November 17-30, 2023

In this issue >>>

This Sunday (pg.2)

Announcements (pgs.3-4)

Social and Volunteer Activities (pg.6)

Family News (pg.7)

Proposed Bylaws Changes (pg.9)

Community News (pg. 10)

Church Calendar (pg.11)



News from Oak Ridge Unitarian Universalist Church

The Exponent



It's Angel Tree Time!



The Angel Tree is up in the church lobby, and name tags will be added this weekend! This year, ORUUC members and friends will be helping fulfill Christmas needs and wants for 25-30 local children.

As in past years, tags with names of children and their wish lists will be displayed on the tree. Please take a tag or two, shop for the child(ren), and return the wrapped gifts—with the original tags from the tree attached—to church no later than Sunday, Dec. 10. Nursery Coordinator Susan Rosenbaum leads this annual effort. Please reach out to her at msclued@aol.com or 865-591-4037 if you have any questions. For many of these children in our area, this is the only bit of holiday cheer they will receive. Your support is appreciated! Thank you!

Grateful To Be On This Pilgrim Journey with YOU

Rev. Lisa Romantum Schwartz, Interim Minister

It's OK to feel ambivalent about the story of the first Thanksgiving. We recognize that the Pilgrims had arrived in a land that had been occupied by other humans for centuries, and feel deep gratitude for the Wampanoag's gracious help, without which the Pilgrims would not have survived.

But before the Pilgrims sat down to the feast, before they set their hopeful feet on Plymouth Rock, they made a journey. Here's part of that story.

First, they didn't call themselves Pilgrims.
They called themselves "Separatists"
because they wanted to separate

from the Church of England to practice their religion free from fear. They were "pilgrims" because they were journeyers,

willing to sail off into the unknown on a quest. They were the spiritual ancestors of Unitarians, but they were conservative. (They didn't use the King James Bible because it was too modern.) They were convinced of the purity of their belief, and set out for the New World.

When they began the journey they had two boats, but one was so leaky they turned back twice to fix it, and finally they all just crowded onto the Mayflower.

The Mayflower was 90 feet long and 26 feet wide. There were 70 adults and 32 kids, plus about 30 sailors. And there were live farm animals on the ship, too! And farm tools, and barrels of fresh water and salted fish and dried beef. There were no fresh

vegetables, and ... no bathrooms.

By the time they squeezed all that onto the Mayflower, they'd missed their optimal departure date. The winds weren't with them and there were strong ocean crosscurrents. The Mayflower averaged two miles an hour! Worse yet, their overcrowded, stinky ship lumbered off course, and they spent a month sailing up the coast of North America to find a place they could call home.

I bet you see where I'm going. At ORUUC we're all journeying together, all pilgrims in the same boat, you might say. We aren't nearly as crowded, and we do have bathrooms and no farm animals (at least until the Christmas Pageant).

Like our ancestors, we're not on an adventure seeking gold and riches, we're journeying together seeking religious freedom. Like our ancestors, we have some pioneers and trailblazers, and just as important, we have some settlers who stake out a safe place and make a home where we can all belong.

David Blanchard says that especially on a long journey, we need both. He asks, Where would we be without people who explore new territories of the world, or the mind? ...[And,] where would we be without people who give life its stability...? What would life be like without the security fostered by the settlers or the innovations dreamed up by pioneers?

This Sunday, Nov. 19 Practicing Gratitude

You may have thought that gratitude was primarily a feeling, rather than a practice. But keeping our "gratefulness muscle" toned and tuned is important. Just as a talented pianist wouldn't be able to play a sonata with exquisite beauty if they had never practiced, humans who don't practice gratitude sometimes struggle to execute the tasks of life. Interim Minister Rev. Lisa Romantum Schwartz leads worship for our annual Bread Communion service. Bread bakers: Please make bread and bring some to share.

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



November Split the Plate Offering: **Ecumenical Storehouse**

Adult and Youth Faith Formation classes take place from 11:15 to 12:15. Nursery is available.

Covid-19 Update: Masks are <u>not</u> required in the building; we have masks and hand sanitizer available, and we encourage you to do what makes you feel comfortable.

Bread Communion is This Sunday, Nov. 19



Bread Communion is one of the rituals we as Unitarian Universalists perform in our worship service to symbolize sharing and how important it is to us. People bring different kinds of bread that are part of their cultural heritage, or that have personal meaning. Volunteers cut the bread into bite-sized pieces. The bread is blessed and passed around in baskets for everyone to take a piece. Breads around the world are very different, but, every civilization that has ever lived on the earth has made some type of bread. This communion reminds us that we all need food to live, that we must share our one earth which feeds us all. It also reminds us to share our unique gifts with one another, so all can be fed.

This Sunday, Nov. 19 is our annual Bread Communion service. Please make your favorite bread to bring to church to share. Gluten-free is always appreciated. You may bring your uncut bread to church during office hours or Sunday morning by 9:45 a.m. Please let Whitney Cole know if you're planning to bring bread:

November Split the Plate Offering: Ecumenical Storehouse

Every Sunday we share our offering 50/50 with a local agency chosen by our members during a vote at the Congregational Meeting each June. This month, the Split the Plate offering goes to the Ecumenical Storehouse.

The Ecumenical Storehouse provides household items to those in the community who cannot afford them. They accept donations of furniture, appliances and household goods (linens, dishes, cookware), and distribute them, free of charge, to needy families in the local 3-county region. The Storehouse works with the United Way, ADFAC, and many churches. Special consideration is given to those families for whom a fire has left



them in a desperate situation. Run by a cooperative of Oak Ridge churches ORUUC, Ecumenical Storehouse has been in operation since 1984.

Ecumenical Storehouse embodies the social action that ORUUC champions; it is a founding member. It runs a very lean operation and has an all-volunteer organization and very modest budget. Its service in recycling used furniture and household goods back into society is a very green operation. We strive to maintain the Storehouse in a manner that supports our seven principles and serves as good outreach to our broader community. Please GIVE HERE as you are willing and able, or text "ORUUC" to 73256.

Announcements



The Church Office will be closed next Thursday and Friday, Nov. 23 and 24. We wish you all a happy, healthy, peaceful time, however you're spending the coming days.



An invitation from Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church to churches in the East Tennessee UU Cluster



THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2023

Doors Open at 12:30. Meal 1:00-2:30. Activities 2:30-4:00.

RSVP by email to: potluck@tvuuc.org

Bring enough ready-to-serve food for you and yours and to share.

GAMES - PUZZLES - TV FOOTBALL - PING PONG

2931 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, TN 37919 - (865) 523-4176



TVUUC is hosting a potluck on Thanksgiving Day, and all UU churches in the East Tennessee cluster are invited! Doors open at 12:30 p.m. The meal will be served from 1 to 2:30 p.m., followed by activities until 4 p.m. Bring food to share. RSVP to potluck@tvuuc.org.



All are welcome to dine at ORUUC next Friday, Nov. 24 for our free community meal. Enjoy a bowl of hot Vegetable Beef Soup, Fresh Fruit, and Pumpkin Blondies. Pick up a meal for a neighbor or friend! If you'd like to be part of the Stone Soup team, email Jen Stark at Jen Stark jen.stark@hotmail.com.

Oak Ridge Community Thanksgiving Dinner

November 23rd 2023 11:00am - 1:00pm

Dine with us in house!

High Places Community Church/Grove Theater 123 Randolph Road, Oak Ridge



A great volunteer opportunity! And a great meal! Please share with all who may want to attend, volunteer, or donate.

https://www.oakridgecommunitythanksgiving.com/ OakRidgeCommunityThanksgiving@gmail.com https://www.facebook.com/OakRidgeCommunityThanks giving

Announcements

Next Sunday, Nov. 26 The Gift of Our Whole Lives

November 26, 2023

The Gift of Our Whole Lives

Christine Rehder **Director of Youth Faith Formation**



Generosity Worship Series

At this worship service, we will honor and celebrate our lifespan sexuality education program, Our Whole Lives (OWL) as a sacred, life-affirming mission for ourselves, our congregation and our community. We may express our sexuality in different ways, and we may not always understand each other's identities and behaviors but if we view ourselves and one another through the OWL values of self-worth, sexual health, justice and inclusivity, we can see sexuality with respect, acceptance, and joy. Youth Faith Formation Leader Christine Rehder will lead worship, with the help of ORUUC's OWL leaders.



Adult OWL classes meet each Sunday during Faith Formation Hour through December 3--attend one, or a few, or all of them--it's up to you!

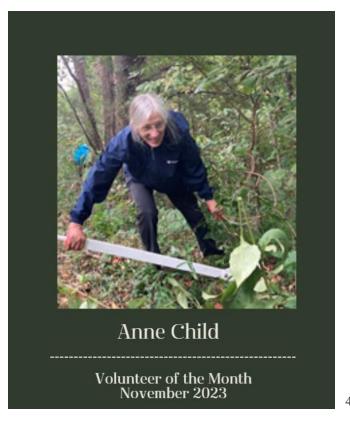
- 10/22 Language and Anatomy-
- 10/29 Sexuality and Gender Identity (SEIO Model)
- 11/5 Cultural Attitudes about Sexuality
- 11/12 Cultural Communication (Mass Media, Social Media, Pornography)
- 11/19 Body Image
- 11/26 Sexual Consent and Boundaries
- 12/3 Healthy Relationships
- 12/10 Aging, Change, and Sexuality (Special Time: Follows Congregational Meeting and includes possible celebration)

For more information on these classes, contact Christine Rehder at crehder@oruuc.org.

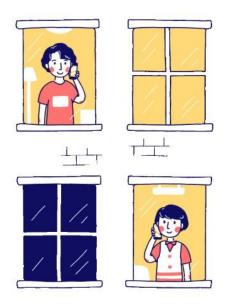
December is right around the corner...



Construction paper strips and glue sticks are located in the basket in the church lobby. Help us make the Holiday Love Tree bright and festive this season!



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

Christina Elliott christina.r.elliott@gmail.com 865-214-0756 Irene Robbins Robbinsif1@comcast.net 865-481-3427

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.

Barbara Katherine Moon July 3, 1928 — August 26, 2023

Barbara Katherine Longfellow Moon, age 95, passed away peacefully on Saturday, Aug. 26, 2023. Barbara met her husband, Ralph, during their senior year of high school in Kansas City, MO and they married in 1950 after her graduation from Vassar College. In 1963, they moved to Oak Ridge, TN with their four children and Barbara began her involvement in numerous community activities. She served as a Camp Fire group leader for each of her daughters and eventually became President of the Clinch Valley Council. She served the Oak Ridge

League of Women Voters in many capacities, notably as newsletter editor and Co-President of the Board. She also served on the League's state board and was editor of the state newsletter. At the Oak Ridge Unitarian Church she taught Sunday School, was on countless committees and served twice on the Board, once as President and once as Assistant Treasurer. Barbara loved supporting a good cause and spending time with friends and family. She instilled in her children her passion for reading, the arts and civic involvement. Her hobbies included needle work, family genealogy research and travel. Barbara is preceded in death by her beloved husband, Ralph; parents, George and Isabelle Longfellow; daughter, Mary Ann Moon; and brother-in-law, John J. Moon. She is survived by children, Kathy (Gary) Kelly; Laura (Grant) Gardner; David (Naomi) Moon; son-in-law, Dave Pierce; sister, Lois Longfellow Moon; and sister-in-law, Mary Alice Moon. She is also survived by grandchildren Patrick (Heather) Kelly, John (Jessi) Kelly,



Gardner, Philip Gardner, Emma Moon, Alli Moon and David (Angela) Pierce, nine great grandchildren and the rest of her extended family. The family would like to express its deep appreciation to the staff at Commonwealth Senior Living for the years of respect, care and compassion they provided. They also thank the nurses from Amedisys for their advice and assistance. A memorial is planned for Saturday, Nov. 18 at 2 p.m. at Oak Ridge Unitarian Universalist Church. In lieu of flowers, donations in Barbara's name may be made to ORUUC, 809 Oak Ridge Turnpike, Oak Ridge, TN 37830, or to a charity of your choice.

Mott-McKamey Funeral Home and Cremations is handling the arrangements. Visit https://www.mottmckameyfh.com/obituaries/barbara-moon for more information.

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

We're scheduled to meet this **Saturday, Nov. 18 at 4 p.m.** in the Sanctuary—PLEASE NOTE the change in time due to Barbara Moon's Memorial Service. Other practices before the New Year's Eve Coffeehouse are Saturday, Dec. 2 and 16 at 3 p.m. in the Sanctuary. We'd love to have you join us! Abbie Moore abbie.moore@icloud.com.

Social and Volunteer Opportunities



Meets monthly at various churches in Oak Ridge. Visit

https://www.facebook.com/groups/3
71268369619360 or email
Anne Backus

backusanne@comcast.net for more information about PFLAG Oak Ridge.

Ecumenical Storehouse Pickups this Saturday, Nov. 18



Join us from 9 a.m. to noon this
Saturday at 134 E. Division Road, Oak
Ridge. This organization, which
supplies furniture and household
goods to those in need, is an important
part of our community. There are
many ways you can help! Please
contact Martin Bauer at
bauermlb@gmail.com for more
information. There are no December
pickup dates; this is your last chance



to help this year!

Eggs and Pegs are back! Play cribbage, eat breakfast, have fun Sunday, Dec. 3! These get togethers will be held the first Sunday of each month at 8:30 a.m. in the Social Hall.



ORRUC is always looking for members to add 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



Pack "Food for Kids" with Second Harvest at First United Methodist Church of Oak Ridge

Monday, Nov. 27 at 12 noon in the Multipurpose Room. The bins of food will be delivered to the schools Tuesday, Nov. 28. This will be the last time we pack until January. There are NO packing dates in December.

Questions? Contact Coordinator Cara Weigel at 865-481-8108.

Family News

It's almost time for Tamales at ORUUC



Our next tamale making day is this Sunday, Nov. 19 from 12-5 p.m. The afternoon is split into two shifts: 12-2:30 and 2:30-5. Please let Jason Fishel know if your youth and/or you are able to participate: solarmanj@gmail.com. December Tamale Making dates

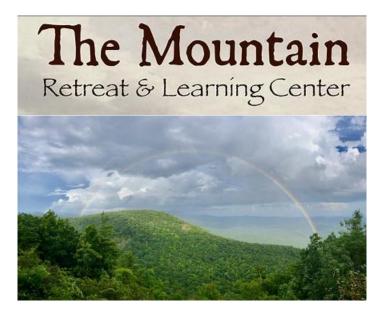
are to be determined. Many hands make light work, and the money we raise from this will go towards our next youth trip.

Tamales go on sale next Wednesday, Nov. 22.

The link to order will be in next week's churchwide email!

Faith Formation Dates for 2023-24

- August 6 First Day of Youth Faith Formation
- September 15-16 Rummage Sale (Teens who volunteer during Rummage Week can earn money for the Youth Trip Fund!)
- September 30 October 16 OR Schools Fall Break
- October 1 Church Potluck (No Faith Formation)
- October 13-15 All Church Retreat (Harrison Bay State Park) (No Faith Formation)
- October 29 Trunk or Treat.
- November 3-5 Fall Elementary Mountain CON
- Wednesday, Nov. 8 6 p.m. in the Social Hall: Tamale Talk! Find out how tamales are made, what our mission is, and how you can help!
- November 12 12 5 p.m. Tamale Making
- November 17-19 Fall Intermediate Mountain CON
- November 19 12-5 p.m. Tamale Making
- December Tamale Making Dates: To Be Determined
- December 1-3 –. <u>Fall Senior High Mountain CON</u> (Registration Deadline: Friday, Nov. 17)
- December 3 Cocoa and Caroling
- December 10 5th/6th OWL Parent Orientation
- January 7 5th/6th grade OWL Begins



TODAY is the deadline to register for Senior High Mountain CON!

- November 3-5 Fall Elementary Mountain CON
- November 17-19 Fall Intermediate Mountain CON
- December 1-3 <u>Fall Senior High</u>
 <u>Mountain CON</u> (Registration closes
 <u>TODAY</u>, Friday, Nov. 17.)

Please email Christine Rehder at crehder@oruuc.org when you register to let her know so that she can plan for advisors and transportation.

Mother Goose with ORUUC's

own "Father Goose" Michael Raymond! Babies through preschoolers will have fun singing, clapping, dancing, and moving with their parents, grandparents, or other caregivers.

First and Third Thursdays ^{at} 10:30 a.m. in the Oak Ridge Public Library Meeting Room

Don't miss the next gatherings

December 7 and 21!

View and sign up for the Oak Ridge Public Library's newsletter here:

https://mailchi.mp/oakridgetn/orplnov23.

November Worship Series Generosity

November 5:

Think of a Minister. Don't Think of an Elephant. Rev. Keith Kron, UUA

November 12:

Cosmic Glory, Earthly Splendor

November 19:

Practicing Gratitude/ Bread Communion

November 26:

The Gift of Our Whole Lives

Join us for
Sunday Worship
at 10 a.m. in
person and on
Zoom

Youth and Adult Faith Formation classes are from 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Nursery is available during the FF hour.



Congregational Meeting Sunday, Dec. 10 at 11:15 a.m.

The Congregational Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, Dec. 10 following morning worship. There are several proposed bylaws changes (see below) that will be up for a vote at that time. A representative from the Board and Bylaws committee will be on hand after worship every Sunday between now and the December 10 meeting, if anyone in the congregation has questions or comments.

Proposed Bylaws Dec. 2023- See changes in footnotes.

ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1. ELIGIBILITY

Membership in ORUUC is open to any person who is in accord with the purposes and principles of Unitarian Universalism and who meets the requirements of this article, regardless of age, race, color, creed, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, or ability.

SECTION 2. RIGHTS

Members may:

- A. Vote in congregational meetings, provided they have been members for at least four weeks prior to the meeting.
- B. Serve on all church committees, except that a member must be at least eighteen years of age to serve on the ORUUC Board of Trustees (hereafter referred to as the Board).

SECTION 3. BECOMING A MEMBER 1

Prospective members shall:

- Affirm that they are familiar with Unitarian Universalist (UU) principles and practices by attending services and completing new member classes; by having been members of another UU congregation; or by having participated in a UU church religious-education program.
- Meet with the Minister in a group or individually.
- Complete a membership commitment card which includes pledge information.²
- After completing the preceding steps, be confirmed by a majority vote of the Board.

SECTION 4. MAINTAINING MEMBERSHIP3

Each year, members shall complete a recommitment card containing pledge information, which can be changed by notifying the church office or minister. Members are encouraged to participate in church life. 4

SECTION 5. REMOVAL

- A member may voluntarily separate from membership by written or oral request to the Board.
- A member who has either not completed a re-commitment card or not followed through on the previous year's pledge
 and does not respond to written letters from the Board may be removed from membership by a majority vote of the
 Board following appropriate inquiry and thirty days' notice. 5
- A member may be removed from membership by a two-thirds vote of the Board for actions that threaten the wellbeing of the congregation.

¹ Previously "Section 4. Process"

² Previously "Complete the appropriate membership card and new-member pledge card."

³ Previously "Section 3. Responsibilities"

⁴ Previously "In accordance with their abilities, all members are expected to participate in the life of ORUUC, pledge and provide financial support, and support ORUUC with volunteer time."

⁵ Previously "A member who has ceased to participate in ORUUC activities, has failed to pledge for one year, and/or does not respond to written letters from the Board may be removed from membership by a majority vote of the Board following appropriate inquiry and thirty days' notice."

Community News

FREE coat vouchers are available now at ORUUC!



Knoxville Area Rescue Ministries (KARM) Stores and Prestige Cleaners work together each year to collect donations of coats and clean them for the Coats for the Cold drive. From November 13 through December 9, customers with a Coats for the Cold ticket can get a free coat at any KARM Store location. ORUUC has nearly 300 coat vouchers to be distributed at Stone Soup and through the church office. More information on Coats for the Cold can be found at karm.org/coats-for-the-cold/.



ORUUC is planning to participate in the Oak Ridge Christmas Parade again this year! Connect with Whitney Cole if you have ideas for our entry or want to get involved!





Start Local, Stay Vocal

Chapter Formation Interest Group



Joe Tolbert Justice Singing Session

Saturday November 18th 3-5pm 2931 Kingston Pike, Knoxville TN

Justice Choir is a volunteer based civic group that:

- Creates music for social and environmental movements.
- Curates a royalty-free, non-commercial music resource.
- Teaches community singing through local partnerships.
- Provides leaders for "pop-up" style group singing at marches, rallies, state buildings, and vigils.
- Builds a networked community capable of responding quickly to urgent, local, social and environmental issues.

To reserve parking contact: david.asbury@musician.org 540-409-1863

The Justice Choir Chapter Formation Interest Group has a special visitor this Saturday: Joe Tolbert of "Art at the intersections" and the Highlander Center will be leading a Justice Singing Session on November 18th from 3 to 5 p.m.

To be added to the mailing list for these events, contact David Asbury, Music Director at TVUUC, at davidasbury@tvuuc.net.



Join Westside UU Minister Rev. Carol Bodeau for an earth-centered gathering each month on third Sundays. 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 outdoors (weather permitting) at Westside at 3-6 p.m.

https://fb.me/e/bK9hRhITh

This Week at ORUUUC

Friday, Nov. 17

Fall Intermediate CON (NC) 11am Tai Chi Practice

Saturday, Nov. 18

Fall Intermediate CON (NC)

9am Ecumenical Storehouse Pickup

2pm Barbara Moon Memorial

Service

4pm Ukulele

Sunday, Nov. 19

Bread Communion

Fall Intermediate CON (NC)

10am Worship

11am High School

11am Together in Spirit

11:15am Adult OWL

11:15am Circle of Trust I

11:15am Knitting & Crocheting

Group

11:15am Newcomers

11:15am Reflections

12pm Tamale Making

12:30pm Buddhism Study Group

12:30pm Circle of Trust IX

3pm Line Dancing

4pm Circle of Trust XI

5-7pm Zentangle Group

5:30pm Circle of Trust X

The deadline to submit news for

The Exponent is

Wednesday at noon.

Please send news, comments, and
feedback to Rachel at

communications@oruuc.org.

There will be no Exponent

Thanksgiving week.

Monday, Nov. 20

11am Tai Chi Practice

Tuesday, Nov. 21

6pm Depression and Anxiety Group

Wednesday, Nov. 22

6:30am Breakfast Rotary

11am Tai Chi Practice

5:30pm Circle of Trust III

6pm Finance Committee Meeting

7pm Choir Practice

7:45pm Band Rehearsal

Thursday, Nov. 23 Thanksgiving

Church Office Closed

11am Loring (Rental)

12pm NWUUC & Launchpad Meeting

(Canceled)

12:30pm Lunch Bunch (Canceled)

Friday, Nov. 24

Church Office Closed

9am Stone Soup Prep

11am Tai Chi Practice

5:30-6:30pm Stone Soup Free

Community Meal (Dine in/Take out)

To view the church calendar anytime, log into the Members' Section of the ORUUC website:

https://www.oruuc.org/memberssection Need password help? Contact the church office!



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





ORUUC Board of Trustees 2023-24

President: Jason Fishel

Past President: Michele Thornton

President-Elect: Kara Raymond

Secretary: Nathaniel Bass

Treasurer: Brandon White

Members-at-Large:

Freddie Nechtow

Charles Davis

Jami Garner

Jen Stark

ORUUC Executive Team

Rev. Lisa Romantum Schwartz

Christine Rehder

Amanda Fishel

Donna Maloney

Jeannie Cuevas, Office Administrator

Sunday, Nov. 26 The Gift of Our Whole Lives



Today we honor and celebrate our lifespan sexuality education program, Our Whole Lives (OWL) as a sacred, life-affirming mission for ourselves, our congregation and our community. We may express our sexuality in different ways, and we may not always understand each other's identities and behaviors but if we view ourselves and one another through the OWL values of self-worth, sexual health, justice and inclusivity, we can see sexuality with respect, acceptance, and joy.