

November 25 –
December 1, 2022

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News from Oak Ridge Unitarian Universalist Church

The Exponent



STONE SOUP This Friday at 5:30 p.m.!

After you've had your fill of turkey, stop by ORUUC Friday afternoon beginning at 5:30 p.m. for a **FREE drive-thru meal of Beefy Bean Soup, Fresh Fruit, and Pumpkin Bars!** Pick up a meal for a neighbor or friend! Volunteers will also be handing out bags of non-perishable groceries upon request, and free winter coat vouchers from KARM. Spread the word!

Chop Down the Giving Tree

Rev. Gaye Morris, Affiliated Community Minister, ORUUC

In January 2017, among all of the protests that were being held as Donald Trump was inaugurated president, there was one called The Giving Tree Program. One of the voices lifted up in this protest was from a now-retired UU minister in Colorado who was expressing his concern over climate change. Using the principles of grassroots activism, people were urged to send president-elect Trump a copy of Shel Silverstein's book *The Giving Tree*, which is about a boy who knows no limits in what he asks from a tree. The gesture was meant to encourage our government to preserve and build on environmental safeguards, including the Paris Climate Agreement. Well, how did that work out for those who participated in the Giving Tree

protest?

I'll tell you this Sunday, in my sermon about that very book. It's a children's book that was written over 50 years ago, and it has been – more than most children's books – a focus of controversy. The Giving Tree can be interpreted in different ways, and can be seen as a morality tale for our times. You might be interested in seeing how it can be viewed as an ecological fable that ends

badly for both humanity and the planet.

As Unitarian Universalists, our Seventh Principle calls on us to work together in a spirit of generosity, in order to preserve the earth for future generations. For us, perhaps, *The Giving Tree* story warns us about what will happen if we don't.



Stone Soup

FREE Meal!
Groceries available



Drive Thru ONLY

Friday, Nov. 25
5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.
Or until supplies run out!

**Menu: Beefy Bean Soup,
Fresh Fruit, and Pumpkin Bars**

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
809 Oak Ridge Turnpike, Stoplight #2 (865) 483-6761

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



This Sunday, Nov. 27

Chop Down the Giving Tree

We can view the Shel Silverstein story, "The Giving Tree," as an ecological fable that ends badly for both humanity and the planet. Our Seventh Principle calls on us to work together in a spirit of generosity, in order to preserve the earth for future generations.



Worship with us in person or on Zoom at 10:00 a.m.
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

November Split the Plate: Child Advocacy Center of AC
The CDC Covid-19 Community Levels are Low this week in Anderson, Knox, Roane, and Morgan counties. Masks are not required in the building; however, we encourage you to do what makes you feel comfortable.



There's One More Chance To Attend A Town Hall Meeting: Thursday, Dec. 1 at 2 p.m. in the Sanctuary

The ORUUC Charter and Bylaws Committee and the ORUUC Board of Trustees invite you to attend a Town Hall Meeting where they will share proposed Bylaws amendments with members to be voted on at the December 4 Congregational Meeting. The primary Bylaws proposed amendment is to Section 3. Committees Elected by the Congregation, C. Ministerial Search Committee, Item 2.

Watch the recording of the Sunday, Nov. 13 Town Hall Meeting here: [Passcode Required - Zoom](#). Passcode: 6v9\$YcNW

November Split the Plate: Child Advocacy Center of Anderson County

This community organization provides healing and justice for abused children. Each year, 400-500 children ranging in age from newborns through age 17 receive forensic medical evaluations, trauma focused therapy, forensic interviews, and other victim-related services. The CAC is a safe haven for children, who are provided services to help them heal and recover from childhood abuse and neglect. Support is also offered to non-offending parents and caregivers.

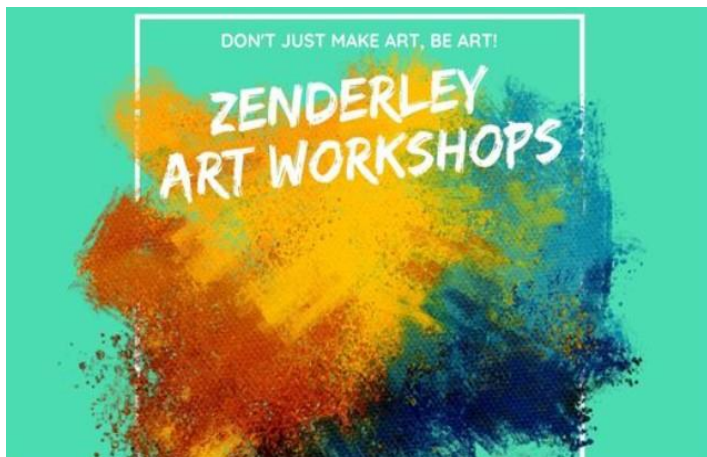


For more information, visit <http://www.childadvocacycenter.net/>. Please give as you are willing and able. [GIVE HERE](#) or text "ORUUC" to 73256.

Announcements



The Church Office will be closed Thursday, Nov. 24 and Friday, Nov. 25. Call 865-483-6761 and leave a voicemail, or email office@oruuc.org if you have a need during that time.



A light, plant-based meal will be served. Bring your own beverage. Classes are on a pay-what-you-can basis.

The FINAL Zenderley Art Workshop this semester is **Thursday, Dec. 1, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Abbie Moore's house. Reserve your spot TODAY!** Contact Manderley stormpixey@gmail.com or Abbie abbie.moore@icloud.com.

TAMALES!

[Click here to order your tamales today!](#)



ORUUC High Schoolers and Parents spent another weekend in the church kitchen making dozens of tamales! This is one of their biggest fundraisers, so please, **place your order before time runs out!** Use the link above, or stop by the church office. Tamales are \$20 per dozen. Choose from Chicken or Vegetarian. Pay online (<https://onrealm.org/oruuc/-/form/give/nw> Choose "Absolute Best Tamales" from the drop down menu) or pay cash at pick up. Tamales will be frozen and available for pick up at church in December. Thank you for your support!



Interested in participating in an Adult Our Whole Lives (OWL) class at Westside Unitarian Universalist Church beginning in January? Fill out this form!

<https://forms.gle/82peS2A1iegyXddK7>

Announcements



Thanks to all those who have donated to the church pantry! Keep those donations coming! Please pick up some of these non-perishables when you're out shopping:

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

Donations may be dropped off during church office hours or on Sundays.

Interested in joining the Stone Soup team? Email Miria at meg.harrison84@gmail.com. Thank you!



The **Mitten Tree** is set up in the Hearth Room, ready to accept donations again this year for the Blossom Center, a local nonprofit daycare in Oak Ridge. **Donations of toddler to school-age sizes of new socks, knit hats, gloves and mittens are appreciated! The deadline to drop off items is December 14.** Questions? Contact Jason Fishel.

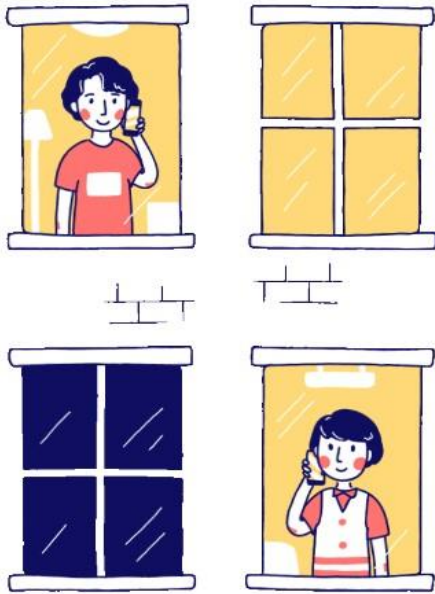


There are 42 names to choose from this year! Take a name tag from the tree in the church lobby, record your info on the sign-up sheet, and purchase and wrap your gifts. **Please return gifts to the church by Sunday, Dec. 11.** Help us brighten the Christmas of some deserving children! **Questions? Contact Susan at 865-591-4037, or see her in the nursery.**



Start getting your act together for the New Year's Eve Coffeeshouse Talent Show! All are invited Saturday, Dec. 31 to a Supper and Social beginning at 6:30 p.m., followed by the 7 p.m. program. Any kind of rehearsed, presentational act is possible, from the silly to the sublime. All ages and all kinds of talent are encouraged. Past shows have included one-act plays, singer-songwriters, vocal and instrumental solos or ensembles, joke telling, dancers, and novelty acts. This is your chance! Live out a performance fantasy! Ham it up! Build some experience performing in front of people! Blow people's minds by unveiling a unique talent you've been keeping to yourself! **Advance sign-up is required for all performers. The sign-up deadline is Monday, Dec. 26. To sign up, contact Nancy Starr, email starroakridge@gmail.com, mobile 865-742-9993.**

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 November

Irene Robbins robbinsif1@comcast.net 865-207-0743

Amanda Fishel amsfishel@gmail.com 865-804-7033

Caring Coordinators for December

Amanda Fishel amsfishel@gmail.com 865-804-7033

Christina Elliott Christina.r.elliott@gmail.com 865-214-0756

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.



High Places Community Church will again be hosting a FREE Community Thanksgiving Meal at the Grove Theater (123 Randolph Road) on Thanksgiving Day. Dinner will be served from 11am-1pm, but we'll need help from 9am to 3pm. Volunteers can serve one hour blocks or the entire time. We're flexible! If you are interested or need more information, message us through Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/OakRidgeCommunityThanksgiving> or send an email to OakRidgeCommunityThanksgiving@gmail.com.



HUICHOL BOUTIQUE for the Holidays

OPEN HOUSE, hosted by Mary Beth Robinson Sunday, December 4,

1 - 5 PM. Come browse and shop for the holidays. Each piece of handcrafted art is infused with the spirit of people closely connected to nature and unbroken traditions dating back thousands of years. Sales benefit the Huichol people to help them remain in their homeland. Details and registration below:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/huichol-art-boutique-open-house-tickets-470733976997>



Weekly 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! Beginners and Teens welcome! Upcoming practices are scheduled for December 3 and 17 at 3 p.m. Please join us! Contact Abbie Moore abbie.moore@icloud.com or Linda Osborne lindadrlu@bellsouth.net for more information.



Marge Swenson has moved to Alexander Guest House!

Marge may be texted or phoned on her cell phone (865-719-5626); her former landline phone has been disconnected. Her mailing address is:

**Marge Swenson
Alexander Guest House, Room 204
83 Kentucky Avenue
Oak Ridge, TN 37830**

Marge's daughter, Marie Bell, says that Marge is settling in well, and that she would like us to spread the word so that people may write, call, or visit Marge.

(Photo courtesy of the Alexander Guest House's Facebook page, taken during an outing last week.)



Oak Ridge Christmas Parade

Saturday, Dec. 10, 6-8 p.m.

ORUUC is participating in the Oak Ridge Christmas Parade again this year! **Want to get a group together to create a float?**

Or do you have more creative ideas and energy to share?

Contact Multigenerational Coordinator Whitney Cole at whit.cole79@gmail.com or the Church Office at 865-483-6761.



Earth Church East Tennessee meets Sunday, Dec. 11 at 3 p.m. at Westside UUC

Join Rev. Carol Bodeau for an earth-centered gathering each month close to the new moon. We will sit in a sacred circle, share experiences of inspiration in nature, create ritual together, and set intentions for the coming month. Then we'll have time for food and fellowship. Meetings are held outdoors (weather permitting) For more information, visit <https://www.wildchurchnetwork.com/>.

Westside Unitarian Universalist Church is located at 616 Fretz Road in Knoxville. (865) 777-9882

**Oak Ridge Unitarian Universalist Church
Congregational Meeting Agenda
Sunday, Dec. 4, 2022 11:15 a.m.
In the Sanctuary and on Zoom**

AGENDA

I. Call to Order

II. Opening Words

III. Approval of the minutes of the Spring 2022 Congregational Meeting

IV. President's Report

V. Minister's Report

VI. Treasurer's Report

VII. Endowment Committee Report

VIII. Bylaws Committee

A. The primary Bylaws proposed amendment is to Section 3. Committees Elected by the Congregation, C. Ministerial Search Committee, Item 2. *A copy of the bylaws may be accessed [HERE](#). Watch the recording from the Sunday, Nov. 13 Town Hall Meeting about the proposed bylaws changes here: [Passcode Required - Zoom](#). Passcode: 6v9\$YcNW*

IV. Closing Words

X. Adjournment

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 this week 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>

	% of Counties	% of Pop.
Low	79.7%	79.5%
Medium	18.1%	19.5%
High	2.1%	1.0%

Percentages do not sum to 100% because of rounding.



Source: U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

FALL MOUNTAIN CONS!

November 18-20: Intermediate
December 2-4: Elementary
December 9-11: Senior High

Contact Christine Rehder, Director of Youth Faith Formation, at crehder@oruuc.org



REGISTRATION DEADLINES

Elementary CON (Grades 3-5) **Registration Deadline has passed.**

Senior High CON (Grades 9-12) **REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS THIS FRIDAY, NOV. 25!**
Register [here](#) ASAP!

Once you have registered, please contact Director of Youth Faith Formation Christine Rehder @ crehder@oruuc.org. If you're interested in being an advisor, please let Christine know. *If you're having problems with The Mountain website, please call The Mountain directly. Thank you!*

REMINDER: Unless it's raining, elementary age children go outside to play on Sunday mornings after the Story for All Ages. Please dress appropriately!



TAMALE MAKING DATES!

~~Sunday, Nov. 13 1-6 p.m.~~

~~Saturday, Nov. 19 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.~~

~~Sunday, Nov. 20 1-6 p.m.~~

Saturday, Dec. 3 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Sign up at church or on Discord!

See you in the kitchen!

ORUUC Youth! Sign up to make Tamales!

Tamales are the major fundraiser for Youth Trips, and participation in their preparation is required for trip eligibility. There are numerous dates and times available, and sign up sheets will be available with Jason, Brandon or Christine, or on the HS Discord. 8th Graders are encouraged to sign up so they have hours put in for future trips. Parents are welcome and encouraged to help as well, either in place of or, preferably, with their Youth. It's really fun!

Thanks to a generous gift from the Endowment Committee this year, we're able to purchase our tamale making supplies so that all of the proceeds from our sales will go into the Youth Trip Fund.

Order your tamales **HERE!**



Tamale Making Sunday, Nov. 13

Community Announcements



The **City of Oak Ridge Recreation and Parks Department** will hold its Annual Community Christmas Tree Lighting on Thursday, Dec. 1, beginning at 6 p.m. in A.K. Bissell Park.

The event will kick off at the outdoor A.K. Bissell Park Secret City Commemorative Walk on the east side of the Oak Ridge Public Library parking area for a brief ceremony beginning with the tree lighting.

Following the Tree Lighting, participants will proceed to the A.K. Pavilion where there will be seasonal music and the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board awards ceremony. There will also be light refreshments provided by Y-12 Federal Credit Union and the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board.

Keep reading:
<http://www.oakridgetn.gov/content.aspx?article=5371>

ORUUC has coat vouchers! If you or someone you know needs a winter coat, tell them to stop by the church office Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., or call 865-483-6761. Coat vouchers may be used at any of KARM's 21 locations in East Tennessee now through December 10. Go to KARMStores.com for more information.



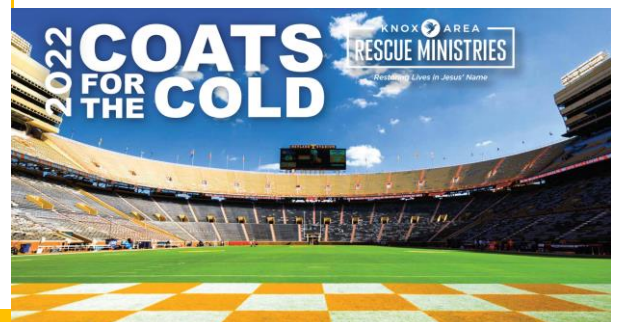
Volunteer at the Oak Ridge Playhouse!

There is a critical need for backstage crew for the Sound of Music. If you are available to help - great! If not, please reach out to everyone you know to see if we can get help. Volunteers need to be at least 16 years old. The role involves moving set pieces. Nothing heavy--everything is on wheels.

Showtimes are Nov 25, 26, 27 and Dec 1, 2, 3, 4. Call times are 6:30~10:30 p.m., except Sundays, when the call times are 12:30~ 4:30 p.m.

We could also use a **wardrobe lead**, someone to work with the costume designer to help with costumes every night, and to make sure everyone has what they need. Contact Mary Hope at 865-661-4462.

Looking ahead...Youth interested in trying out or volunteering for sound, costume, and backstage for February 4-5 *Gingerbread-A Hansel & Gretel Story*, contact Oak Ridge Playhouse Board Member Rose Weaver at rs_wvr@yahoo.com for more information!



This Week at ORUUC



Thursday, Nov. 24 Thanksgiving

Church Office Closed

12pm NWUUC Launchpad

(Canceled)

6pm Potluck (Canceled)

6:50pm Meditation Learning and Practice Group

Friday, Nov. 25

Church Office Closed

11am Tai Chi Practice

1pm Stone Soup Prep

5:30pm Stone Soup Meal

Saturday, Nov. 26

3-11pm Rental

Sunday, Nov. 27

8:15am Circle of Trust VII

10am Worship Service

11am High School

11am Reflections

11am Together in Spirit

11:15am Circle of Trust II

11:15am Circle of Trust IV

11:15am Newcomers

12pm Circle of Trust V

12:30pm Buddhism Study Group

1pm Circle of Trust VI

2pm(3-5pm) Line Dancing

Monday, Nov. 28

11am Tai Chi Practice

6:50pm Meditation Learning and Practice Group

Tuesday, Nov. 29

6pm Depression & Anxiety Support Group

7-8:30pm ORUU Improving Democracy

Wednesday, Nov. 30

6:30am Breakfast Rotary

11am Tai Chi

6:45pm Choir Practice

7:45pm Band Rehearsal

Thursday, Dec. 1

1:30pm Executive Team Meeting

2pm Town Hall Meeting

6pm Potluck (Canceled)

6:50pm Meditation Learning and Practice Group

The ORUUC Board of Trustees

President: Michele Thornton

Past President: Jim Nutaro

President-Elect: VACANT

Secretary: Jason Fishel

Treasurer: Brandon White

Members-at-Large:

Freddie Nechtow

Charles Davis

Nathaniel Bass

Ethan Coon

The ORUUC Executive Team

Rev. Lisa Schwartz

Christine Rehder

Christina Elliott

Amanda Fishel

Jeannie Cuevas, Office Administrator



809 Oak Ridge Turnpike
Oak Ridge, TN 37830
Contact us at 865-483-6761

<http://www.oruuc.org/>



The deadline to submit news for next week's Exponent in Wednesday at noon! Please send news, comments, and feedback to Rachel at communications@oruuc.org.



Coming up...

Sunday, Dec. 4

Chalica: A Principled Celebration!

Unitarian Universalists are boundlessly curious about the world's religions, and we happily celebrate many winter holidays. Two decades ago, a group of young adult UU seminarians began to yearn aloud for a holiday celebration that would be "our own thing." It's not meant to supplant or compete with the other joyous celebrations, but simply to proclaim our own faith and explore its embodied practice.