



Connecting In Spirit

Youth Faith Formation

Monthly News

February 2023

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Centered in Love

This month, our Worship theme will be Centered in Love, with a special focus on the UUA's Article II Study Commission's Report on proposed changes to the UUA bylaws. The report is directed at clarifying the shared values and sources of inspiration shared among Unitarian Universalists. What began as a revision to the Seven Principles has evolved into a proposal that goes straight to the heart of the matter of our faith: transitional love with six core values that surround it--justice, interdependence, equity,



transformation, pluralism, and generosity.

Throughout February, we will listen, learn and discuss what these changes mean to our faith in general and our church in particular. You can read the full report here:

https://www.uua.org/files/2023-01/a2sc_rpt_01172023.pdf.

Finding the words or creating an image of what faith looks like is a daunting task, even for those of us who do it for a living. Ours is an open-ended faith, and that makes creating the story and the pictures even harder. But, while I have

difficulty defining what transformational love looks like, I know it when I see it. And throughout January, I saw "it" through the work of our leaders in the Middle School: Christa Brelsford, Jimmy Groton, Rachel Smith-Jones and Steven Barker.

One of the leaders in the group, Christa Brelsford, started a Small Ministry Group dedicated to hosting trans graphic artist Sophie Labelle for an event last Sunday, Jan. 29. To support this event, the rest of the leaders decided to invite other leaders from groups that support GLBTQIA youth. In addition to Sophie Labelle, ORUUC's own Sheila Morton of the Gay/Trans/Straight Alliance at ORHS and Anne Backus of PFLAG came to speak to the group.

In meeting with other GLBTQIA youth and other allies, our Youth see the people and hear the stories of those who share our values and whose lives are directly impacted by our commitments to them. We have our Principles and Sources on the wall of the classroom, but reaching out and meeting other people connects us not just in the head, but through the heart: it centers love through relationships.

Whatever becomes of Article II or whatever words and pictures we choose to define our values, I'm proud of the mentoring our children and Youth receive from our leaders. Their effort, commitment and dedication to faith formation guides us directly to the heart of the matter, and ultimately that's what matters.

In Care and Faith,
Christine

Christine Rehder (she/her/hers)
Director of Faith Formation

**Registration Deadlines for
SPRING Mountain CONs
in Highlands, North Carolina:**

<https://www.themountainrlc.org/cons>



Elementary (Grades 3-5): Friday, Feb. 3

for the weekend retreat February 17-19

<https://www.themountainrlc.org/spring-elementary-con>

Intermediate (Grades 6-8): Friday, Feb. 17

for the weekend retreat March 3-5

<https://www.themountainrlc.org/spring-intermediate-con>

Senior (Grades 9-12): Friday, March 2

for the weekend retreat March 17-19

<https://www.themountainrlc.org/spring-high-school-con>

Cost: \$100 per youth, \$25 per adult advisor

Background checks are required for adult advisors. Please contact Christine Rehder, Director of Faith Formation, at crehder@oruuc.org once you've registered, or if you have questions.

PFLAG MEETING

Monday, Feb. 13, 2023

Social 6:45 pm; Meeting 7-8 pm

Everyone invited

Jewish Congregation of Oak Ridge

101 W. Madison Lane, Oak Ridge, TN

How Do Libraries Choose Books?

Efforts to ban books in schools and community libraries nationally, in Tennessee, and locally have recently been in the news. Librarians from 3 local libraries will discuss rules for choosing books, vetting books, and recent efforts by special interest groups to restrict certain books.

The Oak Ridge Chapter of PFLAG meets monthly, rotating the venue among local faith communities: First Presbyterian, First United Methodist, United Church - Chapel on the Hill, and Oak Ridge Unitarian Universalist Churches, and the Jewish Congregation of Oak Ridge.

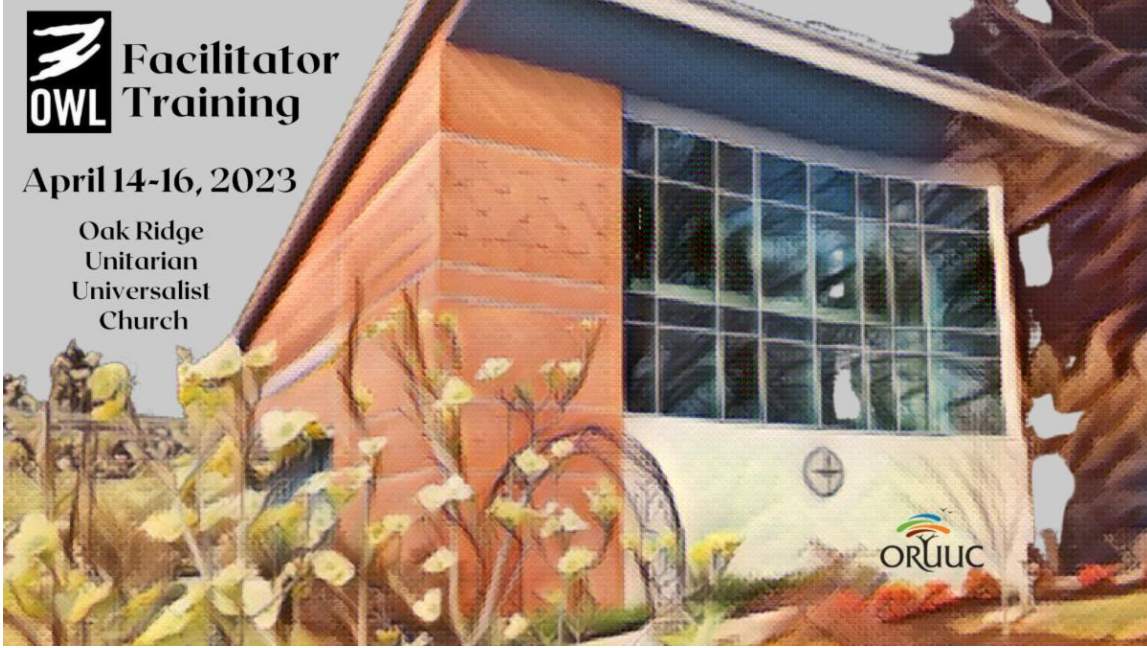
For more information, go to <https://fb.me/e/qUUCNz99f>. PFLAG is a social and support group for the LGBT community and those who love them. For more information about the PFLAG Oak Ridge group, contact Anne Backus at backusanne@comcast.net.



**Facilitator
Training**

April 14-16, 2023

Oak Ridge
Unitarian
Universalist
Church



OWL Facilitator Training April 14-16 at ORUUC

ORUUC is hosting a training for persons interested in facilitating the Our Whole Lives (OWL) lifespan sexuality curriculum from Friday, April 14th-Sunday, April 16th. Limited space available for ORUUCians wishing to lead the program in our congregation, community members, and UU's in our region. If you are interested or know someone who may be, **please contact Christine Rehder @ crehder@oruuc.org. Register here: <https://www.oruuc.org/owl-facilitator-training>.**

Hospitality help is also much appreciated! If you would like to **help with meal or snack preparation for the April training, or if you have some spare space in your home and could host a training participant**, please let Christine or another OWL Facilitator know.

January Moments...

The Create and Connect class talks about the ORUUC Timeline and works together.



Many thanks to those who shared their ORUUC stories with us at the Timeline Event on January 22. **For those who missed it or want some quieter time to read and reflect, it will remain up in the Social Hall through mid-February. Please come by and add any additional memories and PICTURES (especially from the 80's) if you have any. Or email communications@oruuc.org and we'll add your memories to the wall.** We are a great story! ~Christine

Thanks to Multi-Gen Coordinator Whitney Cole and Colin Loring for providing photos.



**Check Out What's Happening
for Youth and Families at**



February Events

February Worship Theme: Centered in Love
Worship begins at 10 a.m. in person and online

5 "Journey through the Wilderness" The sages say, "people who don't understand their past are doomed to repeat it." On this first Sunday of Black History Month, Interim Minister Rev. Lisa Romantum Schwartz will tell the story of the White Entitlement Controversy (a.k.a. the Black Empowerment Controversy) and see if there are some lessons in that history that can inform our lives and our faith today. *FF Hour 11:15-12:15. Nursery available.*

12 "Hugs n' Quiches and Liberating Love" Multi-age Faith Formation Hour: Bring a quiche or frittata to share for lunch; salad and vegan/gluten free soup, cookies and drinks will be provided. During the Article 2 discussion led by Rev. Lisa, children are invited into the hallway for crafts. Childcare will be available for ages 5 and under for the entire duration of the event. *All regular FF classes are canceled.*

17-19 Elementary Spring CON (Grades 3-5) at the Mountain Retreat and Learning Center, Highlands, NC

19 10 a.m. Worship
11:15-12:15 FF Hour

25 Rummage Week begins with Big Rummage Pickup! **YOUTH:** Volunteer and earn money for the trip fund! Be at church at 9 a.m.

26 10 a.m. Worship
11:15-12:15 FF Hour

For more information, contact Christine Rehder, Director of Faith Formation, at crehder@oruuc.org or the Church Office at office@oruuc.org or 865-483-6761.

SPRING RUMMAGE is March 3-4



Contact
Amanda Fishel or
Christina Elliott

Big Rummage Pick Up:
Saturday, Feb. 25 starting at 9 a.m.

Rummage Donation Drop Offs:
Sunday, Feb. 26 through
Thursday, March 2

Preview Sale:
Friday, March 3, 6-8 p.m.
(all prices double)

Sale:
Saturday, March 4,
9 a.m. – 2 p.m.



Teens! Did you know you can earn \$10 an hour (up to \$1,000) for your Youth Trip Fund by volunteering to help with Rummage? Email oruucrummage@gmail.com (Christina Elliott and Amanda Fishel). High schoolers: sign up on Discord.

Donations Needed

Here's a list to help you start putting things aside to donate for the upcoming Rummage Sale on Fri., March 3 (Pre-Sale) & Sat., March 4 (Main Sale)

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

- **Clothing & Linens:** Washed, no tears, stains, mildewed, or strong odors from cigarettes, pets or moth-balls. 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 nobs 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:

There wouldn't be a Rummage Sale without our volunteers and your generous donations! But you can help us greatly reduce work for our volunteers by allowing us to decline some items that we cannot sell in our sale. Your help is needed to dispose of items not in resale condition with your waste services.

- 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**



Hiring Childcare Workers

- Must be 14+ years old and reliable
- Experience and/or certification required
- Pay is \$10 an hour

Please contact Childcare Coordinator,
Laura Scott, at **(865)-591-8550**
with any questions or applications.



ORUUC still needs childcare workers for meetings and special events. If you're 14 years of age or older, contact **Childcare Coordinator Laura Scott at 865-591-8550.**

Mother Goose



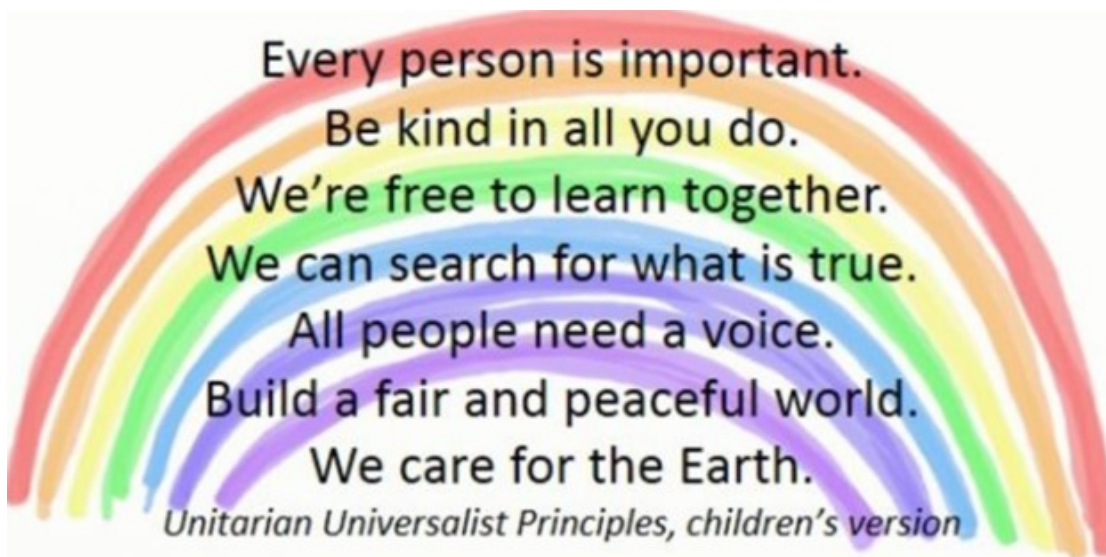
of Oak Ridge

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

Mother Goose meets this month on **Thursday, Feb. 2 and 16 at 10:30 a.m. in the Oak Ridge Public Library Auditorium** with "Father Goose" Michael Raymond. All are welcome to this free program!

Rev. Lisa Romantum Schwartz, Interim Minister

Rev. Lisa can be reached by email at Rev.Lisa@oruuc.org or by phone at 865-483-6761 ext. 102.



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 or Christine at crehder@oruuc.org. To take a look at past issues of *Connecting in Spirit*, visit <http://www.oruuc.org/connectinginspirit>.

Visit our
Website



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