



# Connecting In Spirit

## Youth Faith Formation

### Monthly News

May 2023

#### *In this Issue...*

Meet ORUUC's Seniors: Bridging Sunday is May 21  
~~Car Wash Fundraiser Saturday, May 6~~ **POSTPONED DUE TO FORECASTED RAIN**  
Youth Pride Fest Oak Ridge Saturday, May 6  
Rainbow Camp Sign Ups  
Have you pledged for the 2023-24 church year?  
And More!



### Nurturing Faith

What fruit does your life bear that shows your faith? How do we nurture faith?

As Unitarian Universalists, we value our beliefs and do our best to live them. We certainly know them when we see them. However, we often lack the words to explain what they are, I'm no different.

I encounter the same problem when trying to explain what makes a good faith formation leader. Week in and week out, I see leaders who meaningfully engage, care, and guide children and youth in countless ways. Yet, when I try to put into words what

I see, I have a difficult time.

One of the important lessons of Youth Faith Formation is not to be afraid to ask for help. So, as I struggle to put the role of a YFF person into words, I decided to ask them for help.

Here are some responses to “what is the job description of a YFF leader”:

*Treat each child with respect, interest and love.*

*Act as an intermediary between inside groups (small group ministries and essential functions) and outside groups (PFLAG).*

*Manage some energetic kids and foster a positive experience.*

*Learn to love chaos and learn to tease meaning from emotional experience.*

*Modeling a respectful and generous pattern of interaction, while trying to keep each youth engaged at the level of their own comfort.*

*It is our job to teach our children about being in a sacred circle, about respecting ourselves and each other.*

*The Doorkeeper “protects” the room from “intrusions” into the sacred space of the circle.*

Faith is nurtured in many ways and through many leaders. To nurture faith is a process, a complex and sacred interplay of individual development nurtured in relationships. I am as ever humbled by the engagement and dedication shown by our Youth Faith Formation leaders.

You can show your support for these outstanding leaders on May 7 during Worship for Youth Faith Formation Leader Appreciation. And, on May 21, celebrate the culmination of Youth Faith Formation with our Bridging Ceremony for our high school seniors.

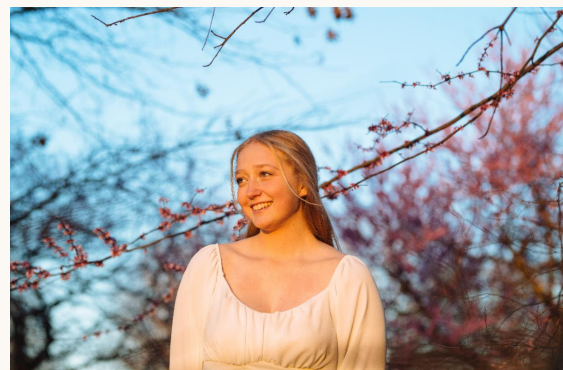
In Care and Faith,

**Christine**

Christine Rehder (she/her/hers)

Director of Faith Formation

## Meet ORUUC's Seniors!





## Jack Biewer

What's next for you: **I plan to run Cross Country and Track at Rhodes College in Memphis. There I plan on getting an internship to work at Saint Jude Children's Research Hospital.**

What's a favorite ORUUC memory that you have? **Going to the mountain during my senior year.**

## Laurel Hetrick

What's next for you: **I'm planning to study engineering at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.**

What's a favorite ORUUC memory that you have? **A favorite ORUUC memory of mine is the pillow fight services at the old church building.**

*Photo credit: Tara Kneiser*



## Rowan Bishop

What's next for you: **I plan on attending Berea college in the fall, and hope to better myself during such times.**

What's a favorite ORUUC memory that you have? **One of my favorite memories from ORUUC was the Boston Trip. It was an amazing bonding experience and I enjoyed**



## Cedric White

What's next for you: **I'm attending Middle Tennessee State University this fall where I plan to study forensic science and play trumpet**

finding out about other UU churches.

for the Band of Blue.

What's a favorite ORUUC memory that you have? **My favorite memory is being with friends in the evenings in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico. We walked the square together, ate giant churros, and shopped at the markets, testing our Spanish and being grateful when the locals spoke English.**



**Gus Morrill**

What's next for you? **I'll be studying English in college.**

What's a favorite ORUUC memory that you have? **The candle lighting in the Solstice service.**



**Tobi Bass**

What's next for you: **I'll be attending TCAT Knoxville for Medical Information Technology.**

What's a favorite ORUUC memory that you have? **So many great memories! I have always loved the candlelit services for Winter Solstice and Christmas Eve. I look forward to them every year.**



**Thomas Naughton**

What's next for you? **I'll be attending UT Chattanooga.**

What's a favorite ORUUC memory that you have? **The trip to Mexico.**

*I'm* **IN**

 **IN**VESTED

 **IN**SPIRED

 **IN**VOLVED

**Have you made your 2023-24 pledge yet?**

Pledge cards were mailed out April 20. Please take a few minutes to fill yours out, and return it by mail or drop it off at church. Pledge cards are also available in the church office.

If you'd like to set up your pledge online, or schedule automatic payments, please use this link: <https://onrealm.org/oruuc/AddPledge/2023-24pledge>

Questions? Call Jeannie in the church office at 483-6761. Thanks!

# CAR WASH FUNDRAISER

SATURDAY, MAY 6  
**POSTPONED**  
10 A.M. - 12 NOON



**UPDATE: The Car Wash Fundraiser scheduled for Saturday, May 6 at church has been canceled due to forecasted rain. The high schoolers plan to reschedule--stay tuned for the new date!**

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## **Youth Pride Fest Saturday, May 6 12 noon - 5 p.m. First Presbyterian Church, Oak Ridge**

The annual Youth Pride Fest will be held Saturday, May 6 at First Presbyterian Church, 1051 Oak Ridge Turnpike at 12 noon. All area youth through high school are invited to the event. It will be an afternoon of activities, fun, and, of course, snacks.

PFLAG and the Gay/Straight Alliances at the Oak Ridge and Clinton High Schools planned the event. No registration is necessary. The event will be held in the Activities Room and Building at the church. Y'all come!

<https://fb.me/e/7CdNA516f>



**Youth Pride**  
**Festival** Raffle Prizes  
 Open Mic  
 Music  
 Writing  
 Art  
 Theatre  
 Meditation  
 Yoga  
 Dance  
 Arts + Crafts

May 6, 2023  
 12pm to 5pm

**ALL**  
 Welcome

*Theme*  
 Celebrating Our History

1st Presbyterian Church  
 1051 Oak Ridge Turnpike  
 Oak Ridge, Tn 37830




**Youth Faith  
 Formation Leaders  
 and Volunteers**



During worship this Sunday, May 7, we'll be recognizing the many hands that help with our Youth Faith Formation programs throughout the year.

Nursery

Middle School

Sarah Gunter  
Nancy Lain-Highfill  
Kara Raymond  
Michael Raymond  
Kate Readle

**Create & Connect**

Melissa Bishop  
Jen Stark  
Sheila Morton  
JD Readle  
Sara Weiland

**Spirit Play**

Peter Scheffler  
Jim Nutaro  
Rebecca Bowman  
Erin Read

Rachel Smith-Jones  
Christa Brelsford  
Steven Barker  
Jimmy Groton

**High School**

Jami Garner  
Robyn Naughton  
Becky Spain-Kaiser

**SUNDAY, MAY 14  
IS THE LAST DAY OF  
YOUTH FAITH FORMATION**

AT  ORUUC

**JOIN US FOR A YEAR-END CELEBRATION  
DURING FF HOUR...  
AND ENJOY YOUR SUMMER!**

**Rainbow Camp 2023**

**June 27-30**

at

  
ORUUC



**Register Today! <https://forms.gle/8UrCR5iTJqxxvewdL8>**

**ORUUC will host Rainbow Camp 2023: "Color in Motion" Tuesday, June 27 through Friday, June 30th, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. daily. The cost is \$100 per camper; the registration fee will be collected on the first day of camp. Rising 7th and 8th graders, or high schoolers who have not served as a Counselor in Training (CIT) during a past Rainbow Camp, are invited to be CITs; the camp fee for CITs is \$50. Camp Counselors are high school age youth who will receive payment for working that week. **Camp Counselors and CITs will be expected to attend camp setup and training on Monday, June 26 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. All camp participants will need to bring a sack lunch daily.****

**Parents/Guardians: Please fill out the form linked above to reserve a spot for your child(ren), as a Camper, CIT, or Camp Counselor. We look forward to seeing you this summer!**

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## **SMALL TOYS NEEDED FOR BINGO PRIZES AT RAINBOW CAMP!**



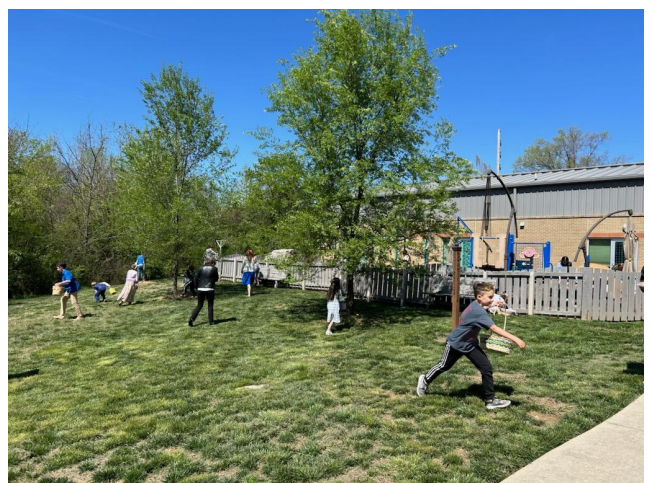
**PLEASE DONATE  
BY DROPPING OFF  
TOYS IN THE BOX  
IN THE CHURCH  
LOBBY. THANKS!**



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## **April Moments...**

A beautiful Easter Sunday for the Egg Hunt and Bunny Trail. Youth learn songs from Music Director Anne Scott and Choir Member Michael Raymond for Big Music Sunday. Middle Schoolers count coins from the Egg Hunt for our Split the Plate recipients--so many coins! The Middle School group will continue counting during FF Hour on Sunday, May 7.







*Thanks to Youth Faith Formation Leader Christine Rehder, Multi-Gen Coordinator Whitney Cole, and Communications Coordinator Rachel Smith-Jones for providing photos!*

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# JOIN OUR WORSHIP TECH TEAM



## Summary

Provide video & Zoom support for Sunday worship services and other ORUUC events as requested and available.



## Duties

- Set up video equipment
- Manage Zoom live stream
- Ensure smooth operations during worship service

## Apply Now

If you are interested in joining our team, send your resume to [worship@oruuc.org](mailto:worship@oruuc.org).

 865-483-6761

 [ORUUC.org](http://www.oruuc.org)

Our worship tech team is still growing and looking for another video tech. This is a paid position with a commitment of 1-2 Sunday mornings per month. Experience is preferred but not required. **High school diploma or equivalent is preferred, but qualified high school students are encouraged to apply.** For more information, please visit <http://www.oruuc.org/s/ORUUC-Video-Tech-Job-Description-221127.pdf>.

*Application information: People with disabilities, people of color, indigenous people, Hispanic/Latinx, and LGBTQ candidates are encouraged to apply. ORUUC is an Equal Opportunity Employer and is committed to the full inclusion of all.*

Contact [worship@oruuc.org](mailto:worship@oruuc.org) for more information or to submit a resumé.



## 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.**

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

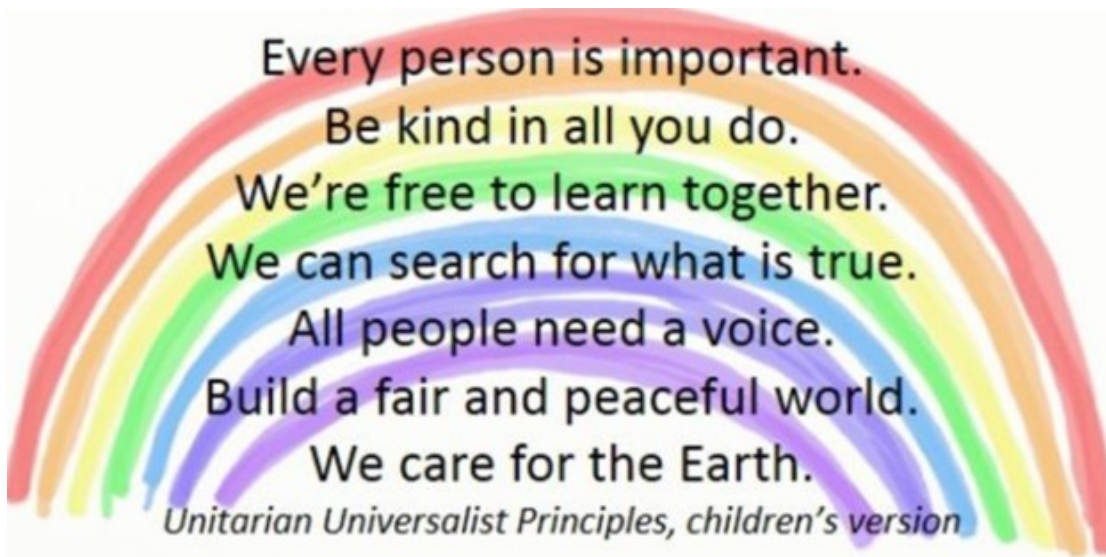
Mother Goose meets this month on **Thursday, May 4 and 18 at 10:30 a.m. in the Oak Ridge Public Library Auditorium** with "Father Goose" Michael Raymond. All are welcome to this free program!

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

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