June 2-8, 2023

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News from Oak Ridge Unitarian Universalist Church

The Exponent



PLEDGE UPDATE! We're getting there...but we still need YOU to say









Nearly 110 households out of 160 who pledged last year have made their pledge for the 2023-24 church year. We still need YOU to be INspired, INvolved, INvested, IN our Community!

To make your pledge online, or set up automatic payments, go to https://onrealm.org/oruuc/AddPledge/2023-2024pledge. Or fill out a pledge card and send it in today! Even if you're using autopay, we need you to make a new pledge for the new fiscal year Thank you!

Flower Communion: 100 Years

Rev. Lisa Romantum Schwartz, Interim Minister

"Oh, give us pleasure in the flowers today, and give us not to think so far away as the uncertain harvest; keep us here all simply in the springing of the year." These words by Robert Frost, set to music and in the grey UU hymnal, are often sung on Flower Communion Sunday. This year marks the centennial of the (mostly) beloved flower communion.

I say "mostly beloved," because I know some UUs who bridle at any ritual, and some others who think the

whole thing sounds like UUs in the 1960s made up a groovy ritual to go with the hippy-dippy era. But it is now a 100 year old tradition, and this year, many UU congregations have chosen to celebrate it on the first Sunday in June as a way of being in solidarity with each other, to feel connected to the tendrils of our roots that are sunk in Eastern European soil.

It's hard to cast our minds back to the historical context of the first flower communion. Political and social unrest was rife after a massive conflict. The world was coming out of a global pandemic. Religion was being re-imagined and re-made. (Well, maybe it's not so hard to cast our minds back, after all.)

Czechoslovakia was the most prosperous and stable country in its region during this time, and Rev. Norbert Čapek's journey from Roman Catholicism through Baptist Evangelism to Unitarianism may not have been so unusual. Nevertheless he was a bold innovator, and his idea for the flower

communion emerged, shall we say, organically. His liberal ideas were not universally popular (are they ever?) and he was tried for heresy by one group and killed by

another. So the flower communion is far from an expression of hippy-dippy love child energy, but a way to remember the cost of freedom of religion.

If you're in the "not a fan" category about flower communion, I hope you'll come on Sunday and give it a chance. Hear the story of our bold ancestor and brave martyr Norbert Čapek, "by whose death our freedom has been bought," said then-Unitarian president Frederick May Eliot. Bring a flower, or a few, and participate in the joy of being present in the springing of the year.

This Sunday, June 4

Bloom Where You're Planted: Flower Communion Centennial

Our faith has celebrated "flower communion" since 1923. On this centennial of the first flower service, UUs around the world will share the delight on the same Sunday, in a ritual of unity. Bring a flower or two to share!

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



This month's Split the Plate Offering: Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning (TCWP)

There will be a Town Hall Meeting immediately following worship in the Sanctuary. Learn about the proposed budget and ask questions before the Congregational Meeting, next Sunday, June 11 when members will vote on the 2023-24 budget. Adult Faith Formation classes will also meet from 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.; Youth Faith Formation classes are on summer break until Sunday, Aug. 6.

Covid-19 Update: Masks are not required in the building; however, we encourage you to do what makes you feel comfortable.



Our wonderful music director, Anne Scott, has made the decision to step down from her professional role at ORUUC at the end of June. Here's an excerpt of what Anne shared with the choir earlier this spring:

For most of you, this will not come as a surprise, since my "day job" work has become more demanding and I have been trying to reclaim some life balance by stepping away from my choir duties intermittently. My current schedule has become unsustainable. I do intend to stay active in the congregation and work with the new Music Director on the most appropriate timing for me to rejoin you all in the Soprano section. Just know it was a true honor serving you and the congregation for the past three years. We have accomplished so much together!

Though we're all sad to see Anne go, I know you share my gratitude for the wonderful service she's given to ORUUC. It's been a gift to be able to work with her during my first few months here. ~Rev. Lisa

Please join us this Sunday, June 4 as we honor Anne. Light refreshments will be served after worship.

This Month's Split the Plate Offering Recipient:

Each Sunday, half of the undesignated offering is given to our Split the Plate recipient. **Tennessee Citizens for** Wilderness Planning (TCWP) achieves and perpetuates protection of natural lands and waters through public ownership, legislation, or cooperation of the private sector. TCWP's strength lies in researching information pertinent to an issue, informing and educating our membership and the public, interacting with groups having similar objectives, and working through the legislative, administrative, and judicial branches of



government. The organization partners with Advocates for the Oak Ridge Reservation, **Emory River Watershed** Association, UT Arboretum Society, The Nature Conservancy, Tennessee Parks and Greenways Foundation, the Oak Ridge League of Women Voters, and others. TCWP believes that working together with the community is an important means to protect wild lands and waters. For more information, visit https://tcwp.org/. Please GIVE HERE as you are willing and able. or text "ORUUC" to 73256.

Announcements



Town Hall Meetings

Thursday, June 1 at 6:30 p.m. Sunday, June 4 after worship



From the Board Secretary

The Board of Trustees is hosting two town hall meetings ahead of the June congregational meeting; the first took place yesterday, June 1, and the next one will take place after Sunday service June 4. We will be discussing the finances of the church for the coming year: we will discuss the current status of pledging, what we will and won't be able to include in the budget, and budgeting for the Ministerial Search Committee.

This is an excellent opportunity to get an introduction to ORUUC finances. Members will vote on this church budget on June 11 at the Congregational Meeting. The budget is approved in this way every year, by the congregation, and so reflects our collective values and priorities. These town hall meetings are for information, discussion, feedback, and preparation for the upcoming vote. They are not for the purpose of fundraising or a pledge campaign, just to plan for the upcoming Fiscal Year (July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024). Anyone interested in how this all works is encouraged to attend!

A small amount of time will be taken during each meeting to introduce the Nominating Committee's slate for the Ministerial Search Committee. The folks on the slate will also be introduced through other church communications, including *The Exponent*.

Town Hall after service this Sunday: Sunday, June 4

11:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

Sanctuary

Attendance by Zoom: Stay logged in after worship, or

log in using the Sunday Worship link: https://pwa.zoom.us/wc/ Zoom Meeting ID: 946 8973 5846

See you there! **Nathaniel Bass ORUUC Board of Trustees**

Oak Ridge Unitarian Universalist Church

CONGREGATIONAL **MEETING**

SUNDAY, JUNE 11, 2023 11:30 A.M. IN THE SANCTUARY AND ON ZOOM

AGENDA

I. Meeting Called to Order

II. Opening Words

III. Present and Approve December

Meeting Minutes

IV. President's Report

V. Minister's Report

VI. Treasurer's Report

VII. Endowment Committee Report

VIII. Vote on Budget

IX. Vote on Board and Committee

Nominees

X. Vote on Split the Plate

XI. Closing Words

XII. Adjournment



The Annual Congregational Meeting is set for Sunday, June 11 following worship, in person and on Zoom. The Board will provide a light snack before the meeting.

Important: Proxy voting requires a form to be filled out, with a signature. The proxy must be given to someone attending in-person, and any in-person proxy voter may represent no more than two proxy votes, in addition to their own. On the day of, proxy voters should print their name on the attendance roll next to the person(s) they proxy for, with the word proxy, and initial.



Members' Art Exhibit: On Friday, July 7, ORUUC members are invited to bring your (or your children's) original art to the church for the next exhibition. Also bring an 8.5 x 11 (or email me a file) with a headshot and text-- a little about you, and about the art piece(s). The number of pieces is flexible, depending on their size and the available space. Any hangable canvas or object is fine. Contact Nancy Starr (starroakridge@gmail.com) for more information.

Announcements



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.

Stone Soup needs YOU! The May meal was a success because of a small group of dedicated volunteers. But the team HAS to have more support—regular volunteers we can count on—in order to keep this much needed ministry going.

Looking for a great volunteer opportunity? Help out in the ORUUC kitchen a few hours at the end of each month! Please reach out to Jen Stark, or contact the church office at 483-6761 or office@oruuc.org. Make good food, make new friends, make a difference!



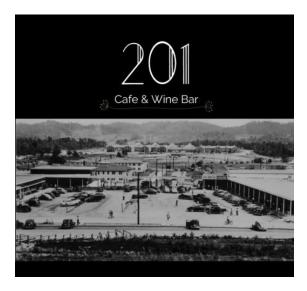
Photo by Regina Guy



Here's an updated pantry needs list from the volunteers who help organize and stock ORUUC's pantry! These items are greatly needed:
Fruit (small cans or cups)
Tuna
Peanut Butter
Soups
Vegetables (corn, green beans)
Kidney beans
Mac & Cheese
Hamburger Helper
Ravioli/SpaghettiOs

Drop off donations any weekday between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m., or on Sunday mornings. Individuals and families in need are always grateful for the food ORUUC provides!

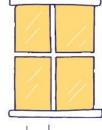
Thursday Lunch Bunch Meets Weekly ~ All are welcome!



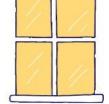
The Thursday evening Potluck Group has become the Thursday Lunch Bunch! They meet Thursdays at 12:30 p.m. at 201 Cafe & Wine Bar in Jackson Square (201 Jackson Square). Contact Betsy Speed or Diane Nelson for more info! Hope to see you there!

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 June

Freddie Nechtow nechtowf@gmail.com 865-599-4359 (cell) Mare Martell <u>maremartell@gmail.com</u> 616-826-9984 (cell)

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.

Celebration of Life for Sharon Hubbard: June 3 at 2 p.m.



Sharon Hubbard, 73, passed away peacefully at Ft. Sanders Regional Medical Center on March 28, 2023, several days after suffering an aneurysm. She is survived by her Aunt Shirley and Cousin Cindy in Ohio, and her dog, Chesney.

Sharon moved to Oak Ridge from Tampa after retiring from teaching kindergarten. It did not take her long to make friends, lots of friends. She was a knitter, crocheter, and weaver. If it involved fiber, Sharon did it. She knitted prayer shawls for the Methodist Church.

Reading was also a passion for Sharon. She belonged to the Anna's Book Club in Oak Ridge and was a member of the Oak Ridge Unitarian Universalist Church. Being a volunteer for several organizations was also a big part of her life.

Sharon will be surely missed by all who crossed paths with her.

The family will have a celebration of life on Saturday, June 3 at 2:00 pm at the Oak Ridge Unitarian Universalist Church. Interment will be in the church's Memorial Garden.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the Shelter Animals Rescue Group (SARG) in Sharon's honor. https://shelteranimalsrescue.org/SARG, 124 Newell Ln, Oak Ridge, TN 37830

https://www.holleygamble.com/obituary/sharon-hubbard

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 scheduled rehearsals are the following Saturdays: June 10 and 17 at 3:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. 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



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.

Help with Ecumenical Storehouse Pick Ups Saturday, June 17



June 17 is the third Saturday of the month--ORUUC's turn to volunteer at Ecumenical Storehouse! Show up at 134 E Division Road at 9 a.m.--no training required, just a willingness to help! The items picked up range from heavy furniture to linens, lamps, and pots and pans, so don't think you have to be able to lift a sofa to help.

Questions? Contact Martin Bauer at bauermlb@gmail.com.



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

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
- 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



Photo provided by Sarah Gunter after the April 25 game.

Tuesday evenings this Spring: Play or cheer on the ORUUC Softball team! Their next game is Tuesday, June 6 at 8:30 p.m. at Jefferson Middle School v. Fat Penguin. Contact Sarah Gunter, Christina Elliot, or Jim Nutaro for more info. 6

Family News

It's almost time...



Register today! https://forms.gle/8UrCR5iTJqxvewdL8

ORUUC will host Rainbow Camp 2023: "Color in Motion" Tuesday, June 27 through Friday, June 30th, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. daily. The cost is \$100 per camper; the registration fee will be collected on the first day of camp. Rising 7th and 8th graders, or high schoolers who have not served as a Counselor in Training (CIT) during a past Rainbow Camp, are invited to be CITs; the camp fee for CITs is \$50. Camp Counselors are high school age youth who will receive payment for working that week. Camp Counselors and CITs will be expected to attend camp setup and training on Monday, June 26 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. All camp participants will need to bring a sack lunch daily.

Parents/Guardians: Please fill out the form linked above to reserve a spot for your child(ren), as a Camper, CIT, or Camp Counselor. We look forward to seeing you in a few weeks!

Donate toys for Rainbow Camp bingo prizes!



Any type of small toy or game is accepted. Drop off donations this month in the collection bin located in the church lobby. Thank you!



ORUUC's own Odelia Kneiser has started a summer project to address the issue of trash on Oak Ridge's trails and greenways, and beyond:

"We're a group of hs students in the oak ridge/knoxville area hoping to encourage teens to keep their local environment healthy. Over the next few summer months, we hope to visit dozens of local, state, and national hiking trails (including the oak ridge quarry) and pick up all of the litter there. We also plan on doing a little bit of field research on invasive species to encourage students to understand their environmental impacts. Follow our project @litterally_green_project on instagram and tiktok!" Any teens are welcome to join this group if they need something to do this summer.

Mother Goose with ORUUC's own Michael Raymond! First and Third Thursdays (June 1 and 15) at 10:30 a.m. Oak Ridge Public Library Meeting Room

Join us with your baby, toddler and/or preschooler for bouncing, tickling, touching, clapping and action rhymes, musical circle games, simple songs, and play.

And check out the renovations of the Children's Library! Reopening June 20! Sign up for the library's newsletter for updates:

https://mailchi.mp/oakridgetn/orpljun23

Community News



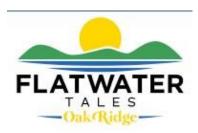
Kick off Pride Month with Knox Pride & Zoo Knoxville TODAY (Friday, June 2) from 5:30 - 8:00 p.m. for a night of fun, food, community, and animals! Proceeds benefit the Knox Pride Community & Resource Center and the Knox Pride Fest & March in October 2023. Tickets are available at

https://store.zooknoxville.org/WebStore/Shop/ViewItems.aspx?CG=Pride&C=Pride23.

Empower students with next-gen technology.

Free summer STEM enrichment program for middle school students

The Verizon Innovative Learning STEM Achievers program: an engaging, hands-on program developed to enrich learning through design thinking, 3D printing, augmented reality, social entrepreneurship and mentorship. No prior knowledge or experience is required. Two 3-week sessions. June 12 - June 29 or July 10 - July 27, from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m., Monday - Thursday of each week on the Oak Ridge campus. To register, visit https://bit.ly/RSCCSTEMCampRegistration For more information, please contact Holly Hanson at hansonha@roanestate.edu or 931-456-4910.



Please join your neighbors in attending the Flatwater Tales Storytelling Festival TODAY (Friday, June 2) and tomorrow (Saturday, June 3) at the Historic Grove Theater.

The Reverend Robert Jones from Detroit headlines the show Friday evening at 7 p.m. telling "American History Through Music." You do not want to miss this voice!

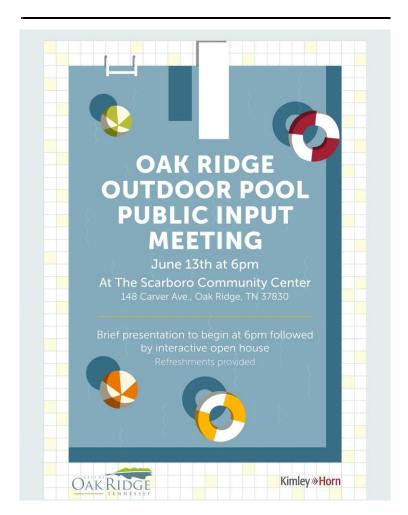
Lyn Ford will feature her "home-fried" tales and "Affralachian" family stories Saturday afternoon at 2 p.m.

Perennial favorite Bil Lepp will tell his version of Oak Ridge prophet John Hendrix, "I Guess Ol' John Wasn't Crazy After All" at the show Saturday evening at 7 p.m.

Saturday morning features a 10 a.m. Children's Show with all three tellers for children ages three and older.

All three tellers will appear at all shows with different stories at each performance. These tellers will fill your soul and give you hope. They may also make you laugh until you cry or laugh and cry at the same time.

Sponsors are helping keep ticket prices low this year; Adult tickets are \$15, Children's tickets are \$5. Saturday morning show Adult tickets are \$10. Available at https://www.flatwatertales.com/ and the Ferrell Shop in Jackson Square (check or cash only, please).



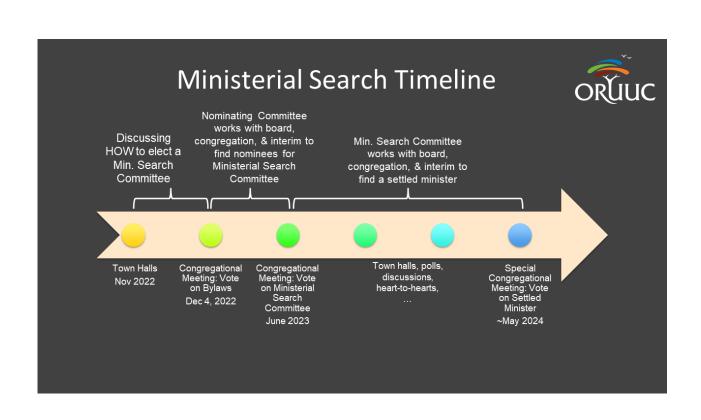
Ministerial Search News

Introducing ORUUC's Ministerial Search Committee Nominees! Profiles of each nominee will be published in upcoming issues of *The Exponent*. This slate of candidates will be voted on as a group at the Spring Congregational Meeting Sunday, June 11.



Voting on this slate of candidates will take place at the June 11 Congregational Meeting.





Announcements



Dialogue with Rev. Dr. Sofía Betancourt Before the Election

Every election cycle, a series of presidential forums are hosted by the Unitarian Universalist Association so that UUs have a chance to hear from candidates. There is only a <u>single name</u> on the ballot for UUA President this June, and that creates <u>even more</u> of a need to hear from you—the people who collectively hold this faith—about what Unitarian Universalism means to you, your hopes and needs for our future, and how we can better live into our purpose and potential together.

UPDATE: Regretfully, the June 3 (Dallas, TX) and June 4 (Nashville, TN) events have been cancelled due to a (non-COVID) illness that has prevented Rev. Dr. Betancourt from traveling.

To watch the first two forums, visit https://sofiabetancourt.com/2023/02/23/dialogue-with-rev-sofia-before-the-election/.

ORUUC Covid-19 Update

With the expiration of the Covid-19 national public health emergency on May 11, the CDC has ceased tracking community level transmission because it no longer receives the data needed to do so. Therefore, ORUUC is ending its weekly Pandemic Action Levels (PALs) report. *Masks are not required inside the building*; however, if you have symptoms or have had a COVID exposure, please stay home and follow us on Zoom. We appreciate your continued cooperation as we work to keep our community safe and healthy.



Video of some events from General Assembly (GA) 2023 will be live-streamed, June 21-25—no registration required. Live-streamed events will include the General Sessions, Service of the Living Tradition, Synergy Bridging Worship, and Sunday Morning Worship.

The <u>Ware Lecture</u> will not be available for public live-stream or on-demand viewing. In-person registration will be required to attend the event in Pittsburgh. In-person or full virtual registration is required to live-stream the event on June 24, or access the video on-demand.

If health and safety protocols permit, congregations and groups are encouraged to conduct watch parties for GA events that are streamed to UUA.org and the UUA's YouTube channel. <u>Using GA Video for inperson or online events</u>

- Stream GA events
- <u>Videos of GA 2022</u> General Sessions, Service of the Living Tradition, Synergy Bridging Worship, and Sunday Morning Worship
- Program Book PDF
- Program Schedule/Agenda



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=/account/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 Week at ORUUUC

Friday, June 2

11am Tai Chi Practice 4pm Set up for Memorial Service

Saturday, June 3

2pm Celebration of Life for Sharon Hubbard 3pm Ukulele (Canceled)

Sunday, June 4

Flower Communion Centennial

10am Worship

11am Together in Spirit 11:15am Circle of Trust I 11:15am Knitting & Crocheting Group

11:15am Newcomers

11:15am Reflections

11:15am Town Hall Meeting

11:30am Circle of Trust IV

12noon Circle of Trust V

12:30pm Buddhism Study Group

12:30pm Circle of Trust IX

1:30pm Book Club

3pm Line Dancing

4pm Circle of Trust XI

5:30pm Circle of Trust X

Monday, June 5

11am Tai Chi Practice11am Caring CoordinatorsTransition Meeting

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, June 6

6pm Depression & Anxiety Support 8:30pm Softball v. Fat Penguin

Wednesday, June 7

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

Thursday, June 8

12pm NWUUC & Launchpad Meeting 12:30pm Thursday Lunch Bunch (formerly potluck) at 201 Café & Wine Bar in Jackson Square



June Meeting: M&M Bingo!
Monday, June 12
7 p.m.
at ORUUC

Reminder:

When you leave the church following a meeting or music practice, please make sure the bathroom lights are turned off, and all of the front doors are locked before setting the security alarm. Thank you!



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



The ORUUC Board of

President: Michele Thornton

Past President: Jim Nutaro

President-Elect: Jason Fishel

Secretary: Nathaniel Bass

Treasurer: Brandon White

Members-at-Large:

Freddie Nechtow

Charles Davis

Trustees

Jami Garner

Ethan Coon

The ORUUC Executive Team

Rev. Lisa Schwartz

Christine Rehder

Christina Elliott

Amanda Fishel

Jeannie Cuevas, Office Administrator

Sunday, June 11 Under the Microscope and In the Spotlight: Church 2023



There have been other times of massive tectonic shifts that have unsettled religious congregations. (The Protestant Reformation comes to mind.) The last few years have been particularly challenging for religious leaders, who are figuring out new ways to do church while the landscape shifts. The Rev. Dr. Sarah Drummond says it's like being simultaneously under a microscope and in a spotlight. Our interim minister Rev. Lisa Romantum Schwartz will offer some thoughts on this very transitional time for ORUUC in a very fluid and transitional era.