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News from Oak Ridge Unitarian Universalist Church

The Exponent



Rummage Pre-Sale is **TODAY - 6-8 p.m.** Main Sale is Tomorrow, 9 am. - 2 p.m.



It's been a busy week at ORUUC! The building is full of your donations—THANK YOU! Stop in to check out the pre-sale this evening from 6 to 8 p.m. (all prices are doubled), or tomorrow from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. (prices as marked). And stick around tomorrow afternoon to help clean up, load donations, and return the church to its normal state. There will be pizza and drinks!

TURNPIKE

Trading Rummage Stories

Amanda Fishel, Rummage Team Co-Leader

Twice each year, the ORUUC community comes together to transform our building. That's right, the time is now for our semiannual church rummage sale! Over the course of this week, rummage volunteers have carried in an impressive amount of donations, shared meals and snacks, and traded stories. I'd like to share a few of those here.

Longtime volunteer and boutique leader Maureen Hoyt told me about the earlier days of the rummage sale, when it was held once per year at back-to-school time. She recounts setting new college students

up with bedding and supplies for dorm life and helping families affordably fill out the wardrobes of their school aged children with quality, versatile pieces donated by our community.

Our newest co-leader, Jen Stark, has also benefited from the diverse offering of clothing. Recently, she revamped her own wardrobe for less than \$50. Jen also notes the impressive array of yarn and other art supplies that she's found over the years.

Susan Hughes also watches for art supplies; she says that the rummage sale is a great place to stock up on watercolor paints. Some of her favorite finds, though, are donations of vintage items that remind her of her childhood. Several other folks also highlighted the fond memories

brought out by seeing an Erector set or train set "just like I had when I was a kid."

Rummage also has newer unique finds. Tobi Bass told me about finding a Collector's Edition Breaking Bad set recently. It included not only the full television series, but also trinkets and other collectibles. Best of all, the likenew set was priced at rummage sale prices!

It's easy to look at the abundant donations and wonder about the consumerism that our society promotes.

see come with a story. The story of a wooden table hand-built by a cherished late member... The story of secretary desk or a coffee table that's got a history not unlike a genealogy... The hand sewn, toddler sized Christmas dress, or the fabric to sew something new for a teen that's outgrown the frilly dresses of their

younger days.

Please join us this weekend in the magic of rummage. Our presale is today, 6-8 pm, where you can preview what we have to offer and purchase items at double price. The sale is tomorrow, Saturday, March 2, 9-2, then volunteers are welcome to help with cleanup after the sale. I hope to see you this weekend! Who knows what treasures you will find?

This Sunday, March 3 Kindling the Power of Transformation

The relationship people have with a congregation can be absolutely transformational, in their own lives and in the world. Rev. Lisa will talk about the dynamic nature of congregational life, and what best practices look like.

Worship with us at 10 a.m. in person or on ZOOM. Zoom door opens at 9:45 a.m.

To Zoom: Please install the Zoom app on your device and use Zoom Worship Service

Meeting ID: 946 8973 5846.

The Order of Service may be found here.

Email or Text Prayer Requests to

prayers@oruuc.org



March Split the Plate Offering: <u>The Blossom</u> Center for Childhood Excellence

After worship, please stay for coffee and treats in the Social Hall. Faith Formation classes for all ages meet from 11:15 to 12:15. The Nursery is available during worship and Faith Formation Hour.

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



Still No Heat in the Sanctuary: Dress warmly for worship this Sunday!

Early last month, Martin Bauer noticed an issue with the Sanctuary not heating properly. A technician came out on February 6 to check out the system (on the roof), but due to a mix up at the company, the parts needed to make the necessary repairs were not ordered until last week. ORUUC is *still* awaiting an update from the company regarding the parts.

Please dress warmly for Worship this Sunday and for the Memorial Service in the afternoon.

Please leave the Sanctuary and Hearth Room doors open to allow warm air from other areas of the building to circulate. Thank you!

March Split the Plate Offering: Blossom Center for Childhood Excellence

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 Blossom Center for Childhood Excellence.

Blossom Center is a non-profit childcare facility serving approximately 80 children in Oak Ridge and surrounding areas. The Center's program is academically oriented, intended to bridge the gap between home and school in order to improve education outcomes, especially for underprivileged children.



Blossom Center is open during extended hours when other childcare facilities are closed, and allows children to attend based on a sliding tuition scale commensurate with family income, making it the premier facility of its sort in the area. They have also partnered with Alpha Kappa Alpha to pack backpacks of food for area children.

For more information, visit https://www.blossomcenter.org/.

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

March Worship Series Transformation ORUUC

March 3: *Kindling the Power of Transformation* Rev. Lisa Romantum Schwartz

March 10: Be Like Water

Rev. Laura Bogle, Guest Minister

No Faith Formation classes during Spring Break. Multi-Gen Faith Formation Hour: Watercolors in the Social Hall.

March 17: Born of the Earth

Rev. Lisa Romantum Schwartz

No Faith Formation classes during Spring Break.
Multi-Gen Faith Formation Hour: Air dry clay.

March 24: The Colors of Spring

Learn about the Hindu festival of Holi and enjoy the colors of spring in this Multi-Gen service.

March 31: A Tomb is No Place to Stay
Rev. Lisa Romantum Schwartz

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

Youth and Adult Faith Formation classes meet from 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. every Sunday. Nursery is available during Worship and the FF hour.

Announcements

Smoke Gets In Your Eyes?

When non-smokers complained about folks smoking near the doorways at ORUUC, the Executive Team researched the guidelines from the American Lung Association and decided to follow their advice to make a designated smoking area 25 feet from the doors. We also wanted to make it easy for renters using the social hall to comply with the new rules, so we arranged a comfortable place with a bench and a functioning "butt can."

After the bench, butt can and sign went up, some complained that the smoking area was too close to the walkway, and feared that it sets a bad example for kids to see people smoking. Some would like the "designated smoking area" to be behind the garbage enclosure. Others feel that this would shame adults who choose to engage in a legal and (for some) enjoyable activity. And, the farther away and less visible the designated area is, the less likely it is that renters would comply.

The bottom line is: we simply want smoke-free (and vape-free) access to the building, and NO litter from tobacco products on the property. We'd like to make compliance easy for renters, who have little investment in keeping our beautiful church... well, beautiful.

Compromise is key to a healthy community, even though everyone has to give a little to meet in the middle. As a compromise solution the Executive Team has decided to take out the "designated smoking area" sign, leave the bench and one butt can where it is, and put the other butt can farther away. We'll make it clear in our rental agreement that smokers and vapers should use the area, or another spot farther away (as long as they carry their cigarette butts to a safe disposal place).

In a democracy everyone gets a say, and not everyone gets their way. If you want to engage in more dialogue about the new compromise, do so <u>directly</u> (not anonymously) with a member of the Executive Committee (Donna Maloney, Jeannie Cuevas, Whitney Cole, Amanda Fishel, and Rev. Lisa Romantum Schwartz). Or you can contact <u>rev.lisa@oruuc.org</u> and she'll take your ideas, and your name, to the Executive Committee at their next regularly scheduled meeting.





Interested in becoming a member of ORUUC? If you're not sure about church membership, that's OK, too! There are many ways that "friends of the church" can engage in deep and meaningful ways with most of what's going on at ORUUC, and we'll explore some avenues in this class. Join Rev. Lisa on Saturday, March 16 from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. for Pathways to Deeper Engagement. Please RSVP by March 9 HERE!



Endowment Fund Grant Applications Due March 31 by 5 p.m. Submit your application online here:

Endowment Grant Application - 2024

or pick up a paper copy in the church office.

The objective of the Oak Ridge Unitarian Universalist Church Endowment Fund is to provide objects of enduring value to the church or support activities that promote, provide or enhance the church experience of the members of ORUUC, or ORUUC's reputation in the community. The Endowment Committee asks that requests for support not overlap normally existing church activities or operations. Proposals should be consistent with the goals and objectives of the church and positively affect the community.

Thank you for your continued support of the Hicks and Lukis/Waldo families!



The Hicks Family Meal Train: https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/wI77q1

The Lukis/Waldo Family Meal Train: https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/6zngnz

Announcements



Can Artificial Intelligence Bridge Divides, Or Will it Separate Us Further?

Oak Ridge Periodic Tables and the "Healing Starts Here" grant initiative from the New Pluralists combined forces last year to help get the "Secret City" talking again about issues that matter. On Sunday, March 17 at 5 p.m., join us for dinner, followed by a short demonstration of how ChatGPT works, then we'll generate a few questions and test the Al at our tables before coming back together as a large group to share what we've uncovered and how we feel about the conversations we had – both with Al and with each other.

To learn more about this event, visit <u>Oak Ridge Periodic</u> <u>Tables</u>. To sign up for updates, visit https://www.oakridgeperiodictables.com/.



What's happening these days at the University of Tennessee Pride Center? Find out at the PFLAG meeting Monday, March 11 at First Presbyterian Church, 1051 Oak Ridge Turnpike, Room 102. Social Time starts at 6:45 p.m., with the meeting from 7 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Pride Center Executive Director Bonnie Johnson, a native Oak Ridger, will speak. They were recently named to the UT "40 under 40" which recognizes alumni under the age of 40 excelling personally and professionally since completing their degree at UT. The Pride Center is the LGBTQ+ resource center at UT Knoxville. The public is invited to attend.

Oak Ridge has an active PFLAG group which meets monthly, rotating the venue among faith communities including the First Presbyterian, First United Methodist, and Oak Ridge Unitarian Universalist churches, United Church Chapel on the Hill, and the Jewish Congregation of Oak Ridge. For additional information, contact PFLAG President Anne Backus at backusanne@comcast.net.



Thanks for the continuing donations to ORUUC's Non-Perishable Food Pantry! This month's greatest needs are canned fruit, soups, and beans. Please bring your donations and leave them in the box in the church lobby, or in the box in the pantry, located in the kitchen. Thank you for helping us make this community resource possible!



Photo courtesy of Shelaine Curd.

The 2024 Winter Co-Ed Volleyball season is nearing the end, with tournament play and make up games on Tuesday evenings this month. Games are hosted by the Oak Ridge Recreation & Parks Department and are played at the Oak Ridge Civic Center. Contact Shelaine Curd at slovecurd@gmail.com for game times and details. Play or cheer on the team! Wear blue!

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 March

Mare Martell <u>maremartell@gmail.com</u> 616-826-9984 Rachel Smith-Jones <u>smithnjones3@comcast.net</u> 603-252-2295

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.

Maxwell Livingston Pate (2003-2024)



<u>Maxwell Livingston Pate</u> passed away unexpectedly on Sunday, Feb. 25th at his home in Clinton, Tennessee. He was born on April 15, 2003, in Dothan, Alabama, and resided in Clinton with his mother, stepfather, four sisters, and brother.

Max attended Oak Ridge High School and was working for Valvoline at the time of his death. He was interested in pursuing a career in auto technology. Known for his vibrant personality, Max cherished spending time with his many friends and was often the life of the party. With a distinct sense of style, he delighted in thrifting his clothes. His interests included hiking, camping, fishing, and immersing himself in nature. Max enjoyed paddleboarding in the ocean, and had a transcendent experience when dolphins approached him during a stunning Florida sunset, and allowed him to pet them.

Deeply empathetic, Max was always there to support his siblings and friends with their problems. At work, he was frequently designated as the DJ due to his eclectic musical tastes and ability to read the vibe of the room. On his days off, he could be found skateboarding at the local skatepark with his friends. Max's kind soul endeared him to everyone he encountered. He was the bright light of his family's life.

Max was preceded in death by his grandmother Tamala Messer, grandfather Steven Lasseter, cousin Nathan Money, and stepfather Scott Hunter. He is survived by his mother Sarah Gunter and stepfather Robert Gunter, his father Bradford Pate (Kayla), grandmother Julie Hebble Arledge (Milton), Nana Theresa Brock, Poppa Jimmy Hopper, his sisters Diya, Norah, Georgia, Chloe, and his little brother Traveler Gunter. He also leaves behind his aunts Acia Middleton (Michael), Taryon Crawford, Layne Lasseter (Dudley), Anna Slay (Kevin), and uncle, Zach Lasseter along with numerous cousins and girlfriend Makenzie Walker.

A celebration of Max's life will be held on Sunday, March 3rd at 2 pm at Oak Ridge Unitarian Universalist Church, located at 809 Oak Ridge Turnpike. Memorial donations may be made to a charity of your choice.

A Meal Train has been created for the Gunter Family. Show your support here: https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/gmw2yl. Please send condolences to Sarah and Rob Gunter at their home, 263 Cumberland View Rd., Clinton, TN 37716-5450.

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

We're scheduled to meet this month on Saturday, March 9 and 23 at 3 p.m. in the Sanctuary. We'd love to have you join us! Abbie Moore abbie.moore@icloud.com.

Social and Volunteer Opportunities



Meets monthly at various churches in Oak Ridge. Visit

https://www.facebook.com/groups/3
71268369619360 or email
Anne Backus

backusanne@comcast.net for more information about PFLAG Oak Ridge.

Ecumenical Storehouse Pick Up Saturday, March 16, 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 for more information.



Eggs and Pegs are back! Play cribbage, eat breakfast, have fun Sunday, March 3! 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.



ORRUC is always looking for members to add 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
- 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 nonperishable foods for preschool and elementary students to take home on weekends. The next packing date is Monday, March 25 starting at 12 noon. Questions? Contact Coordinator Cara Weigel at 865-481-8108.

Family News



ALL ORUUC MEMBERS AND FRIENDS WELCOME! The next hike is planned for Sunday, March 10. We'll be hiking the River Bluff Trail at Norris Dam State Park. Meet at the church parking lot at 2 p.m. or the Norris Dam State Park Visitor Center. The loop is approximately 3.2 miles. Middle school youth or higher do not need parent accompaniment (please complete a permission form at drop off). The visitor center is located at the east end of the dam on Norris Freeway (US Highway 441). It should be a fun hike and a chance to see some early spring wildflowers! Thanks to Aubrey Wick Sebastian, Jimmy Groton, Jim Nutaro, and Whitney Cole for organizing these hikes!



This week's OWL 5th/6th Grade OWL Class is as scheduled Sunday from 4 to 5:15 p.m. There are two Sundays left in the schedule, with a double session next Sunday, March 10 from 2:15 to 5:15 p.m. to make up for the Sunday missed in January due to snow and ice. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Cara Jordan.



Questions?

Contact The Mountain Retreat and Learning Center at 828-526-5838.



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

March 7 and 21!

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

https://mailchi.mp/oakridgetn/orplfeb24



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!



Check out ORUUC's monthly Family newsletter, Connecting in Spirit, by visiting https://www.oruuc.org/connectinginspirit.

Community News



Highland View Neighborhood Watch Meeting (Open to ALL City residents)
Tuesday, March 12 at 7:00 p.m.
Children's Museum of Oak Ridge, 461 West Outer Drive

The City of Oak Ridge Codes Inspector, Chris Beavers, will be speaking about the department's purpose and what they can do and not do. Some things are covered by the public works department.

This meeting is open to all city residents. All are encouraged to attend and ask questions.

Entrance is through the double doors near the west end of the building - **not** the Museum entrance.

The Highland View Neighborhood Watch meets on the Second Tuesday every month.



The Living Legacy Project is committed to ensuring that the stories and lessons of the Civil Rights Movement do not get lost or forgotten. It's imperative that today's generations and those to come understand how today's inequities are rooted in the past and how the courageous actions of those who have gone before them can serve to both teach and inspire them in their work for justice and equity. Help support these efforts by attending an upcoming benefit concert on Zoom on Friday, March 8 at 7:30 p.m. featuring Reggie Harris and Friends. For more information on this concert and the Living Legacy Project, visit

https://www.livinglegacypilgrimage.org/2024benefitconcert.html.



The League of Women Voters of Oak Ridge welcomes the community to Lunch With the League on Tuesday, March 5 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at ORUUC. All are welcome to bring their lunch or purchase a boxed lunch for a nominal fee. Coffee and tea will be served. The presentation will begin at noon. This month's speaker is Dr. Chris Whaley, President of Roane State Community College.

Lunch with the League welcomes League members and nonmembers alike to this informative presentation. The League of Women Voters of Oak Ridge is a nonpartisan political organization for men and women. It encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

For more information, visit

https://my.lwv.org/tennessee/oak-ridge/event/roane-state-community-college-new-health-science-campus.



For the sixth time, ORUUC will host the Oak Ridge Rock to Bach Music Festival, a fundraiser for the Oak Ridge Civic Music Association. ORCMA is the umbrella organization for the Oak Ridge Symphony Orchestra, Oak Ridge Chorus, Oak Ridge Chamber Music Series, as well as the free Family Concert and Coffee Concert series.

Last year, Rock to Bach came back after a hiatus of three years because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Rock to Bach Festival will take place on Saturday, March 9, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The doors open at 9:30 a.m., giving early attendees a chance to look over and bid on the silent auction items.

Here is your chance to enjoy live music all day, coffee and sweets in the morning, and sandwiches and drinks for lunch. You can come and go as you please or stay all day for a low cover charge of the advanced ticket price of \$15 or the same day charge of \$20. The cost for children ages 5 to 18 is \$5 per child and for families of three or more, \$30. Children under the age of five get in free. Tickets can be purchased by cash or check only at TNBank, Calamity's Coffee in Jackson Square, and the ORCMA office, 118 E. Division Rd.

In a separate fundraiser, a buffet dinner provided by Birdwell Catering and music performed by Canta Libre Chamber Ensemble will be offered between 5:15 and 7:30 p.m.

For more information, visit https://orcma.org/fromrocktobach.

This Week at ORUUUC

Friday, March 1

9am-6pm Rummage Setup 11am Tai Chi Practice

6-8pm Rummage Pre-Sale

Saturday, March 2

9am-2pm Rummage Sale

2-7pm Rummage Cleanup

Sunday, March 3

8:30am Eggs & Pegs

10am Worship

11am High School

11am Together in Spirit

11:15am Circle of Trust I

11:15am Knitting & Crocheting Group

11:15am Newcomers

11:15am Reflections

12:30pm Circle of Trust IX

12:30pm Buddhism Study Group

1:30pm Book Club

2pm Maxwell Pate Celebration of

Life

3pm Line Dancing (Canceled)

4pm 5th/6th Grade OWL

4pm Circle of Trust XI

5-7pm Zentangle Group (Canceled)

The deadline to submit news for

The Exponent is

Wednesday at noon.

Please send news, comments, and

feedback to Rachel at

communications@oruuc.org.

5:30pm Circle of Trust X

Monday, March 4

11am Tai Chi Practice3-5pm Movie Review and Next Steps

Tuesday, March 5

11:30am Lunch with the League ofWomen Voters6pm Depression & Anxiety GroupTBD Volleyball Tournament

Wednesday, March 6

6:30am Breakfast Rotary
11am Tai Chi Practice
11am Circle of Trust VIII
1:30pm Executive Team Meeting
7pm Choir Practice
7:45pm Band Rehearsal

Thursday, March 7

12:30pm Lunch Bunch

To view the church calendar anytime, visit https://www.oruuc.org/members-section Need password help? Contact the church office!



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





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 Whitney Cole (for Christine Rehder) Amanda Fishel

Donna Maloney

Jeannie Cuevas, Office Administrator

Coming up... Sunday, March 10 Be Like Water



Water takes many forms, indeed it transforms on its journeys in and through and above the earth. Perhaps we are called to do the same in these days. Our guest minister the Rev. Laura Bogle will look for wisdom from the martial artist Bruce Lee as well as an old Sufi tale.