



# Connecting In Spirit

## Youth Faith Formation

### Monthly News

November 2022

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

Tamale Making Dates for Youth  
Mountain Con Deadlines  
Word Wise Workshop  
and More!

***Daylight Savings Time Ends This Sunday, Nov. 6 at 2 a.m.!***  
***Don't forget to set your clocks back an hour Saturday night!***

### **Living into Gratitude**

As we move into November this week, the Worship theme becomes "Living into Gratitude." When seeing these words, it's natural and healthy to immediately think of things in your life for which you are grateful. But as we explore "Living with Gratitude", we will also consider what it means to be fully living. Specifically, who brought you into life or brought life into you? And how can your own growth and learning become a source of gratitude for others?

As we begin the month with All Souls Day, we can do this by remembering those who



brought us into life and gave meaning to our lives by sharing mementos of them. For Bread Communion, we are asking folks to think about our shared Appalachian heritage and bring biscuits and cornbread to share. Perhaps there is a special family recipe you and family can make to bring to the congregation.

Remembering and celebrating rituals and traditions deepens our identity and connection to our ancestors. But living in gratitude is in the present tense, it's what we do right now. Living into gratitude means we are in the process of doing. For me this is a challenge to keep moving and finding ways to expand gratitude. This month that might be attending our Word Wise Workshop and updating your vocabulary to support our LGBTQIA siblings. Or maybe it's you and your Youth coming to make Tamales with their

group to put food and holiday spirit on our tables.

Expressing gratitude can feel perfunctory during the month of Thanksgiving, but it doesn't have to be that way. If we view the unfolding of our lives as opportunities for growth and enrichment, then we generate gratitude every day. And for that, we can be thankful.

In Care and Faith,  
**Christine**

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

## High School Fundraiser Lunches Are A Treat!

Since fundraiser lunches resumed earlier this fall, church members and friends have enjoyed two Sundays of \$5 hot meals and fellowship following morning worship.

Faith Formation Director Christine Rehder really got into the spirit during Trunk or Treat when the high schoolers hosted a hot dog lunch!

Keep an eye out for future luncheon dates!





# Trunk or Treat



On Sunday, Oct. 30, all ages dressed in costumes and paraded through the sanctuary during worship. Youth enjoyed crafts during Faith Formation Hour, followed by lunch, games, and trick or treating with family and friends. A brief rain shower didn't dampen the fun. **Thanks to Multigenerational Coordinator Whitney Cole and all of the many volunteers who helped out that day and who donated candy and treats. You helped make this tradition extra special this year!**







For more photos, check out ORUUC's Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/oruuc>

## Create and Connect (Ages 5-12) and Spirit Play



During the month of October, our elementary-age children discussed Universalism, the enduring power of ideas, and money, in keeping with the worship themes. They ended the month with a combined class of harvest crafts on October 30.





## Groundskeeping with the Middle School Class

On the fourth Sunday of each month, our Middle School class works with the church's Groundskeeping Crew to learn about and maintain outdoor space. In October, youth worked to clear the bed of cosmos that have gone to seed.



*Orange cosmos seeds are available in the church office for anyone who would like to plant some in their own garden.*

# Don't Fear The Reaper

An End of Life Planning Class with Rev. Lisa

**Sunday, Nov. 6**

**11:15 in the Social Hall**

**Lunch provided**

*This class is offered in conjunction with Memorial Services and the Endowment Fund committees.*



**This Sunday, Nov. 6 is our annual All Souls service at ORUUC.** All are invited to bring photographs or small mementos of their deceased loved ones to decorate the altar during worship. Following worship, Rev. Lisa will lead an end of life planning class during Adult Faith Formation Hour. End of Life BINGO begins at 11:15 in the Social Hall! Laugh, lunch, and learn together about how to be prepared for The Big One. Complete advance planning documents using the **Five Wishes** format. Lunch is provided, thanks to the Memorial Services and Endowment Fund Committees. ***All other Adult Faith Formation Hour classes are canceled. Parents: the class is expected to extend beyond an hour. Please contact the church office at [office@oruuc.org](mailto:office@oruuc.org) or 865-483-6761 to reserve childcare.***



**The Deadline to Register for Intermediate CON is this Friday, Nov. 4! Register today!**  
<https://www.themountainrlc.org/cons>





*ORUUC Middle School Youth at MountainCON, March 2022 (Sarah Gunter photo)*

**Fall CONs:**

Intermediate CON (Grades 6-8) November 18-20<sup>th</sup> **(Registration Deadline: Friday, Nov. 4!)**

Elementary CON (Grades 3-5) December 2-4<sup>th</sup> **(Registration Deadline: Friday, Nov. 18!)**

Senior High CON (Grades 9-12) December 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> **(Registration Deadline: Friday, Nov. 25!)**

**Spring CONs:**

Elementary CON (Grades 3-5) February 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Intermediate CON (Grades 6-8) March 3-5<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Senior High CON (Grades 9-12) March 17-19<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Once you have registered, **please contact Director of Youth Faith Formation Christine Rehder @ [crehder@oruuc.org](mailto:crehder@oruuc.org)**. If you're interested in being an advisor, please let Christine know. Potential advisors need to complete a background check every two years to be eligible. ***If you're having problems with The Mountain website, please call The Mountain directly. Thank you!***



# **WORD WISE: Inclusive Language Workshop** at ORUUC

*Want to keep ORUUC a welcoming congregation and be a better ally to our LGBTQIA beloveds, but finding yourself tongue-tied? Relax, our experienced OWL facilitators are here to help you learn how to speak (and think and LOVE) beyond the binary. Learn, un-learn, and re-relearn gender and sexual orientation terms and phrases that support ALL people.*

***Join us Sunday, Nov. 13  
1-3 p.m. in the Hearth Room***

**Email Christine @ [crehder@oruuc.org](mailto:crehder@oruuc.org) to register.**



## **WORD WISE: Inclusive Language Workshop**

Join OWL facilitators Sunday, Nov. 13 from 1 to 3 p.m. in the Hearth Room for this informative workshop! Email Christine at [crehder@oruuc.org](mailto:crehder@oruuc.org) to register.





# TAMALE MAKING DATES!

Sunday, Nov. 13 1-6 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 19 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Sunday, Nov. 20 1-6 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 3 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

**Sign up at church or on Discord!**


**See you in the kitchen!**

## **It's almost time for Tamales!**

Tamales are the major fundraiser for Youth Trips, and participation in their preparation is required for trip eligibility. There are numerous dates and times available, and sign up sheets will be available with Jason, Brandon or Christine, or on the HS Discord. 8th Graders are encouraged to sign up so they have hours put in for future trips. Parents are welcome and encouraged to help as well, either in place of or, preferably, with their Youth. It's really fun!

Thanks to a generous gift from the Endowment Committee this year, we're able to purchase our tamale making supplies so that all of the proceeds from our sales will go into the Youth Trip Fund. We made and sold 110 DOZEN tamales last year--let's beat that record!

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OakRidgeCommunityThanksgiving.com

November 24, 2022

11:00-1:00

We're back with  
in house dining!

## FREE Thanksgiving Meal...and a Great Volunteer

**Opportunity!** High Places Community Church will be hosting a FREE Community Thanksgiving Meal again this year at the Grove Theater (123 Randolph Road) on Thanksgiving Day, November 24. The meal will be served inside from 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

**Volunteer opportunities are available for teens to adults!** Several ORUUCians helped out last year and really enjoyed the experience. **To volunteer, text 865-384-5683, email [OakRidgeCommunityThanksgiving@gmail.com](mailto:OakRidgeCommunityThanksgiving@gmail.com), or send a message via [Facebook.com/OakRidgeCommunityThanksgiving](https://www.facebook.com/OakRidgeCommunityThanksgiving). Follow the group on Facebook for frequent updates.**



## It's Not Too Early To Think About The Oak Ridge Christmas Parade!

ORUUC has registered to participate in this year's parade on Saturday, Dec. 10 at 6 p.m., after Cookies and Caroling at ORUUC! **Want to get a group together to create a float? Or do you have more creative ideas and energy to share? Contact Multigenerational Coordinator Whitney Cole at [whit.cole79@gmail.com](mailto:whit.cole79@gmail.com) or the Church Office at 865-483-6761.**



## 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 the **First and Third Thursdays** of each month at **10:30 a.m.** in the **Oak Ridge Public Library Auditorium** with "Father Goose" Michael Raymond.



### Hiring Childcare Workers

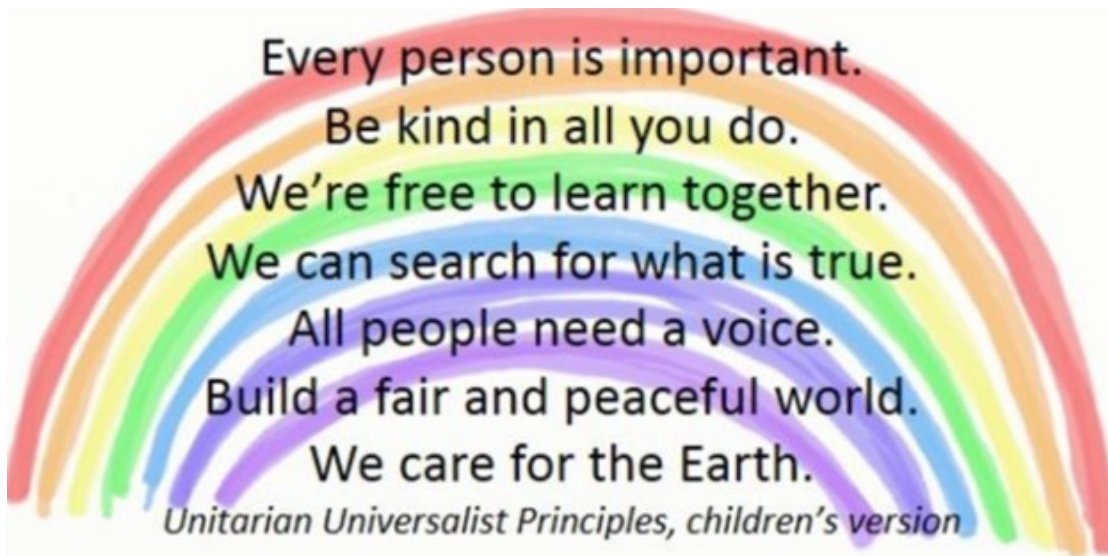
- Must be 14+ years old and reliable
- Experience and/or certification required
- Pay is \$10 an hour

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



**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-



*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).*

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