May 26 - June 1, 2023

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News from Oak Ridge Unitarian Universalist Church

The Exponent



Stone Soup

FREE Meal! Groceries available



Drive Thru ONLY

Friday, May 26

5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Or until supplies run out!

Menu: Lentil One Pot (Lentils and Rice)
Fresh Fruit, and 7UP cake

Drive through the loop near the church entrance and a volunteer will bring meals to your vehicle. Non-perishable groceries available upon request.

Oak Ridge Unitarian Universalist Church

(865) 483-6761



Special thanks to our Community Partners for making this Final Friday Monthly Meal possible: Kroger Marketplace Jewish Congregation of Oak Ridge



STONE SOUP IS TOMORROW,

Friday, May 26! Stop by ORUUC beginning at 5:30 p.m. for a delicious bagged meal of Lentil One Pot (lentils and rice), Fresh Fruit, and 7UP Cake! Pick up a meal for a neighbor or friend. All are welcome! Thanks, as always, to our community partners: the Jewish Congregation of Oak Ridge and Kroger Marketplace!

Looking for a great volunteer opportunity? Help out in the ORUUC kitchen a few hours at the end of each month! Make good food, make new friends, make a difference! Call the church office at 865-483-6761!

Memorial Day

Rev. Lisa Romantum Schwartz, Interim Minister

Ah, the first weekend of summer, that carefree time, the hazy, lazy days when the livin' is easy, when teacher's let the monkeys out, when gallons of potato salad are made and eaten at countless backyard barbeques and picnics at the lake, the weekend when pools and ocean boardwalks across America are finally open, when thousands take to the open road, packing their kids in cars and vans for family vacations that will guarantee a brisk business for the next generation of

Solstice be darned, we all know that summer officially begins on Memorial Day weekend.

psychotherapists.

Somewhere in our national psyche, we also know that Memorial Day is a day of remembrance for those who died in our nation's service. It's not an official "offices will be closed" holiday because school's out and burgers are on the grill, but because we need a day to honor those who are called on to fight for our nation and its ideals.

Since most of us UUs are peaceloving people, Memorial Day can be a tricky observance. It's tempting to treat Memorial Day as the first weekend of summer and ignore the remembrance part of the day. But it doesn't have to be an either/or choice. While we pause to call to mind those who died in armed conflict, maybe we can also expend some effort towards our UU "goal of world community with peace, liberty

and justice for all."

The Rev. Jack Taylor, minister emeritus of the First Unitarian Church in Ithaca, New York, is even bold enough to call Unitarian Universalists to pray for peace. He

says,

This is not a call for divine intervention (if such were possible, wars would have ended millennia ago). Rather [it is a call to] "pay attention" to that which makes for a peaceful world. We need to envision such a time and know our place in it. ... War will have enough victims. Let us be sure that we do not become additional ones by our actions and attitudes.

Amen, Rev. Jack, amen.

This Sunday, May 28 We Remember

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.

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



This month's Split the Plate Offering:
Second Harvest Food for Kids Backpack
Program

Adult Faith Formation classes will take place as usual from 11:15 to 12:15; Youth Faith Formation classes are on summer break. They will resume Sunday, Aug. 6. 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.

PLEDGE UPDATE! We're more than halfway there...but we still need YOU to say









More than 96 households out of 160 who pledged last year have made their pledge for the 2023-24 church year. We still 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/AddPledge/2023-2024pledge. Pledge cards are also available at church. 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.)



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

Nominations For Split the Plate are Due Monday!



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:

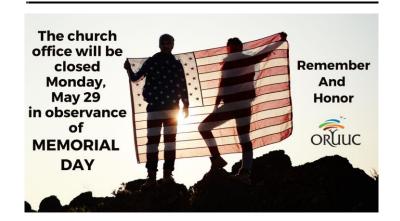
https://forms.gle/R3mpAh651wCSCaxS7.

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 amsfishel@gmail.com.



Safety Team Questionnaire closes May 31! This is for ALL church Members and Friends! Thanks to the 61 people who have responded! Please take a few minutes to complete this questionnaire: https://forms.gle/jnokyB7GAXxpaA8s5. Your response is appreciated. If you commented that you are interested in joining the Safety Team on the Safety Survey, please contact Betsy Bauer: bauerec@gmail.com.





Town Hall Meetings

Thursday, June 1 at 6:30 p.m. Sunday, June 4 after worship



From the Board Secretary

The Board of Trustees will be hosting two town hall meetings ahead of the June congregational meeting; one in the evening on June 1, and one after Sunday service June 4. If you are able to attend one of them, please join us. We will be discussing the finances of the church for the coming year: we will discuss the current status of pledging, what we will and won't be able to include in the budget, and budgeting for the Ministerial Search Committee.

This is an excellent opportunity to get an introduction to ORUUC finances. Members will vote on this church budget on June 11 at the Congregational Meeting. The budget is approved in this way every year, by the congregation, and so reflects our collective values and priorities. Anyone interested in how this all works is encouraged to attend! These meetings are for information, discussion, feedback, and preparation for the upcoming vote. They are not for the purpose of fundraising or a pledge campaign, just the plan for the upcoming Fiscal Year (July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024).

A small amount of time will be taken during each meeting to introduce the Nominating Committee's slate for the Ministerial Search Committee. The folks on the slate will also be introduced through other church communications, including *The Exponent*.

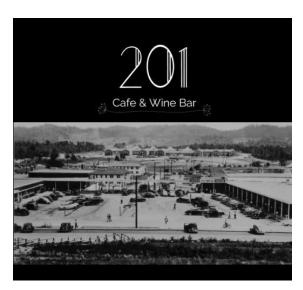
Town Hall Meeting for folks who can't be there Sunday: Thursday, June 1 6:30-7:30 p.m. Sanctuary or Conference Room Attendance by Zoom will be available

Town Hall after service:
Sunday, June 4
11:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.
Sanctuary
Attendance by Zoom will be available

See you there! Nathaniel Bass

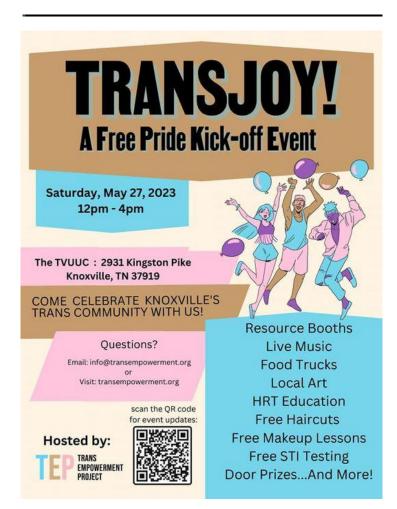
Announcements

Thursday Lunch Bunch Meets Weekly Beginning June 1 ~ All are welcome!



The Thursday evening Potluck Group has

They'll meet Thursdays at 12:30 p.m. at 201 Cafe & Wine Bar in Jackson Square (201 Jackson Square). Contact Betsy Speed or Diane Nelson for more info! Hope to see you there!





One of ORUUC's own, Odelia Kneiser, has started a summer project that will tackle the issue of trash on Oak Ridge's trails and greenways, and beyond:

"We're a group of hs students in the oak ridge/knoxville area hoping to encourage teens to keep their local environment healthy. Over the next few summer months, we hope to visit dozens of local, state, and national hiking trails (including the oak ridge quarry) and pick up all of the litter there. We also plan on doing a little bit of field research on invasive species to encourage students to understand their environmental impacts. **Follow our project**

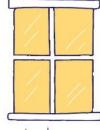
@litterally_green_project on instagram and tiktok!" Any teens are welcome to join this group if they need something to do this summer.



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.

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 May

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

Caring Coordinators for June

Freddie Nechtow <u>nechtowf@gmail.com</u> 865-599-4359 (cell) Mare Martell <u>maremartell@gmail.com</u> 616-826-9984 (cell)

Please call at least two days in advance to allow time for Caring Coordinators to find a volunteer to provide the care that you need. Our ability to provide transportation is limited. If your appointment is routine and/or can wait, please reschedule it rather than call a Caring Coordinator. Thank you for reserving our Caring Volunteers for those situations that address serious needs that cannot wait.

Celebration of Life for Sharon Hubbard: June 3 at 2 p.m.



Sharon Hubbard, 73, passed away peacefully at Ft. Sanders Regional Medical Center on March 28, 2023, several days after suffering an aneurysm. She is survived by her Aunt Shirley and Cousin Cindy in Ohio, and her dog, Chesney.

Sharon moved to Oak Ridge from Tampa after retiring from teaching kindergarten. It did not take her long to make friends, lots of friends. She was a knitter, crocheter, and weaver. If it involved fiber, Sharon did it. She knitted prayer shawls for the Methodist Church.

Reading was also a passion for Sharon. She belonged to the Anna's Book Club in Oak Ridge and was a member of the Oak Ridge Unitarian Universalist Church. Being a volunteer for several organizations was also a big part of her life.

Sharon will be surely missed by all who crossed paths with her.

The family will have a celebration of life on June 3 at 2:00 pm at the Oak Ridge Unitarian Universalist Church. Interment will be in the church's Memorial Garden.

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

https://www.holleygamble.com/obituary/sharon-hubbard

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.

Stone Soup needs YOU! The May meal was a success because of a small group of dedicated volunteers. But the team HAS to have more support—regular volunteers we can count on—in order to keep this much needed ministry going. Looking for a great volunteer opportunity? Help out in the ORUUC kitchen a few hours at the end of each month! Please reach out to Jen Stark, Steven Albright, or Hope McAtee, or contact the church office: 483-6761. Make good food, make new friends, make a difference! friends, make a difference!



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
- 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 30 at 8:30 p.m. at Yearwood Field v. **Sons of Pitches.** Contact Sarah Gunter, Christina Elliot, or Jim Nutaro for more info.

Family News

Congratulations to our Bridgers, Class of 2023 at Oak Ridge High School!





Pictured from left to right are Gus Morrill, Cedric White, Jack Biewer, Laurel Hetrick, Tobi Bass, and Thomas Naughton.

Thanks to Hope McAtee for sharing photos.



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!





PLEASE DONATE
BY DROPPING OFF
TOYS IN THE BOX
IN THE CHURCH
LOBBY. THANKS!

ORUUC

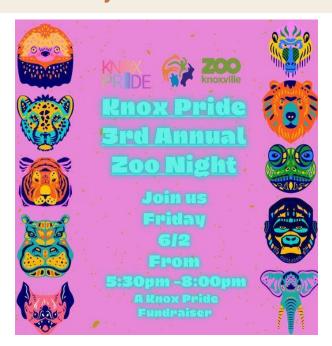
Mother Goose with ORUUC's own Michael Raymond! Thursdays, June 7 and 21 at 10:30 a.m. Oak Ridge Public Library Meeting Room

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/orplmay23



Community News



Kick off Pride Month with Knox Pride & Zoo Knoxville on Friday June 2nd from 5:30 - 8:00 p.m. for a night of fun, food, community, and animals! Proceeds benefit the Knox Pride Community & Resource Center and the Knox Pride Fest & March in October 2023. Tickets are available at

https://store.zooknoxville.org/WebStore/Shop/ViewItems.aspx?CG=Pride&C=Pride23.

Empower students with next-gen technology.



Free summer STEM enrichment program for middle school students

The Verizon Innovative Learning STEM Achievers program: an engaging, hands-on program developed to enrich learning through design thinking, 3D printing, augmented reality, social entrepreneurship and mentorship. No prior knowledge or experience is required. Two 3-week sessions. June 12 - June 29 or July 10 - July 27, from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m., Monday - Thursday of each week on the Oak Ridge campus. To register, visit https://bit.ly/RSCCSTEMCampRegistration For more information, please contact Holly Hanson at hansonha@roanestate.edu or 931-456-4910.



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 https://www.flatwatertales.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!

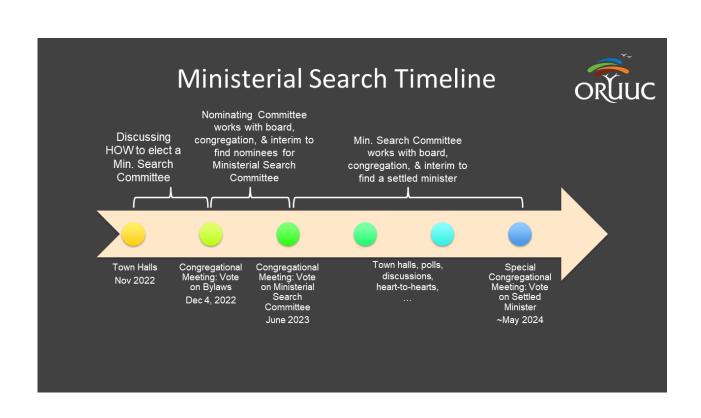
Ministerial Search News

Introducing ORUUC's Ministerial Search Committee Nominees! Profiles of each nominee will be published in upcoming issues of *The Exponent*. This slate of candidates will be voted on as a group at the Spring Congregational Meeting Sunday, June 11.



Voting on this slate of candidates will take place at the June 11 Congregational Meeting.





Announcements



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, 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=/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).



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 26

Office Closed

11am Tai Chi Practice1pm Stone Soup Prep5:30pm Stone Soup FreeCommunity Meal

Saturday, May 27

1pm-Midnight Rental (Quinceanera party)
3pm Ukulele

Sunday, May 28

8:15am Circle of Trust VII

10am Worship

11am Together in Spirit
11:15am Circle of Trust II
11:15am Newcomers
11:15am Reflections
11:30am Circle of Trust IV
12noon Circle of Trust V
12:30pm Buddhism Study Group
1pm Circle of Trust VI

Monday, May 29 Memorial Day

Office Closed

3pm Line Dancing

Communion Service

5pm Christian Fellowship

11am Tai Chi Practice

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

Tuesday, May 30

6pm Depression & Anxiety Support 8:30pm Softball v. Sons of Pitches

Wednesday, May 31

6:30am Breakfast Rotary11am Tai Chi Practice6:45pm Choir Practice7:45pm Band Practice

Thursday, June 1

12:30pm Thursday Lunch Bunch (formerly potluck) at 201 Café and Wine Bar in Jackson Square 1:30pm Executive Team Meeting 6:30 pm Town Hall Meeting



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

http://www.oruuc.org/currentexhibit



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



Sunday, June 4 Worship Series Theme: Delight Bloom Where You're Planted: Flower Communion Centennial



Our faith has celebrated "flower communion" since 1923. On this centennial of the first flower service, UUs around the world will share the delight on the same Sunday, in a ritual of unity.