



# Connecting In Spirit

## Youth Faith Formation

### Monthly News

February 2024

#### *In this issue...*

February Worship Series: Justice and Equity  
Spring Rummage Sale March 1-2  
Spring Mountain CONs  
and Much More!



### **Justice and Equity**

February is Black History Month, and our theme is Justice and Equity. In honor of the month, I read, "This Promise of Change: One Girl's Story in the Fight for School Equality" by Jo Ann Allen Boyce and Debbie Levy. It's a poetic book written to tell the story of Jo Ann Allen Boyce who was one of the

Clinton 12. For any of you who may not know, the Clinton 12 were a group of 12 high school students who were the first in Tennessee, and one of the first schools in the South, to desegregate an all-white high school right next door to us in the town of Clinton. These amazing high school kids faced extreme discrimination and abuse. This book is as beautiful as it is heartbreaking, and although it's a quick read, I found myself having to put it down several times.

The story of the Clinton 12 shows both the best and the worst of humanity, and while in

the end, justice did win and the school was integrated, the stories of many of these 12 students' educational journeys doesn't seem to be just or happy. Out of the 12, only two actually graduated from Clinton High. Jo Ann and her family ended up moving to California after one semester at the school. A few students dropped out, a few more transferred, and one was expelled. The riots, violence, and protests they were forced to endure are difficult to read about. Isn't most of history that way? Hard to read about, harder still to bear witness to. It's easy to turn a blind eye. To pretend that it didn't happen... that it isn't happening. It's harder still when you realize that we won't be able to fix everything...

Maybe we won't be able to fix anything. The road to a fair and just world is long and seems never ending, but that doesn't mean that we can give up. Even if we never see justice, that doesn't mean we can stop trying. The Clinton 12 didn't get educational justice, but because they fought, generations that came after them might. Because of their bravery, we are all better, our world is more just, and our children have one less war to fight.

"It has long been my contention that hatred is a disease of the heart. This is not a disease a person is born with; instead, it is one that is taught. It is brought about through those who teach it to their children. They learned it from their parents and grandparents, who learned it from their parents and grandparents, and on and on. It has gone on for generations. How absurd and insidious to infect one's children with this vicious disease! How vicious to teach them to inflict it on others - for example, to inflict it on me and the other Clinton 12 members. Hatred leaves holes in the heart, a scarred mind, and a wasted brain - and I am speaking of its effects on those who hold this disease in their hearts and inflict it on others."

-Jo Ann Allen Boyce in 'The Promise of Change'

As parents, guardians, educators, and trusted adults, it is our duty to teach our younger generations to turn away from hate. To look for and demand justice, not just for themselves but for everyone on this blue boat we call home. We must break the generational curse of hatred that our families may have passed down to us. If we do that, then the next generation is one step closer to justice, to love. If our past generations could pass down the disease of hatred, maybe we can help pass down the cure of love.

If you would like to learn more about the Clinton 12, we will be visiting the Green McAdoo Cultural Center, which is a museum dedicated to telling the Clinton 12 story, on Saturday, Feb. 10 at 3 p.m. The museum is free and all are welcome.

## **Whitney**

Whitney Cole (she/her/hers)

Multigenerational Director

[whit.cole79@gmail.com](mailto:whit.cole79@gmail.com)

# February Worship Series

## Justice and Equity



February 4: ***If You See a Good Fight,***

***Get In It*** Rev. Lisa Romantum Schwartz

Leadership InFormation Workshop 12:15-2:15 p.m. Lunch provided if you register before the event.

February 11: ***The Perfect Heart***

Special service hosted by the ORUUC

Drama Group. Hugs n' Quiches potluck

luncheon following worship. Bring a quiche

or fritatta to share! **There will be no FF Hour**

**classes.**

February 18: ***Preaching to the Choir***

Rev. Lisa Romantum Schwartz

February 25: ***From the Crush of Wealth and Power***

Rev. Lisa Romantum Schwartz

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

*Youth and Adult Faith Formation classes meet from  
11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. every Sunday.*

*Nursery is available during Worship and the FF hour.*





Rummage Week  
February 24 -  
March 2

Spring  
Sale  
March 1-2

How can  
you help?

# Sunday, Feb. 4 at 2:30 Rummage Planning Meeting

in the  
Hearth Room



It's almost time for the Spring Rummage Sale! The Rummage Committee is meeting this Sunday, Feb. 4 at 2:30 p.m. in the Hearth Room. All are welcome! Feel free to come if you are a new volunteer!

Other important dates:

- Big Rummage is scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 24, 9 a.m. to noon. Please let us know if you would like to volunteer. Contact Amanda Fishel or Christina Elliott if you need a pickup.
- We'll need help setting up the church on Sunday, Feb. 25 after worship, and throughout the week! There's something for everyone to do--all ages and abilities! **Youth who volunteer will earn money for the Youth Trip Fund!**
- Donations can be made Sunday, Feb. 25 through Thursday, Feb. 29. Find out what can and can't be donated by visiting <https://www.oruuc.org/rummage>.

A photograph of a display area for a rummage sale. It includes a wooden table with various items like a soccer ball, shoes, and toys. A sign on the table reads "RUMMAGE SALE MARCH 1-2". In the background, there are wooden crates, a rack with clothes, and a large rainbow flag.

 **SPRING  
RUMMAGE  
WEEK**

**DONATION DROP OFF**

Sunday, Feb. 25 12:30 - 4 pm  
Monday, Feb. 26 9 am - 8 pm  
Tuesday, Feb. 27 9 am - 8 pm  
Wednesday, Feb. 28 9 am - 8 pm  
Thursday, Feb. 29 9 am - 8 pm

ORUUC Visit to the Green McAdoo Cultural Center 101 School Street, Clinton,  
TN  
Saturday, Feb. 10 at 3 p.m.  
All are welcome!



The Green McAdoo Cultural Center honors and preserves the legacy of the Clinton 12. Located at 101 School Street in Clinton, its purpose is to educate the public on Clinton's role in the history of desegregation and civil rights, while making efforts of service, empathy, and collaboration to better our community. For more information, visit <https://greenmcadoodculturalcenter.org/>. The museum is free and open Monday – Saturday 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. It is closed Sunday.

"The Perfect Heart"  
and  
Hugs n' Quiches  
Sunday, Feb. 11  
at  ORUUC

Some people say that a perfect heart would be a flawless heart, stunning in its pristine, never-broken state. Is that a realistic standard? And, if a community was seeking a leader with a perfect heart, what qualifications might they look for? On Sunday, Feb. 11, an intergenerational cast of characters will present a play that delves into the questions, and --



just in time for Valentine's day -- there will be a potluck "Hugs n' Quiches" lunch after the service! **Bring a quiche or frittata to share--** the church will provide salad, drinks, and dessert. **There will be no Faith Formation hour classes on February 11.**

---

# The Mountain

## Retreat & Learning Center

### Spring Mountain CON Dates

- **February 23-25 - Spring Intermediate CON (Grades 6-8)**
- **March 8-10 - Spring Elementary CON (Grades 3-5)**
- **March 22-24 - Senior High Mountain CON (Grades 9-12)**

Registration closes two weeks before each camp. Youth AND adult advisors need to register. Visit <https://www.themountainrlc.org/cons> for more information and to register. Once you've registered, please let Whitney Cole, Multigenerational Director, know by emailing her at [whit.cole79@gmail.com](mailto:whit.cole79@gmail.com) so that she can plan for transportation and background checks for adults.



*Photo of High School Mountain CON, December 2023, courtesy of Jen Stark.*

---

### 5th/6th Grade OWL Classes Continue Through March 10

These weekly sessions take place every Sunday afternoon from 4 to 5:15 p.m. in Room 126. The final class on Sunday, March 10 will be a double session, running from 2:15 to 5:15 p.m., to make up



for the January 21 class that had to be canceled due to inclement weather.

### Class Topics

1/7 Sexuality and Values

1/14 Images in Popular Culture

~~1/21 Body Images (Canceled due to snow/ice)~~

1/28 Body Images

2/4 Changes in Puberty

2/11 Gender

2/18 Feelings and Attraction

2/25 Reproduction and Staying Healthy

3/3 Decisions and Actions

**3/10 Consent and Peer Pressure, Healthy Relationships, Family Celebration (This session will be held from 2:15 to 5:15 p.m.)**

*Questions or concerns? Contact Whitney Cole, Multigenerational Director at ORUUC, at (865) 394-0626 or [whit.cole79@gmail.com](mailto:whit.cole79@gmail.com).*

## Weather Closure Reminders





**Weekdays: If Oak Ridge Schools are closed, the church office will be closed.**

**Sundays: A decision will be made by 9 a.m. whether to have in-person worship. Please check your email and the [ORUUC Facebook group](#) for updates.**

**Weeknight and Saturday events: A decision will be made one hour prior. Check email and [Facebook](#).**

---



### **PFLAG Oak Ridge Group Meets Monthly**

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 at [backusanne@comcast.net](mailto:backusanne@comcast.net).

---



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

**Looking for an interactive program designed to stimulate learning, introduce group activities, and encourage play?** Mother Goose is the answer! Led by ORUUC's own Michael Raymond, the Mother Goose Program is a group experience for parents and their babies and young children. The program introduces adults and children to the pleasure and power of using rhymes, songs, and stories together.

**Mother Goose meets February 1 and 15 this month --the First and Third Thursdays-- at 10:30 a.m. in the Oak Ridge Public Library Auditorium. It's free and open to the community.**

**View and sign up for the Oak Ridge Public Library's newsletter here:**  
<https://mailchi.mp/oakridgetn/orplfeb24>

---



## **Youth Faith Formation Save the Dates**

February 11 - Hugs n' Quiches (No Faith Formation Hour Classes)

February 23-25 - Spring Intermediate CON (Grades 6-8)

March 8-10 - Spring Elementary CON (Grades 3-5)

March 1-2 - Rummage Sale

March 9-25 - Oak Ridge Schools Spring Break (Special Programming)

March 23-25 - Senior High Mountain CON (Grades 9-12)

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



## DO YOU HAVE PLASTIC LIDS?

### HELP US MAKE A MEMORIAL

Your lids will be used to create 3 benches in honor of Linden teacher, Aimee Dixon, who died in a car accident last year.



**Thanks to all who have donated plastic lids! Keep 'em coming!** Local friends of Aimee Dixon are hosting a drive to collect enough plastic lids to create memorial benches at Linden Elementary in honor of Aimee, who was a teacher at the school. **Save your plastic lids and drop them off in the bin the church lobby!** Lids may also be dropped off at Calamity's Coffee in Jackson Square. According to the organizers, any plastic lids are welcome—volunteers will sort them. Thank you!

---

## Need Childcare

FOR A CHURCH MEETING OR EVENT?

SCAN THIS QR CODE!

ORUUC

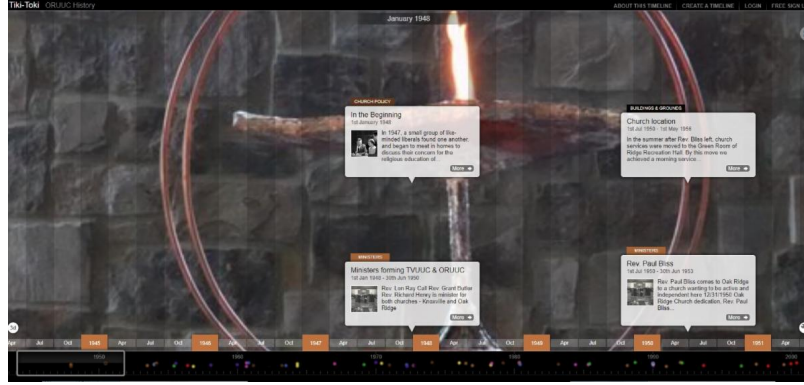
### Need Childcare for a Church Meeting or Event?

If you or your group need childcare for a church meeting or event, please complete this form **TWO WEEKS** in advance: [ORUUC Childcare Request Form \(jotform.com\)](https://jotform.com)

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!

---





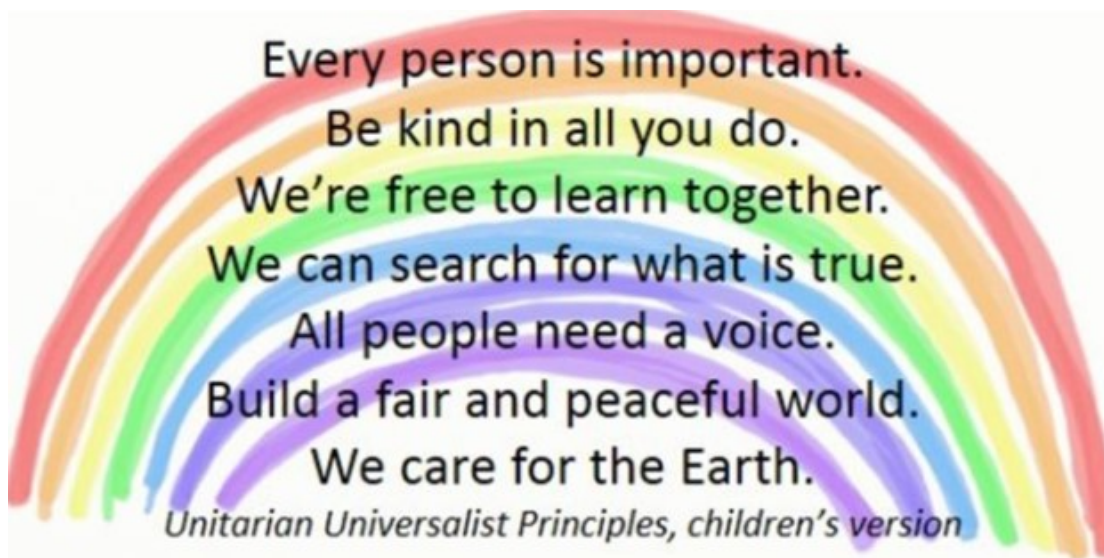
## Check out the ORUUC History Timeline created by Anne Child! **ORUUC History (tiki-toki.com)**

Anne spent countless hours compiling the data shared during the January 2023 Timeline Event and going through past church history publications. This fantastic interactive timeline includes photos and descriptions of life at ORUUC through the decades. Thank you, Anne!

---

## Rev. Lisa Romantum Schwartz, Interim Minister

Rev. Lisa can be reached by email at [Rev.Lisa@oruuc.org](mailto:Rev.Lisa@oruuc.org) or by phone at 865-483-6761 ext. 102.



---

*Connecting in Spirit: Youth Faith Formation Monthly News is a digital publication designed to serve ORUUC families with children from birth through high school. If you have ideas or suggestions for content, or would like to add someone to the mailing list, please email Rachel at [communications@oruuc.org](mailto:communications@oruuc.org) or Whitney at [whit.cole79@gmail.com](mailto:whit.cole79@gmail.com). To take a*

look at past issues of *Connecting in Spirit*, visit <http://www.oruuc.org/connectinginspirit>.

Visit our  
Website



ORUUC | Contact Us

ORUUC | 809 Oak Ridge Turnpike, Oak Ridge, TN 37830 865-483-6761

[Unsubscribe communications@oruuc.org](mailto:Unsubscribe_communications@oruuc.org)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by [rachel@oruuc.ccsend.com](mailto:rachel@oruuc.ccsend.com) powered by



Try email marketing for free today!