



# Connecting In Spirit

## Youth Faith Formation

### Monthly News

September 2023

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

Fall Rummage Sale Info: Youth Volunteers Needed!  
September Worship Series: The Gift of Welcome  
Adult OWL Orientation  
And More!



#### **Taking Stock**

As a child in elementary school, I remember September being represented on the monthly calendar as a red brick school house signifying the beginning of school. It's one of those memories that feels outdated now as in Oak Ridge we are past mid-term (also, I never really knew anyone who went to the red-bricked A-line shape school even then).

For me, September now evokes images of change as opposed to beginnings. It usually means a much appreciated change in temperature and colors in leaves. It also means a birthday for me, and with that comes the inner considerations of where I am in my life and deeper questions that arise when examining age-related change. What to leave in? What to leave out?

Fortunately for me and all of us at ORUUC, this September is Fall Rummage. This means all metaphorical sorting can manifest itself into a giant pile at the landing of my staircase.

Every six months or so, our congregation is invited to take stock of the necessities and desires of our individual circumstances and station in life, box them up and take them to church. Once there, they are graciously taken from us and offered to someone else at a deep discount (double on Fridays-I see you, Betsy). The sorting and dropping of my rummage is always cathartic to me. Momentarily at least, someone has relieved me of my burden and I feel free and light.

But the beauty of the Rummage Sale is that taking my things is only the beginning of the experience. Once my personal stuff is offloaded, I can join a team of hardworking and friendly people working to sort, stack and price the variety of things other people have donated. Newly unburdened and refreshed me is welcomed into a community of shared purpose, common goals, and lots of snacks.

The Rummage Sale is a major fundraiser for the church. It's also one of our most important multigenerational events. People of all ages and abilities work together to transform the church into a bargain paradise and then back into a church in a week. That's a logistical feat. It's also a meaningful spiritual endeavor.

Donating to the Rummage sale asks us to look at the things in our lives which may no longer be useful or the right fit anymore and to get rid of it, not just for ourselves, but for the good of others. Working the Rummage sale invites us into community, to labor side by side with people we know well or not at all, for a collective achievement that is greater than what we could do alone. Each of us lets go of small pieces of ourselves to serve and share in a larger, purpose-driven mission. The more people we bring together and the more ways we work together gives us a clearer picture of the Beloved Community. That's faith formation.

Rummage Week begins with Big Rummage Pick Up on Saturday, Sept. 9 and continues through the sale on Saturday, Sept. 16th. Youth who work the sale can earn \$10 an hour up to \$500 towards funding for upcoming trips and activities. Children of all ages can experience the spiritual practices of unloading, stacking, and pricing. Welcome to Worship!

In Care and Faith,

**Christine**

Christine Rehder (she/her/hers)

Director of Faith Formation



# September Worship Series

## The Gift of Welcome

September 3:

*Putting Labor back in Labor Day*

September 10:

*Love Meets the Dragons*

September 17:

*Sweet Dreams of Autumn*

September 24:

*The Soul's Beautiful  
Affliction*

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

*Youth and Faith Formation classes  
are from 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.*

*Nursery is available during the FF hour.*





# ORUUC FALL RUMMAGE WEEK

## DONATION DROP OFF

Sunday, Sept. 10 12:30-4 pm  
Monday, Sept. 11 9 am - 8 pm  
Tuesday, Sept. 12 9 am - 8 pm  
Wednesday, Sept. 13 9 am - 8 pm  
Thursday, Sept. 14 9 am - 8 pm

## Get ready to Rummage! Fall Rummage Week is September 9-16

There are plenty of ways YOU can help with the Fall Rummage Sale the week leading up to, during, and after the sale! Teens can even earn Youth Trip funds for hours spent volunteering.

**Big Rummage Pickup is coming up on Saturday morning, Sept. 9, from 9 a.m. to noon.** We need trucks, volunteers, and your donations! **Connect with Amanda Fishel or Christina Elliott if you need items picked up or would like to volunteer: [oruucrummage@gmail.com](mailto:oruucrummage@gmail.com).**

**FOOD NEEDED for Rummage Volunteers:** Make a meal or bring snacks for rummage workers during the marathon days leading up to the fall Rummage Sale! It takes a village, or in this case, a whole lot of church people to keep workers fed and highly productive. Meal and snack donations are needed Sunday, Sept. 10 thru Saturday, Sept. 16. **Call Sue Lasky at 731-588-4448 to help or for more information.**

For a list of items to donate, and more information, visit <http://www.oruuc.org/rummage>. Come and join us in this important part of the ORUUC rummage sale!



## Adult OWL Orientation

**Sunday, Sept. 24 at 11:15 a.m.**

ORUUC is offering *Adult OWL* this fall during Faith Formation hour. Show up at the informational meeting September 24 to find out more! The 8-week course begins October 22 and runs through December 12. You do not have to attend all sessions.

**Welcome Back to a new year of Youth Faith Formation!**





*A new year of Youth Faith Formation is off to a great start!*

*Thanks to Christine Rehder for sharing photos.*

**It's never too late to join us! Bring a friend!**

**Check out our updated programming  
at <http://www.oruuc.org/religious-education>**

 **Fall  
All-Church  
Retreat**

**OCTOBER 13-15  
HARRISON BAY  
STATE PARK**

**REGISTER  
TODAY!**



## Re-TREAT Yourself: ORUUC all-church retreat registration opens this Sunday, Aug. 27!

Join your friends or make new ones October 13 thru 15 at Harrison Bay State Park group camp. There will be fun, fellowship, games, and more! Register **HERE** today! Pay online via Realm: <https://onrealm.org/oruuc/-/form/give/now> Choose "All Church Retreat" from the drop down menu under "Fund." (Cash and checks are also accepted.) Registration closes October 1.



### **POTLUCK for PFLAG Monday, Sept. 11 6:30 p.m. First Presbyterian Church, Oak Ridge**

PFLAG will have a welcome-new-and continuing-friends potluck, and a rousing game of trivia at its meeting, Monday, Sept. 11 at First Presbyterian Church of Oak Ridge, 1051 Oak Ridge Turnpike. Members and friends will gather in Room 102 at 6:30 p.m. for food and social time; the meeting will be from 7 - 8 p.m. Bring a side or dessert if you wish, but most importantly, bring yourself.

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

A graphic for a congregational survey. It features a yellow notepad with a red 'x' in the top right corner. The text on the notepad reads: "Get ready for the Congregational Survey Online survey OPENS Friday, Sept. 8". Below this, it says "\* Alternative methods will be available". To the right of the notepad is a red smartphone with a megaphone icon on its screen. The ORUUC logo is in the bottom right corner. The background has a light gray gradient with red spiral notebook rings at the top and bottom.

Get ready for the

# Congregational Survey

Online survey **OPENS**  
**Friday, Sept. 8**

\* Alternative methods will be available



ORUUC

## Coming September 8--check out next week's *Exponent* for details!

Yeah, yeah, we've all filled out surveys: How was your last doctor visit? Did the kid who cleaned your gutters do a good job? Was the mechanic who fixed your car personable? Truly not the most exciting way to spend your free time. But this one is well worth the 15 minutes that it will take.

Prospective ministers want to know as much as possible about a congregation they are considering serving at. They want to know not only the history of our church, but also what its members think are the important things we've done. Above all, they want to know what kind of a minister we are looking for. There are many ways that a minister can serve a church, some essential, some less so. This survey will ask you to rank the most important tasks for the minister. Do you want good sermons more than anything else, or maybe great pastoral care? What about administration of the staff? No minister can be great in all of these tasks, so it is important for us to be honest about what we are looking for.

Please fill out the survey, either online or on paper, in September. Thank you! ~The Ministerial Search Committee

# ORUUC Auction

Sunday, Oct. 22

3-7 p.m. at ORUUC





The ORUUC Auction is back! Save the date, and stay tuned for how you can help!

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## 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!

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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 on September 7 and 21** --the First and Third Thursdays of the month--**at 10:30 a.m. in the Oak Ridge Public Library Auditorium.** ORUUC's own "Father Goose" Michael Raymond leads this FREE program. All are welcome!

View and sign up for the Oak Ridge Public Library's newsletter here:  
<https://mailchi.mp/oakridgetn/orpljul23>.

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# Youth Faith Formation

## Save the Dates

August 6 - First Day of Youth Faith Formation

**September 9-16 - Rummage Week!**

**September 29 - October 16th OR Schools Fall Break**

October 1 - Community Potluck

October 13-15 - All Church Retreat (Harrison Bay State Park)

October 29 - Trunk or Treat

November 3rd-5th - Elementary Fall Mountain CON

November 17-19 - Intermediate Fall CON

November/December - Tamaladas (A tamale making party!) TBD

December 3 - Cocoa and Caroling

December 10 - 5th/6th OWL Parent Orientation

January 7 - 5th/6th OWL Begins

February 11 - Hugs and Quiches

February 23-25 - Spring Elementary CON

March 1-3 - Spring Intermediate CON, Rummage Sale

March 9-25 - OR Spring Break (Special Programming)

March 15-17 - Senior High Mountain CON

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

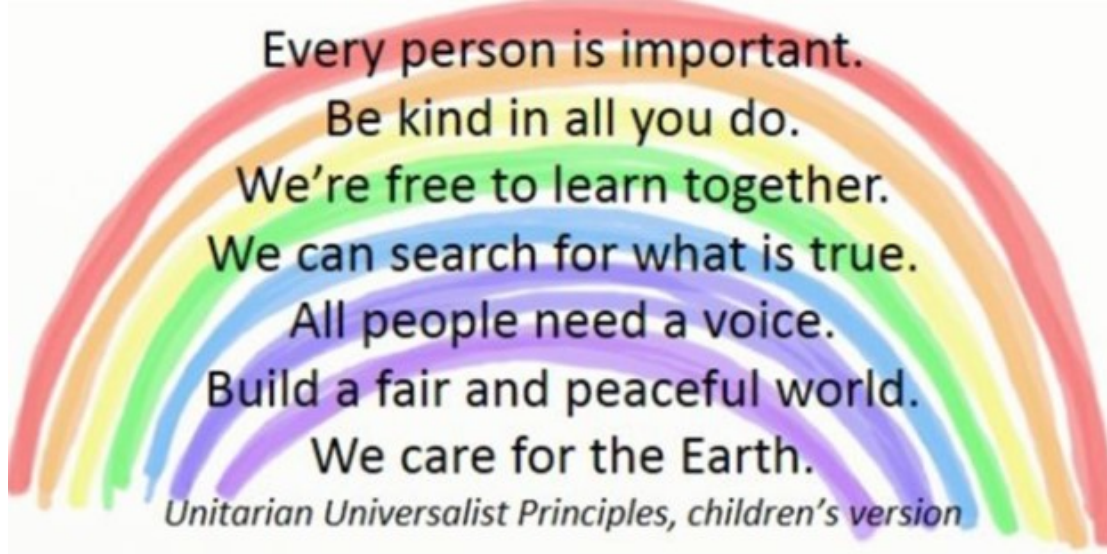
June 24-28 - Rainbow Camp

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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.





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*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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