May 19-25, 2023

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News from Oak Ridge Unitarian Universalist Church

The Exponent



PLEDGE UPDATE! We're halfway there!



More than 80 households out of 160 who pledged last year have made their pledge for the 2023-24 church year. We're just three weeks away from the **Congregational Meeting**, **Sunday**, **June 11**. We need you to be INspired, INvolved, INvested, IN our Community!

To make your pledge online, or set up automatic payments, please use this link:

https://onrealm.org/oruuc/AddPle dge/2023-2024pledge. Pledge cards are also available at church. Questions? Call Jeannie in the church office at 483-6761. Thank you!

The End of a Journey Jason Fishel, High School Coordinator

We have reached the end of a journey, with a large group of seniors graduating. As they enter adulthood, it's bittersweet for a lot of us. The volunteers and myself that staff the high school room have been honored and privileged to share the time that we have with the youth that come through our doors. It isn't lost on us how special it is for young people to share their joys, sorrows, struggles,

and triumphs with us. When I talk to our volunteers, they're always positive about their experiences with our youth, and talk about how much they enjoy their time with the high



schoolers. This group of graduating seniors helped revive our high school program and made it flourish; it wasn't just that there were quite a few of them, but more about who they are and how welcoming they are. Their friends came to the group and learned what it means to be UU because of the trust and love you can feel in the room. They're a group that has gotten to bond without being closed off to others.

We filled The Mountain retreat twice a year, shared time in Mexico and Boston, laughed and played at lock-ins, made tamales, and hosted an untold number of lunches. They've assisted at rummage for years now, helping haul around our cast-off treasures. Still, the biggest impact they've had on the church is in their lives and the lives of those they've touched. The support they give to each other is something to behold; regardless of whether it's a shared interest, there's always support for each other. This was most evident during the pandemic, when the high schoolers voted to continue attending our faith formation

Zoom sessions through winter breaks and the summer, in order to keep in touch with one another. In those sessions, volunteers and youth alike leaned on one another, navigating the pandemic.

When in person attendance resumed, everyone was a little awkward. Social anxiety was worse for everyone, young and old alike, but because we had continued to meet, everyone showed up. We learned how to be around people again in the sanctuary of the high school room, openly vulnerable about it. Again, the support for one another was unwavering. I believe that some lifelong friendships are formed in our room. Some of the friendships wouldn't have happened without the space that we make for them to be in community together. The important parts about being UU are embodied in

them, carried out into the world. We 1 couldn't be more proud of them all.

This Sunday, May 21 Bridging Sunday

Unitarian Universalists around the globe recognize the right of passage of leaving childhood and entering into adulthood as Bridging. At ORUUC, the Bridging Milestone is the culmination of the Milestones process, an optional part of Faith Formation which recognizes milestones in a child's faith development as they grow up in the church. This year, ORUUC is fortunate to have a large graduating Senior Class, and six of these Seniors have chosen to complete the full Bridging Ceremony which includes a testimony during Worship. These Seniors are: Jack Biewer, Gus Morrill, Cedric White, Thomas

Naughton, Tobi Bass, and Laurel Hetrick.

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>



This Sunday's Special Split the Plate Offering: <u>The Mountain Retreat and</u> <u>Learning Center, Highlands, NC</u>

There will be no Adult or Youth Faith Formation classes this Sunday. All are invited instead to a churchwide luncheon and reception following this special worship service. Youth Faith Formation classes are on a break for the summer. They will 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.

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/R3mpAh651wCSCax S7. 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>.

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.)



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



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

(starroakridge@gmail.com) for more information.



From Nancy Starr: **All are invited to the Starr garden at 117 Cascade Lane.** The peak bloom in the back is NOW!





Volunteers needed for Ecumenical Storehouse picks ups TOMORROW (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: bauermlb@gmail.com. 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 have to be able to lift a sofa to help!



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

In the Sanctuary and on Zoom



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

Senior Spotlight: Meet our Bridgers



Jack Biewer

What's next for you: I plan to run Cross Country and Track at Rhodes College in Memphis. There I plan on getting an internship to work at Saint Jude Children's Research Hospital.

What's a favorite ORUUC memory that you have? **Going** to the mountain during my senior year.



Photo credit: Tara Kneiser Laurel Hetrick

What's next for you: I'm planning to study engineering at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

What's a favorite ORUUC memory that you have? A favorite ORUUC memory of mine is the pillow fight services at the old church building.



Gus Morrill

What's next for you? I'll be studying English in college.

What's a favorite ORUUC memory that you have? **The** candle lighting in the Solstice service.



Tobi Bass

What's next for you: I'll be attending TCAT Knoxville for Medical Information Technology.

What's a favorite ORUUC memory that you have? So many great memories! I have always loved the candlelit services for Winter Solstice and Christmas Eve, I look forward to them every year.



Cedric White

What's next for you? I'm attending Middle Tennessee State University this fall where I plan to study forensic science and play trumpet for the Band of Blue.

What's a favorite ORUUC memory that you have? My favorite memory is being with friends in the evenings in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico. We walked the square together, ate giant churros, and shopped at the markets, testing our Spanish and being grateful when the locals spoke English.

Senior Spotlight: Meet our Bridgers



Thomas Naughton

What's next for you? I'll be attending UT Chattanooga.

What's a favorite ORUUC memory that you have? The trip to Mexico.

Also Graduating



Rowan Bishop

What's next for you: I plan on attending Berea college in the fall, and hope to better myself during such times.

What's a favorite ORUUC memory that you have? One of my favorite memories from ORUUC was the Boston Trip. It was an amazing bonding experience and I enjoyed finding out about other UU churches.



The High School Group on a Sunday morning this Spring during Faith Formation Hour.



Sophie Alexander

What's next? Have a good summer and then start earning my associates in psychology at Roane State.

Favorite ORUUC memory? **My fav memory is probably Rainbow Camp at a younger age.**

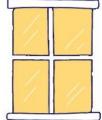




Senior CON at the Mountain, December 2022

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.

Remembering LeRoy Euvrard



LeRoy Euvrard was a Friend of ORUUC, who began attending online services in 2021. He helped pack meals with the Stone Soup team, and shared his thoughts and travels with the **ORUUC** Facebook Group. Earlier this month, we learned he passed away over the winter. We wish his family comfort and peace.

On Monday, January 16th, 2023, LeRoy Eugene Euvrard, Jr. passed away. He was proceeded in death by his mother, Madelyn Euvrard (Martyn), and father, LeRoy Eugene Euvrard. He is survived by his children Annica (Philip) Waalkes, Aimee (Eric) Terry, Illaina (Adam) Neigebauer, Adrian (Melissa) Euvrard, and step-daughter Jessica (Craig) Roten as well as eleven grandchildren. He was a Navy veteran and enjoyed his years of service. He was an avid outdoorsman and has fond memories of being a Scoutmaster. He was an active member in the Unitarian Universalist Community. He enjoyed traveling, trying different foods, attending his children's events, playing computer games, and going to museums. Upon retiring from practicing environmental law, LeRoy moved to France where he spent several years exploring Europe. He was an activist and volunteered his time in causes he was passionate about. He enjoyed talking about history, debating politics, and sharing his travels on Facebook. LeRoy Eugene Euvrard, Jr. Obituary -**Knoxville News Sentinel** (knoxnews.com)

Marge Swenson Service This Saturday, May 20 at 2 p.m.



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) PO Box 5448, Oak Ridge, TN 37831 <u>https://oakridgetorch.org/</u> or the Friends of the Smokies, Tennessee Office, PO Box 1660, Kodak, TN 37764-7660 <u>https://friendsofthesmokies.org/</u>

https://www.knoxnews.com/obituaries/kns05 7340

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

Due to Memorial Services scheduled at ORUUC in May and June, our next scheduled rehearsals are the following Saturdays: May, 27, June 10, and 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 abbie.moore@icloud.com

Social and Volunteer Opportunities



Needed: Sunday Production Assistants

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

starroakridge@gmail.com.



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

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 **May 23 at 6:30 p.m. at Jefferson Middle School v. Kangaroo Dingers.** Contact Sarah Gunter, Christina Elliot, or Jim Nutaro for more info. 7

Family News





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

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! ORUUC Bob Kernohan was a dedicated Faith Formation leader at ORUUC for 22 years, whose enthusiasm and spirit spoke to the heart of the mission of our faith. Every year, the Faith Formation Staff recognizes a volunteer whose dedication and service to children and Youth exemplifies Bob's commitment and legacy. This year's recipient, Brandon White, has, for the last three years, led our annual tamale-making fundraiser, making more than 3,600 to sell. He's planned meals, corralled youth, cooked and cleaned for numerous luncheons. He served as a Heritage Trip Advisor on last summer's youth trip to Boston. He's been a Mountain CON Advisor, and currently serves as church treasurer. Brandon is bold, creative, and consistent. He has a shared vision and purpose in pursuit of something larger than himself. He builds community, both within the youth group and the congregation. He's efficient, thoughtful, inspirational, and fun. We're happy to celebrate Brandon as this year's Bob Kernohan Award Recipient!

Christine Rehder Director of Youth Faith Formation Brandon White, center, is pictured with YFF volunteers Rob Cole and Jason Fishel, and Christine Rehder.



Mother Goose with ORUUC's own

Michael Raymond! Thursdays, June 7 and 21 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: https://mailchi.mp/oakridgetn/orplmav23



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 here!

Ministerial Search News

Ministerial Search Update May 16: The Nominating Committee has completed the work of providing names of nominees for the Ministerial Search Committee to the Board. The Board has been confirming nominations and will soon share the names with the congregation. The slate of candidates will be voted on as a group at the Spring Congregational Meeting Sunday, June 11. ~Nancy Lain Highfill

ORUUC Nominating Committee



Nancy Highfill



Steven Barker



Sheila Morton

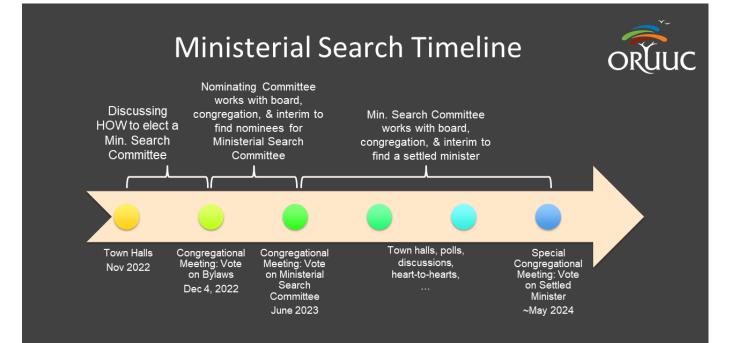


Amanda Law





Robyn Naughton



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, 1 p.m. Pacific, Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara, CA
- Saturday, June 3, 1 p.m. Central, First Unitarian Church of Dallas, TX
- Sunday, June 4, 4 p.m. Eastern, First UU Church of Nashville, TN

Register now in order to attend in person or online.

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.



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=/accou nt/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).



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.

This Week at ORUUUC

Friday, May 19 11am Tai Chi Practice 4pm Set up for Memorial Service

<u>Saturday, May 20</u>

9am Ecumenical Storehouse Pickup 2pm Marge Swenson's Memorial Service 3pm Ukulele (Canceled) 5pm Bridging Rehearsal 6pm Bridging Decorating

<u>Sunday, May 21 Bridging Service</u> 10am Worship

11am Together in Spirit (Canceled)
11:15am Circle of Trust I
(Canceled)
11:15am Knitting & Crocheting
Group (Canceled)
11:15am Newcomers (Canceled)
11:15am Reflections (Canceled)
12noon Churchwide Bridging
Luncheon and Reception
12:30pm Buddhism Study Group
12:30pm Circle of Trust IX
3pm Line Dancing
4pm Circle of Trust X1
5:30pm Circle of Trust X

<u>Monday, May 22</u> 11am Tai Chi Practice

<u>Tuesday, May 23</u> 9am Stone Soup Prep 6pm Depression & Anxiety Support 6:30pm Softball v. Kangaroo Dingers

Wednesday, May 24 6:30am Breakfast Rotary 9am-noon Stone Soup Cook Day 11am Tai Chi Practice 5:30pm Circle of Trust III 6:45pm Choir Practice 7:45pm Band Practice

Thursday, May 25

12noon NWUUC & Launchpad Meeting

NOTICE The church office will be closed Friday, May 26 and Monday, May 29 due to staff vacation and the Memorial Day holiday.



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>



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, May 28 Memorial Day Sunday



On this Memorial Day weekend, we remember the cost of our freedom and the true value of life. Join us for a contemplative lay-led service of readings, reflection, recognition, and remembrance as we honor those who gave all they had to secure all the rights and privileges we enjoy in this nation.

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