



The Exponent

December 3-9, 2021

WORSHIP

God Bless Us, Every One!

The Redemption of
Scrooge

Worship Series

ORUUC

November 28-
December 26

This Holiday Season we will explore how living in a spiritual place of grace and justice is the antithesis of the life-threatening addiction to money, success, exclusion and looking out for ourselves. The chimes of the clock-tower bells in Dickens' classic "A Christmas Carol" provide a

wake-up call for Ebenezer Scrooge and turn him from his resentment, fear and isolation. Just as Ebenezer was transformed, we too can be born anew, woken up and redeemed into renewed life, joy, passion, generosity, humility and love.

We hope you will join us each Sunday for this 5-week series that promises to be transformative!

For more information about our worship services, please visit our website at

<http://www.oruuc.org/sunday-worship>.

December 5, 10:00 AM "Christmas Past: "The Risk of Being Disturbed and Changed"

Rev. Gaye Morris leading worship

In "A Christmas Carol," we see the transformation of Ebenezer Scrooge occur as the bells chime, from a fearful, isolated, and resentful old man, to a vehicle of grace and generosity. Are we willing to go back into the past to uncover the true "reason for the season"?

Order of Service [here](#) Go to [ORUUC](#) for zoom information.

UP FRONT

Youth Fundraiser



Youth going on the East Coast Heritage Trip in June 2022 are rolling in it--cornmeal, that is. Fundraising for the trip is underway with our 2nd (not quite annual) Tamale Sale! Under the leadership of logistics guru and master chef Brandon White, the tamale preparation is organized, efficient, and fun. And the final product is, in the words of renowned ORUUC food critic Hal Hoyt, "the best I've ever had, even better than last time." Cost is \$20 per dozen, and flavors are Chicken and Cheese, or Green Pepper and Cheese. **Orders will be taken in the church lobby December 5, or online here: [Tamale Order Form](#)** Tamales will be distributed in the Social Hall on Saturday, Dec. 18 from 3 to 5 p.m. to coincide with Cookies and Caroling, and on Sunday, Dec. 19 before and after the No Rehearse Pageant. Supplies are limited, so get your orders in ASAP! Thanks, in advance, for supporting the Youth and keeping this tasty tradition alive.

***Oak Ridge
Unitarian Universalist
Church***

**CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING**

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2021

11:15 A.M.

IN THE SANCTUARY
AND ON ZOOM

AGENDA

- I. Meeting Called to Order
- II. Opening Words
- III. Secretary's Report
- IV. President's Report
- V. Minister's Report
- VI. Treasurer's Report
- VII. Endowment Committee Report
- VIII. Report on ministerial transition
process
- IX. Covid-19 Report
- XI. Vote on ordination of Juniper
Meadows by ORUUC
- XII. Closing Words
- XIII. Adjournment



CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Holiday Craft Party

Sunday, Dec. 12 at 11:15 a.m.
during the Congregational Meeting
ORUUC Social Hall

**Kids of all ages are invited to
create 4-6 keepsake crafts to
take home as decorations or
gifts. Middle and High
Schoolers are welcome to craft
or help. Nursery care will be
provided.**

2021 Holiday Calendar

Sunday, Dec. 12 Congregational Meeting at 11:15 a.m. in the Sanctuary and on Zoom. (No Faith Formation) **Holiday Craft Party** for Children and Youth in the Social Hall.

Sunday, Dec. 12 Deadline for dropping off Angel Tree gifts at church!

Tuesday, Dec. 14 Service of Memory and Hope at 6:30 p.m., First Presbyterian Church

Saturday, Dec. 18 Cookies and Caroling at 3 p.m. in the Pavilion and Portico

Sunday, Dec. 19 No Rehearse Christmas Pageant at 10 a.m. in the Sanctuary and on Zoom (No Faith Formation)

Tuesday, Dec. 21 Winter Solstice Service at 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary (Childcare provided)

Friday, Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Service at 6 p.m. in the Sanctuary and on Zoom. **Come at 5 p.m. to enjoy pre-service music.**

Friday, Dec. 31 Stone Soup from 5 to 6 p.m.

CELEBRATE THE SEASON WITH ORUUC!



Cookies and Caroling

Saturday, Dec. 18 at 3 p.m.

Come out and sing holiday favorites with friends in the Pavilion! Musical accompaniment provided by Dave Dunkirk and Larry Rosenbaum.

Hot cocoa and cookies (allergen-free options available) will be served in the Portico.

Grab a S'mores kit (individual bags of everything you need to make the perfect S'mores) to enjoy at the campfire (weather permitting).

Plus Festive photo ops! Dress for the weather!

And don't forget to order your tamales in advance (in person this Sunday or online [Tamale Order Form](#))—the high schoolers will be on hand that afternoon from 3 to 5 p.m. to distribute orders.

Thank you!

The Healthy Transition Task Force

The Healthy Transitions Task Force thanks everyone for their input at the recent round table discussions. Stay tuned for future news!" ~ Healthy Transitions Task Force Members Nancy Starr, Jen Stark, Margaret Durgin, Heidi Brenner, and Amanda Fishel



DRAFT TRANSITION TIMELINE - NOV 2021

2021-22

"A GOOD GOODBYE"

Late May to Early June

- Well-Coordinated Congregational Communication
- Connect with UUA Consultant

Aug 2021

Board appoints

- 1) "Good Goodbye" Task Force
- 2) "Healthy Transitions" Task Force

Board retreat with Executive Team and staff; Plan the year

Fall 2021

Congregational Conversations, toward clarity on ORUUC's current dreams and needs.

Late Spring 2022

- ORUUC Board contracts with Interim Minister
- Goodbye Ceremonies and Celebrations
- June 30: Jake & Tandy end ORUUC ministries

2022-24

TWO-YEAR INTERIM

August 2022

Interim Minister Arrives

The Five Developmental Tasks of Interim Ministry

- Coming to Terms with History
- Discovering a New Identity
- Shifts in Power/Leadership Changes
- Re-Thinking Denominational Linkages
- Commitment to New Leadership and a New Future

December 2022

Congregation Elects Ministerial Search Committee

April/May 2023

ORUUC Board renews contract with Interim or hires another Interim for second year

Oct 2023 to March 2024

- "Congregational Record" uploaded for UU ministers in search
- Search Committee confidentially reviews pre-candidates, selects candidate

April 2024

Congregation votes to call New Minister

2024-25

NEW SETTLED MINISTER YEAR ONE

August 2024

New Minister arrives

Over the Church Year

- New Minister establishes relationships/trust
- New Minister's Installation Service
- Jake & Tandy only renew contact with Congregation at invitation of New Minister
- Congregation could vote to name Jake & Tandy "Minister Emeritus" and "Minister Emerita." (Or could decide not to!)

Coats for the Cold 2021



From November 15 to December 11, anyone with a voucher may select a cleaned and prepared for distribution coat **from any KARM store**. Jeannie now has the vouchers in the church office.

FYI – In the 3rd quarter of 2021, KARM stores received 38 donations from those connected to ORUUC. Those donations included household items as well as donations of time. In return, we received \$100 in gift cards to share. Over the past 12 months churches and other partners received nearly \$500,000 in gift cards to share with the East Tennessee community; since January 1, 2001, 80,000 nights of safe shelter were provided to men, women, and children and 135,000 meals have been served at KARM.

Mother Goose



Join us with your baby, toddler and/or preschooler for bouncing, tickling, touching, clapping and action rhymes, musical circle games, simple songs, and play.

of Oak Ridge

**FIRST and THIRD Thursdays each month
at 10:30 AM
with "Father Goose" Michael Raymond
September through May**

We promote positive parent/child interaction as well as language and early brain development through traditional rhymes, circle games, musical activities, and simple play. We provide a meeting place and fellowship for caregivers of young children, especially those new to the community and far from home. Nothing is charged for Mother Goose; it is freely and lovingly offered to all.

Mother Goose of Oak Ridge meets in the Oak Ridge Public Library Auditorium.

Mother Goose of Oak Ridge meets in Oak Ridge Library Auditorium



Nomadic Yoga Co-op

Sunday Morning yoga will be on hiatus until further notice, due to the cold weather and Covid restrictions for inside the building. Please continue your home practice and consider joining me on Monday evenings at Ascension Yoga for a Gentle Flow class. We hope to be able to gather again soon. Namaste. ~Jennifer Yarrow Alexander



Line Dancing

Sunday, 3:00 pm

We teach line dancing. Through our dancing, we bring together total strangers through-out the Oak Ridge community. We learn a variety of dances, country, jazz, waltz



and cha-chas. Close friendships are developed with the willingness to share individual talents with others. A donation of \$3.00 per session is suggested.

For more information contact Jo Curran or Steven Albright



Tai Chi

M-W-F, 11-12 am

We minister to health & stability through learning & practicing tai chi. Tai chi has helped individuals maintain & improve their balance, strength, & blood pressure, & reduce knee, arm, shoulder & back pain. It has helped with MS, Alzheimers, dropped cervix, bunions, & more.

For more information call Janet Hoegler at 865-963-5115

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Oak Ridge 2021 Christmas Parade

Getting in the holiday spirit? Want to work with some friends on an entry for ORUUC for the Oak Ridge Christmas Parade Saturday, Dec. 11? This year's parade is themed, "The Twelve Days of Christmas." The deadline to register an entry is December 7. Anyone interested in creating an SMA, please contact Rachel at communications@oruuc.org and fill out a form here: [Shared Ministry Agreement form](#) For more information on the parade, visit [Oak Ridge Chamber Christmas Parade 2021](#).



ORUUC Angel Tree Update

Thanks to all who signed up to fulfill Angel Tree wishes! All of the names have been claimed. **Wrapped and tagged gifts are due back to the church by December 12.** Questions? Contact Susan



Rosenbaum at 865-591-4037 or msclued@aol.com, or drop by the nursery. (If you chose #7: Kasen M., could you please let the church office or Susan know? Thanks!) The Anderson County

Grandparents as Resident Caregivers thank you!

Youth Faith Formation Programming Update (updated November 3, 2021)

Under the guidance of the PALs framework, we are updating our Sunday morning programming. We will continue to use this framework and the guidelines set by the COVID Task Force to keep our children and youth safe and engaged. We will continue to utilize outdoor space as much as possible, weather permitting, so please remember to dress accordingly as the temperatures drop. The Faith Formation Staff thanks you for your patience and flexibility as we navigate these uncertain times. As always, thank you for sharing your family with us.



Preschool/Nursery - Our youngest ORUUCians will continue to meet in person with beloved Nursery Coordinator Susan Rosenbaum and her helpers to play and love together.

Spirit Play will resume a hybrid format of meeting in person and online.

The online <https://zoom.us/j/99224336010?pwd=WFFKMnIVL2tnSjIWU1FsWXhuMnY4Zz09>



Create and Connect will remain outside as long as weather permits, but will move indoors as colder weather approaches. Multiage Coordinator Whitney Cole and her team of assistants will lead a variety of interactive experiences connected with the themes of Worship.

Middle School - Middle Schoolers will continue their hybrid format, exploring the themes of Worship together and learning through community. They will also continue their partnership with the Groundskeeping Crew on the 4th Sunday of every month. Click here for the Middle School

Zoom link: <https://zoom.us/j/94450682777?pwd=RkcvTUdhd0p5bTB4OWI0aklDTDJFdz09>





High School - The Senior High will also continue their hybrid format, meeting both in person and virtually. The Group has begun planning for an East Coast Heritage Trip in June and will meet in the Hearth Room the 1st Sunday of each month for the remainder of the year with 8th Grade trip participants to learn about UU history and foundational values and ideas in preparation for it. The Group meets virtually on Discord.

Please contact Jason Fishel @ solarmanj@gmail.com to be added to the group server.

BEGINNING IN JANUARY
ON ZOOM

**FEMINIST
PERSPECTIVES ON
WOMEN OF THE BIBLE**

Rev. Dr. Gaye Morris, Facilitator

BEGIN THE NEW YEAR BY LEARNING
MORE ABOUT HOW WOMEN ARE
PORTRAYED IN THE BIBLE: HOW ARE
EVE, LILITH, TAMAR, MARY MOTHER
OF JESUS, AND OTHERS WHOSE NAMES
ARE LOST TO US, BUT WHOSE STORIES
ARE IMPORTANT TO LEARN, SEEN BY
THE FAITHS THAT CLAIM THIS SACRED
TEXT AS THE BASIS OF THEIR
RELIGIOUS TRADITION AND PRACTICE?
HOW CAN WE USE A FEMINIST
THEOLOGICAL LENS TO UNDERSTAND
THE VALUE OF THESE ANCIENT
STORIES FOR US TODAY?

Interested in this 8-week series? Email
Rev. Morris at [morisgw54@gmail.com](mailto:morrisgw54@gmail.com).

Feminist Perspectives on Women of the Bible
Rev. Dr. Gaye Morris, Facilitator

Would you like to begin the New Year by learning more about the women in the Bible? Specifically, how are women portrayed in the Bible? How are they seen by the faiths that claim this sacred text as the basis of their religious tradition and practice? How can we use a feminist theological lens to understand the value of these ancient stories for us today?

Rev. Gaye will be facilitating a series that opens up the stories of women in the Hebrew Scriptures and the Gospels/New Testament to new insights. We will read about and discuss female characters like Eve, Lilith, Tamar, Mary Mother of Jesus, Mary Magdalene, and others whose names are lost to us, but whose stories are important to learn. Even if you have never studied the Bible before, consider joining us for a stimulating online group experience.

We will meet on Zoom once a week for eight sessions, beginning the first full week of January. You will need to have a Bible for study and discussion (I recommend the New Revised Standard Version). **Please email me at morrisgw54@gmail.com by December 19 to register your interest, and specify which days and times you CANNOT participate.** My preference is for a Saturday morning before lunch, but I will try to meet the scheduling needs of the majority. Thank you!

*Rev. Dr. Gaye Morris is the affiliated community minister serving ORUUC. She lives in Manteo, NC. Gaye is an adjunct faculty member of Augusta University, teaching online courses for the Communication Department. She served as minister for the Unitarian Universalist Church of Augusta GA from 2013-19. She has published three books, including two on theology and film; currently she is writing a chapter for a book on theology and film, *Spirit and the Screen*, that will be published by Lexington Books in the fall of 2022.*

Updated Covid Policies **PALS Framework**

The PALs level for this week is high, so masks required, no food or drink inside the building. See this [link](#) for more details

Everyone 18+ years who is fully vaccinated against COVID-19 is eligible for a booster.

When?

At least 2 months after a 1-dose vaccine, Johnson & Johnson/Janssen

or

At least 6 months after a 2-dose vaccine, Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna



FIND OUT MORE AT [CDC.GOV/CORONAVIRUS](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)



326830-CW

The PALs level for this week is HIGH. Masks are required in the building. No food or drink permitted inside the building. Please see the link for details.

Split the Plate for December

Stone Soup



Stone soup provides a free meal (app. 100) once a month on the last Friday of the month. All are welcome. Meals are also delivered to Callaghan Towers. Even during the pandemic, Stone Soup continued networking with local restaurants. Now, the volunteers are returning to the ORUUC kitchen.

Stone soup is an ORUUC organization that reaches out to all in the community. It matches our vision of kinship with our neighbor and our mission of cultivating a community alive with justice and joy. A welcoming meal is needed by all.

OUR ORUUC FAMILY

Caring for Each Other

If you are going through difficult times and would like emotional support, or are in any situation where support and caring are needed, contact

Rev. Tandy Scheffler, Minister of Care and Connection
Jeannie Cuevas, Office Administrator

(865) 483-6761 Office Hours M-F 10 AM to 4 PM office@oruuc.org

Snapshot of Caring Coordinators' Activities for November, 2021

11 meals delivered

1 grocery shopping done

1 laundry assist

9 rides provided

10 notes sent

Thank you to Amanda Fishel, Nancy Lain Highhill, and Diane Nelson and to all ORUUCians who said yes when contacted to cook and provided rides.

Wondering how you can be part of our Caring Network?

contact Tandy Scheffler, Minister of Care and Connection

tandyscheffler@gmail.com 865-310-0189.

Caring Coordinators for December

Amanda Fishel amsfishel@gmail.com 865-804-7033
 Mary Thornburgh ttae1@comcast.net 567-9535

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.

ORUUC LEADERSHIP

The ORUUC Board of Officers

President: Jim Nutaro
 Past President: Val Herd
 President-Elect: Michele Thornton
 Secretary: Jason Fishel
 Treasurer: Brandon White
 Members-at-Large:
 Shelaine Curd
 Regina Guy
 Nathaniel Bass
 Ethan Coon

The ORUUC Executive Team

Rev. Jake Morrill
 Christine Rehder
 Christina Elliott
 Debra Oscarson

Community/UU

Blue Christmas



Service of Memory and Hope: First Presbyterian Church is again hosting their annual, "Blue Christmas" service on **Tuesday, Dec. 14 at 6:30 p.m.** in the First Presbyterian Church Sanctuary. The candlelight service will feature composer/pianist John Purifoy, Steve Boyce (vocal), and Anna Thomas (flute) playing/singing some of John's arrangements of Psalms of comfort. Emily Anderson, pastor of New Providence Presbyterian Church (Maryville), will offer

a brief reflection. The church's current protocols for in-person worship call for masking and physical distancing.

Standing on the Side of Love and Women's Reproductive Rights



Standing on the Side of Love and Women's Reproductive Rights: Mark Lucian Mohundro, a TVUUC staff member and long-time Planned Parenthood volunteer, and Angelina Carpenter, medical chaplain and Counselor/Educator at Knoxville Center for Reproductive Health, are spearheading local efforts to educate our community on upcoming legislation involving women's reproductive rights and actions to be taken. They are seeking a liaison (or two) from ORUUC to work with them, and other faith communities, to reach our corner of East Tennessee on this issue. If interested, please call or text Angelina at 865-207-3166 or email etn_community@yahoo.com or Mark at 865-292-4000 markm667@gmail.com

ON THE CALENDAR THIS WEEK

Friday, December 3

11:00am Tai Chi Practice

Saturday, December 4

3:00pm Ukulele

Sunday, December 5

10:00am Worship Service
 11:00am E. Coast Heritage Trip Youth Meeting
 11:00am (Canceled)Yoga
 11:00am Circle of Trust 1
 11:00am Family Group
 11:00am High School
 11:00am Reflections
 11:00am Together in Spirit
 11:15am Circle IX
 12:30pm Tamales: E. Coast Heritage

Monday, December 6

11:00am Tai Chi Practice
 6:50pm Meditation Learning and Practice Group

Tuesday, December 7

6:00pm (Canceled) Nomadic Yoga
 6:00pm Depression & Anxiety Support Group

Wednesday, December 8

6:30am Breakfast Rotary
 11:00am Tai Chi
 5:15pm Circles of Trust III
 6:00pm Circles of Trust VI
 6:45pm Choir Practice
 7:45pm Band Rehearsal

Trip
12:30pm OWL 10-12 Grade
12:30pm OWL 7-9 grades
12:30pm Buddhism Study Group
1:00pm Good Goodbye Task Force Meeting
3:00pm (Line Dancing
3:00pm OWL (7-9 Grades)
4:00pm Circle of Trust XI
5:30pm Circle of Trust X

Thursday, December 9
12:00pm NWUUC & Launchpad Meeting
2:00pm (Rental) Friends of Literacy
5:00pm Potluck
6:50pm Meditation Learning and Practice Group



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Our mailing address is:

809 Oak Ridge Turnpike
Oak Ridge, TN 37830

oruuc.org | 865-483-6761 | office@oruuc.org

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