



The Exponent

December 17-23, 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 19, 10:00 AM " No-Rehearse Pageant"

Rev. Jake leading worship

Join us for morning worship this Sunday and experience our annual No Rehearse Christmas Pageant! Church members and friends sing carols interspersed with narration of the journey to Bethlehem during this impromptu production of the Christmas story. Costumes and props are available for those who volunteer on the spot for a part. It's a tradition you don't want to miss!

Join us in person (masks required in the church building) or on

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

All are welcome!

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

UP FRONT



No Rehearse Christmas Pageant

Another long standing traditional event the “No Rehearse Pageant” will take place **Sunday starting at 10 a.m.** If you have ever seen the interactive “No Rehearse Pageant” just once, no doubt you are very enthusiastic about seeing it again!

The entire congregation participates as prompted with many opportunities for children to be involved, too, giving the pageant an upbeat tone. Christmas carols are sung after each scene, as announced by the narrator.

We hope to see you all this weekend!

Maureen Hoyt



Blossom Center, a local nonprofit daycare in Oak Ridge, noticed that a lot of their kids are lacking basic warm clothing. **Blossom is taking donations of socks, knit hats, gloves and mittens (toddler to school-age sizes)** at least until the New Year. Blossom Center is located at 280 Royce Circle in Oak Ridge (Phone: (865) 294-4133 or <https://blossomcenter.org/>)

If you don't know where it is and would like to donate, or if it would just be easier, there is a box in the church lobby for your donations. I will be happy to take them there.

Thank you. Jason Fishel



TAMALES!

Thanks to all those who ordered tamales from the High School Group to raise funds for their East Coast Heritage Trip in June 2022. Tamale orders will be distributed in the Social Hall tomorrow (Saturday, Dec. 18) from 3 to 5 p.m., during Cookies and Caroling, and on Sunday, Dec. 19 before and after worship.



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. in the Pavilion

This **Saturday**, the long standing traditional event **“Cookies and Caroling”** will be held at **3 p.m.** in the Pavilion and Portico. According to Multigenerational Coordinator Whitney Cole, the church will be providing cookies and hot chocolate (allergen-free cookie options will be available), along with S’mores kits (everything you need to make the perfect S’mores in individual Ziploc bags) for a campfire at the fire pit (weather permitting). Dave Dunkirk and Larry Rosenbaum will be providing musical accompaniment to the singing. Thanks to Whitney for taking the lead on this, “making memories event,” and for others during the holiday season!



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!

CLOSED FOR THE HOLIDAYS



The office will be closed Friday, December 24, 2021-Sunday, January 2, 2022.

Stone Soup



Final Friday of Every Month

Menu: Black Eyed Peas, Ham Sandwich, Brownie, Fruit

Drive through the ORUUC parking lot to the front of the building where a volunteer will assist you. Please remain in your car and maintain a safe distance from other drivers.

Friday, December 31, 2021
5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. - Or Until Supplies Run Out

809 Oak Ridge Turnpike, Stoplight #2

Oak Ridge Unitarian Universalist Church (865) 483-6761

Special thanks to our Community Partners for participating in our meal:
 Kroger Marketplace
 Jewish Congregation of Oak Ridge
 ORUUC

New Year's Eve at ORUUC



RING IN 2022 AT ORUUC

We hope to have some bubbly at midnight, and if possible watch a ball drop! If the COVID level goes up, we may have to cancel, so watch for last minute notices. Contact Susan Rosenbaum or

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.

Betsy Bauer for more information.

Mother Goose



of Oak Ridge

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



Yarrow Alexander

a Gentle Flow class. We hope to be able to gather again soon. Namaste. ~Jennifer



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

A note from your Good Goodbye Committee (GGC) - Christy White, Charlene Luther & Maureen Hoyt

As Unitarians Universalists, it is in our nature to gather for fellowship, growth, and affirmation and celebration of shared values and service. The pandemic has put us to the challenge of just how to do that, especially since we are facing the leaving of our beloved ministers. The GGC was formed to find ways

to celebrate our past gatherings, in the present, and to create special gatherings to enable us to move forward in the future. I believe the best reason for us to gather, though, comes from Jake's words in a recent post, "enjoy that good time with good friends in a good place."

With that in mind, we hope to see you all this weekend for Cookies and Caroling, and the No Rehearse Pageant, and future events. ~Maureen Hoyt



ORUUC Angel Tree

Thanks to all who donated to this year's Angel Tree. Eighteen children will have a merrier Christmas because of you! The Anderson County Grandparents as Resident Caregivers appreciates ORUUC!



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



Congratulations to former ORUUC Ministerial Intern Juniper Meadows, who the congregation voted to ordain as a Unitarian Universalist minister during last Sunday’s Congregational Meeting. The vote was unanimous among those attending in person and via zoom, for a total of 72 votes in approval Juniper’s ordination. Juniper served as our ministerial intern from 2019 to 2021, and graduated with a Masters of

Divinity from Meadville-Lombard earlier this year. We are excited to watch Juniper as she enters the next phase of her ministerial journey, and we know ORUUC is with her wherever that journey may lead. Her ordination ceremony is scheduled for **Friday, April 1, 2022**, at ORUUC. -Jason Fishel, Board Secretary

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?](https://zoom.us/j/99224336010?pwd=WFFKMnIVL2tnSjlWU1FsWXhuMnY4Zz09)



[pwd=WFFKMnIVL2tnSjlWU1FsWXhuMnY4Zz09](https://zoom.us/j/99224336010?pwd=WFFKMnIVL2tnSjlWU1FsWXhuMnY4Zz09)



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=RkcvTUdhb0p5bTB4OWI0aklDJDJFdz09>



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 [morriscgw54@gmail.com](mailto: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)



325530-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.

***Special Split the Plate for December 19 and 26:
Western Kentucky Tornado Relief***



In response to the devastation caused by record-breaking tornadoes last weekend in the region, the Executive Team, with the full support of the Stone Soup crew, voted Thursday to change the Split The Plate offering for the remainder of the month to Western Kentucky Tornado Relief. As ORUUC connects with local organizations in Western Kentucky that are working directly with storm victims, your contributions will have an impact.

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

Side with Love and Women's Reproductive Rights



Liz McGeachy has agreed to serve as the liaison between ORUUC and local volunteers who will work to educate those interested in our community on upcoming legislation involving women's reproductive rights and actions to be taken. Area UU churches—Foothills, Westside, and TVUUC—will be hosting informational services in the New Year—stay tuned for details! If anyone from ORUUC is interested in forming a group (through a Shared Ministry Agreement) to help bring awareness to these issues, please let the church office know or sign up online

here <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd543P8nA-XOLnuTr56up-POqFj7V5cU4FzwauhnVYVGWtkgg/viewform> For more information about these efforts in East Tennessee, contact Mark Lucian Mohundro, a TVUUC staff member and long-time Planned Parenthood volunteer, at 865-292-4000 markm667@gmail.com or Angelina Carpenter, medical chaplain and Counselor/Educator at Knoxville Center for Reproductive Health, at 865-207-3166 or email etn_community@yahoo.com. To sign up for updates from the national Side with Love campaign, follow this link: <https://sidewithlove.org/subscribe>

ON THE CALENDAR THIS WEEK

Friday, December 17

11:00am Tai Chi Practice

Saturday, December 18

9:00am Tamales: E. Coast Heritage Trip

Monday, December 20

11:00am Tai Chi Practice

6:50pm Meditation Learning and Practice Group

Tuesday, December 21

3:00pm Cookies and Caroling
3:00pm Tamale Pick up
3:00pm Ukulele

Sunday, December 19

10:00am Worship Service (No Rehearse Pageant)
11:00am (Canceled)Yoga
11:00am Circle of Trust I
11:00am Family Group (Canceled)
11:00am High School (Canceled)
11:00am Reflections (Canceled)
11:00am Together in Spirit (Canceled)
11:15am Circle IX
12:30pm OWL 10-12 Grade
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

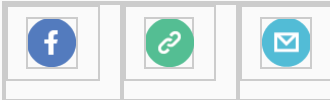
6:00pm (Canceled) Nomadic Yoga
6:00pm Depression & Anxiety Support Group
7:00pm Winter Solstice Service

Wednesday, December 22

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

Thursday, December 23

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:

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