a charity of your choice. **Please send condolences to Barbara Moon's family c/o Kathy Kelly, 3438 Knoxville Highway, Wartburg TN 37887.**

## 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. *There will be no Line Dancing September 10 due to Rummage Setup.*



### 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

Plans are to meet Saturday, Sept. 9 at 3 p.m. to work on "This Land is Your Land" and "If You Could Read My Mind," which we will perform at the Coffee House on September 22. If you are interested in joining us, it will be imperative for you to rehearse with us. We may try to find another time for rehearsal between the 9th and the 22<sup>nd</sup>. 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 Backus

[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 September 23, 9 a.m. to noon



One Saturday each month, ORUUC takes a turn volunteering at Ecumenical Storehouse. **There's no training required, just a willingness to help!** The items picked up range from heavy furniture to linens, lamps, and pots and pans. Questions? Show up at 134 E. Division Road at 9 a.m. and lend a hand! Contact Michael Bjerke at [michaelbjerke@comcast.net](mailto:michaelbjerke@comcast.net).



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 are desperately needed and may be dropped off any weekday between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m., or on Sunday mornings. Thank you!



**Beginning in October. Eggs and Pegs!** Play cribbage, eat breakfast, have fun! These get together will be held the first Sunday of each month at 8:30 a.m. in the



**A new year of Youth Faith Formation is off to a great start!** It's never too late to join us! Bring a friend! **Check out our updated programming** at <http://www.oruuc.org/religious-education>.

## **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 29 - 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
- February 23-25 - Spring Elementary Mountain CON
- March 1-3 - Spring Intermediate Mountain CON /Rummage Sale
- March 9-25 - OR Spring Break (Special Programming)
- March 15-17 – Spring Senior High Mountain CON
- March 31 - Easter Egg Hunt
- April TBD - Ministerial Visits
- April TCAP Test Break TBD
- May 12 - Last Day of Youth Faith Formation
- May 19 - Bridging/Reception
- June 24-28 - Rainbow Camp



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!



**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 gathering September 21!***

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

<https://mailchi.mp/oakridgetn/orplsept23>

**Check out ORUUC's monthly newsletter for families, "Connecting in Spirit" [here!](#)**



# *September Worship Series*

## **The Gift of Welcome**

September 3:

*Putting Labor back in Labor Day*

September 10:

*Love Meets the Dragons*

September 17:

*Sweet Dreams of Autumn*

September 24:

*The Soul's Beautiful  
Affliction*



**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.*

*Nursery is available during the FF hour.*



## Community News

**Black Atticus and RheaSunshine**  
**Saturday, Sept. 9**  
**7-8 p.m.**  
**At Birdhouse Knoxville**



Join us for a night of story and rhyme with Knoxville's current and past poet laureates, Black Atticus and RheaSunshine.

Birdhouse Knoxville

800 N 4th Ave, Knoxville

Doors open at 6:15 p.m.

Suggested donation: \$15/person (Send your donation via PayPal or bring cash to the event.)

*This event is supported by a grant from the TN Arts Commission.*

<https://www.facebook.com/birdhouse.knoxville>

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**Pack "Food for Kids" with Second Harvest at First United Methodist Church of Oak Ridge Monday, Sept. 11 at 12 noon**



Volunteers – Guess what? It's Food for Kids time! We will pack Monday, Sept. 11 at 12 noon in the Multipurpose Room at First United Methodist Church. The bins of food will be delivered to the schools Tuesday, Sept. 12 at 8:30 a.m. Feel free to wear masks if you desire. There will be gloves available. FUMC has no mask guidelines at this time.

**Here's the schedule for the remainder of 2023: October 16 & 17, November 6 & 7, November 27 & 28, NONE IN DECEMBER.** I am looking forward to seeing you on Monday! We have 2,031 bags to complete. Questions? Contact Coordinator Cara Weigel at 865-481-8108.

**PFLAG**  
**OAK RIDGE**

**POTLUCK for PFLAG**  
**Monday, Sept. 11 at 6:30 p.m.**  
**First Presbyterian Church, Oak Ridge**

PFLAG will have a welcome-new-and continuing-friends potluck, and a rousing game of Trivia at its meeting, Monday, Sept. 11 at First Presbyterian Church of Oak Ridge, 1051 Oak Ridge Turnpike. Members and friends will gather in Room 102 at 6:30 p.m. for food and social time; the meeting will be from 7 - 8 p.m. Bring a side or dessert if you wish, but most importantly, bring yourself.

Oak Ridge has an active PFLAG group which meets monthly, rotating the venue among faith communities including the First Presbyterian, First United Methodist, and Oak Ridge Unitarian Universalist churches, United Church Chapel on the Hill, and the Jewish Congregation of Oak Ridge. PFLAG (formerly known as an acronym for Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) is the United States' largest organization uniting families and allies with people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or queer (LGBTQ). Its mission is to provide opportunities for dialogue about sexual orientation, gender identities, and to create a society that is healthy and respectful of human diversity. For additional information, contact PFLAG President Anne Backus [backusanne@comcast.net](mailto:backusanne@comcast.net).

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**ACCESS OAK RIDGE**  
*Fair*

Creating Community for All Abilities

Mark your calendars to attend the Celebrate Different Abilities Fair, Saturday, Oct. 7, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. at the Oak Ridge Civic Center. The first-ever disability fair in Oak Ridge has two main goals: to provide information on resources to people with disabilities, their families and caregivers, and to attract others to come and learn about how we can plan and build our communities so that all can live, work and play to their full potential. There will be 50 vendors, 20 activities, demonstrations, ten speakers, art exhibits, music, food, games, prizes and more! Sponsored by The City of Oak Ridge, United Way of Anderson County, and Periodic Tables: Healing Starts Here. For more information, visit <https://www.oakridgeperiodictables.com/blog/periodic-tables-fall-line-up-is-here>.

**SPIRIT QUEST 2023  
ELKMONT GROUP CAMPGROUND,  
GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK  
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8 –  
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10**



*A special event sponsored by Earth Church East Tennessee*

Join Rev. Carol Bodeau at this annual celebration of earth-spirit. We will gather in the Smoky Mountains to:

- Listen to the voice of nature as it speaks to us
- Learn about world traditions that have rooted their spirituality in the cycles of the natural world
- Make music that echoes the heartbeat of the earth, the songs of creatures, and the rhythms of wind and water
- Sleep outdoors and spend time alone on the land (*If sleeping outside isn't for you, there are other options*)
- Share in sacred fire circles
- Swim, hike, do crafts and generally have a rich, deep joyful time with others who love being on the land in a spiritual way

**Cost:** \$20 per person to cover campground and basic supplies (we will all bring food to share)

**Registration:** email Rev. Carol at [revcarol@westsideuuc.org](mailto:revcarol@westsideuuc.org)



**Interested in being part of an East TN UU cluster table at this fall's Knox Pride event October 6-8 at World's Fair Park?** Contact the church office at 483-6761 or [communications@oruuc.org](mailto:communications@oruuc.org). ORUUC will work with other UU churches to be supportive at this important event. Questions? Contact Mark Mohundro at TVUUC: [markm667@gmail.com](mailto:markm667@gmail.com). For more information on the Knox Pride event, visit <https://www.knoxpride.com/pride-fest-2023>.

**Learning about the Eastern Cherokee  
A UU Living our Values Field Trip  
Saturday, Sept. 30  
Organized by TVUUC**



As Unitarian Universalists, we are committed to honoring the first nations peoples who stewarded and inhabited North America prior to settler colonialism. As part of living our values, we can learn directly from local indigenous peoples about their histories, cultures, and contemporary lived experiences. Join with other UU's to honor the Eastern Cherokee people by visiting:

- Oconaluftee Indian Village: on the site of a traditional village, where tribal members educate the public about their culture and lifeways (our group will have a private, guided tour) \$20 per adult, children 6-12 yrs \$10, children under 10 free.
- The Museum of the Cherokee Indian: one of the oldest tribally run museums in the US, this museum includes historical and archaeological exhibits, cultural specialists demonstrating crafts and skills, and a bookstore/giftshop with an excellent collection of books on Cherokee culture. Cost: optional (\$12 if you choose to view the exhibits; the bookstore is free to enter).
- Qualla Arts and Crafts store: Across the street from the museum, this store offers the work of native artists from around the US, with a focus on local Cherokee artists. Free to enter.

Scholarship support is available for anyone who needs it. You can also donate to the scholarship fund.

Transportation: We are currently planning on carpooling; please let us know if you need transportation support. We will meet in Cherokee at 10 am Eastern Time and be there until approximately 4 pm.

Bring your own lunch for a picnic by the river.

Register using this link-<https://tinyurl.com/3wepm4sj>

# This Week at ORUUUC



## Friday, Sept. 8

11am Tai Chi Practice

## Saturday, Sept. 9

**9am-12noon Big Rummage Pickup**

3pm Ukulele

## Sunday, Sept. 10

8:15am Circle of Trust VII

**10am Worship**

11am High School

11am Together in Spirit

11:15am Circle of Trust IV

11:15am Newcomers

11:15am Reflections

11:30am Circle of Trust II

12pm Circle of Trust V

12:30pm Buddhism Study Group

**12:30-4 pm Rummage Set Up and Donation Drop Off**

1pm Circle of Trust VI

3pm Line Dancing (Canceled)

5-7pm Zentangle Group (Conference Room)

## Monday, Sept. 11

**9am-8pm Rummage Donation Drop Off**

11am Tai Chi Practice

12pm Pack Food for Kids (Second Harvest at First United Methodist)

6pm EMBERS

## Tuesday, Sept. 12

**9am-8pm Rummage Donation Drop Off**

6pm Presidents Council

6pm Depression & Anxiety Support Group

## Wednesday, Sept. 13

**9am-8pm Rummage Donation**

**Drop Off**

6:30am Breakfast Rotary

(Canceled)

11am Tai Chi Practice

5:15pm Circle of Trust III

6pm Finance Meeting

7pm Choir Practice

7:45pm Band Rehearsal

## Thursday, Sept. 14

**9am-8pm Rummage Donation**

**Drop Off**

12pm NWUUC & Launchpad

Meeting

12:30pm Thursday Lunch Bunch

7pm Cornhole Game



**A reminder: Rev. Lisa and other ORUUC staff will never email or text you to ask for gift cards or other favors! If you get one of these messages, it's a scam. Thanks for remaining vigilant!**

**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).**



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Oak Ridge, TN 37830

Contact us at 865-483-6761

<http://www.oruuc.org/>



## **ORUUC Board of Trustees 2023-24**

*President: Jason Fishel*

*Past President: Michele Thornton*

*President-Elect: Kara Raymond*

*Secretary: Nathaniel Bass*

*Treasurer: Brandon White*

*Members-at-Large:*

*Freddie Nechtow*

*Charles Davis*

*Jami Garner*

*Jen Stark*

## **ORUUC Executive Team**

*Rev. Lisa Romantum Schwartz*

*Christine Rehder*

*Amanda Fishel*

*Donna Maloney*

*Jeannie Cuevas, Office Administrator*

## **Sunday, Sept. 17 Sweet Dreams of Autumn**

Rev. Lisa Romantum Schwartz, Interim Minister



This is the weekend of the autumn equinox, a marker of approaching fall. Seasonal changes are like life changes, with subtle shifts taking place over time. As we continue to explore the theme of welcome, Interim Minister Rev. Lisa Romantum Schwartz will ponder what might be hard to welcome as the seasons of our lives turn away from growth and move towards taking a rest, and taking stock.