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News from Oak Ridge Unitarian Universalist Church

The Exponent



Stone Soup is this afternoon! Drive thru beginning at 5:30 p.m.



Thanks to our Stone Soup Ministry
Team and our community partners--the
Jewish Congregation of Oak Ridge and
Kroger Marketplace. Pick up free meals
for your family, a neighbor, or friends!
Interested in helping this week or in the
future? Reach out to Mary Beth
Robinson at
placesynergy@comcast.net

Reconnecting With The Four Elements

Amanda Fishel

One of my favorite traditions at ORUUC is our annual May Day picnic. Having the opportunity to break bread with this community is a great joy for me. Another thing I like about it, though, is that it gets so many of us outside and onto our beautiful grounds. And we're not just huddled in the pavilion like during a fire drill, but on blankets on the grass, socializing around the fire pit, listening to the gentle bubbling of our tiny stream, feeling the warm May (or sometimes April) breeze. All of us, as a community, get to reconnect with the grounds together. Plus everyone brings fantastic side dishes to

What I've already hinted at is that we describe the area around the church as the "grounds," which might sound nicer than "campus," but those "grounds" are so much more. We get to see the gentle sway of the wildflower garden in the wind. The firepit gave us all a central spot to dip our toes into conversation once it was safer to get together outside. The beautiful artwork that is our fountain welcomes us Sunday mornings with the sounds of flowing, splashing water.

complement the grilled hot dogs!

I think of the congregation sitting beneath our majestic oak tree, with the memory of our ancestors behind us, as we ordained the Rev. Juniper Meadows and wished her into a bright and prophetic ministry. Through the hard work of relocating the church, we've been blessed with an abundance of opportunities to reconnect with the elements right here, in this place,

rooted in love.

This Sunday's multi-generational worship service will be a celebration of Beltane, or May Day, the time in the wheel of the year when the nature around us is at the height of spring. Led by EMBERS, which is earth-based spirituality SMA, we'll be exploring that idea of reconnecting with the four traditional elements of air, fire, water, and earth. You're invited to bring something associated with one or more of the elements to share with us during altar building at the lovely altars that Whitney Cole is curating for us, or you could bring a dandelion, which is seen as a symbol of growth and transformation and used to invite new beginnings. And be sure to stick around for the May Day picnic, where you can reconnect with the elements in abundant community.

This Sunday, April 30 Reconnecting With The Four Elements

The EMBERS (Earth Mindfulness Based on Earth Religions and Spirituality)
Group invites you to reconnect with all four elements and learn more about earth-based religion during this special Sunday worship service.

Worship with us at 10 a.m. in person or on Zoom. Zoom door opens at 9:45 a.m. Go to Sunday Worship Info — ORUUC for Zoom information.

The Order of Service may be found here. Email or Text Prayer Requests to prayers@oruuc.org



Fifth Sunday Split the Plate: <u>The Minister's</u> Discretionary Fund

Join us after worship for the May Day Picnic! There will be no Faith Formation classes or childcare during the second hour (11:15-12:15) this Sunday. Enjoy food and fellowship!

This week, the CDC Covid-19 Community Levels are **Low** for Anderson, Knox, Morgan, and Roane counties. Masks are not required in the building; however, we encourage you to do what makes you feel comfortable.



All are invited to the May Day Picnic this Sunday following worship! Please bring a side dish that feeds at least 6 people. Hot dogs, buns, and condiments will be provided. If you're planning to sit outside, bring a chair or a blanket. The picnic will be immediately following worship. There will be no Faith Formation classes or childcare during the May Day picnic.

Fifth Sunday Split the Plate Offering Recipient:

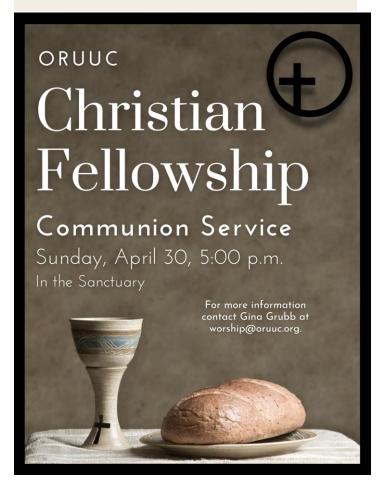
Each Sunday, half of the undesignated offering is given to our Split the Plate recipient. The Minister's Discretionary Fund allows ORUUC to step in quickly to help folks who are experiencing a temporary financial crisis. It's been used to pay power bills, cover the cost of prescription meds, and even pay a month's mortgage payment, all discreetly and privately. The MDF also helps our church provide emergency assistance to members of the larger community.



And, when there's an opportunity to bring in a great speaker or program that we didn't anticipate when we set the annual budget, the MDF can step in and help cover the cost of an honorarium or licensing fee.

Please <u>GIVE HERE</u> as you are willing and able, or text "ORUUC" to 73256.

Announcements



The Christian Fellowship group hosts a Communion Service the last Sunday of each month at 5 p.m. in the Sanctuary. For more information, contact Worship Coordinator Gina Grubb at worship@oruuc.org.

Needed: Sunday Production Assistants



Looking for a few more people to be on the Sunday Production Assistant rotation. It involves FIRE! (The Fire of Commitment, maybe). Namely preparing the two candle-lighting altars, the chalice, and the nature altar. There are written instructions I can email you if you want to know the details. It does involve arriving by 9:15 a.m. on Sunday when you are doing it. A family member of a person who already has a Sunday role that requires arriving early would be ideal. Email Nancy Starr at starroakridge@gmail.com.

Have you made your 2023-24 pledge yet?

Im IN







Pledge cards were mailed out last week. Please return yours by mail or drop it off at church!

Join us and say, I'm in!

Endowment Committee Update



The ORUUC Endowment Fund Committee received two requests for grants during the normal grant window in 2023. Both were granted in full by approval of the Board of Trustees.

- Christine Rehder requested \$570 to help with expenses of *Rainbow Camp*.
- Rebecca Bowman requested \$2,000 to help fund the *Fruit for Kids* program, which provides fresh fruit to 448 local children in need.

The Endowment Fund Committee is pleased to grant both of these requests. ~Hal Hoyt, Martin Bauer, Christina Elliott, Allyson Rayfield, Shelaine Curd

Announcements



Get your car washed next Saturday, May 6 and donate to the Youth Fund! The high schoolers will be ready to work at 10 a.m. Stop by!



Our worship tech team is still growing and looking for another video tech. This is a paid position with a commitment of 2-3 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. Contact worship@oruuc.org for more information or to submit a resumé.

Be a Delegate to General Assembly!



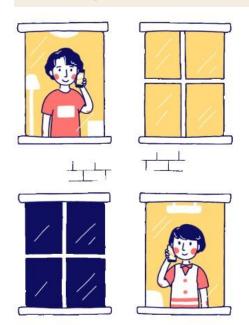
Unitarian Universalists are a democratically organized faith, so each year our whole faith movement has a business meeting to decide important issues before us, called General Assembly (GA). This year's dates are June 21-25. In 2023 delegates will vote on a new president for the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA), and on whether we should consider a proposal to do away with our Seven Principles in favor of different language.

ORUUC has seven delegates who can vote on these and other issues. Delegates may register to virtually attend the business portion of GA completely free of charge. If you're interested in serving ORUUC and the larger faith movement, talk to a board member or to Rev. Lisa to find out how. If you'd like to register for online access to the workshops, lectures, and worship services, the cost is \$300. Contact Rev. Lisa if you're willing to serve as a delegate and you need some funds to get full virtual access to programming.

This year's GA is hybrid – some folks are traveling to Pittsburgh PA to attend in person. The cost is \$500 through May 15th, and \$600 after that. Some discounts are available through the UUA registration portal. And again, if you're willing to serve as a delegate and you'd like help with the cost of registration, contact Rev. Lisa.

For more information about GA, check out https://www.uua.org/ga and for more information about serving as a delegate from ORUUC, contact a board member or Rev. Lisa (rev.lisa@oruuc.org).

Caring for Each Other



Are you going through a difficult time? Are you in a situation where support and caring are needed--someone to do grocery shopping, take you to a doctor's appointment, or provide a meal following an upcoming surgery? Contact the church office: (865) 483-6761 or office@oruuc.org or a Caring Coordinator!

Caring Coordinators for April

Kate Holtkamp-Readle Kate.holtkamp@gmail.com 423-231-5482 Rachel Smith-Jones smithnjones3@comcast.net 603-252-2295

Caring Coordinators for May

Rachel Smith-Jones smithnjones3@comcast.net 603-252-2295 Freddie Nechtow nechtowf@gmail.com 865-599-4359

Please call at least two days in advance to allow time for Caring Coordinators to find a volunteer to provide the care that you need. Our ability to provide transportation is limited. If your appointment is routine and/or can wait, please reschedule it rather than call a Caring Coordinator. Thank you for reserving our Caring Volunteers for those situations that address serious needs that cannot wait.

Remembering Marjorie Lucille Swenson



Marjorie Lucille Swenson died peacefully at her home, surrounded by family, on Monday April 17, 2023. She was 101 years old. She had lived an active, independent life, in her own home, until November of 2022, when she moved to assisted living. Marjorie was born on March 8, 1922. She was the daughter of Albert Eugene Clark and Alice Anna Harrison Clark. She attended Hamline University, the University of Minnesota, and San Jose State College, where she graduated with a BS in 1948. At Hamline University, she met her husband, Paul Arthur Swenson. They married on Oct. 19, 1942. At the time of Paul's death in 2008, they had been married for 66 years. During their life together, they

lived in Minnesota, California, Massachusetts, New York and Tennessee. They traveled all over the United States and visited many countries of the world. They were parents of two daughters, Marie and Carol. Marjorie was active in her church, and in the Democratic party. She did a great deal of volunteer work with organizations to help the underprivileged and preserve the environment. She was most proud of the work she did with the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE). in the early 1960's, to help integrate housing in Oak Ridge. Margie was a lifelong caregiver for others, both family and friends, beginning with her brother Larry, who was born with significant health problems. After her daughters were grown, she worked as a CNA for Clinch River Home Health, and then served for many years on the agency's board. Marjorie was preceded in death by her brother Lawrence Clark, her grandson Andrew Joseph Reeve, and her husband Paul Swenson. She is survived by daughters Marie Bell (Jeff) of Fairview, TN and Carol Reeve (Walter) of Knoxville, TN; grandchildren Amy Davis (Richard), Ellen Haynes (Jonathan), Daniel Reeve (Megan), and Grace Reeve, all of Knoxville, David Hornsby (Jessica) of Kingston Springs, TN, and Rebecca McElyea (Jess) of Nashville; seven great-grandchildren, Madalyn and Henry Hornsby, Jackson and Mollie Haynes, Connor and Ashton Reeve, and Linnea Davis; and special friends Barbara Reeve and Paul (Ross) Akers. A memorial service will be held at 2pm on Saturday, May 20th, at the Oak Ridge Unitarian Universalist Church, Rev. Lisa Schwartz presiding. In lieu of flowers, Marge asked that memorial gifts in her honor be made to TORCH (Tennessee Out-Reach Center for the Homeless) or Friends of the Smokies. Condolences may be sent to Marge's family c/o her daughter, Carol Reeve, at 1725 Greenwell Drive,

Ongoing Activities at ORUUC



Line Dancing

Sundays at 3 p.m. We learn a variety of dances: country, jazz, waltz and cha-chas. Through our dancing, we bring together total strangers in the community and develop close friendships with the willingness to share individual talents with others. A donation of \$3 per session is suggested .For more information, contact Jo Curran or Steven Albright.



Tai Chi

Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays
11 a.m. – 12 noon We minister to
health & stability through learning &
practicing tai chi. Help maintain &
improve balance, strength, and
blood pressure, and reduce knee,
arm, shoulder & back pain. For more
information call Janet Hoegler at
865-963-5115.



Ukulele Group

Our next rehearsal is Saturday, May 6 at 3:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Last time, we played through several new songs from The Daily Ukulele, as well as a couple of favorites: The Rainbow Connection, We Shall Overcome, Too-Ra-Loo-Ra-Loo-Ral, and When Irish Eyes Are Smiling, Hey Jude, Sunny Side of the Street, Cabaret, and more. When you find new music you'd like to perform, bring it in! We'd love to have you join us. Abbie Moore abbie.moore@icloud.com

Social and Volunteer Opportunities



Don't miss Eggs and Pegs next
Sunday, May 7 at 8:30 a.m.!
Learn cribbage rules and/or play
with more experienced players.
Everyone is welcome!
Breakfast will be provided, but feel
free to bring a dish to share.
Questions? Talk to Brandon White,
Christina Elliott, Jane Flanagan, or
Shelaine Curd.



Photo provided by Sarah Gunter after the April 25 game.

The ORUUC Softball team is 2-0 undefeated in the season! Come out on Tuesdays this spring to play or cheer on the team! Their next game is May 2 at 7:30 p.m. at Jefferson Middle School v. Janice's Kids. Contact Sarah Gunter, Christina Elliot, or Jim Nutaro for more info. The schedule is posted on the church bulletin board.



ORRUC needs to add members to to its Caring Team! **Contact Rachel** in the church office (865-483-6761) or

<u>communications@oruuc.org</u> if you would be willing to be called upon occasionally to

- Provide transportation to Sunday services, evening events at church, or medical/dental appointments
- Run errands or grocery shop
- Provide/deliver meals
- Visit
- Perform minor home repairs
- Provide computer repair and support
- Haul items by truck
- Provide pet care
- Help with Memorial Service receptions
- Support new parents
- Perform yard work
- Sit with someone during Worship



Stone Soup is ORUUC's monthly free meal ministry, a partnership with the Jewish Congregation of Oak Ridge and Kroger Marketplace that has spanned more than a decade! Are you interested in baking, prepping, cooking, bagging, delivering, or serving once a month? Talk to a member of the Stone Soup Team—Mary Beth Robinson, Steven Albright, Hope McAtee, Jen Stark! We need more volunteers to return to in-person dining!

This Spring at OR Duck April

Embers Sunday! Churchwide May Day Picnic following worship. There will be no Faith Formation classes or childcare during the May Day picnic. Bring a side dish that feeds at least 6 people. Hot dogs, buns, and condiments will be provided. If you're planning to sit outside, bring a chair or a blanket.

<u>May</u>

- 7 Last Day of regular Faith Formation classes. Leader recognition during worship.
- Youth Faith Formation Year-End Celebration during FF Hour. We'll be back August 6 for a new school year!
- Bridging Sunday! Celebrate our seniors and their families. Churchwide luncheon following worship.

Community News



The League of Women Voters of Oak Ridge Welcomes Guest Speaker, the Rev. Stacy Rector, Director of Tennesseans for Alternatives to the Death Penalty, to Lunch with the League, Tuesday, May 2 at noon at ORUUC

Sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Oak Ridge, Lunch with the League is open to the public. There is no cost to attend, and reservations are not needed. Lunches from The Soup Kitchen will be available starting at 11:30 a.m. on a first-come, first-served basis for \$12, or you may bring your own lunch. Coffee and tea are provided.

A native of Dyersburg, Tennessee, Reverend Rector is a graduate of Rhodes College and Columbia Theological Seminary, and an ordained Presbyterian minister. She served as Associate Pastor of Second Presbyterian Church in Nashville for nine years before becoming Executive Director of Tennesseans for Alternatives to the Death Penalty (TADP) in 2006. She also served as spiritual advisor to Steve Henley, an inmate on Tennessee's death row, who was executed in 2009. She has also served as the vice-president of the national board of People of Faith Against the Death Penalty and on the boards of UKIRK Nashville (Presbyterian Campus Ministry) and Community Shares Tennessee. She is currently active in the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee and serves on the Presbytery's Social Justice Committee.

Founded on the conviction that Tennessee's death penalty system is broken, Tennesseans for Alternatives to the Death Penalty seek to honor life by abolishing Tennessee's death penalty. The organization strives to fulfill its mission by educating Tennesseans about the failed policy the death penalty represents and organizing citizens to advocate for policy change. "We believe," the organization's website explains, "that the time and resources currently expended on the death penalty in Tennessee should be used to offer more support for surviving families and other victims of violent crime; to provide trauma informed care, particularly to our children and communities that experience disproportionate amounts of violence; to expand access to mental and behavioral health services; and to work to solve the thousands of Tennessee homicide cases that remain unsolved since the 1980s."

https://tennesseedeathpenalty.org/about-us/mission-and-history/ Currently, TN has the 11th largest death row in the country with 49 people behind bars: 48 men and 1 woman. https://my.lwv.org/tennessee/oak-

ridge/event/alternatives-death-penalty-hybrid-meeting

Pack and Deliver Food For Kids May 1 and 2 at First United Methodist Church



Monday, May 1: Packing begins at 12 noon
Tuesday, May 2: 8:30 a.m. Delivery to schools
We will pack Food for Kids Monday, May 1 starting at 12 noon
in the multipurpose room at FUMC. Set up will start around
10 am when the Second Harvest truck arrives. Delivery of the
bins to the schools will be Tuesday, May 2 at 8:30 am. Hope
to see you Monday or Tuesday.

Questions? Contact Cara Weigel at 865-806-7544. The multipurpose room at First United Methodist Church of Oak Ridge can be accessed via the back entrance on the Vienna Road side of the building. On street parking is available. This will be the final packing date until August, after Oak Ridge Schools begin the new school year. Packing does not take place over the summer.



THE GREATEST SHOW BASH

Free Medical Clinic Fundraiser
Saturday, June 3 at 6 p.m.
The Barn at Maple Creek
107 Gallaher Rd, Kingston, TN 37763

ALL INCLUSIVE TICKETS \$50 EACH

Includes meal, 2 drink tickets, games, prizes, and Sing Off Show. Get your tickets <u>here!</u>

Ministerial Search Update April 25: The Nominating Committee has compiled information from the congregation and submitted recommendations to the Board. The Board will soon begin contacting people for the Ministerial Search Committee! ~Nancy Lain Highfill



In recent weeks, the ORUUC Nominating Committee and members of the Board of Trustees contacted church members to solicit their preference for nominees to the Ministerial Search Committee. Using the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) guidance, members were asked to consider the following while they ponder on and ultimately provide their preferred candidates.

The UUA recommends that members' consider:

- What are good qualities needed for someone to serve on a ministerial search committee?
- Who in the congregation works well with others?
- Who can represent and serve the whole congregation well (including looking out for the needs of children) and not just a piece or "faction" of the congregation? Who would have no "axe to grind?"
- Who knows (or can learn) the history and culture of the congregation, whether a member of long standing or relatively new? Who can use this history proactively instead of reactively on behalf of the congregation?
- Who has been and/or is active in the congregation and has demonstrated both responsible participation and responsible leadership?
- One of the most attractive qualities a congregation can have is self- awareness awareness of strengths and weaknesses, what the congregation is like at its best and at its worst, as well as on an average day. Who would be able to know and relate all this to potential candidates?

After thinking about all of these questions, <u>who would you trust</u> to serve on the search committee on behalf of the congregation? Ultimately, the UUA has recognized that Ministers are more likely to be interested in serving a congregation where the Ministerial Search Committee is <u>representative</u>, <u>trusted</u>, <u>in touch</u>, and <u>responsible to the entire congregation</u>.

Announcements



Have you signed up for Kroger Community Rewards?** Every time you make a purchase at Kroger, if you've designated ORUUC to receive the rewards, a portion of what you spend will go to the church! To enroll, go to:

https://www.kroger.com/signin?redirectUrl=/accoun t/communityrewards. Sign in or create an account. Choose organization #63422. That's it! Every time you shop at Kroger and use your Kroger card or "Alternative ID" at check-out, a percentage of what you spend will get sent to ORUUC. **This used to require an annual reenrollment in August (so if you're thinking, "I've already enrolled," unless it was recently, you should probably check, just in case).

BRUSH PICKUP SCHEDULE: The citywide brush pickup program will begin Monday, May 8. Tree limbs and bagged yard clippings/leaves will be picked up. City collection efforts will follow the accompanying schedule as closely as possible. The proposed schedule is a general guide and can vary considerably from the actual schedule due to weather conditions and/or the amount of participation by residents. MORE INFO & FULL SCHEDULE: https://www.oakridgetn.gov/citywide-brush-pickup-schedule

ORUUC Covid-19 Update

Covid-19 Community Levels are a tool from the CDC to help communities decide what prevention steps to take based on the latest data. Levels can be Low, Medium, or High, and are determined by looking at hospital beds being used, hospital admissions, and the total number of new COVID-19 cases in an area. Take precautions to protect yourself and others from COVID-19 based on the COVID-19 Community Level in your area. COVID-19 by County | CDC

The CDC's Covid-19 Community Levels for Anderson, Knox, Morgan, and Roane counties are LOW. Masks are not required at ORUUC in the building; eating and drinking is permitted indoors. For the entire report, check out our webpage:

http://www.oruuc.org/phased-reopening-plan



What if the Foundation of our Faith is NOT Best Expressed in the Seven Principles?

At General Assembly (GA) 2023, Unitarian Universalists will take an <u>initial vote</u> on proposed changes to Article II of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) Bylaws, which includes the current UUA purposes, principles, sources, and clauses on inclusion and freedom of belief. An affirmative vote this year won't eliminate the principles, but it would start UUs on a year of deep discussion about the new proposed language of our faith.

The UUA's goal is to maximize discussion and engagement with this proposal, which addresses the foundational values and purposes of our faith community. Until April 30, 2023, any Unitarian Universalist may submit suggestions and ideas through an online form for ways they recommend modifying the proposal. Each suggestion or idea should describe specific language changes to the proposal, explain the reason, and be limited to a single section of the proposal. Individuals may submit multiple suggestions and ideas.

Additionally, the UUA Board of Trustees will host public discussion workshops on May 11, 18 and 21, 2023, to review suggestions and ideas. These rounds of public discussion will inform the way amendments are prioritized for discussion and voting at General Assembly.

Here are the links to the proposal and the submission form for suggestions:

Article II Study Commission (Webpage)
Article II Study Commission proposal (PDF)
Submit your suggestions and ideas on the Article II
proposal now! (Submission Form)
Frequently Asked Questions (Webpage)

Don't forget, there are still openings for ORUUC members to serve as delegates to General Assembly (GA) June 21-25, and thus vote on the Article II proposal and other major issues. Delegates may serve remotely, and registration for the business portion of GA is absolutely free to delegates.

This Week at ORUUUC

Friday, April 28

11am Tai Chi Practice 1pm Stone Soup (Pack, Deliver, Distribute Meals) 5:30pm Stone Soup Free Drive-Thru Meal

Saturday, April 29

Sunday, April 30

EMBERS Sunday

10am Worship

11am High School (Canceled)11am Together in Spirit(Canceled)

11:15am May Day Picnic

11:15am Newcomers (Canceled)11:15am Reflections (Canceled)12:30pm Buddhism Study Group3pm Line Dancing5pm Christian FellowshipCommunion

Monday, May 1

10:30am Interfaith Group



In the Gallery through May 31: Cosima, Fine Artist

http://www.oruuc.org/currentexhibit

The deadline to submit news for The Exponent is Wednesday at noon! Please send news, comments, and feedback to Rachel at communications@oruuc.org.

Monday, May 1 continued

11am Tai Chi Practice 12noon Pack Food for Kids/ Second Harvest (FUMCOR)

Tuesday, May 2

12noon Lunch with the League6pm Depression & Anxiety Support

Wednesday, May 3

6:30am Breakfast Rotary 11am Tai Chi Practice 11am Circle of Trust VIII 6:45pm Choir Practice 7:45pm Band Practice

Thursday, May 4

11am Caring Coordinators Transition1:30pm Executive Team6pm Shared Pulpit Class—Session 4(Enrollment closed)

Rainbow Camp 2023
June 27-30 a orduc

Register today!

https://forms.gle/8UrCR5iTJq xvewdL8

Parents/Guardians: Please fill out the form to reserve a spot for your child(ren), as a Camper, Counselor In Training (CIT), or Camp Counselor. See you this summer!



809 Oak Ridge Turnpike Oak Ridge, TN 37830 Contact us at 865-483-6761 http://www.oruuc.org/



The ORUUC Board of Trustees

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The ORUUC Executive Team

Rev. Lisa Schwartz Christine Rehder Christina Elliott Amanda Fishel

Jeannie Cuevas, Office Administrator

Sunday, May 7 Nurturing Faith

Youth Faith Formation Leader Appreciation and Kernahan Award



Join us at 10 a.m. in person or on Zoom for this service of recognition as we close out another year of YFF before summer break!