

March 17-23, 2023
In this issue >>>

This Sunday (pg.2)

New ORUUC Gallery exhibit (pg.3)

Family News (pg.7)

Ministerial Search Update (pg.9)

Covid Update (pg.10)

GA Registration Info (pg.10)

Church Calendar (pg.11)



News from Oak Ridge Unitarian Universalist Church

The Exponent



Volunteer at Ecumenical Storehouse Tomorrow at 9 a.m.!

Tomorrow (Saturday, March 18) 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. Questions? Contact Martin Bauer at bauerm1b@gmail.com.

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



Sharing The Pulpit: Thursdays This Spring, Beginning March 30

Rev. Lisa Romantum Schwartz, Interim Minister

Unitarian Universalism's tradition of a free pulpit means that both laity and clergy are free to speak the truth as they know it, and (more importantly) as they live it. Each of us has a compelling story to tell, and all of us benefit from bold preaching that stirs us up, enlivens our minds and inspires our spirits. In her book, *The Shared Pulpit*, Rev. Erika Hewitt says "writing [and delivering] a sermon is about finding your voice and your authority." And she asks, "What do you have to say that no one else can say?"

If you've ever felt moved to preach a sermon, if you've ever wondered how a sermon might differ from an erudite essay or a carefully-crafted lecture, if you've yearned to give voice to that truth that no one but you can say, the Shared Pulpit class may be for you.

This class is based on Hewitt's design of a six-week deep exploration of preaching and proclaiming: learning to express oneself freely within the shared space and structure of worship. It offers an opportunity to listen to a small group of people, and to trust others to listen to you. It's a chance to

explore deep questions in a group that is tenderly vigilant about being in right relationship with each other. It's a big time commitment, but if you're yearning to find your voice and your authority, and willing to step into the ORUUC pulpit at least once after you've completed the class, it'll be time well spent.

The sessions are from 6-9 p.m. on six non-consecutive Thursday evenings (March 30, April 6 and 20, May 4, 11, and 18). Each session lasts three hours to give the group time to go deep together. There's a final, 6-hour Saturday session (May 20 or June 3rd, as the group prefers) where we'll listen to sermons that have been honed over time in the class sessions, and share a mid-day meal together to celebrate the completion of our work.

We want you to find the words to share your inner life, to express your dreams for yourself, ORUUC, and the world. We want to hear what you have to say. If you want to sign up or have questions, contact me (rev.lisa@oruuc.org) or Worship Team member Christy White (christy_white@comcast.net).



This Sunday, March 19

Lessons from Trees

Trees share the land with us -- they even share genetic material with us. But they are such quiet companions it takes some intention to hear the lessons they teach us about vulnerability, resilience, and staying connected. On the eve of Spring Equinox, Rev. Lisa Romantum Schwartz will find inspiration in the high branches and deep roots of trees.

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



March Split the Plate: [The Blossom Center for Childhood Excellence](#)

Adult Faith Formation Classes take place from 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Youth Faith Formation is on break this Sunday during Oak Ridge Schools' Spring Break. All ages are invited to participate in the multi-gen Creation Stations in the Social Hall. Nursery is available.

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

All are invited to the Creation Stations during Faith Formation Hour this Sunday in the Social Hall



During FF Hour on Sunday, March 19, Creation Stations in the Social Hall will feature Ostara-related crafts for all ages—adults, too. Herb sachets, paintable eggs, seed starters, a flower craft, and more. What's Ostara? Read more on Page 6!

Youth Faith Formation classes are canceled this Sunday while Oak Ridge Schools are on Spring Break, to give our leaders a break, too.

The Blossom Center for Childhood Excellence

Our Split-the-Plate offering for March is the Blossom Center for Childhood Excellence.

Blossom Center is a non-profit childcare facility serving 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 educational 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.

For more information on Blossom Center, visit <https://blossomcenter.org/>. Please [GIVE HERE](#) as you are willing and able, or text "ORUUC" to 73256.

Announcements

Now Thru May 31 in the ORUUC Gallery: *Cosima*



My artistic discipline is painting. In college, I painted portraits and figurative themes. Currently, I paint non-representational, intuitive expressions. My preferred medium currently is oil on canvas. I practiced my craft in college. I graduated in 1995. I then started painting again in 2016. I began exhibiting in 2017.

Art has been my passion since grade school. After high school I served in the US Army for 3 years, after which I attended the College of Art & Design at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, Illinois. There, I earned a BFA with a double major in painting and drawing.

I love to paint the essence of light, inner and outer portals, open and closed spaces spontaneously and instinctively. These are intuitively expressed in a way that creates a poetic statement or perhaps a dialogue with the viewer. Painting with a spontaneous flow allows the connection of my heart, mind and hand to merge with my brush. I believe art connects our hearts to the divine. My intention is to make art that is heartfelt, powerful, and even healing. It is very fulfilling knowing that people feel a connection with my work, that it soothes them.

Being born in Taranto; a gulf city in southern Italy, the sea was a big part of life growing up. Spending long days at the beach is where I embodied the essence of marine life with all the beauty, serenity, and high energy that is within the sea. It is not surprising then that my art admirers tell me my paintings give them a feeling of being underwater.

I attended Southern Illinois University at Carbondale and received a double major in painting and drawing in 1995 but didn't work and exhibit professionally until 2017 when my two sons were grown and I was able to spend more time making art.

My home and art studio are in East Tennessee. I am a member of the Morristown Artist Association, the Tennessee Artist Association, and the Knoxville Artist Alliance. For more informations, visit

<https://www.cosimas.art/>.



Transgender Day of Visibility is March 31st

Please **SAVE THE DATE** for the **UUA TDOV Virtual Party for Trans Families**

Friday, March 31st @ 8pm-9:30pm ET

Register here:

https://uua.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJAKc-ghqjosG9AChaR1gLAIk0VJ_aKyQ-0w

As legislators pass harmful laws in states all across the country and as people of faith and no-faith fight back, we want to remind transgender/nonbinary families that they are not alone.

As Unitarian Universalists we believe that every body is sacred. This will be a time of reflection, celebration, and renewal as we prepare for what is and whatever is coming our way.

This will be a youth/child centered, multigenerational and accessible space.

Check out other ways to connect and learn more on the UUA's page **Uplift: Uplifting LGBTQ+ Experience Within and Beyond Unitarian Universalism** here:

<https://www.uua.org/lgbtq/blog/love-and-solidarity-tnb-people>

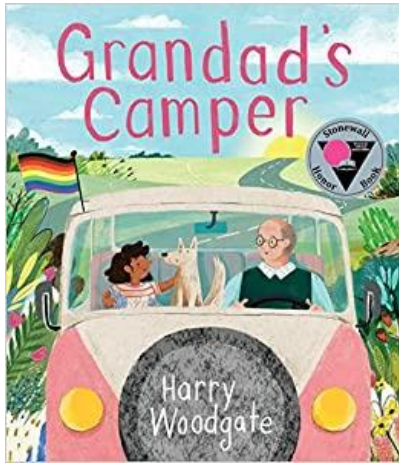


Are you technologically-savvy? Patient and detail-oriented? Want to make a difference for ORUUC but don't want to work on a committee or in a group? **We need someone to digitize our wonderful History Timeline.** It would involve digitizing photos, and also entering both the notes people wrote on the physical timeline and some events from each era to anchor us in time. Curious? Look at <https://www.tiki-toki.com> for examples. **If you want the job, contact** rev.lisa@oruuc.org

More Announcements

PUBLIC HEARING ON LIBRARY BOOK CHALLENGES

Monday, Mar. 27
Clinton Community Center
101 South Hicks Street, Clinton, TN



The Anderson County Library Board will hold a public hearing on Monday, March 27 to discuss library book challenge policies and book challenges. The Public Hearing will be at 6:00 P.M. at the Clinton Community Center, Clinton, TN. Speakers will be allowed three minutes to make comments on the topic. There are no other agenda items; no action will be taken at this meeting.

"Grandad's Camper" by Harry Woodgate is one of three books a group of residents requested removal of from the Clinton Public Library in January. "It Feels Good to Be Yourself" by Theresa Thorn & Noah Grigni and "Families Like Mine: Children of Gay Parents Tell It Like It Is" by Abigail Garner are also on the list. A copy of "Grandad's Camper" is available in the Hearth Room.

Circles of Trust

These small groups of 6-8 people meet for an hour twice a month, allowing you to make connections and get to know fellow members on a deeper level.

Interested in joining a group?
Contact Todd Sherline, Ann Miller, or Donna Maloney
for more information.
Enroll at www.oruuc.org/faith-formation-for-adults



Interested in joining a Circle of Trust? Circles of Trust are groups of 6-8 people who meet for an hour, twice a month, to explore deep questions and grow in relationship with each other. Contact any Circle of Trust Support Team Member—Todd Sherline, Ann Miller, or Donna Maloney—if you're interested in joining a circle, or fill out this form: <https://form.jotform.com/81896918351167>

March is ORUUC's month to operate the storehouse at Ecumenical Storehouse!



Volunteers are needed to help load furniture for clients and to help clients gather smaller items (sheets, towels, etc.) on their list.

Volunteer Tuesdays or Thursdays:

March 21, 23, 28, and 30

10:00 - noon each day.

If you're willing to help, please contact Michael Bjerke at michaelbjerke@comcast.net.

ZENDERLEY
Art Workshops
Stand-alone Workshops

Manderley and Zen will present workshops that include instruction to complete the weekly project. Participants are encouraged to learn in a warm and supportive environment.

**TEN WEEKS STARTING THURSDAY, JANUARY 19TH
FROM 6:30-8:30 PM
ABBIE MOORE'S HOUSE**

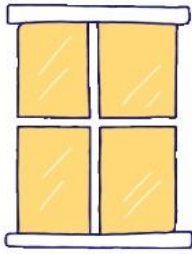
Pay what you can

A light plant-based meal will be served.
Bring your own beverage.

*Seating is limited. Secure your place
by Wednesday of each week.

Zenderley Art Workshops: Every Thursday through March 23! Led by Manderley Swain and Zen Lane. **Please let us know by Wednesday each week if you are planning to attend.** We'll check comments of the Facebook group post - just be sure to add a date with your reply like, "I'm coming to the March 16 workshop." Let this be the year you take that step toward learning new skills or improving those you have! ~Abbie Moore abbie.moore@icloud.com

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! 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.

Caring Coordinators for March

Hope Waddle karasue54@gmail.com 865-719-1527

Kate Holtkamp-Readle Kate.holtkamp@gmail.com 423-231-5482

Thursday, March 16 Update on Marge Swenson: Marge is back at the Alexander Guest House, Room 204, after recent stays at NHC Farragut and Methodist Medical Center.



Volunteer Opportunities

Stone Soup



Friday, March 31

5:30- 6:30 p.m.

or until supplies run out!

Drive Thru
for this free meal!



Interested in joining the Stone Soup Team? We need more cooks and bakers!
Contact Mary Beth Robinson at placesynergy@comcast.net to volunteer.



Interested in helping with Stone Soup in March? Contact Mary Beth Robinson at placesynergy@comcast.net if you'd like to bake at home on your own schedule, work with other volunteers in the church kitchen to prepare the soup, or hand out meals!

TO RETURN TO IN-PERSON DINING, WE NEED AT LEAST 12 VOLUNTEERS AVAILABLE ON FINAL FRIDAYS to cook, set up tables, set tables, serve, clean up, do dishes, etc. Please let a member of the Stone Soup Team—Mary Beth Robinson, Steven Albright, Hope McAtee, Jen Stark—that you'd like to help! We'd like to get back to in-person dining! Thank you!

**Pack and Deliver Food For Kids
April 10-11
at First United Methodist Church**



Monday, April 10: Packing begins at 12 noon
Tuesday, April 11: 8:30 a.m. Delivery to schools
We will pack Food for Kids Monday, April 10 starting at 12 noon in the multipurpose room at FUMC. Set up will start around 10 am when the Second Harvest truck arrives. Delivery of the bins to the schools will be Tuesday, April 11 at 8:30 am. Hope to see you Monday or Tuesday.

Questions? Contact Cara Weigel at 865-806-7544.
The multipurpose room at First United Methodist Church of Oak Ridge can be accessed via the back entrance on the Vienna Road side of the building. On street parking is available. Upcoming Packing Dates: May 1-2.

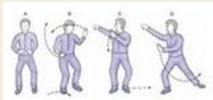
Ongoing Activities at ORUUC



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.



Join the Ukulele Group! Our next practice is March 25 at 3 p.m. in the Sanctuary. If you're interested in trying something new this year, stop by! We'd love to have you join us.

Abbie Moore

abbie.moore@icloud.com

Easter and Ostara



During FF Hour on Sunday, March 19, the Creation Station in the Social Hall will feature Ostara-related crafts for all ages—adults, too. Herb sachets, paintable eggs, seed bombs, a flower craft, and more. What's Ostara? Read on!

By [Adrienne Ross](#)

Adrienne Ross served the Unitarian Universalist Association as Project Manager during the development and launch of the Tapestry of Faith curriculum project. She continues to learn many life lessons as a race car driver and as a member of several charitable boards, while pursuing her hobby of theoretical physics.

Easter gets its name from the Teutonic goddess of spring and the dawn, whose name is spelled *Oestre* or *Eastre*. (The origin of the word east, the direction of the rising sun, comes from various Germanic, Austro-Hungarian words for dawn that share the root for the word *aurora*, which means “to shine”) Modern pagans have generally accepted the spelling *Ostara* (Oh-star-ah), which honors this goddess as the word for the Vernal Equinox.

Vernal Equinox usually falls somewhere between March 19 and March 22 (note that many resources only mention March 21, as opposed to the date of the actual Equinox), and depending on when the first full moon on or after the Equinox occurs, Easter falls sometime between late March and mid-April.

The earth reawakens to a burgeoning new season of life-giving, life-affirming gifts. As the sun becomes stronger there is a sense of joyful abundance. With the end of the cold, dark months, ancient pagans no longer needed to store and ration foodstuffs. Often the tastiest cured meats were presented to the spring celebrations and feasts as a sign that the people no longer needed to stockpile food.

The equinox was recognized world wide as a time for renewal, rebirth, and revivification. It was the celebration of the symbolic resurrection of earth itself, Christ, and Hathor (of Egypt) to name a few.

Passover, which occurs in the middle of the Hebrew month of Nisan, is one of Judaism's most important festivals. In ancient times, the holiday coincided with the spring harvest and was a pilgrimage festival (one of three times during the year when all men were required to participate in celebrations at the temple). Later on, the holiday commemorated the Exodus from Egypt in the thirteenth century B.C.

Ostara and the egg she carries are symbols of fertility, of new and continuing life. Some descriptions say Eostre herself is hare-headed, and the goddess of rabbits and birds. The hare is also associated with the moon in many cultures, due in part to its nighttime eating habits and in part to the image of one on the moon. Whether Eostre herself is hare-headed or her attendants are hares, she is strongly associated with the hare—and later its cousin the rabbit for obvious reasons.

A popular myth says that the children of the time presented eggs to the goddess as a gift in return for her bringing them the spring. She was so touched by this gift that she recruited her minions (the rabbits) to return the eggs (only brightly colored now) to the children in baskets (the birds' nests), and that is where the tradition of rabbits delivering eggs to children comes from.

The hare is an evident fertility symbol that is undeniably tied to the Vernal Equinox, March being the rutting time of the hares. It is apparently quite a spectacle in the European countryside. It is said that the typically shy, quiet hare becomes fanatical and fervent. They run for miles and can even become aggressive and appear quite mad, hence the English and French expressions—“As mad as a March hare.”

Eggs also represent fertility and the promise of new life. The Celts (under a broad definition of *Indo-European*, not as a racial grouping but as a grouping of people with similar religious practices, culture, and language) often dyed the eggs red to symbolize the menstruation cycle. While dyeing the eggs, women and children would think carefully on their hopes and wishes for the coming year. They would then bury the eggs alongside a seedling in the ground to sustain and feed the plant through its growing season. As the plant grew, the hope or wish would also take root and come to fruition at the end of the year. Continue reading at <https://www.uua.org/worship/words/reading/easter-ostara>

Family News

The Mountain Retreat and Learning Center is Hiring!



The Mountain is hiring! The Mountain has opportunities for people who would love to live and work at The Mountain: Summer camp counselors and leaders, kitchen staff, maintenance, development associate, and farm staff. Applications open.

<https://www.themountainrlc.org/jobs>

A few more spots are open for **Music Week in April**. Please encourage folks to register today to reserve their spot. Here is a bulletin board poster for the [Spring Music week](#).

Registration is now open for [Homecoming: May 26-29](#). Join us Memorial Day Weekend to celebrate Mountain history and look to an exciting future of community and meaningful programming in beautiful Highlands, NC.

Registration is open for [Summer Camp](#), with lots of options for kids as well as Intergenerational Camp and Adult Farm Camp. Some sessions of Summer Camp are starting to sell out, so if you are planning on attending summer camp please register today.

Thank you for helping to bring people to The Mountain and for supporting this special place!

TODAY: ORUUC high schoolers are heading to The Mountain Retreat and Learning Center in Highlands, North Carolina for Spring Mountain CON! For the seniors who have grown up traveling to The Mountain for these bi-annual conferences, this will be their final trip as campers. We wish them all safe travels and great memories!



Mountain CON December 2016



SAVE THE DATES!

Rainbow Camp 2023: Color in Motion
June 27-30 for Campers / June 26-30 for
Counselors and CITs
Registration opens in April!



Join “Father Goose” Michael Raymond Thursday, April 5 at 10:30 a.m. at the Oak Ridge Public Library Auditorium for this free program! For more information, go to [ORPL Children's Programming](#). We provide a meeting place and fellowship for caregivers of young children, especially those new to the community and far from home. **Mother Goose is held on the First and Third Thursdays each month at 10:30 a.m.**, and is geared toward babies, toddlers, and preschoolers.



Oak Ridge Schools' Spring Break is March 11-28! There will be **NO Youth Faith Formation on Sundays, March 12 and 19** to allow our leaders to take a break, too. **A multi-age Creation Station will be set up in the Social Hall for Faith Formation Hour on those Sundays. Nursery will still be available.** The March 19 Creation Station will feature *Ostara-related crafts for all ages—adults, too. Herb sachets, paintable eggs, seed starters, a flower craft, and more. What is Ostara? Check out the article on pg.6!*



PPTNM ADVOCACY DAY 2023 Tuesday, March 21 in Nashville (Transportation Available from Knoxville + Memphis)

*From Mark Mohundro, TVUUC: There will be a public witness for people of faith and clergy at 11:30 am during Advocacy Day and it would be great if we can get a strong UU showing. **The bus will be leaving from TVUUC at 6 a.m. REGISTER TO ATTEND HERE.** <https://tinyurl.com/2rb9e8fd>*

Learn more about the legislative process, how to advocate for reproductive freedom with your lawmakers, and attend committee meetings where relevant legislation will be heard - and do it all with other Planned Parenthood advocates by your side!

Schedule for Advocacy Day:

9AM CT: From there, our buses from East TN and West TN will arrive just in time for our kick-off Lobbying Training led by PPTNM Organizing Staff. We'll use this time to prepare you for your meetings with your lawmakers later in the day, as well as take an in-depth look at the bills on our top priority list. We'll adjourn to meet with legislators or attend committee hearings about relevant bills before meeting back up for lunch.

12:30PM CT: We'll have another program over lunch, with break out groups for our constituency organizing groups, Planned Parenthood Action Councils, the Black Organizing Program, and the Nashville and Memphis Raíz programs.

1:30PM CT: After lunch, we'll resume legislator meetings and committee hearings, with a special breakout Abortion Storytelling session for those who don't have meetings. Our experienced storytellers will share reminders about why we carry on this fight in a Post-Roe world while discussing how to use storytelling as a tool for social change.

2:30PM CT: Wrap up & Debrief

3PM CT: Our buses will head back to Memphis and Knoxville.

Knoxville's 2nd Annual "Preach Your Abortion" April 13



Planned Parenthood of Tennessee and North Mississippi: Knoxville's 2nd Annual "Preach Your Abortion" is a live-streamed event shared on Planned Parenthood's channels that will take place the evening of Thursday, April 13th. As you may already know, according to the Guttmacher Institute, the majority of people who have had abortions self-identify as religious. However, most of the public rhetoric we hear from faith communities is anti-abortion. There is a mismatch between the reality and what is being "preached" publicly. We wish to boost and support the voice of people of faith who have had abortions to humanize the discussion, build empathy and understanding. To that end, at this event people of faith who have had abortions will bravely share their story from the pulpit of an affirming church. If you would like to share your story, please complete the speaker application form: <https://forms.gle/N6VJF5u7nK6s1QR29>. Here is the link to last year's livestream: https://fb.watch/hZdwY_PIT6/



THE GREATEST SHOW BASH
Saturday, June 3, 2023 at 6 pm
The Barn at Maple Creek
107 Gallaher Rd, Kingston, TN 37763

**ALL INCLUSIVE TICKETS
\$50 EACH**

Includes meal, 2 drink tickets, games, prizes, and Sing Off Show. Get your tickets [here!](#)

ORUUC Nominating Committee



Nancy Highfill



Steven Barker



Sheila Morton



Amanda Law



Robyn Naughton

In the coming weeks, the ORUUC Nominating Committee and members of the Board of Trustees will be contacting church members to solicit their preference for nominees to the Ministerial Search Committee. Using the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) guidance, members are asked to consider the following while they ponder on and ultimately provide their preferred candidates.

The UUA recommends that you consider:

- What are good qualities needed for someone to serve on a ministerial search committee?
- Who in the congregation works well with others?
- Who can represent and serve the whole congregation well (including looking out for the needs of children) and not just a piece or “faction” of the congregation? Who would have no “axe to grind?”
- Who knows (or can learn) the history and culture of the congregation, whether a member of long standing or relatively new? Who can use this history proactively instead of reactively on behalf of the congregation?
- Who has been and/or is active in the congregation and has demonstrated both responsible participation and responsible leadership?
- One of the most attractive qualities a congregation can have is self- awareness – awareness of strengths and weaknesses, what the congregation is like at its best and at its worst, as well as on an average day. Who would be able to know and relate all this to potential candidates?

After thinking about all of these questions, who would you trust to serve on the search committee on behalf of the congregation?

Ultimately, the UUA has recognized that Ministers are more likely to be interested in serving a congregation where the Ministerial Search Committee is representative, trusted, in touch, and responsible to the entire congregation.

Church Pantry Needs



Please pick up some of these non-perishables when you're out shopping:

- Peanut Butter**
- Mac n' Cheese**
- Canned Fruit**
- Canned Soups**
- Canned Pasta/Meat Meals**
- Canned Meats (Tuna, Chicken, etc.)**
- Canned Green Vegetables**
- Individual Snack Crackers**

Donations may be dropped off in the church lobby during office hours (M-F, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.) or on Sundays. **Thank you to all those who have donated food in recent weeks!**

ORUUC Covid-19 Update

Covid-19 Community Levels are a tool from the CDC to help communities decide what prevention steps to take based on the latest data. Levels can be Low, Medium, or High, and are determined by looking at hospital beds being used, hospital admissions, and the total number of new COVID-19 cases in an area. Take precautions to protect yourself and others from COVID-19 based on the COVID-19 Community Level in your area. [COVID-19 by County | CDC](#)

The CDC's Covid-19 Community Levels for Anderson, Knox, Morgan, and Roane counties are **LOW.** Masks are not required at ORUUC in the building; eating and drinking is permitted indoors. For the entire report, check out our webpage: <http://www.oruuc.org/phased-reopening-plan>



General Assembly is an unforgettable experience for the thousands of Unitarian Universalists and partners that attend each June. Attendees leave with a renewed sense of energy, inspiration, and innovative ideas to take back to their congregations and communities.

Find out more about GA here: [Information for First Time Attendees to General Assembly | General Assembly | UUA.org](#)

Register now for GA at [UUA.org/GA](#). This 5-day immersive experience includes inspirational worship services and informative workshops. Reconvene with friends and colleagues, and explore our bustling exhibit hall. Meet us online or in Pittsburgh Wednesday, June 21 through Sunday, June 25.



Photo of the ORUUC Team, Spring 2022, courtesy of Sarah Gunter

ORUUC Softball

JOIN THE TEAM THIS SPRING!

Ages 18 and up! Play on a coed non-competitive slow pitch rec softball team!
Text Sarah Gunter at 865-308-2820 if interested.



From Sarah Gunter: We are in serious need of more female softball players! If you have any friends who are athletic and would love to play a coed NONcompetitive slow pitch rec softball team tell them to **send Sarah Gunter a text: 865-308-2820.** 18 years old and up.

This Week at ORUUC



Friday, March 17

Senior High MountainCON

11am Tai Chi Practice

Saturday, March 18

Senior High MountainCON

9am Ecumenical Storehouse

Pickup (pg.1)

Sunday, March 19

Senior High MountainCON

10am Worship

11am High School (Canceled)

11am Together in Spirit (Canceled)

11:15am Circle of Trust I

11:15am Knitting & Crocheting Group

11:15am Newcomers

11:15am Reflections

11:15am Multi-age FF Creation Stations

12:30pm Buddhism Study Group

12:30pm Circle of Trust IX

1:30pm Book Club

2pm(3-5pm) Line Dancing

4pm Grades 5/6 OWL

4pm Circle of Trust X1

5:30pm Circle of Trust X

Monday, March 20

11am Tai Chi Practice

Tuesday, March 21

10am Ecumenical Storehouse

Volunteers Needed

12noon Lunch with the League

(CANCELED)

6pm Board Meeting

6pm Depression & Anxiety

Support

Wednesday, March 22

6:30am Breakfast Rotary

11am Tai Chi Practice

5:30pm Circle of Trust III

6:45pm Choir Practice

7:45pm Band Practice

Thursday, March 23

10am Ecumenical Storehouse

Volunteers Needed

10am Executive Team Meeting

12noon NWUUC & Lauchpad Meeting

6pm Potluck

6:30pm Zenderley Art Workshop



Endowment Fund Grant Applications are available until April 9! Pick up a copy in the church office, or fill out the form online: [Application for Endowment Grant - 2023](#).



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



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

The ORUUC Board of Trustees

President: Michele Thornton

Past President: Jim Nutaro

President-Elect: Jason Fishel

Secretary: Nathaniel Bass

Treasurer: Brandon White

Members-at-Large:

Freddie Nechtow

Charles Davis

Jami Garner

Ethan Coon

The ORUUC Executive Team

Rev. Lisa Schwartz

Christine Rehder

Christina Elliott

Amanda Fishel

Jeannie Cuevas, Office Administrator

Sunday, March 26 The Challenge of Here and Now David Savoie, Guest Speaker



To be aware and responsive, to be present to the life in which we are embedded, is a challenge common to all human beings. While we can be moved and carried by events which arise without effort on our part, such as inspiration from the world around us, or by disaster and suffering which shakes us at our core, we can also intentionally step out under our own power. Sometimes we get to choose when we explore and play and practice...