May 12-18, 2023

In this issue >>>

This Sunday (pg.2) Announcements (pgs.3-4) Family News (pg.7) Ministerial Search Update (pg.9) Covid Update (pg.10) Church Calendar (pg.11)



News from Oak Ridge Unitarian Universalist Church

The Exponent



Nominations Are Open For Split the Plate!



Do you know of an amazing organization that ORUUC should support? Nominate them for the 2023-2024 Split the Plate program! The organizations chosen at the June 11 congregational meeting will receive half of the undesignated offering for 4 Sundays in the coming year.

Fill out the online form here: https://forms.gle/R3mpAh651w CSCaxS7. Nominations are due by May 29. Paper forms are available in the church office.

We will not be taking nominations at the

congregational meeting. If you need any assistance or have any questions, contact Amanda Fishel at <u>amsfishel@gmail.com</u>.

Tuning In Rev. Lisa Romantum Schwartz, Interim Minister

Why go to church? Most people seek community to share their values and make them come alive in the world. Many hope to find ways to live lives of meaning and purpose. We say, "come as you are; expect to change" to indicate our warm welcome and our hope that lives will be transformed here.

I've been at ORUUC less than a year,

and it already feels like home. I've heard many stories of people learning to align their values. It's a privilege to be a part of that shift – helping folks pay attention to the still, small voices (or the insistent ones)

calling us to our better natures.

And it's such a challenge to hear those

voices amid the daily noise! Americans

see or hear between 4,000 and 10,000

ads every day, on TV and radio, social

media, driving past billboards and bus

benches, strolling and scrolling, even

when you're "on hold." So many folks

get pretty good at tuning it out.

WANT YOUR MONEY, and savvy people

That reflexive tuning out means that

during the 6 weeks your church asks for

pledges your default response is to tune

that out, too. Please, tune in just long

enough to hear ORUUC'S ask. We're

inviting people into the spiritual



practice of linking their dearly-held values with their resources.

In a capitalist system we're taught to get the most we can for the least money. And shareholders in any businesses are simply trying to maximize their profits. But in a spiritual community where one of the lived values is generosity, we're asked to reflect on how our resources can impact a visionary goal. At ORUUC,

we don't have shareholders, we have stakeholders. We don't aim to make a profit, nor to maintain our community the way it's always been. We're seeking to strengthen ties between us and grow our impact in the community.

Please don't tune out this invitation. Listen to the modest goals ORUUC

leaders have crafted into the aspirational budget for the coming year, including a search process that will attract a dynamic and inspiring minister who can help us thrive (the price tag for the search alone is about \$15,000). Listen to the commitment to practicing justice within our walls by giving staff adequate cost-of-living adjustments this year.

Above all, listen to the invitation to use your resources to help craft a life of meaning and purpose. May it be 1 so!

This Sunday, May 14 Let's Talk About Family Values

Families are under stress. Kids are growing up in a world that's changing around them, and they and their caregivers are challenged to figure things out as they live their complicated lives. The celebration of "Mother's Day" is a case in point: As UU Family Therapist William Doherty says, "We wouldn't have Mother's Day if everything were fine with motherhood." With gender identity and gender roles changing, expectations about normative family structures in flux, what is the role of a progressive religious community in figuring it all out? Interim minister Rev. Lisa Romantum Schwartz will explore the topic.

Worship with us at 10 a.m. in person or on Zoom. Zoom door opens at 9:45 a.m. Go to <u>Sunday Worship Info — ORUUC</u> for Zoom information. The Order of Service may be found <u>here</u>. Email or Text Prayer Requests to <u>prayers@oruuc.org</u>

Have you made your 2023-24 pledge yet?









If you'd like to make your pledge online, or set up automatic payments, please use this link:

https://onrealm.org/oruuc/AddPledge/20 23-2024pledge. Pledge cards are also available at church. Questions? Call Jeannie in the church office at 483-6761. Thank you!

This Month's Split the Plate Offering Recipient:

Each Sunday, half of the undesignated offering is given to our Split the Plate recipient. Second Harvest Food for Kids Backpack Program is a collaborative effort between Second Harvest and an everincreasing number of public schools within the food bank's 18-county service area. All Oak Ridge and Anderson County elementary schools are participating. On Fridays throughout the school year, a backpack of healthy, easilyprepared food is provided to children who may be missing meals on a regular basis. Currently, 11,407 children at 269 schools receive backpacks. It costs \$100 per year to sponsor one child. (This includes all costs, not just food.)



May Split the Plate: <u>Second Harvest Food</u> for Kids Backpack Program

Adult Faith Formation classes meet from 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. The Reflections group hosts a conversation on the sermon topic every Sunday during Faith Formation Hour in the conference room. All are welcome to join in. Nursery is available during the Faith Formation Hour. Youth: Today is your Year-End Celebration during FF Hour! Youth classes will take a break for the summer and resume Sunday, Aug. 6.

Covid-19 Update: The national public health emergency expired May 11; the CDC has ceased tracking community level transmission. **Masks are not required in the building; however, we encourage you to do what makes you feel comfortable.**



As additional funding and sponsorships become available, more children will be able to participate.

A tenet of ORUUC is to aid the most vulnerable in society. These include children who do not have sufficient food over the weekend. Child hunger is known to impact not only physical growth, but also behavior and concentration. ORUUC's Fresh Fruit for Kids ministry complements this program by adding a piece of fresh fruit to each backpack. For more information, visit https://secondharvestetn.org/prog ram/food-for-kids/ "ORUUC" to 73256.

Announcements



The ORUUC Safety Team sent out a questionnaire last week seeking input regarding the team's functions—thanks to the 52 people who have responded! **Please take a few minutes to complete this questionnaire:**

https://forms.gle/jnokyB7GAXxpaA8s5. The questionnaire will remain open through the end of May. Your response is appreciated.

The ORUUC Safety Team is an Essential Function Ministry of ORUUC, created in 2008 with the purpose of ensuring the safety of the congregation.



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 used to require an annual re-enrollment in August (so if you're thinking, "I've already enrolled," unless it was recently, you should probably check, just in case).





Congregational Meeting Sunday, June 11 at 11:15 a.m.

In the Sanctuary and on Zoom

Thank you!

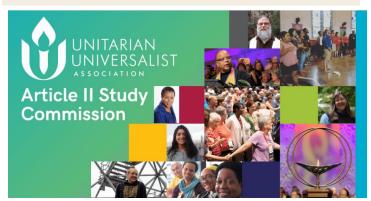


Thank you, Ira Kaplan, Paul, Hal Hoyt, and Anne Child, for volunteering their time to install three plaques in the Memorial Garden last weekend.



Ecumenical Storehouse picks ups next Saturday, May 20 beginning at 9 a.m.! Volunteers pick up furniture and other items from donors until noon, at the latest. Our church is responsible for coordinating volunteers on the third Saturday of every month. Martin Bauer is the point of contact: <u>bauermlb@gmail.com</u>. There is no training required for this job, just a willingness to help! The items we pick up range from heavy furniture to lightweight, such as linens, lamps, and pots and pans, so don't think you 3 have to be able to lift a sofa to help!

UUA News



What if the Foundation of our Faith is NOT Best Expressed in the Seven Principles?

At General Assembly (GA) 2023, Unitarian Universalists will take an <u>initial vote</u> on proposed changes to Article II of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) Bylaws, which includes the current UUA purposes, principles, sources, and clauses on inclusion and freedom of belief. An affirmative vote this year won't eliminate the principles, but it would start UUs on a year of deep discussion about the new proposed language of our faith.

The UUA's goal is to maximize discussion and engagement with this proposal, which addresses the foundational values and purposes of our faith community. Unitarian Universalists from around the country submitted suggestions and ideas through an online form for ways they recommend modifying the proposal. **The submission deadline was April 30. Review and discuss the submissions on** <u>https://discuss.uua.org/</u>.

Additionally, the UUA Board of Trustees will host public discussion workshops on May 11, 18 and 21, to review suggestions and ideas. These rounds of public discussion will inform the way amendments are prioritized for discussion and voting at General Assembly.

Here are the links to the proposal and the submission form for suggestions: <u>Article II Study Commission (Webpage)</u> <u>Article II Study Commission proposal (PDF)</u> Frequently Asked Questions (Webpage)

Don't forget, there are still openings for ORUUC members to serve as delegates to General Assembly (GA) June 21-25, and thus vote on the Article II proposal and other major issues. Delegates may serve remotely, and registration for the business portion of GA is absolutely free to delegates.

Be a Delegate to General Assembly!



Unitarian Universalists are a democratically organized faith, so each year our whole faith movement has a business meeting to decide important issues before us, called General Assembly (GA). This year's dates are June 21-25. In 2023 delegates will vote on a new president for the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA), and on whether we should consider a proposal to do away with our Seven Principles in favor of different language.

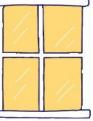
ORUUC has seven delegates who can vote on these and other issues. Delegates may register to virtually attend the business portion of GA <u>completely free of</u> <u>charge</u>. If you're interested in serving ORUUC and the larger faith movement, talk to a board member or to Rev. Lisa to find out how. If you'd like to register for online access to the workshops, lectures, and worship services, the cost is \$300. Contact Rev. Lisa if you're willing to serve as a delegate and you need some funds to get full virtual access to programming.

This year's GA is hybrid – some folks are traveling to Pittsburgh PA to attend in person. The cost is \$500 through May 15th, and \$600 after that. Some discounts are available through the UUA registration portal. And again, if you're willing to serve as a delegate and you'd like help with the cost of registration, contact Rev. Lisa.

For more information about GA, check out <u>https://www.uua.org/ga</u> and for more information about serving as a delegate from ORUUC, contact a board member or Rev. Lisa (rev.lisa@oruuc.org).

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 <u>office@oruuc.org</u> or a Caring Coordinator!

Caring Coordinators for May

Rachel Smith-Jones <u>smithnjones3@comcast.net</u> 603-252-2295 Freddie Nechtow <u>nechtowf@gmail.com</u> 865-599-4359

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.

Upcoming Memorial Services



Marjorie Lucille Swenson, 101, died peacefully at her home, surrounded by family, on Monday April 17, 2023.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, May 20 at 2 p.m. at the Oak Ridge Unitarian Universalist Church, Rev. Lisa Schwartz presiding. A private interment will take place in the church's Memorial Garden.

In lieu of flowers, Marge asked that memorial gifts in her honor be made to TORCH (Tennessee Out-Reach Center for the Homeless) <u>https://oakridgetorch.org/</u> **TORCH,** PO Box 5448, Oak Ridge, TN 37831

or Friends of the Smokies <u>https://friendsofthesmokies.org/</u> Tennessee Office, PO Box 1660, Kodak, TN 37764-7660



Sharon Hubbard, 73, passed away peacefully at Ft. Sanders Regional Medical Center on March 28, 2023, several days after suffering an aneurysm.

The family will have a celebration of life on Saturday, June 3 at 2 p.m. at the Oak Ridge Unitarian Universalist Church.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the Shelter Animals Rescue Group (SARG) in Sharon's honor.

https://shelteranimalsrescue.org/ SARG, 124 Newell Ln, Oak Ridge, TN 37830

Interment will be in the church's Memorial Garden.

https://www.holleygamble.com/obituary/sharonhubbard

https://www.knoxnews.com/obituaries/kns057340

Ongoing Activities at ORUUC



Line Dancing Sundays at 3 p.m. Canceled this Sunday for Mother's Day. 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

Due to Memorial Services scheduled at ORUUC in May and June, our next rehearsal on the calendar is Saturday, June 17 at 3:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Check out next week's Exponent to see if the group has decided to meet sooner. When you find new music you'd like to perform, bring it in! We'd love to have you join us. Abbie Moore <u>abbie.moore@icloud.com</u>

Social and Volunteer Opportunities



Needed: Sunday Production Assistants

Looking for a few more people to be on the Sunday Production Assistant rotation. It involves FIRE! (The Fire of Commitment, maybe). Namely preparing the two candle-lighting altars, the chalice, and the nature altar. There are written instructions I can email you if you want to know the details. It does involve arriving by 9:15 a.m. on Sunday when you are doing it. A family member of a person who already has a Sunday role that requires arriving early would be ideal. Email Nancy Starr at

starroakridge@gmail.com.



Stone Soup is ORUUC's monthly free meal ministry, a partnership with the Jewish Congregation of Oak Ridge and Kroger Marketplace that has spanned more than a decade.

Starting this month and through the summer, the Stone Soup Team will be preparing bean and pasta salads. May's menu is Lentil Soup, Fresh Fruit, and 7-Up Cake. PLEASE LET MARY BETH ROBINSON KNOW IF YOU CAN HELP THIS MONTH:

Cook Day – Wednesday, May 24: 9 a.m. – noon

Packing – Friday, May 26, 3 p.m.: Grocery bags for pick up and meals to be delivered and distributed.

Meals to be distributed in front of church Friday, May 26: 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. Please share this with others you feel would be interested!



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

<u>communications@oruuc.org</u> 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 May 16 at 8:30 p.m. at Jefferson Middle School v. Fat Penguin. Contact Sarah Gunter, Christina Elliot, or Jim Nutaro for more info.

6

Family News



- 14 Youth Faith Formation Year-End Celebration during FF Hour. We'll be back August 6 for a new school year!
- **21** Bridging Sunday! Celebrate our seniors and their families during this all-ages worship service. There will be a churchwide luncheon following worship.
- 28 Memorial Day weekend worship service





Register today! <u>https://forms.gle/8UrCR5iTJqxvewdL8</u>

Parents/Guardians: Please fill out the form to reserve a spot for your child(ren), as a Camper, Counselor In Training (CIT), or Camp Counselor.

It's time to think about cleaning out your toy boxes and all of the other places little toys live! Donation appreciated!

SMALL TOYS NEEDED FOR BINGO PRIZES AT RAINBOW CAMP!



PLEASE DONATE By dropping off Toys in the box in the church Lobby. Thanks!



Mother Goose with ORUUC's own Michael Raymond! Thursday, May 18 at 10:30 a.m. Oak Ridge Public Library Meeting Room

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

And check out the renovations of the Children's Library! Reopening soon! Sign up for the library's newsletter for updates: <u>https://mailchi.mp/oakridgetn/orplmay23</u>



Community News



Final Lecture in the Roots of America Series Tuesday, May 23: Roots of Immigration

Panel discussion of current Latino immigration issues locally and nationally. Moderator: Madeline Rogero, former Mayor of Knoxville.

Doors open at 5:00 p.m. for a reception for the speakers. Light food will be served. Presentations begin at 5:30 p.m. Pollard Auditorium, ORAU, 210 Badger Avenue, Oak Ridge

The Implementation of **Roots of America** is based on the following premise: The "us vs. them" mentality is pervasive in many areas. And yet, as members of the human race, we are all more alike than we are different. Even so, there **are** differences among us – differences in culture, language, beliefs, and values. If we can understand, respect, and appreciate these differences, we can bridge the gap between "us and them." **Roots of America** is designed to build bridges.

Roots of America is presented by the **Oak Ridge Institute for Continued Learning** in partnership with the **Oak Ridge Breakfast Rotary Club** and is supported by donations from the following: ORNL Federal Credit Union, Rotary District 6780, Consolidated Nuclear Services, Oak Ridge Associated Universities, ORICL, Bonnie Carroll, and Roy Coop



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

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

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

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

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

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

Sponsors are helping keep ticket prices low this year; Adult tickets are \$15, Children's tickets are \$5. Saturday morning show Adult tickets are \$10. Available at wwwflatwatetales.com and the Ferrell Shop in Jackson

Square (check or cash only, please).



THE GREATEST SHOW BASH

Free Medical Clinic Fundraiser Saturday, June 3 at 6 p.m. The Barn at Maple Creek 107 Gallaher Rd, Kingston, TN 37763

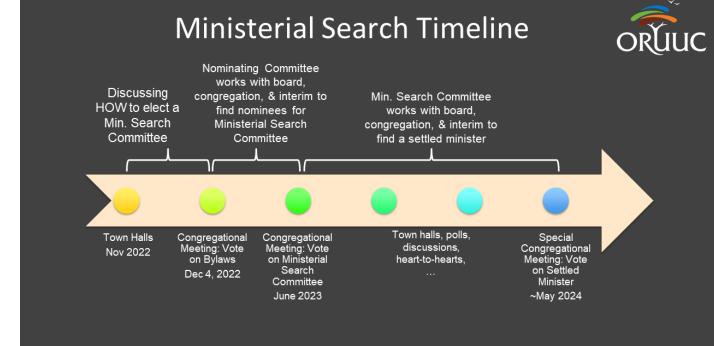
TICKETS: \$50 EACH Includes meal, 2 drink tickets, games, prizes, and Sing Off Show.

Get your tickets <u>here</u>!

Ministerial Search News

Ministerial Search Update April 25: The Nominating Committee has compiled information from the congregation and submitted recommendations to the Board. The Board will soon begin contacting people for the Ministerial Search Committee! ~Nancy Lain Highfill





SAVE THE DATE: The Congregational Meeting will take place Sunday, June 11 at 11:15 a.m. in person and on Zoom.

Announcements

Dialogue with Rev. Dr. Sofía Betancourt

candidate for UUA President



Thank you to everyone who attended—online or in person—the first presidential forum last month. It was really meaningful to talk with Rev. KC Kvasnička-Slack, member of the UUA Election Campaign Practices Committee and moderator of the first forum. It was even more meaningful to receive and engage with your questions for me and get to ask questions of those who were present.

I'm looking forward to seeing more of you at one of the three remaining opportunities for dialogue with me prior to General Assembly:

- Saturday May 20, 1pm Pacific, Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara, CA
- Saturday **June 3**, 1pm Central, First Unitarian Church of Dallas, TX
- Sunday June 4, 4pm Eastern, First UU Church of Nashville, TN

Register now in order to attend in person or online.

Saturday, May 13, 2023 Disability Awareness & Resource Fair for Children & Young Adults 10:00 a - 2:00 pm Emory Valley Center 723 Emory Valley Rd, Oak Ridge 37830

Disability Awareness & Resource Fair for Children & Young Adults: This Saturday, May 13, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Emory Valley Center.

https://fb.me/e/H8WahWdh_Meet individuals, organizations, community partners, and providers who offer services and products to individuals with disabilities and their families. This is the perfect time to see what is available and ask questions!





(865-483-6761 @ ORUL

Our worship tech team is still growing and looking for another video tech! This is a paid position with a commitment of 2-3 Sunday mornings per month. Experience is preferred but not required. High school diploma or equivalent is preferred, but qualified high school students are encouraged to apply. For more information, please visit

http://www.oruuc.org/s/ORUUC-Video-Tech-Job-Description-221127.pdf.

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.

This Week at ORUUUC

<u>Friday, May 12</u> 11am Tai Chi Practice 6-8pm Rental Setup

Saturday, May 13 9:30am-7:30pm Rental (Wedding)

Sunday, May 14 8:15am Circle of Trust VII 10am Worship 11am Together in Spirit 11:15am Circle of Trust IV 11:15am Newcomers 11:15am Newcomers 11:15am Reflections 11:15am YFF Year-End Celebration 11:30am Circle of Trust II 12noon Circle of Trust V 12:30pm Buddhism Study Group 1pm Circle of Trust VI 3pm CANCELED- Line Dancing (Mother's Day)

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

HELP WITH STONE SOUP! Cook Day – Wednesday, May 24, 9 a.m. – noon Packing – Friday, May 26, 3 p.m. Grocery bags for pick up and meals to be delivered and distributed.

Meals to be distributed in front of church Friday, May 26: 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.

We truly need your ONGOING interest and support to be able to offer this much needed ministry. <u>Monday, May 15</u> 11am Tai Chi Practice

<u>Tuesday, May 16</u> 12noon CANCELED- Lunch with the League of Women Voters 6pm Depression & Anxiety Support 8:30pm Softball v. Fat Penguin

Wednesday, May 17 6:30am Breakfast Rotary 11am Tai Chi Practice 11am Circle of Trust VIII 6pm Board Meeting 6:45pm Choir Practice 7:45pm Band Practice

<u>Thursday, May 18</u>

1:30pm Executive Team Meeting6pm Shared Pulpit Class—Session 6(Enrollment closed)



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



In the Gallery through May 31: Cosima, Fine Artist <u>http://www.oruuc.org/current-</u> <u>exhibit</u>



809 Oak Ridge Turnpike Oak Ridge, TN 37830 Contact us at 865-483-6761 <u>http://www.oruuc.org/</u> Sunday, May 21 Bridging Sunday



Please join us in celebrating this amazing group of high school seniors and their families! This service will be multi-age and longer than usual (2 hours); there will be no Faith Formation classes. Everyone is invited to a churchwide luncheon following the service.