

January 6-12, 2023

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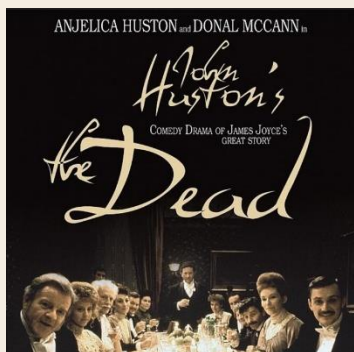


## News from Oak Ridge Unitarian Universalist Church

# The Exponent



Tonight on Zoom:



### Film Screening and Discussion of John Huston's *The Dead* with Rev. Gaye Morris

Mark the Feast of the Epiphany with a special Film Screening and Discussion of John Huston's *The Dead* on Zoom with the Rev. Dr. Gaye Morris

Tonight: Friday, Jan. 6  
7:00-9:30 p.m.

Zoom link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86000288772?pwd=bzUzZWp5K050SzJrMThlcUp1TmIrQT09>

For more information, see Page 3.

## Transformation: Imagine the Possibilities

### Christine Rehder, Director of Faith Formation

2023 marks 10 years since I started coming to ORUUC. Before that time, I had not attended church in 20 years. I was so nervous that first day I needed to sit and cry at my breakfast table to work up the courage to walk through the door.

Upon arriving, I was greeted warmly by a friendly and outgoing woman who introduced herself as Director of Faith Formation.

She told me her name was Tandy Scheffler. She promptly led me down the hall to the Nursery where I met Susan Rosenbaum. The service included music by Scott Joplin, a tornado drill, and a now somewhat infamous pillow fight during the Story for All Ages. I knew I had found a spiritual home.

As the current Director of Faith Formation, I tear up for entirely different reasons. I had no idea or inclination that this place I walked into would not only be my church but my chosen profession. I'm sure I would have been too scared or too cynical to believe it. But a decade later, here I am.

Although I treasure this memory, it's one of many memories, joyful and

painful, that I have accumulated during my tenure. I had a lot of work to do back then and more so now. In the beginning, I needed to let go of a lot of ideas, prejudices, and hurt feelings to move back into a faith. Now as a faith leader, I must help guide us into a new and uncertain time.

In reflecting on my time at ORUUC, I have come to appreciate the process of change. Specifically, what change can



bring to us in the presence of a loving community. Transformation is mythologized as instantaneous and immediate, the "a-ha" or Come to Jesus moment. Those are wonderful and inspiring stories.

But, transformation is often slow, deliberate, and sometimes painful.

Recently, I came across a saying: Change is inevitable, growth is optional. Transformation, especially when paired with love, creates possibilities for us, but only if we let it. Transformation gives us the unique and precious opportunity to discover our deepest selves and the courage to show that person to the world. It even allows us to become what we have not even imagined yet. I hope 2023 is a transformational year for you at ORUUC.

# This Sunday, Jan. 8

## Live the Life You Dream

Can we really start over, start fresh, in the new year? Rev. Lisa will explore transformation, and whether it's worth it.

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)

Adult and Youth Faith Formation classes take place from 11:15 a.m. -12:15 p.m.

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



### January Split the Plate: [Ecumenical Storehouse](#)

Since 1984, members of ORUUC, along with volunteers from other Oak Ridge churches, have collected and distributed household goods to thousands of area families in need during emergency situations, including those impacted by fires, flooding, and family crises. This ministry has repurposed tons of useful items, redirecting them from landfills into the hands of those who need them. For more information, visit <http://thestorehouseinc.org/>.



### Volunteer with Ecumenical Storehouse by Michael Bjerke

The Ecumenical Storehouse is a non-profit organization administered by a group of 12 local churches, ORUUC included. Its purpose is to collect used furniture and other household items and distribute them, at no charge, to families in need. Approximately 300 individuals receive our help each year, and we are hoping to expand our outreach. Families are referred to us by either a social service agency, like ADFAC, or by local churches. This makes sure that the service is available to those who are most in need.

**There are many ways that you can help with this very necessary service.** First, Storehouse volunteers pick up furniture and other items from donors every Saturday from 9:00 till noon, at the latest. **Our church is responsible for coordinating volunteers on the third Saturday of every month.** This is usually coordinated by Martin Bauer, who can be reached at [bauermlb@gmail.com](mailto:bauermlb@gmail.com).

There is no training required for this job, just a willingness to help! The items we pick up range from heavy furniture to lightweight, such as linens, lamps, and pots and pans, so don't think you have to be able to lift a sofa to help. **Our next pickup day is Saturday, January 21.**

Items are distributed from the Storehouse to needy families every Tuesday and Thursday from 10:00 to noon. Each church in the group, or several churches working together, handle a full month of duties, which include answering the phone, helping people choose items, and helping them load up their vehicles.

**ORUUC's next month to handle this is March,** and we do it together with Chapel on the Hill. As with pick up duties, most requires little training (answering phones is the exception).

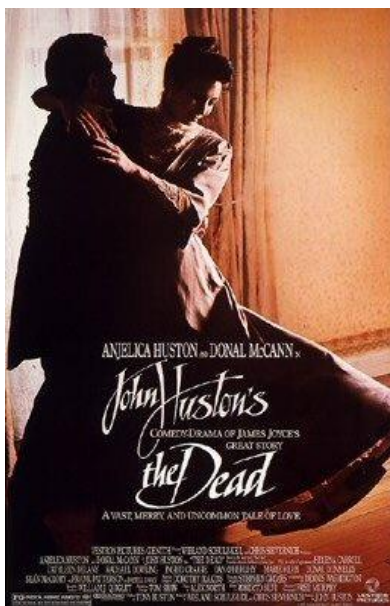
If you believe you could help with any of the volunteer opportunities, please contact ORUUC's representative on the Storehouse board, Michael Bjerke, at [michaelbjerke@comcast.net](mailto:michaelbjerke@comcast.net).



**Eggs and Peps! This Sunday 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.

# Announcements



## Mark the Feast of the Epiphany with a special Film Screening and Discussion of John Huston's *The Dead* on Zoom with Rev. Gaye Morris Friday, Jan. 6, 7:00-9:30 p.m.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86000288772?pwd=bzUzZWp5K050SzJrMThlcUp1TmIrQT09>

Every New Year, my husband and I make time to watch *The Dead*, a wonderful film set in Ireland in 1904 on the Feast of the Epiphany. This is a 1987 film adaptation of James Joyce's short story of the same name that appears in his 1914 short story collection *The Dubliners*. It was director John Huston's final film and it stars his daughter Angelica Huston.

In *The Dead*, teacher Gabriel Conroy and his wife Gretta attend a dinner with friends at the home of his spinster aunts; it's an evening that results in an epiphany for both of them. The screenplay was written by another member of the Huston family, John's son Tony, and the film was nominated for two Academy Awards. It is a beautifully filmed story full of emotion and Irish humor; the setting gives us a real sense of the festive season as celebrated in a Dublin household in the early years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. *The Dead* also helps us to reflect on how we learn things about ourselves and others in unexpected ways.

The film, which is 83 minutes long, will be screened on Zoom; we will follow it with a short discussion. Feel free to bring your popcorn! ~Rev. Gaye

A promotional poster for Sophie Labelle's speaking tour. It features a circular portrait of Sophie Labelle, a woman with long, wavy, pink-to-purple hair, wearing a denim jacket over a red and black striped shirt. The text on the poster includes 'SOPHIE LABELLE', 'INTERNATIONAL TRANS AGENDA SPEAKING TOUR', 'SUNDAY, JAN. 29, 2023', '2:00 PM IN THE SANCTUARY', 'AT ORUUC', and the website 'https://www.serioustransvibes.com/'. There is also a small book cover for 'The Best of Assigned Male' by Sophie Labelle, showing two cartoon characters.

## See Sophie Labelle at ORUUC Sunday, Jan. 29 at 2 p.m.

To donate to Sophie's honorarium, go to <https://onrealm.org/oruuc/give/Sophie>. Or text "ORUUC Sophie" to 73256 to give using your mobile device. Thank you!

Sophie Labelle is a neurodivergent trans cartoonist and novelist from Montréal, in French Canada. She is the author of the webcomic *Assigned Male*, which has been running since 2014, and the Ciel novel series. She likes to collect rocks and lives in Finland with her Finnish husband. "The Best of Assigned Male" was recently published by Hachette UK.

During her talk, she will speak about her art and activism, her artistic process, comic-making, community building and empowerment through art. She also has a bunch of great jokes about TERFs (trans-exclusionary radical feminists). She will answer questions from the audience and sign books at the end. For digital books, children's books, novels, and more, check out

<https://www.serioustransvibes.com/>

Follow Sophie on Instagram at

<https://www.instagram.com/labellesophie/?hl=en>

## 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 January

Christina Elliott [Christina.r.elliott@gmail.com](mailto:Christina.r.elliott@gmail.com) 865-214-0756

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.

## Volunteer Opportunities



February 18-19, 2023  
RAM is coming to Oak Ridge for the first time!

This week's update from the Free Medical Clinic: **The FMC will be partnering with Remote Area Medical (RAM) to provide a FREE Pop-Up Clinic at the Oak Ridge Civic Center on Feb 18-19th starting at 6 a.m.** We'd welcome anyone interested in volunteering. You can reach us at 865-483-3904 or 865-234-6053. More information about the volunteer side of things will be coming out next week.

We're looking to offer the following:

- **Dental** (will include extractions, fillings, and cleanings)
- **Vision** (will include eye exam and same day eye glasses)
- **Primary Care** (will include all you normally receive at one of our FMC clinic locations)
- **Mental Health** (will include an assessment for care. All providers are recommending all patients have this assessment with our partner Ridgeview that will be on site at this event.)

**Thank you for your support!**

## STONE SOUP NEWS



Last week, ORUUC's Stone Soup volunteers—bakers, prep cooks, cooks, packers, and distributors—prepared 127 meals to hand out and distributed 15 bags of non-perishable groceries during the free Friday meal. This kind of community ministry wouldn't be possible without this team, and the support of our community partners, the [Jewish Congregation of Oak Ridge](#) and [Kroger Marketplace](#).

**Be part of Stone Soup—join the team! The next meal is Friday, Jan. 27.** Bake desserts at home or help out in the kitchen at church that week. Email Miria at [meg.harrison84@gmail.com](mailto:meg.harrison84@gmail.com) or the church office at [office@oruuc.org](mailto:office@oruuc.org) to volunteer. Thank you!

## Weekly 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.



### Join the Ukulele Group!

Been thinking about joining in the fun? Contact Abbie Moore [abbie.moore@icloud.com](mailto:abbie.moore@icloud.com) or Linda Osborne [lindadrly@bellsouth.net](mailto:lindadrly@bellsouth.net) for more information.

## Announcements

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF OAK RIDGE PRESENTS A**

# MEDICAID FORUM

**GUESTS:**  
**Moderator: Zack Buck, JD, UTK Associate Professor of Law; specializing in health law, bioethics and tort law**  
**Dr. William Culbert, B.S. Environmental Engineering; D.C; Board Certified Family Physician**  
**Judy Roitman, LMSW, Executive Director, Tennessee Health Care Campaign**  
**Rev. Derrick Hammond, Pastor, Oak Valley Baptist Church**  
**Dr. Matthew C. Harris, UT Knoxville, Professor of Economics, Healthcare**

**Co-Sponsors:**

- AAUW-OR
- AAUW-TN
- American Cancer Society
- LWVTN
- NAMI Oak Ridge
- New Direction Health Care Solution
- SEIU, Local 205 (Methodist Medical)
- THCC
- Women's Interfaith Dialogue

**January 17 7-9PM POLLARD AUDITORIUM**

Email for a zoom link: [maryannreeves1@att.net](mailto:maryannreeves1@att.net)

JOIN the League of Women Voters of Oak Ridge for a forum: Medicaid Expansion in Tennessee.

January 17, 7-9pm at the Pollard Auditorium, located in [Oak Ridge Associated Universities](#), 210 Badger Ave, Oak Ridge, TN.

This forum is designed to further educate the Tennessee electorate and to convince Tennessee legislators of their accountability in this TN crisis on health care and the need for them to fix it! [#lwvtn](#)  
To attend by Zoom, email [maryannreeves1@att.net](mailto:maryannreeves1@att.net).

### 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>



**Check Out What's Happening  
for Youth and Families at**



**January Events**

**8**

Youth Faith Formation resumes regular Sunday programming.

3 p.m. OWL Meeting for 5th and 6th Grade Parents

**14-15**

Bridging Retreat at Camp Wesley Woods, Townsend, TN

**22**

Where do we come from? Where are we going? ORUUC celebrates the strong foundation of our history, and the mystery that is our future. We will tell our communal story by constructing a church timeline during a Multi-Gen FF Hour.

**29**

2 p.m. Sophie Labelle stops by ORUUC on her International Trans Agenda Speaking Tour. Labelle is the author of "Assigned Male" a web comic about trans and non-binary teens. For more info, go to <https://www.serioustransvibes.com/>

**February  
17-19**

Elementary MountainCON  
(Grades 3-5)

**March  
3-5**

Intermediate MountainCON  
(Grades 6-8)

**March  
17-19**

Senior High MountainCON  
(Grades 9-12)

For more information, contact Christine Rehder, Director of Faith Formation, at [crehder@oruuc.org](mailto:crehder@oruuc.org) or the Church Office at [office@oruuc.org](mailto:office@oruuc.org) or 865-483-6761.

# Board of Trustees Update

## ORUUC's 2022-2023 Board of Trustees



**Michele Thornton**  
President

Board term expires in 2024



**Jim Nutaro**  
Past-President

Board term expires in 2023



**Jason Fishel**  
President-Elect



**Brandon White**  
Treasurer



**Nathaniel Bass**  
Secretary



**Ethan Coon**  
Member-At-Large

Board term expires in 2023



**Jami Garner**  
Member-At-Large



**Freddie Nechtow**  
Member-At-Large

Board term expires in 2024



**Charles Davis**  
Member-At-Large

Board term expires in 2024

On Sunday, Dec. 4, the Board held a special meeting to formalize the vacancy created by the resignation of President-Elect Sue Lasky last month. The result: **Jason Fishel has stepped in to fill the President-Elect vacancy. Nathaniel Bass will fill the role of Secretary. Jami Garner has agreed to fill the Member-At-Large vacancy created by Nathaniel's reposition.** Each of those positions will be part of the slate of nominees elected by ORUUC members during the June 2023 Congregational Meeting.



Worship Coordinator Gina Grubb created a new **Ministerial Search Information** page in the **Members Section** of our website, which will be updated regularly. <http://www.oruuc.org/min-search-hub> (Password ORUUC809)

# This Week at ORUUUC



## Friday, Jan. 6

11am Tai Chi Practice  
2pm Caring Coordinators Transition  
7pm Film Screening & Discussion  
of *The Dead* on Zoom with Rev.  
Gaye (see pgs. 1 and 3)

## Saturday, Jan. 7

## Sunday, Jan. 8

8:15am Circle of Trust VII  
8:30am Eggs and Pegs (see pg. 2)  
**10am Worship**  
11am High School  
11am Together in Spirit  
11:15am Circle of Trust IV  
11:15am Newcomers  
11:15am Reflections  
11:30am Circle of Trust II  
12pm Circle of Trust V  
12:30pm Circle of Trust IX  
12:30pm Buddhism Study Group  
1pm Circle of Trust VI  
1:30pm Book Club  
2pm(3-5pm) Line Dancing  
3pm 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Grade OWL Parent  
Orientation

## Monday, Jan. 9

11am Tai Chi Practice  
6:50pm Meditation Learning and  
Practice Group

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

## Tuesday, Jan. 10

6pm Presidents Council  
6pm Depression & Anxiety Support  
Group

## Wednesday, Jan. 11

6:30am Breakfast Rotary  
11am Tai Chi Practice  
5:15pm Circle of Trust III  
6:45pm Choir Practice  
7:45pm Band Practice

## Thursday, Jan. 12

12pm NWUUC & Launchpad  
Meeting  
6pm Potluck (Canceled)  
6:50pm Meditation Learning and  
Practice Group  
7pm ORUU Improving Democracy

ORUUC Weather  
Closure Policy  
Weekdays: If Oak Ridge City  
Schools are closed, the church  
office will be closed.  
Sundays: A decision will be made  
by 9 a.m. whether to have in-  
person worship. Please check your  
email and the ORUUC Facebook  
group for updates.  
Weeknight and Saturday events: A  
decision will be made one hour  
prior. Check email and Facebook.



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



## **The ORUUC Board of Trustees**

*President: Michele Thornton*  
*Past President: Jim Nutaro*  
*President-Elect: Jason Fishel*  
*Secretary: Nathaniel Bass*  
*Treasurer: Brandon White*  
*Members-at-Large:*  
*Freddie Nechtow*  
*Charles Davis*  
*Jami Garner*  
*Ethan Coon*

## **The ORUUC Executive Team**

*Rev. Lisa Schwartz*  
*Christine Rehder*  
*Christina Elliott*  
*Amanda Fishel*  
*Jeannie Cuevas, Office Administrator*

## **Next Sunday, Jan. 15**

***The Meek and the Mighty***  
**Rev. Lisa Romantum Schartz,**  
**Interim Minister**



This weekend, we celebrate the birth of the Great Dreamer, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Interim minister Rev. Lisa Romantum Schwartz will use an ancient tale to explore the theme of how we collectively dream a new and more just reality, and how we manifest our collective vision.