

June 9-15, 2023

In this issue >>>

This Sunday (pg.2)

Announcements (pg.3-4)

Family News (pg.7)

Ministerial Search Committee

Nominee Bios (pg.9-12)

Church Calendar (pg.14)



## News from Oak Ridge Unitarian Universalist Church

# The Exponent



### Congregational Meeting This Sunday!



### Congregational Meeting Sunday, June 11 at 11:30 a.m.

In the Sanctuary and on Zoom



Members will be voting on

- Balanced Budget
- Ministerial Search Committee Nominees (as a slate of candidates, not individually)
- Committee Nominees
- Split the Plate Nominations

Childcare will be provided for ages 10 and under. The Board will provide a light snack before the meeting.

Read on through this week's *Exponent* to learn more about the Congregational Meeting: the agenda and list of positions to be voted on, along with how to make your pledge, may be found on page 3. Ministerial Search Committee Bios may be found on Pages 9-12.

See you Sunday!

## UU the Vote...at ORUUC This Sunday!

Rev. Lisa Romantum Schwartz, Interim Minister

UU the Vote – it's become a mantra for our faith. And faith, we know, is an action word.

When I served a congregation in Georgia I joined many other UU clergy in showing up at polling places to make sure all voters had fair access and could vote free from harassment or intimidation. Clergy from around the country showed up in Georgia to GOTV (Get Out The Vote), knocking on doors and phone banking and generally causing what Georgia's Rep. John Lewis called "good trouble."

The vote margin in Georgia in the 2020 presidential election was fewer than 12,000 votes. I'll always believe that our active faith, rooted in the belief that democracy matters, helped sway the outcome.

When it comes to matters of voting on our own issues, sometimes even actively engaged UUs decide to sit on the sidelines. What's seen as a sacred right worth fighting for (and even, as John Lewis demonstrated on Bloody Sunday in 1965, worth risking your life for) can be seen as a kind of insipid

feature of our current principles.

I'm not suggesting that ORUUC is about to be embroiled in a bloody battle. Thank goodness for people of good will, rooted in love, and their deep work crafting the congregational agenda. Still, it's worth thinking about the centrality of voting in our active faith. To be present and to weigh in on matters that concern our congregation



is a right of membership, and also a responsibility.

If nothing else, at this Sunday's Congregational Meeting you'll be made aware of what the issues are, who the leaders are (including the Search Committee) and what financial resources are available to us as we move into the crucial year ahead.

I was heartened at the good turnout for the two Town Hall meetings, and those gatherings helped board leaders craft a balanced budget. I hope to see many folks in the sanctuary and the Zoom Room for the Congregational Meeting this Sunday. Your presence, and your vote, matters!

# This 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.

**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)



**This month's Split the Plate Offering:**  
[Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning \(TCWP\)](#)

The Congregational Meeting will take place at 11:30 a.m. following worship in the Sanctuary and on Zoom (remain logged in after worship). Members will vote on the 2023-24 budget, committee nominees—including the Ministerial Search Committee, and Split the Plate nominations. The Board will provide light refreshments. Childcare will be available for ages 10 and under. All Faith Formation Hour classes and activities are canceled.

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

## Split the Plate Nominations Are In! Vote Sunday!

For decades now, ORUUC has donated half of all undesignated offerings on Sunday mornings to an outside organization or a shared ministry. Those organizations are chosen by a congregational vote each June.

In addition to showing our support for various causes, the Split the Plate program is part of how ORUUC builds relationships and maintains connections with the wider community. For some ministries and non-profits, our financial support is a significant, relied-upon donation.

Learn more about the 12 nominated organizations here:  
<https://www.flipsnack.com/amfishel/2023-2024-split-the-plate-brochure.html>

When you vote at Sunday's Congregational Meeting, you'll be asked to choose only 9 (three months are left as alternates.) It's a tough choice, and I think that all of these organizations deserve our support for their vital work in the community.

Thank you for taking the time to read through these nominations, learn more about the groups working to improve our community, and honor our 5th principle, commitment to the democratic process.

**Amanda Fishel**

## 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

## 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 this Sunday, June 11 at 11:30 a.m. following worship, in person and on Zoom** (if you're logged in for worship, please remain online). The Board will provide a light snack before the meeting. Childcare will be provided for ages 10 and under for the duration of the meeting.

**Important: Proxy voting requires a form to be filled out, with a signature, prior to the meeting. Proxy forms were emailed to church membership on June 2 and June 8. The proxy must be given to someone attending the meeting in person; any in-person proxy voter may represent no more than two proxy votes, in addition to their own. On the day of the meeting, proxy voters should print their name on the attendance roll next to the person(s) they proxy for, with the word proxy, and initial.**

**At the Congregational Meeting this Sunday, the Board will present a balanced budget for approval. The budget is based on pledges made before Wednesday, June 7.**

Along with the budget, members will vote on the nominees listed below.

#### Board of Trustees

President-Elect - Kara Raymond

Member-At-Large - Jen Stark

To be confirmed:

President - Jason Fishel (appointed President-Elect mid-term)

Secretary - Nathaniel Bass (appointed Secretary mid-term)

Member-At-Large - Jami Garner (appointed Member-At-Large mid-term)

#### Nominating Committee

Sue Lasky

Steven Barker

Nancy Highfill

Amanda Law

TBD

#### Charter & Bylaws

Ann Miller

Jane Flanagan

#### Endowment Committee

Janet Fryer

Steve McAtee

#### Ministerial Search Committee

Carol Beene

Beth Meyer

Dave Dunkirk

Michael Bjerke

Patton Fishel

Sarah Gunter

Christy White

#### Split the Plate Nominees (Vote for 9)

Fresh Fruit for Kids

Second Harvest Food for Kids Backpack Program

Stone Soup

Second Harvest of East Tennessee Summer Meals for Kids

Aid to Distressed Families of Appalachian Counties

(ADFAC)

Ecumenical Storehouse

TN Outreach Center for Homeless – TORCH

Blossom Center for Childhood Excellence

Child Advocacy Center of Anderson County

Anderson County Family Justice Center

Free Medical Clinic

Planned Parenthood of Tennessee and Northern Mississippi

I'm IN



**Make your 2023-24 pledge today! Go to**

**<https://onrealm.org/oruuc/AddPledge/2023-2024pledge>.**

Those who have not pledged for the 2023-24 church year may still do so either by following the link or by filling out a green pledge card at church. Thank you!

# Announcements

A thank you from Anne Scott  
ORUUC Director of Music



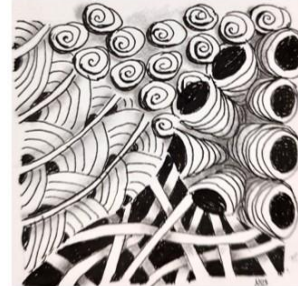
It was 2014 when I tearfully shared with all of you that I felt a calling toward music ministry. This congregation nurtured that calling, funding my trips to AUUMM conferences, giving me opportunities to lead congregational singing, and encouraging me to restart the children's choir. I went back to school for a music degree, led music at Westside, and directed our East TN cluster choir. I've coordinated and led music for installations, ordinations, celebrations, and memorial services. And, when Jake called in the midst of the pandemic to ask if I would serve you in one of the most challenging times for music, when singing was literally considered dangerous, I said yes. All of those opportunities YOU gave me prepared me for that moment, creating musical connection and community with the help of technology. I felt like the perfect person to serve you in that moment ... I hope you felt it, too! As we were able to congregate in person again, I have been honored to stand back up our full music program. While it's time to pass the baton to a new music leader, I am grateful to have been entrusted with ORUUC music for these last 3 years. Thank you to my staff colleagues, all of our ORUUC musicians, and each of you for keeping music at the heart of our community. ❤️ ~Anne

## Zentangle Group

Sundays 5 to 7 PM

Beginning June 18

Oak Ridge Unitarian Universalist Church  
809 Oak Ridge Turnpike



3½-inch tile from  
Introduction  
to Zentangle  
class

The Zentangle™ Method uses simple, repetitive pen strokes to create beautiful, structured patterns. Zentangle requires NO drawing skill, is easy to learn, and has many therapeutic benefits.

**Introduction to Zentangle** is offered every Sunday (\$10 including starter materials). For continuing Zentangers, loosely structured lessons and prompts are given. Supplies are available to purchase.

For more information, contact Nancy Starr,  
Certified Zentangle Teacher.  
865-483-8684 (landline), 865-742-9993  
(mobile/text), [starroakridge@gmail.com](mailto:starroakridge@gmail.com)

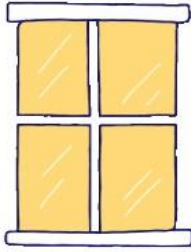


### ORUUC Pantry Needs

- **Fruit (small cans or cups)**
- **Tuna**
- **Peanut Butter**
- **Soups**
- **Vegetables (corn, green beans)**
- **Kidney beans**
- **Mac & Cheese**
- **Hamburger Helper**
- **Ravioli/SpaghettiOs**

Donations may be dropped off any weekday between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m., or on Sunday mornings. Thank you!

## Caring for Each Other

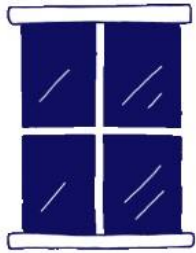


Are you going through a difficult time? Are you in a situation where support and caring are needed--someone to do grocery shopping, take you to a doctor's appointment, or provide a meal following an upcoming surgery? Contact the church office: (865) 483-6761 or [office@oruuc.org](mailto:office@oruuc.org)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

### Caring Coordinators for June

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

Mare Martell [maremartell@gmail.com](mailto:maremartell@gmail.com) 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.

## Remembering Shigeko Uppuluri



Shigeko Uppuluri (Facebook)

Dear Members and Friends of Oak Ridge UU Church,

ORUUC member Shigeko Uppuluri died peacefully early Thursday morning (June 8). She had been in the care of hospice and was upheld by the thoughts and prayers of her many friends and family as she approached the threshold and quietly passed through.

Shigeko was born on April 9th, 1931 in Kyoto, Japan. She lived in Shanghai, China during WWII, and returned to Kyoto in 1954 to complete high school and college. She met her husband Ram Uppuluri when she was doing graduate work at Indiana University in the late 1950s.

Shigeko and her husband moved to Oak Ridge in 1963 and raised their son, Ram, here. She was a tremendous asset to the community, and to our Church. She was an advocate for peace and was instrumental in bringing the International Friendship Bell to Oak Ridge in 1993 as part of the 50th anniversary of the founding of Oak Ridge. She helped establish Oak Ridge's Sister City cultural exchange program with Naka, Japan.

Next Thursday, June 15th at 7 p.m., all who are able are encouraged to gather at the International Friendship Bell pavilion in Bissell Park for a brief comfort circle honoring Shigeko. A more formal Celebration of Life will be scheduled soon.

Yours in the faith,  
Rev. Lisa Romantum Schwartz  
Interim Minister

For more information on the International Friendship Bell, visit <https://www.nps.gov/places/000/international-friendship-bell.htm>.

## 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 **June 10 and 17 at 3:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.** We've been working on "Knocking on Heaven's Door" and Robin is planning to bring a couple of Gordon Lightfoot's songs. Yea! New music! We'd love to have you join us. Abbie Moore [abbie.moore@icloud.com](mailto:abbie.moore@icloud.com)

## Social and Volunteer Opportunities



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

---

### 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](mailto:bauermlb@gmail.com).

---

**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](mailto:starroakridge@gmail.com)) for more information.



ORUUC needs to add members 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



*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 13 at 6:30 p.m. at Jefferson Middle School v. Umpire Strikes Back.** Contact Sarah Gunter, Christina Elliot, or Jim Nutaro for more info. 6

# Family News

*The countdown continues!*



**Register today!**

<https://forms.gle/8UrCR5iTJqxvewdL8>

**Last chance to get a Rainbow Camp shirt!** Camp registration is still open, but the shirt order has been placed, so there are only a few extras remaining. Please fill out the form linked above to reserve a spot for your child(ren), as a Camper, Counselor In Training, or Camp Counselor. We look forward to seeing you at the end of this month!

**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!



**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.**

Sign up for the Oak Ridge Public Library's newsletter <https://mailchi.mp/oakridgetn/orpljun23>. And don't miss the re-opening of the renovated Children's Library Tuesday, June 20 at 5 p.m.!



**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.

**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](mailto:hansonha@roanestate.edu) or 931-456-4910.

## Community News



### **The Scarboro Community Parade and Reunion Committee needs volunteers at the parade and also at the Fun Day Event at the Scarboro Community Center on Saturday, July 29.**

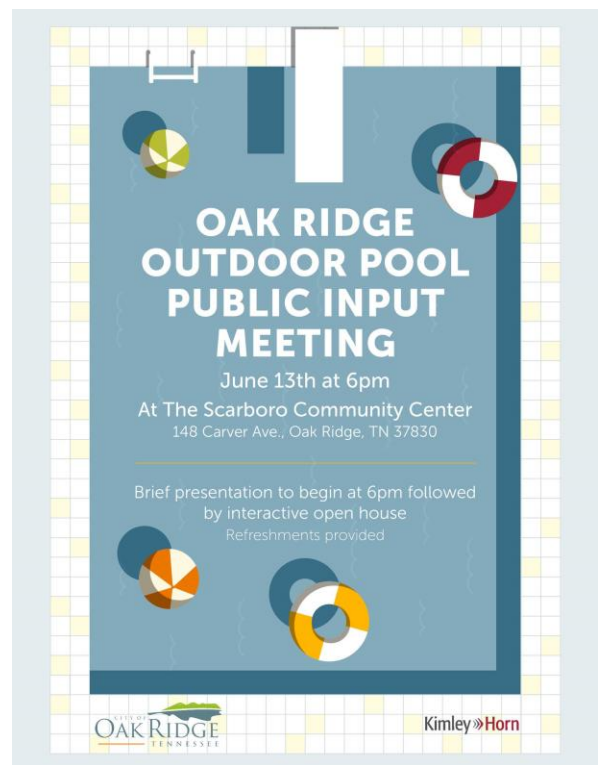
The parade will line up at 8:15 a.m. at the old Scarboro School site. Road closure will be at 8:50 a.m. The parade begins at 9 a.m. and is usually 45 minutes to an hour, ending around 10 a.m.

The new parade route will begin at the Scarboro School site, turning right onto Wilberforce (side street Hampton Road at end blocked), turning right onto Fisk (side street Wilberforce blocked), staying straight onto Benedict Avenue (side streets Dillard on right and left blocked), continuing on Benedict Avenue (side streets on Spellman and Bethune Circle Blocked), turning left onto Carver Avenue, turning right onto Wilberforce ending at Mt. Zion Baptist Church and Spurgeon Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church.

**We need volunteers from local churches to serve as individuals standing at the side streets. Safety vests will be provided. Volunteers will hand out water from ice chests to ensure parade participants are not dehydrated.**

**Transportation is also needed to drive participants back to their departure area to their cars at Oak Valley Baptist Church and Scarboro Church of Christ.**

Contact Rose Weaver, Scarboro Community Parade Coordinator, at [rs\\_wvr@yahoo.com](mailto:rs_wvr@yahoo.com) for more information.



The City of Oak Ridge Recreation and Parks Department will hold its first public open house for the Outdoor Pool Renovation Project on Tuesday, June 13 at 6 p.m. The public is invited to join us for a brief presentation at the Scarboro Community Center followed by an interactive open house.

The open house is a chance for the consulting company working on the project, Kimley-Horn and Counsilman-Hunsaker, and staff at the City to hear public input involving the plans for the city's historic outdoor pool.

For questions and/or more information, call the Oak Ridge Recreation and Parks Civic Center front desk at (865) 425-3450, or visit the Civic Center Front Desk at 1403 Oak Ridge Turnpike.



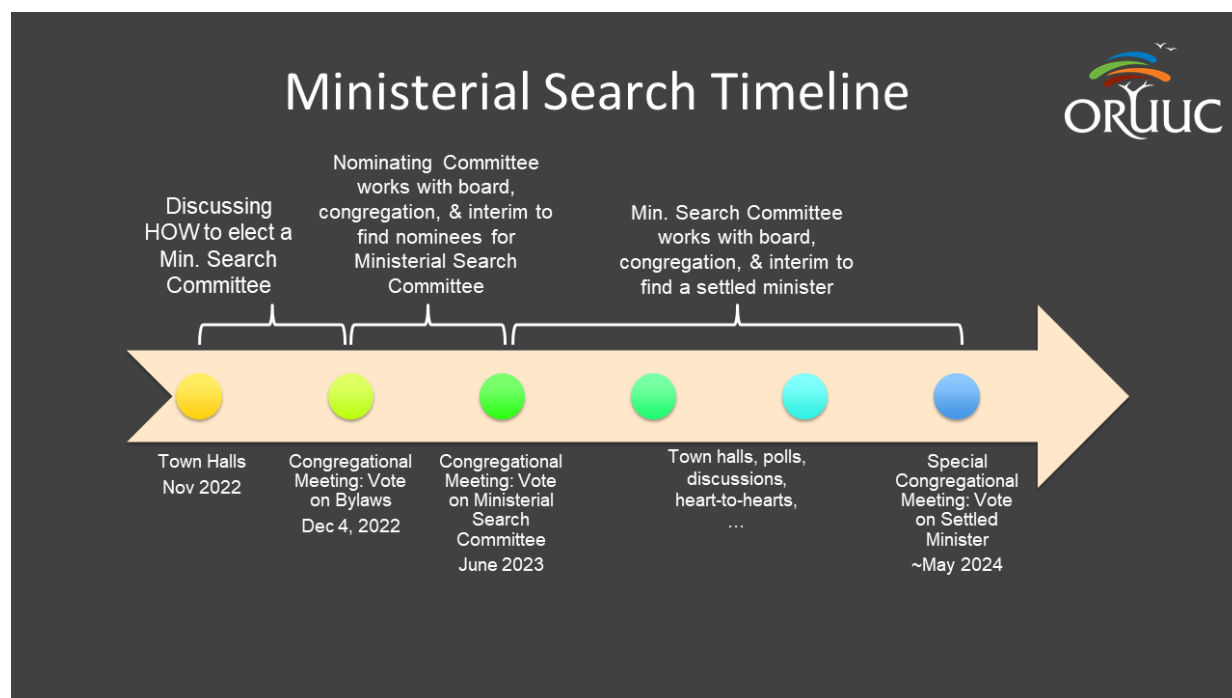
The City of Oak Ridge Presents  
The Lavender Festival  
Saturday, June 17, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
in Jackson Square  
FREE ENTRY | FREE PARKING  
Find out more by visiting

<https://jacksonsquarelavenderfestival.org/>



## Ministerial Search News

**Introducing ORUUC's Ministerial Search Committee Nominees: Sarah Gunter, Dave Dunkirk, Carol Beene, Beth Meyer, Michael Bjerke, Patton Fishel, and Christy White.** This slate of candidates will be voted on as a group at the Spring Congregational Meeting Sunday, June 11.



## Ministerial Search Committee Nominees



**Michael Bjerke**  
*He/Him*  
Retired Computer  
Programmer, ORNL

I retired from Oak Ridge National Laboratory in 2010 after 34 years as a computer programmer. This time in the profession involved everything from punch cards – ask later if you don't know what that means – to data storage in the Cloud. The most important quality in the field was to be open to learning new things and new languages, often over the weekend!

My wife and I joined ORUUC in 1991 because we were looking for some kind of religious community for our two adopted children. We tried several mainstream Christian churches in Oak Ridge, but none were satisfying. When we got to ORUUC, we immediately realized it was a place we would enjoy.

In the 32 years since joining, I have been in the choir for 20 years, served on the Board twice, with two years as president, worked on rummage sales and auctions, co-lead the Theater group, and co-lead the Coffeehouse group.

This is my second time serving on the ministerial search committee. The first was 20 years ago when we found Jake Morrill, fresh out of divinity school. I look forward to trying to be as successful as we were that first time. The makeup of the congregation has changed since then, and it will be interesting see how that affects the search process. I am hopeful that the search process will give everyone in the congregation, not just the search members, a better idea of who we are now. I also hope that in the future we can continue to practice our values in the wider community.

# Ministerial Search Committee Nominees



**Christy D. White**

*She/Her/Hers*

Communication specialist, Oak Ridge National Laboratory

I joined ORUUC in 2012 with my husband, Brandon. We were searching for a community for our kids, outside of sports and school. I have served on the Caring Committee, been a teacher in both the HS and middle school Faith Formation classrooms, knitted hats for the mitten tree, volunteered at the rummage sale, played on the softball team, chaired the pledge campaign, and worked with the Good Goodbye team. I currently enjoy working on the tech team, playing cribbage the first Sunday of every month, and participating in our monthly UU Christian Communion.

As with each new adventure at ORUUC, I am most looking forward to deepening my relationship with my fellow search committee members and growing together as we do the challenging work to call a new settled minister. I hope to strengthen my bond with my UU faith and begin to lean more fully into the kind of UU I want to be in the world.

*What is your vision for ORUUC 5-10 years from now?* This is a tough question that invites an answer revolving around some sort of change for the future. Here's what I think: The world can be a cold and cruel place. Discrimination, racism, sexism, and homophobia continue to exist in our own neighborhoods and homes. LGBTQ+ youth are still wondering if it's better to be dead than be gay. ORUUC has always invited *everyone* to be their true, authentic selves, and we do our best to love and validate people just as they are. The power in the gift of unconditional love cannot be overstated, and if all we ever do at ORUUC is invite folks in for conversation and a hot beverage, well, that's enough for me.



**Carol Beene**

*She/Her*

Retired junior high teacher and Petros Public Library Director

I am currently retired for a second time. In my first career, I taught Junior High Language Arts/Literature for 25 years. I especially loved cross curriculum collaborating -like teaching WWII & the Holocaust in history class while studying *The Diary of Anne Frank* in language class. This made learning fun! In my second career of eight years, I became Petros Public Library director. My focus was to make the library responsive to the needs of a small rural community struggling with drug addiction and generational poverty. Currently, I spearhead a program in my hometown of Petros called *Together We Care*, which prepares a weekly lunch for 50 food insecure, homeless, or homebound locals. We have a team who plan the menus, do some in-bulk buying, and spearhead a wider extended team of friends and neighbors who cook, package, hand-out or deliver meals. I am proud to say that, as of this July, we will have served 50 lunches each Thursday for four years!

My husband, Rickey A. Beene, and I joined ORUUC about 10 years ago. We were both public school teachers in Morgan County feeling the need to find a community where our more liberal values could be openly expressed and shared. Rickey passed away four years ago after a battle with pancreatic cancer, and in his journey, was cared for by ORUUCians who loved him/us and his art. I have continued to be upheld and supported here and have found fast friends, especially in our *Reflections* and *Together in Spirit* groups.

I am sure that I will learn a great deal while serving on this committee-about our congregation, about Unitarian Universalism, about possible futures and a rich past. I look forward to interacting with an exemplar group who represent the diverse interests/composition of ORUUC. I look forward to being part of the process which will bring us an established minister and a renewed congregation. I will do my best to contribute a unique insight and a willing spirit in this process.

I have many hopes for the church of the future. I would hope that "within" our church, we both maintain and expand our bonds of commitment, worshipping in meaningful and lively ways, educating all ages soundly, exploring new directions fully, and expanding our vision beyond the ordinary. Focusing "beyond" our community, I hope we will continue to uphold "liberty and justice for all" in Oak Ridge/Tennessee/ USA/world and explore new, more meaningful and relevant ways to answer that call. No one knows what the future will ask of us, but I believe ORUUC will be willing to answer that call.

# Ministerial Search Committee Nominees



**Sarah Gunter**

*She/Her*

Registered Nurse, currently working in the home and volunteering

I have an associate of nursing from Roane State Community College and a BSN from University of Tennessee Knoxville. I am a Registered Nurse who has worked at MMC in the step-down unit and the pulmonary floor. I live with my husband Rob and our 6 children, 2 dogs, and 2 guinea pigs. I am currently working in the home and enjoy volunteering my time with children and senior citizens.

I came to ORUUC at 22 years old, 15 years ago as a young mother. I found the church through an advertisement in the local paper announcing a banned art exhibit and being raised Baptist, I was intrigued by the idea of a church having banned art on display. I have volunteered in many capacities at ORUUC in every age group of children, working as a host and working to grow the church as a whole. I have facilitated workshops on direct non-violent social action, developing a spiritual path, and immigration as a moral issue. I have led yoga, chaired a social justice committee, and I love taking the teens to the Mountain in my "big van". I have also, in the past, worked on staff as a temporary secretary, as well as the teen and young adult coordinator.

I have been interested in being part of the ministerial search committee since Jake and Tandy announced their farewell because I feel this committee is vital to the future direction of ORUUC. I am hoping to gain deeper relationships within the church and especially with newer members so that I can act as a voice for our congregation and upholding our UU principles during the ministerial search is one of the highest aspirations I have. My vision for ORUUC in the future is that we will be leaders in our community for justice, equality, and compassion. We will be welcoming and joyful because we will be proud of the church that we have made together. We will continue to use creative ways to generate funds which we share in our community, and we will have a huge group of children and youth that feel that they too are important members of our community.



**Patton Fishel**

*He/Him*

Former student, occasional musician

My family joined ORUUC as friends of the church some 7 years ago and I have since spent a lot of time in this community. I became a member a few years ago because I wanted to be more involved in the voting process during congregational meetings: I wanted to listen to the voices of others on issues that affect us as a congregation and I wanted to contribute my voice as well.

I have been involved with the Rummage Sale regularly for many years now and, for all my high school and college years, heavily participated in our Faith Formation program. I have also been a part of several Shared Ministries connected to the church that were either closed or semi-open to the public.

I look forward to being a part of the change that we are going through as a congregation during this search and interim period. While this degree of change is difficult and can present conflict, it also presents opportunities for growth and coming closer together. Ultimately I have faith that we are developing into an even stronger community, one that uplifts youth voices and one that has a clearer sense of identity than ever before, and that's something I'm quite excited about participating in.

In the ongoing process of finding a new minister, I hope to learn more about who we are as well as what kind of person we can spiritually grow with as a community. I also imagine I'll be quite a pro at meetings by the end of this, which I hear is useful when you're an adult.

Transformation has always been a central pillar to Unitarian Universalism. In the coming years, I envision and believe possible a congregation that feels resilient in that transformation and embraces it as necessary for not only survival, but flourishing. I envision a community that will know itself -- its strengths as well as its weaknesses -- deeply. I envision a congregation that feels safe in its own hands and more than capable of embracing all that it is and can be, with a minister that will help it achieve that.

# Ministerial Search Committee Nominees



**Dave Dunkirk**

*He/Him*  
Attorney

I began attending ORUUC in the summer of 1997, and became a member shortly thereafter. At the time, my daughters were in 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. We'd been looking for a church to attend, but had little success. ORUUC was the first church we attended where I could listen to the message from the pulpit without flinching! It did not take long to realize we had found our church home.

Shortly after joining the church, I was asked to become a member of the Board of Trustees. I remained a member of the Board for about 5 years, one of which I spent as Board President. While on the Board, I also served on the Personnel Committee. In more recent years, I have also served on the Endowment Committee.

After my daughters graduated from high school, I became an OWL teacher, because they had said that OWL was the best thing the church provided for the youth of the church. I've taught OWL at all levels, and agree that its curriculum is essential for young people.

In about 1998, I joined the choir, where I have remained to this day. In about 2008, Rev. Jake Morrill expressed an interest in having a band play during worship, and a few of us stepped up. The band experiment worked, and I'm pleased that it is now an integral part of the ORUUC worship experience.

In my role on the search team, I look forward to working together to bring a new spiritual leader to our congregation. As I was on the last search team, I hope to bring a sense of perspective to the group in terms of its mission and goal.

In 5-10 years, I hope and believe that ORUUC will continue to be a thriving church that is an active participant in the community and the surrounding area.



**Beth Meyer**

*She/Her*  
Teacher

I've been teaching for 40 years, the last 22 of which were at Webb School. I've taught just about every grade from preschool through seventh grade and just finished my fourth year of teaching 2nd grade.

I began attending ORUUC with my wife in 2007 and officially joined the church in 2014. I appreciate that ORUUC values lessons from the past but is progressive in response to current social issues. ORUUC cares for its members and is always reaching out to the greater community to provide various support services. I value this thread of love in an active community.

I'm currently involved in the Together In Spirit group that formed during the pandemic. I also serve as a worship production assistant with Nancy Starr. In the past, I served on the caring committee for several years, was an online greeter for worship during the pandemic, was a chaperone on the 2019 youth trip to Mexico, and was a guest panelist for OWL several times.

I'm looking forward to deepening my relationship with church members while working with the amazing people on the search committee. I hope to gain new and deeper relationships with church members and leaders and the other search committee members and gain a deeper understanding of our church's history and vision.

I see a thriving, active congregation engaged in dynamic worship services, spiritual growth, and community service.

# Announcements

## Ready for Pride!



Thanks to Steven Albright and John Jaruzal, who decorated the Sanctuary this week for Pride, and to the Line Dancers, who paid for the decorations!



### 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 [Ware Lecture](#) 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. [Using GA Video for in-person or online events](#)

- [Stream GA events](#)
- [Videos of GA 2022](#) 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 ORUUC

## Friday, June 9

9am Maintenance Day  
11am Tai Chi Practice

## Saturday, June 10

9:30am-2:30pm Shared Pulpit  
Class final presentations (registered participants only)  
3pm Ukulele

## Sunday, June 11

### Congregational Meeting

8:15am Circle of Trust VII

### 10am Worship

11am Together in Spirit (Canceled)  
11:15am Newcomers (Canceled)  
11:15am Reflections (Canceled)  
11:30am Circle of Trust II  
(Canceled)

### 11:30am Congregational Meeting

12noon Circle of Trust V  
(Canceled)

12:30pm Buddhism Study Group  
1pm Circle of Trust VI  
3pm Line Dancing

## Monday, June 12

11am Tai Chi Practice  
6:15pm Set up for PFLAG Meeting  
6:45pm PFLAG

## Tuesday, June 13

6pm Presidents Council  
6pm Depression & Anxiety Support  
6:30pm Softball v. Umpire Strikes  
Back

## Wednesday, June 14

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

## Thursday, June 15

12:30pm Thursday Lunch Bunch  
(formerly potluck) at 201 Café & Wine  
Bar in Jackson Square  
1:30pm Executive Team Meeting  
7pm Comfort Circle Honoring Shigeko  
Uppuluri - International Friendship  
Bell, Bissell Park



## **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*  
*Amanda Fishel*  
*Vacant*  
*Jeannie Cuevas, Office Administrator*

**Reminder:**  
When leaving 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!

***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).



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



## **Sunday, June 18** **The Giving Heart**



Do you think everything happens for a reason? A participant in Shared Pulpit class, Janet Fryer will share the story of a miracle (her word) that occurred for her family. For her, the connections between people and the timing of events are the marvel. The ending makes the local press, but the how is the mysterious driving force. Join us for an appropriate story on Father's Day.