



The Exponent

December 10-16, 2021

WORSHIP



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 12, 10:00 AM "Letting Ourselves Be In Touch with What Is"

Rev. Jake leading worship

In this series on Scrooge, we pause on the "ghost of Christmas Present," taking time to reflect on things as they are. So often, we can turn away from the facts to immerse ourselves in fantasies and storytelling. What does it take to see the world as it is?

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

UP FRONT

MARCH IN THE OAK RIDGE CHRISTMAS PARADE WITH ORUUC THIS SATURDAY!

We're looking for festive folks of all ages to spread cheer and light in this year's Christmas parade! If you're walking with us, **please arrive at the Corporate Center, 151 Lafayette Drive, at 4:30 p.m.** ORUUC will be located in Parade Row F, Line 93 (parade volunteers will help direct you where to go). We'll be decorating and dividing up candy to hand out to children along the parade route (candy donations are still welcome and appreciated!) Please, NO Santa or Mrs. Claus costumes—they are forbidden, per Chamber of Commerce rules! (There's only one Santa, and he's at the end of the parade.) Weather permitting: Rain is forecasted, but the parade will go on; parade officials will notify groups if dangerous weather conditions are going to be an issue. For those who can't make it in person, the parade will be broadcast live on local access TV (Comcast Channel 12) starting at 6 p.m.



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. 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.

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!



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

the march

In the crossroad we knelt
like a dandelions petals

miraculously clumped to spite the breeze,
Not all sweetness, half metal
Like the copper taste of blood when I breathe.
She stood like Hecate in the liminal
Screaming keys to witness
to watch, to see, to stay;
Is it criminal? It does not matter.
I never want to forget what the sky said
in its quiet gold-cerulean, whispering
“This is going to hurt”
While we spoke the names of the dead
and pushed back up the hill,
Chanting in my head while
my socks wore through,
“When Love asks you to walk a mile,
respond by walking two.”

-- Juniper Meadows

As Unitarian Universalists, we sometimes come to recognize profound moments together, among the company of others. It is significant that we ordain our ministers as a body-congregation in the practice of our collective, free and responsible journey for truth and meaning. A minister in Unitarian Universalism, as we currently practice, typically has earned two major forms of recognition. The Unitarian Universalist Ministerial Fellowship Committee (MFC) awards what is called Fellowship to those who have demonstrated significant achievement through study and training. Additionally, a congregation such as ours may engage the rite of passage, Ordination, which is both a formal honor as well as a blessing by the community.

It was my honor to serve as part of Juniper's internship committee during her two years here as a Ministerial Intern, along with other members Robin Stone, Zen Lane, committee Chair Manderley Swain, as well as the late Chuck Flanagan. As she was

here, active and present with us in what were many uniquely and exquisitely challenging months, Juniper was also engaged with her studies in preparation for earning Fellowship. An immersive internship is one among many significant achievements that must be presented to the Ministerial Fellowship Committee. The MFC reviews the candidate's engagement with extensive reading material. The candidate must demonstrate competency in areas of social justice, pastoral care, church management, and is interviewed about all of their qualifications by the MFC panel. Those going before the Fellowship review have completed a graduate degree; Juniper earned her Masters of Divinity at Meadville-Lombard, graduating in 2021. Ministerial candidates complete a practical course in Clinical Pastoral Education. The CPE is an intensive training in caring for those in medical emergency and at the passage of life, which Juniper completed at the Johnson City VA in the Emergency Room and Intensive Care Unit during some of the most intense months of the coronavirus pandemic. As part of the formal candidacy process, candidates must also be evaluated for their capacity to manage their personal well-being and emotional and mental health, as clearly a minister will be met with many challenges and must remain able to care also for themselves. No piece of the work is a small feat, and I think I can speak for Juniper's Internship Committee here, that the work that brought Juniper before the MFC was excellent---and we get the sense that the congregation, too, is impressed. We, as her Internship Committee here are ORUUC, served an advisory role, as friendly support, and as a liaison connecting Juniper to the congregation.

Our role is not to evaluate Juniper's formal professional preparation. It is our honor to support a person who we believe in as a spiritual guide, and we consent to name them as such. Today, it is the purpose of our congregation here at Oak Ridge Unitarian Universalist Church to make known that we elect to ordain Juniper Meadows to the ministry of Unitarian Universalism. We plan to hold the ceremony of ordination on the First of April, 2022, here at the church.

As Unitarian Universalists, we often come across the dualities of structure and the transcendent. Of the institution that describes its commitments as policy, and as a community that describes its commitments as covenant. In both of these spaces, of formality and of blessing, I propose the following motion:

We, the congregation of the Oak Ridge Unitarian Universalist Church, commit to ordain Juniper Meadows as a minister in the Unitarian Universalist tradition, with the according ceremony, and with celebration. Nathaniel Bass



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.



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!



If you're interested in having a part in the ritual of Winter Solstice, please contact Whitney Cole at whit.cole79@gmail.com Thank you!

A graphic for Ringing in 2022 at ORUUC. It features red icons of fireworks, streamers, cups, hats, cakes, and glasses arranged in a grid pattern. The text "RING IN 2022 AT ORUUC" is in large red letters. To the right, the text "New Year's Eve at ORUUC" is in bold black. Below it is a paragraph about the event. At the bottom left, there is smaller text about the game night.

ORUUC New Year's Eve Game Night
Friday, Dec. 31 8 p.m. to Midnight in the Social Hall
Bring games to share. Drinks and finger foods are welcome,
but must be consumed outside. Masks will be required.



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

**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 throughout 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



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!



New Photography Exhibit This Month in ORUUC Gallery: David G. Liles

As a high school student, I chose photography as my creative outlet. I did it all in those days--the pictures, the film development, the printing--in black & white and color. I was inspired by the works of Ansel Adams and Eliot Porter. My career path was accounting and finance;

however, I have always been creative, and have had a lifelong interest in the natural sciences – especially rocks and plants. I have recently re-discovered this artistic passion of my younger days!

Inspiration often comes from the natural world. Great material is everywhere. My eyes are trained to look for textures, patterns, contrasts, and plays of color in everything I experience on a daily basis.

My imagery is often an abstraction, a departure from the normal “snapshot” type photograph. This is achieved through color, pattern, shape, and detail (or lack thereof). I like bold colors, and light and dark contrasts that enhance or exaggerate original image qualities! I want the viewer to see color, and to react to it--to amplify the essence of the original subject, or to suggest another interpretation. I look to view ordinary things in an extraordinary way. The image name is my reaction and interpretation.

I use mostly digital photography with cropping and image enhancements of color saturation, tone, and contrast, but no additions. The computer is my darkroom, via software tools of digital manipulation.

David Liles can be reached at 865-274-8271 and tnyellowtomcat@yahoo.com

Too many 2022 calendars?



Louise McKown and her sister, Anne Childs, are challenging ORUUC-ians to donate their surplus 2022 calendars from charitable organizations to Stone Soup diners. Please bring 2022 calendars to ORUUC and



put them in the box outside the main entrance. The Stone Soup crew will give them out during the Friday, Dec. 31 drive thru meal. 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=WFFKMnVL2tnSjIWU1FsWXhuMnY4Zz09](https://zoom.us/j/99224336010?pwd=WFFKMnVL2tnSjIWU1FsWXhuMnY4Zz09)



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=RkcvTUdhb0p5bTB4OWI0aklTDJFdz09>



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 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)

326638-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 (above) 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

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

Huichol Art for the Holidays!



The Huichol Art Boutique is now open. Browse and shop for the holidays! Each piece is infused with the spirit of people closely connected to nature and unbroken traditions dating back thousands of years. To register for the Open House on Sunday, Dec. 12, 1 - 4 p.m., click on the link: [Huichol Art for the Holidays](#) or text Mary Beth Robinson at (865) 387-0977 to schedule a one-on-one visit to see the art on your own. All proceeds go back to the Huichol Indians of Mexico to help preserve their ancient traditions. Some of you may remember Mary Beth offered this art for sale at the Holiday Craft Day at the church in 2019, prior to the pandemic. Please share the link with anyone who might be interested in browsing. Thank you!

-Mary Beth Robinson

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 10 11:00am Tai Chi Practice	Monday, December 13 11:00am Tai Chi Practice 6:50pm Meditation Learning and Practice Group 7:00pm Red Tent Temple
Saturday, December 11 2:00pm Tabletop Adventures Group	
Sunday, December 12 Angel Tree Gifts Deadline 8:15am Circles of Trust VII 10:00am Worship Service 11:00am (Cancelled) Family Group 11:00am (Cancelled) High School 11:00am (Cancelled) Reflections	Tuesday, December 14 6:00pm Presidents Council 6:00pm (Cancelled) Nomadic Yoga 6:00pm Depression & Anxiety Support Group
	Wednesday, December 15

11:00am (Canceled) Together in Spirit	6:30am Breakfast Rotary
11:00am (Canceled)Yoga	11:00am Tai Chi
11:15am Youth Craft Party	11:00am Circle of Trust VIII
11:15am (Canceled) Circle of Trust II	6:45pm Choir Practice
11:15am Congregational Meeting	7:45pm Band Rehearsal
12:00pm Circle of Trust V	8:00pm Evening Prayer
12:30pm OWL 10-12 Grade	
12:30pm OWL 7-9 grades	Thursday, December 16
12:30pm Buddhism Study Group	2:00pm (Rental) Friends of Literacy
1:00pm Good Goodbye Task Force	3:00pm Executive Team Meeting
Meeting	5:00pm Potluck
1:30pm Book Club	6:50pm Meditation Learning and
3:00pmLine Dancing	Practice Group
3:00pm OWL (7-9 Grades)	



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