

Dec. 22, 2023 – Jan. 4, 2024

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## News from Oak Ridge Unitarian Universalist Church

# The Exponent



**Stone Soup is next Friday,  
Dec. 29**

**Stone Soup**

FREE Community Meal!

DINE IN!  
Take out meals available

**Friday, Dec. 29**  
5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.  
Or until supplies run out!

**Santa Fe Chili**  
**Fresh Fruit**  
**Gingerbread**

Come inside the Social Hall and share a meal with others, or pick up a take out meal. Bags of non-perishable groceries will also be available. All are welcome!

Oak Ridge Unitarian Universalist Church  
809 Oak Ridge Turnpike, Stoplight #2 (865) 483-6761

Special thanks to our Community Partners for making this Final Friday Monthly Meal possible:  
Jewish Congregation of Oak Ridge  
Kroger Marketplace

Our Stone Soup shoppers and bakers have gotten a head start on this month's holiday week Stone Soup meal! Stop by next Friday, Dec. 29 at 5:30 p.m. for a hot bowl of Santa Fe Chili, some homemade gingerbread, and fresh fruit. Dine in or take out a meal for yourself, your family, a neighbor, or friend. Contact Stone Soup Leader Jen Stark at [jen.stark@hotmail.com](mailto:jen.stark@hotmail.com) to help!

*We're grateful to our volunteers, and our community partners, the Jewish Congregation of Oak Ridge and Kroger Marketplace, for making these monthly meals possible for 13 years...and counting!*

## Shine a Light in the Darkness

Rev. Lisa Romantum Schwartz, Interim Minister

This world is a cold place. Not just during this winter season: at the end of December, the natural world seems to echo the darkness and uncertainty of our era. Humanity needs a turning, a transformation, a fresh start. And in this unpredictable era when the world seems on thin ice, the Oak Ridge UU Church stands as a bulwark and a beacon – a light in these dark times.

ORUUC is grateful for the generosity of our members and friends. The ongoing and sustained giving, at every financial level, is absolutely essential to our mission in East Tennessee and the larger world, and we thank you.

At the end of the year, you have an opportunity to give in some different ways, too. If you have an IRA, consider giving a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) to make a tax-free gift to ORUUC. If you're 70½ or older, you can tell your IRA administrator to transfer your gift directly. (Follow your financial institution's forms and procedures to ensure you receive the tax benefits of a QCD.)

You can also make a gift of appreciated securities and receive an income tax charitable deduction equal to the full market value of the security while avoiding capital gains tax.

Of course you can also make an end-of-year donation in any amount through the regular means (offering basket, online giving, text-to-give).

And don't forget to include ORUUC in your estate planning so that your values are sustained even beyond your lifetime.

We recognize that we're just one of many organizations vying for your gifts at this time of year. Since the worthy charities and causes many of us support do great work, they receive donations from many people. ORUUC will only receive financial gifts from ... well, you. We absolutely count on the generosity of our own members and friends to sustain our important work in the world.

Thanks for helping ORUUC be a light in the darkness now, and for many years to come.



# This Sunday, Dec. 24

## Hard Candy Christmas

Most people don't know that Santa and Jesus met, right here in East Tennessee. Come hear the story of it! Guest vocalist Camri Anderson is a full-time performer at Dollywood, and she's coming all the way from Pigeon Forge to sing a Dolly Parton original Christmas song.

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](mailto:prayers@oruuc.org)

December 24, 2023

Mystery  
Worship Series  
Week 4 of 5

## Hard Candy Christmas

Rev. Lisa Romantum Schwartz  
Interim Minister



December Split the Plate Offering: [The Free Medical Clinic](#)

After worship, please stay for coffee and treats in the Social Hall. Faith Formation classes are on a break for the remainder of the month; all FF hour activities will resume Sunday, Jan. 7. Some Circles of Trust will continue to meet—please check with your group leader if you are unsure whether your group is meeting.

*Covid-19 Update: Masks are not required in the building; we have masks and hand sanitizer available, and we encourage you to do what makes you feel comfortable.*



### Christmas Eve Service

Sunday, Dec. 24 at 6 p.m.

Pre-Service Singing

Begins at 5:45 p.m.



Join us Sunday evening at 6 p.m. as we celebrate the holy, mysterious night of Christmas Eve with readings and songs. Come early; singing begins at 5:45. *This service is in-person only (no Zoom).*

## December Split the Plate Offering: The Free Medical Clinic

Every Sunday we share our offering 50/50 with a local agency chosen by our members during a vote at the Congregational Meeting each June. This month, the Split the Plate offering goes to the Free Medical Clinic.

The Free Medical Clinic is a non-profit, primarily volunteer-staffed organization offering free medical services to residents of Anderson, Roane, and Morgan Counties. It serves people who do not have insurance and cannot afford to pay for medical services due to their income level. Because they are a primarily volunteer organization, they rely on donations from individuals,



churches, groups, etc. This clinic provides medical care to those who have no other resources. It can literally mean the difference between life and death for some people (such as undiagnosed cancer). We all deserve adequate health care and to be treated with worth and dignity (our first principle). Our support for the Free Medical Clinic helps us live our principles while providing support to the disadvantaged.

Please [GIVE HERE](#) as you are **willing and able**, or text "ORUUC" to 73256.

# 2023 Holiday Calendar

**Sunday, Dec. 3 at 10 a.m. Morning Worship: Love is At the Center**

*Faith Formation Hour and Soup Potluck, followed by Cocoa & Caroling at noon.*

**Saturday, Dec. 9 at 6 p.m. Oak Ridge Christmas Parade**

Join ORUUC in this annual tradition! Line up by 5 p.m. at the Corporate Center on Lafayette Drive. Bring candy to distribute.

**Sunday, Dec. 10 at 10 a.m. Morning Worship: A Point of Repose**

**Congregational Meeting at 11:15 a.m.** in the Sanctuary and on Zoom. *No Adult FF; all ages Holiday Craft Party for Youth.*

**Sunday, Dec. 17 at 10 a.m. The 21st Annual No Rehearse**

**Christmas Pageant** in the Sanctuary and on Zoom. *No Faith Formation.*

**Thursday, Dec. 21 at 7 p.m. Winter Solstice Service** in the

Sanctuary *(No Zoom). Childcare provided.*

**Sunday, Dec. 24 at 10 a.m. Morning Worship: Hard Candy**

**Christmas** in the Sanctuary and on Zoom. *No Faith Formation.*

**Sunday, Dec. 24 at 6 p.m. Christmas Eve Service** in the Sanctuary

only *(No Zoom). Singing begins at 5:45 p.m.*

**Monday, Dec. 25–Monday, Jan. 1: Church Office Closed**

**Friday, Dec. 29 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Stone Soup Community Meal.**

Dine in or drive thru for a delicious, free meal!

**Sunday, Dec. 31. 10 a.m. Morning Worship ONLINE ONLY:**

**Seeds for the New Year.** UUA streaming service. Church will be closed. *No Faith Formation.*

**Sunday, Dec. 31 New Year's Eve Coffeehouse Talent**

**Show** in the Social Hall. Supper and Social begin at 6:30 p.m., followed by the 7 p.m. program. After the Coffeehouse, stay for the **New Year's Eve Party!** Ring in 2024 with friends! Bring games, finger food, and drinks to share.



# Announcements



## Holiday Closure

**The Church Office will be closed December 25 through January 1. We will reopen Tuesday, Jan. 2.**

Please call 865-483-6761 to leave a message, or visit us at [ORUUC.org](http://ORUUC.org).



**The church office will be closed Christmas week.** Our last day in the office is Friday, Dec. 22. There will be no *Exponent* on Friday, Dec. 29. ***If you have a meeting or Circle scheduled while the church is closed, please be sure you have a code to get into the building and that you're familiar with disarming the security system.*** We wish all of you a safe, happy, healthy, peaceful holiday!

**Next Sunday, Dec. 31, Morning Worship is on ZOOM Only**



What seeds are you planting for the new year? How are you weaving your mysterious magic into your relationships with others? How can we center beauty and goodness and love in all that's ahead? These questions are at the heart of the homily, story, and other worship elements in this service offered by the Unitarian Universalist Association. The Rev. Dr. Sofia Betancourt is the preacher in this streaming only service -- ORUUC's building will be closed Sunday morning, Dec. 31, but we'll gather virtually via Zoom.



Join your ORUUC friends in ringing out the old year with potluck food, entertainment, and fellowship. The coordinators (Nancy S. and Michael B.) have gotten too old and cranky to provide supper and clean it up, so we ask everyone to BRING FINGER FOOD or beverages to share. Don't let Auld Acquaintance be forgot!

Advance sign-up is required for all performers. The signup deadline is this Sunday, Dec. 24. Contact Nancy Starr at [starroakridge@gmail.com](mailto:starroakridge@gmail.com) or (865)742-9993 (mobile).



Pick up your tamales TODAY!  
Thank you, ORUUC !



Thanks to all who ordered tamales! Tamales are made fresh and frozen; pick yours up after worship this Sunday, Dec. 24, to enjoy during the holidays, or stop by any time during church office hours in the New Year. ORUUC High School Youth appreciate your support! All proceeds go to the Youth Trip Fund.

# Announcements

## ORUUC Leadership InFormation Seminar

Sunday, Jan. 21  
12:15-2:15 p.m.  
Lunch provided

Led by Rev. Lisa Romantum Schwartz and ORUUC Leaders. Hosted by the Nominating Committee.  
Register by January 18!



Are you interested in church leadership, but feel unsure about how to get started? Looking to brush up on your skills? Maybe you want to get more involved in leadership, but not right now. Or you're an "old pro" looking to help train a new generation of leaders so you can take a break.

The Nominating Committee invites you to an informational workshop on January 21, 2024, from 12:15 to 2:15 p.m. in the Social Hall. We aim to provide valuable insights into leadership development and equip people with the skills and knowledge necessary to contribute actively to the growth and well-being of our church community. Information about the church and the skill sets needed for various positions will be discussed. We're taking a long-term view of leadership development, so please attend even if this year is not your year to serve. Interim minister Rev. Lisa will help facilitate, along with some of ORUUC's greatest leaders.

Whether you're currently in a leadership role, or aspiring to take a more active role in the future of our church community, this session is designed to inspire and guide you on your leadership journey, or help you help future leaders learn how to fill your shoes.

We are looking for all skills and abilities! Lunch will be provided. Please register [HERE](#) before Thursday, Jan. 18 to reserve a meal.

Let's make 2024 the year of leadership growth and community connection at ORUUC!

### Nominating Committee 2023-24

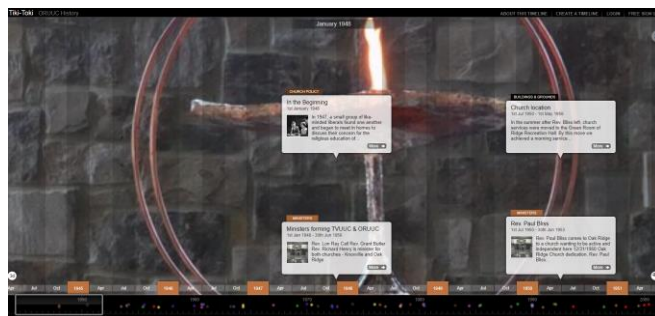
- Nancy Highfill
- Steven Barker
- Sue Lasky
- Amanda Branche
- Cara Jordan

## WORSHIP ZOOM UPDATE



Earlier this month, some of you encountered an issue with Zoom that prevented you from being able to log on to participate in worship and the Congregational Meeting that followed. Thank you for making the Tech Deck and church staff aware of the problem. We recently discovered that Zoom has made changes affecting those who access Zoom using a browser. We apologize for any inconvenience this has caused; we've contacted Zoom and are working on a solution. In the meantime, please install and use the Zoom app on your device and use Zoom Worship Service Meeting ID: 946 8973 5846. Thank you for your patience.

## New ORUUC History Timeline



Check out the ORUUC History Timeline created by Anne Child! [ORUUC History \(tiki-toki.com\)](https://www.tiki-toki.com).

Anne spent countless hours compiling the data shared during the January Timeline event and going through past church history publications. This fantastic interactive timeline includes photos and descriptions of life at ORUUC through the decades. Thank you, Anne!



## 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](mailto:office@oruuc.org) or a Caring Coordinator!

### Caring Coordinators for December

Irene Robbins [Robbinsif1@comcast.net](mailto:Robbinsif1@comcast.net) 865-481-3427

Freddie Nechtow [freddien123@gmail.com](mailto:freddien123@gmail.com) 865-599-4359

### Caring Coordinators for January

Freddie Nechtow [freddien123@gmail.com](mailto:freddien123@gmail.com) 865-599-4359

Jami Garner [jamigarner@me.com](mailto:jamigarner@me.com) 865-250-5505

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.

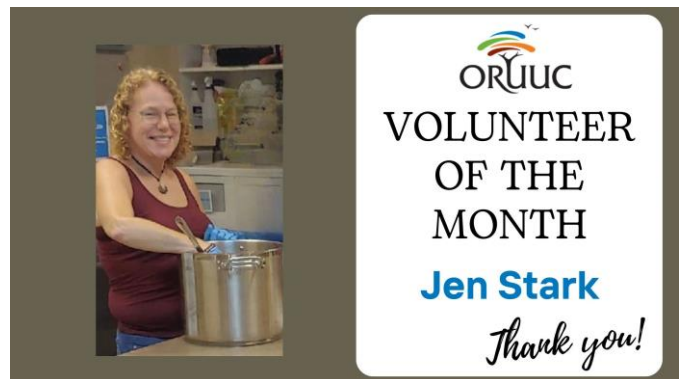
## Winter Solstice Gratitude



Whitney Cole, photo

Many thanks to all who participated in, assisted with, and enjoyed this year's Winter Solstice Service!

## December Volunteer of the Month: Jen Stark



Our December Volunteer of the Month....Jen Stark...Jen serves on the Board of Trustees, is a leader of Stone Soup and EMBERS, helps facilitate the Depression & Anxiety Support Group, and is a lead volunteer for the Rummage sale. She also serves as a Worship Leader and OWL Facilitator, and creates art that we often see adorning the walls here at ORUUC. Jen also attended Senior High Mountain CON this month as an advisor.

For her dedication and service, Jen received recognition during the Sunday, Nov. 26 worship service. When you see Jen, please thank her for her service. We sure do appreciate her and all that she does!

## Ongoing Activities at ORUUC



### Line Dancing

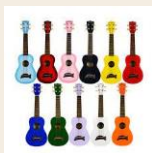
**Sundays at 3 p.m.** We learn a variety of dances: country, jazz, waltz and cha-chas. Through our dancing, we bring together total strangers in the community and develop close friendships with the willingness to share individual talents with others. A donation of \$3 per session is suggested. For more information, contact Jo Curran or Steven Albright. **There will be no Line Dancing December 24 or 31.**



### 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

We're scheduled to meet this Saturday, Dec. 30, for a final rehearsal for the New Year's Eve Coffeehouse! We'd love to have you join us! Abbie Moore  
[abbie.moore@icloud.com](mailto:abbie.moore@icloud.com).

## Social and Volunteer Opportunities



Meets monthly at various churches in Oak Ridge. Visit

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/371268369619360> or email

Anne Backus

[backusanne@comcast.net](mailto:backusanne@comcast.net) for more information about PFLAG Oak Ridge.

### Ecumenical Storehouse Pick Up Saturday, Jan. 20, 9 a.m.-12 noon Volunteers needed!



Each month, ORUUC picks up donations for Ecumenical Storehouse, which supplies furniture and household goods to those in need. It is an important part of our community. There are many ways you can help! **Please contact Martin Bauer at [bauermlb@gmail.com](mailto:bauermlb@gmail.com) for more information. There are no December pickup dates. See you in the New Year!**



**Eggs and Pegs are back!** Play cribbage, eat breakfast, have fun **Sunday, Jan. 7!** These get-togethers will be held the first Sunday of each month at 8:30 a.m. in the Social Hall. Questions? Talk to Brandon White, Christina Elliott, Jane Flanagan, or Shelaine Curd.



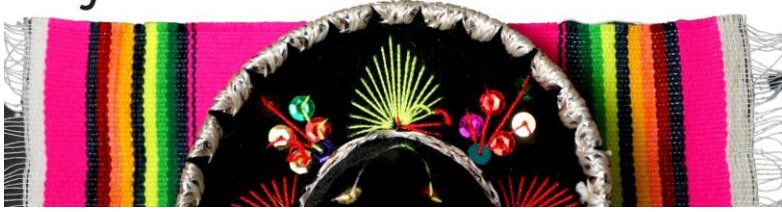
ORUUC is always looking for members to add to its Caring Team! **Contact Rachel in the church office (865-483-6761) or [communications@oruuc.org](mailto:communications@oruuc.org)** if you would be willing to be called upon occasionally to

- 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



**Pack "Food for Kids" with Second Harvest at First United Methodist Church of Oak Ridge.** This program provides backpacks with non-perishable foods for preschool and elementary students to take home on weekends. **Packing has ended for 2023. Stay tuned for the 2024 schedule!** Questions? Contact Coordinator Cara Weigel at 865-481-8108.

Thank you for  
your support, ORUUC!



Thanks to all who helped make and sell tamales this year! If you ordered tamales, please pick them up this Sunday, Dec. 24 after worship.



## 5th/6th Grade Classes Begin January 7!

Parent orientation has taken place, and registration for families new to OWL is now closed; if a member family who has gone through orientation is still interested in enrolling, there are a few slots still available. Sessions will take place from 4 to 5:30 p.m. each Sunday for 10 weeks. The cost of the class is \$50 for members and \$75 for nonmembers; please make your payment to ORUUC if you have not already done so. Financial assistance is available.



Childcare is provided for children ages 10 and under for church meetings and events. Please complete this form TWO WEEKS in advance:

<https://form.jotform.com/231284551294053>. Thanks!



Mother Goose with ORUUC's own "Father Goose" Michael Raymond! Babies through preschoolers will have fun singing, clapping, dancing, and moving with their parents, grandparents, or other caregivers.

First and Third Thursdays at 10:30 a.m.  
in the Oak Ridge Public Library Meeting Room

*Don't miss the next gatherings  
January 4 and 18!*

View and sign up for the Oak Ridge Public Library's newsletter here:

<https://mailchi.mp/oakridgetn/orpldec23>



Everyone enjoyed the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual No Rehearse Pageant last Sunday—thank you to narrators Sheila Morton and Michael Bjerke, and to all of the organizers, costumers, helpers, and everyone who played a role, in person and on Zoom. We can't wait until next year!





# *December Worship Series*

## **Mystery**

December 3: ***Love is At the Center***

*Rev. Lisa Romantum Schwartz*

FF Hour and Soup Potluck, followed by Cocoa & Caroling

December 10: ***A Point of Repose***

*Rev. Lisa Romantum Schwartz*

Congregational Meeting at 11:15. No Adult FF; all ages Youth Craft Party. Angel Tree gifts due. Pick up tamales!

December 17: ***No Rehearse Pageant***

No FF Hour. Pick up tamales!

December 24: ***Hard Candy Christmas***

*Rev. Lisa Romantum Schwartz*

No FF Hour. Pick up tamales!

December 31: ***Seeds for the New Year***

UUA streaming service. Online only. Church will be closed. No FF Hour.

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

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

*Nursery is available during the FF hour.*





## LOOKING FOR A FAMILY EVENT FOR NYE?

The Free Medical Clinic invites you to ring in the new year with your family and friends! FREE TO THE PUBLIC! Event begins at 9 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 31 in Bissell Park. LIVE BANDS, FOOD TRUCKS, HOT AIR BALLOONS, 21+ BEER GARDEN, BALL DROP AND FIREWORKS! For more information, visit <https://fb.me/e/3hx4v6LBS>.

## Huichol Art Boutique for the Holidays!



The artwork of the Huichol people is imbued with beauty and knowledge; a thread of connection to the wisdom of the past living alongside the seeds of the future. In the rugged Sierra Madre mountains of Mexico, the Huichol people live as they have for thousands of generations, in communion with nature and each other. Their sacred traditions and connections have never been lost. Your purchases support Huichol families, enabling them to remain in their homeland to pass on their traditions.

Shop by appointment: Text Mary Beth Robinson at (865) 387-0977 to schedule a time to shop in person, or via Zoom, or FaceTime. Or attend the Sacred Fire East Tennessee Community Fire on Saturday, Dec. 30 at 9:30 p.m. and shop after the fire. For more information on the local Sacred Fire organization, visit <https://www.facebook.com/sacredfireeasttennessee>, or globally, visit <https://www.facebook.com/sacredfirecommunity>.

A poster for the Scarboro 85 MLK Day Basketball Benefit. It features a portrait of Martin Luther King Jr. on the left. The text reads: 'SCARBORO 85 MLK DAY', 'A day on, not a day off', 'January 15, 2024', 'Robertsville Middle School', 'Oak Ridge, Tennessee', and 'BASKETBALL BENEFIT'. Below the text is a graphic of a basketball ticket for a game between Robertsville Middle School and Cherokee Middle School. The ticket lists times for GJV (4:00), BJV (5:00), GV (6:00), and BV (7:00). A QR code is located at the bottom right of the poster. At the bottom left is a logo of a colorful bird. Text at the bottom provides contact information for John Spratling and a website link.

**SCARBORO 85 MLK DAY**  
*A day on, not a day off*  
**January 15, 2024**  
Robertsville Middle School  
Oak Ridge, Tennessee  
**BASKETBALL BENEFIT**

**\$5** FIVE DOLLARS ADMISSION  
ROBERTSVILLE MIDDLE SCHOOL vs CHEROKEE MIDDLE SCHOOL  
GJV 4:00, BJV 5:00, GV 6:00, BV 7:00  
Money raised will go toward Scarboro 85 Monument project.

**For more information:**  
<https://scarboro85monument.com>  
John Spratling (865) 363-9759, [jspratling@ortn.edu](mailto:jspratling@ortn.edu)



Join Westside UU Minister Rev. Carol Bodeau for an earth-centered gathering on Sunday, Jan. 21 from 3 to 6 p.m. at Westside UU. We will sit in a sacred circle, share experiences of inspiration in nature, create ritual together, and set intentions for the coming month. Then we'll have time for food and fellowship. Meetings outdoors (weather permitting) at Westside each month on third Sundays. <https://fb.me/e/bK9hRhIth>

**Scarboro 85 MLK Day Basketball Benefit**  
You're invited to a fundraising event on January 15, 2024 from 4 to 8 p.m., benefiting the Scarboro 85 Monument Project, a partnership between Scarboro Community Alumni Association, Robertsville and Cherokee Middle Schools, and the Scarboro 85 Monument Committee. For more information, visit <https://scarboro85monument.com/>.

# This Week at ORUUC



## Friday, Dec. 22

11am Tai Chi Practice

## Saturday, Dec. 23

## Sunday, Dec. 24

8:15am Circle of Trust VII

### **10am Worship**

11am High School (Canceled)

11am Together in Spirit (Canceled)

11:15am Circle of Trust II

11:15am Newcomers (Canceled)

11:15am Reflections (Canceled)

11:30am Circle of Trust IV

12:15pm Circle of Trust V

12:30pm Buddhism Study Group

1pm Circle of Trust VI

3pm Line Dancing (Canceled)

5-7pm Zentangle Group (Canceled)

6pm Christmas Eve Candlelight

Service

## Monday, Dec. 25 Christmas Day

**Church Office Closed**

11am Rental

11am Tai Chi Practice

## Tuesday, Dec. 26

**Church Office Closed**

6pm Depression and Anxiety Group

## Wednesday, Dec. 27

**Church Office Closed**

6:30am Breakfast Rotary (Canceled)

11am Tai Chi Practice

11am Circle of Trust VIII

7pm Choir Practice

7:45pm Band Rehearsal

## Thursday, Dec. 28

**Church Office Closed**

12pm NWUUC & Launchpad Meeting  
(Canceled)

12:30pm Lunch Bunch

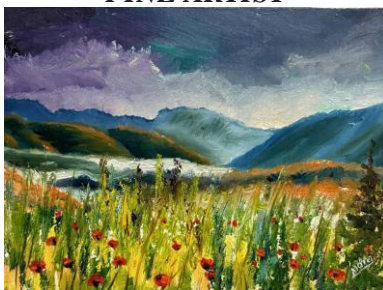
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**To view the church calendar  
anytime, log into the Members'  
Section of the ORUUC website:  
[https://www.oruuc.org/members-  
section](https://www.oruuc.org/members-section) Need password help? Contact  
the church office!**

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**Don't miss the current exhibit in the  
ORUUC Gallery:**

**INDRA SAHU  
FINE ARTIST**



<https://www.oruuc.org/current-exhibit>

The exhibit will be up through January 5.  
All pieces are available for purchase. Art  
makes a great gift!



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



## **ORUUC Board of Trustees 2023-24**

*President: Jason Fishel*

*Past President: Michele Thornton*

*President-Elect: Kara Raymond*

*Secretary: Nathaniel Bass*

*Treasurer: Brandon White*

*Members-at-Large:*

*Freddie Nechtow*

*Charles Davis*

*Jami Garner*

*Jen Stark*

## **ORUUC Executive Team**

*Rev. Lisa Romantum Schwartz*

*Christine Rehder*

*Amanda Fishel*

*Donna Maloney*

*Jeannie Cuevas, Office Administrator*

## **Sunday, Dec. 31 Seeds for the New Year**



What seeds are you planting for the new year? How are you weaving your mysterious magic into your relationships with others? How can we center beauty and goodness and love in all that's ahead? These questions are at the heart of the homily, story, and other worship elements in this service offered by the Unitarian Universalist Association. The Rev. Dr. Sofia Betancourt is the preacher in this streaming only service -- ORUUC's building will be closed this Sunday morning, but we'll gather virtually via Zoom.

**The deadline to submit news for**

***The Exponent* is**

**Wednesday at noon.**

**Please send news, comments, and  
feedback to Rachel at**

**[communications@oruuc.org](mailto:communications@oruuc.org).**

***There will be no Exponent the week  
between Christmas and New Year's.***