

October 6-19, 2023

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News from Oak Ridge Unitarian Universalist Church

The Exponent



Ministerial Search Committee Update



Your Search Committee has a busy month ahead of us. In October, we will be hosting a set of cottage meetings to further elicit your input on how the congregation will be portrayed to prospective ministers. In these meetings you will be asked to describe the church's meaning to you, its role in the wider community, and what kind of minister you are looking for. These sessions are a good way for those who prefer verbal communications rather than written - i.e. survey - to tell us what they think. They will be limited to one hour, and will be held on the following dates. No need to register! Just show up and share your ideas.

Saturday, October 14 at the Church retreat

Sunday, October 15, 11:15, in the Hearth Room

Wednesday, October 18, 5:30, in the Hearth Room

Sunday, October 22, 11:15 in the Middle School and High School rooms to get youth input. A parent meeting will be held at the same time in the Hearth Room

Saturday, October 28, 10:00, in the Hearth Room

Change Is On the Horizon

Rev. Lisa Romantum Schwartz, Interim Minister

Most Unitarian Universalists are familiar with our Seven Principles. We have them on walls, bulletins, wallet cards, websites, and more. Few UUs know that “the principles” come directly from the bylaws of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA).

In more than six decades since the founding of the UUA, much has changed in American society, in American churches, and in Unitarian Universalism. And the principles have changed along with the times. The last revision was in 1987.

Since early in the 21st century there have been many projects, resolutions, task forces and other strategies calling for a review of the principles. Does the language, primarily from 1961 with a worthy edit in 1987, still capture who we are as a religious community? Do the principles serve to tell the larger community who UUs are, and do they call current UUs to grow into our higher selves?



In 2021, the UUA board empowered a study commission to look at the principles. Since they're found in Article II of the UUA bylaws, it was called “the Article II Study Commission.” The A2SC was broad and diverse (our neighbor and thoughtful UU in Maryville TN, Rob Spirko, was a member). They held many discussions in

various forums, and some ORUUCians participated.

I imagined that the A2SC would craft less staid language, and an 8th principle would be added. I was surprised to see that the A2SC came up with something strikingly new, and strikingly different.

Here's what the proposal says: Love is our common theological core, and everything we do is rooted, as we say at ORUUC, in love. Love is behind and below and woven throughout our lives.

And a list of principles and sources, no matter how beloved, can't really capture that reality.

So, last year at General Assembly (GA) the delegates to study this new proposal for a year. We were not asked to adopt the new proposal, but simply to study it.

I hope you'll accept the invitation of the A2SC and the delegates to GA to engage in this deep work. **Take a look at the graphic (on page 3)**, and spend some time with it before you react. Look at the UUA materials. Of course there will be sermons and discussion groups at ORUUC, too. As society and churches face a magnitude of change that we haven't seen for centuries, perhaps we can meet the dawning age with fresh eyes and new relevance. May it be so!

This Sunday, Oct. 8

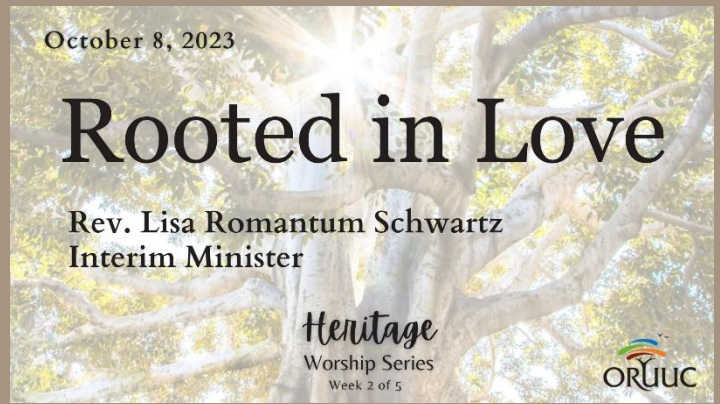
Rooted in Love

“Covenant is the silk that joins Unitarian Universalist congregations, communities, and individuals together in a web of interconnection,” says the UUA. Today at ORUUC we continue our dive into our heritage by exploring what it means to be a church bound by a covenant. There’s history (of course), and theology (certainly), and also science (really) behind our practices of promises. After the service, help Anne Scott and Amanda Law celebrate their covenantal promises at their recent wedding by joining in a joyous reception honoring their marriage! All are invited.

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: [Stone Soup](#)

After worship today, join us in the Social Hall for Anne Scott and Amanda Law’s reception! Adult Faith Formation classes will take place from 11:15 to 12:15. Youth Faith Formation classes are on Fall Break. Nursery is available during worship; childcare will be provided during Anne and Amanda’s reception second hour.

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

Congratulations, Amanda and Anne Branche!



Hello Beloved Community! This is just a reminder that this coming Sunday, Oct. 8th, we’ll be hosting a brief wedding reception after service at 11 in the social hall! All are welcome to attend. If you are planning to come, feel free to visit our [wedding website](#) to RSVP so we know we have enough tea and cake for everyone. If your name doesn’t work in the RSVP, it’s because you aren’t in the current church directory. Feel free to let us know and we’ll get you added. Also, there will be babysitters at the church for those 2 hours so you can still have your break if you need it, or little ones are welcome to join! We can’t wait to celebrate with you all!

This Month’s Split the Plate Offering: Stone Soup

The Split-the-Plate recipient for the month of October is Stone Soup.

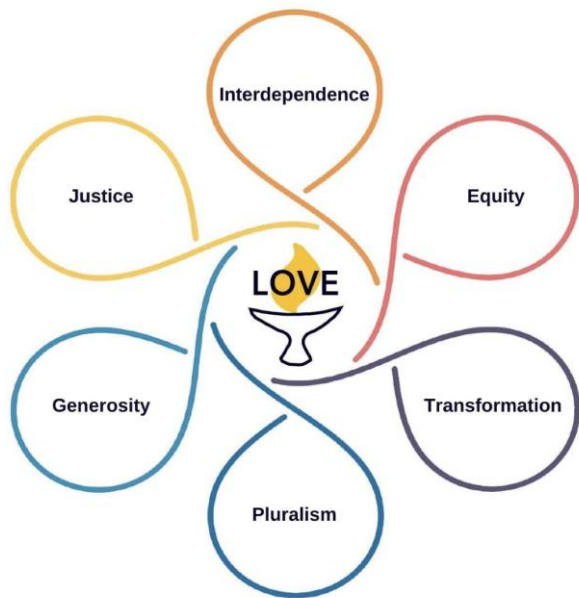
Stone Soup is a ministry of ORUUC. With our community partners at the Jewish Congregation of Oak Ridge (JCOR), volunteers prepare and distribute 150 meals to community members on the final Friday of each month. We also maintain a pantry and give out bags of non-perishable groceries as needed. Stone Soup served the first meal in September 2010 and has never missed a meal.



Financial contributions from ORUUC and JCOR keep Stone Soup going every month, along with a donation of fresh fruit from Kroger. Thanks to ORUUC for your support of this vital community ministry!

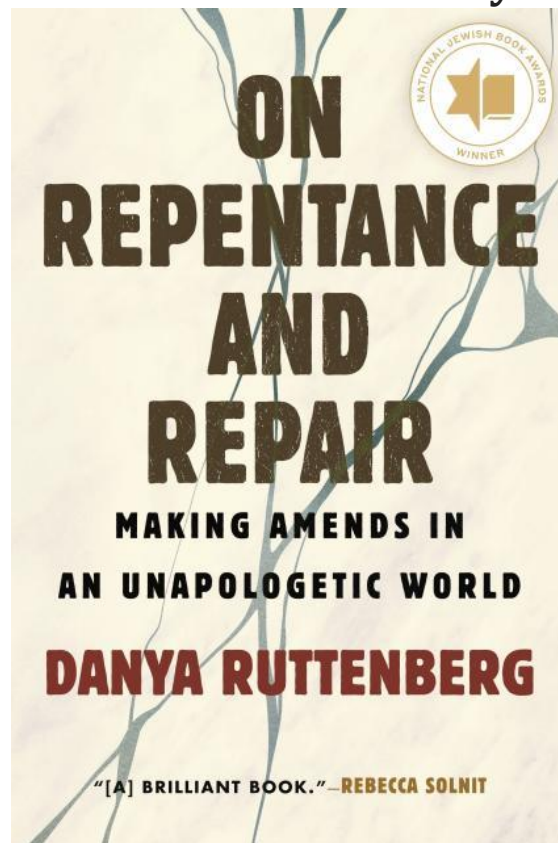
Please [GIVE HERE](#) as you are willing and able, or **text “ORUUC” to 73256.**

Announcements



For more information on the Article II Study Commission, visit <https://www.uua.org/uugovernance/committees/article-ii-study-commission>.

Books are on the way!



AS OF MONDAY, OCTOBER 2 ORUUC HAS ORDERED 20 BOOKS FOR THE BULK DISCOUNT, WHICH IS ONLY A FEW MORE THAN WE NEEDED! THEY WILL BE AVAILABLE IN THE OFFICE FOR A DONATION. THE COST PER BOOK IS ABOUT \$15 AND WE WANT TO PROVIDE BOOKS TO FOLKS WHETHER OR NOT THEY CAN SPARE THAT MONEY--- SO CHECK YOUR BUDGETS AND SUPPORT THIS COMMUNITY READ IF YOU CAN!

Please visit <https://onrealm.org/oruuc/-/form/give/now> and under "Fund," click on the drop down menu. The second option is the title of the book, "On Repentance and Repair." Select that option, and make your payment. Thank you!

The UUA common read that Rev. Lisa mentioned on Sunday, Sept. 24 is *On Repentance and Repair: Making Amends in an Unapologetic World* by Rabbi Danya Ruttenberg (Beacon Press, 2022).

There will be more information in the coming weeks about getting together groups for the UUA workshop(s) on the book. We are looking for a few coordinators for small discussion groups — if you are interested, contact Rev. Lisa at rev.lisa@oruuc.org or Nathaniel Bass at nathaniel.k.bass@gmail.com.

ORUUC Auction

Sunday, Oct. 22

3-7 p.m. at ORUUC

Plant Smiles, Grow Laughter, Harvest Love:

ORUUC Auction Just Around the Corner

On Sunday, October 22, ORUUC will hold an auction from 3 to 7 p.m. The silent auction items will be on display this Sunday, or look for images on the ORUUC website [HERE](#). Items are being added daily! You can bid on a seat at a delicious Cuban dinner, or take home one of Betsy Bauer's Cardamom Coffee Cakes. We are especially hoping to add parties or events to the live auction: a gourmet meal, informal get-together, or wine tasting perhaps. We need help (setting up, serving, cashiers and more) to make this fun and exciting event a success. **Contact Michael Bjerke to donate at 865-567-8385 or michaelbjerke@comcast.net with questions, donations, or for more information. To help out with food, serving or other tasks, call Charlene Luther at 865-567-2216 or lutherca@comcast.net.**

Announcements

Read, Relish, Protect: October Library Mission

CALENDAR
2023

MON 09	COUNTY OPERATIONS COMMITTEE Room 312 - Anderson County Courthouse
THR 12	LIBRARY BOARD MEETING Clinton Public Library
MON 16	ANDERSON COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING Room 312 - Anderson County Courthouse
What to do?	ATTEND A MEETING. CONTACT YOUR COMMISSIONER. SHINE A LIGHT.

Sign-up for email updates: <http://eepurl.com/ixa2v6>

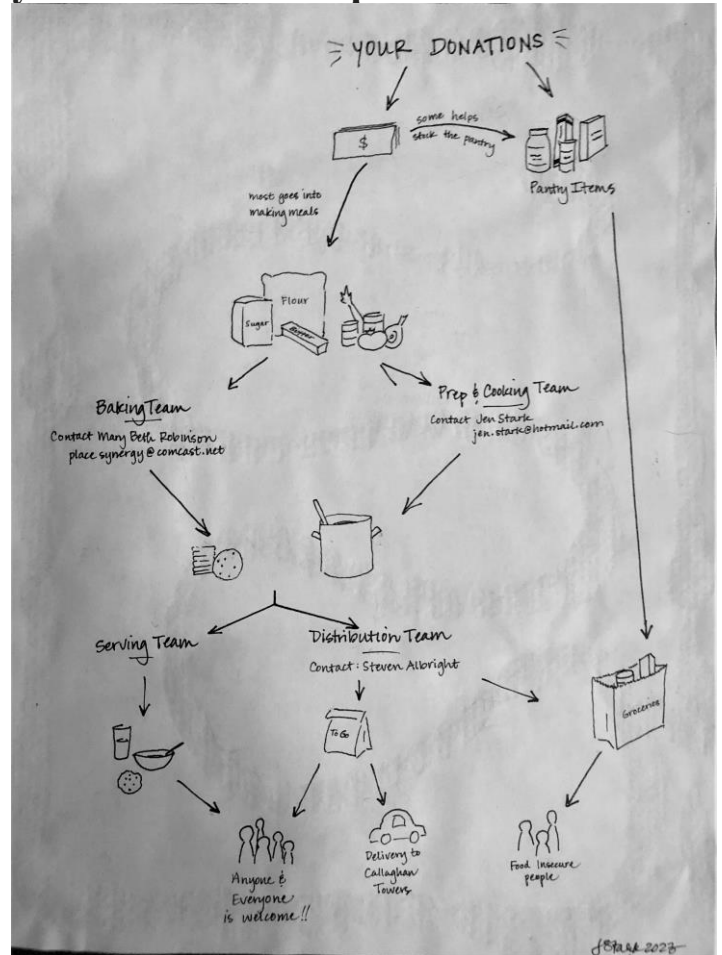
Stand with our libraries! More critical meetings regarding proposed book banning are coming up. Please consider attending or contacting county officials to let them know where you stand on this issue. Get involved! Sign up for updates at <http://eepurl.com/ixa2v6>.

Congregational Conversation on Safety Wednesday, Oct. 18 at 5 p.m.



How do we feel safe in our lives? In our sacred space? It's important to have an open and respectful conversation about the issues and about safety policy, including firearms policy, at ORUUC. This is the first in a series of conversations facilitated by a task force of Board members, Executive Team and Safety Team members, and the minister. **Join us for the Congregational Conversation on Safety at ORUUC on Wednesday, Oct. 18, 5:00 – 6:45 p.m.**

When you donate to Stone Soup or Split the Plate this month, how do your donations help?



On Friday Sept 29, Stone Soup served 65 take-out meals, 30 deliveries to Callaghan Towers, and 38 inside guests. Thanks to our 19 volunteers, it went off great! We're going to be short 3 people next month, so we could use a few more helpers on Friday, Oct 27 to serve. Contact Jen Stark at jen.stark@hotmail.com to help!



Get those recipes ready for the Chili Cookoff! Sunday, Oct. 29 during Faith Formation hour (before Trunk or Treat!) Free to enter! \$5 suggested donation to taste/judge.

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 October

Janet Fryer fryerjanetr@gmail.com 847-821-1205 (cell)

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

Pantry Needs and Thanks

Thank you!



This Month

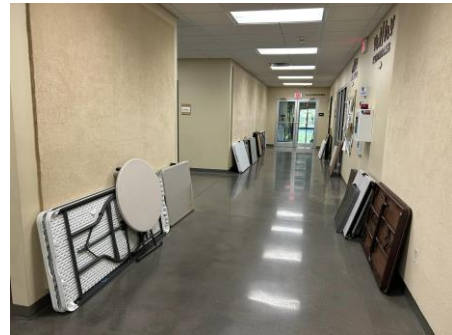
- Peanut Butter
- Canned green veggies
- Canned fruit
- Canned meats (tuna, chicken)
- Soups
- Kidney beans
- Mac & Cheese
- Hamburger Helper
- Ravioli/SpaghettiOs

ORUUC Pantry Needs



Thanks to all those who have donated generously to the church pantry in recent weeks. **Our ongoing needs are still peanut butter, canned green vegetables, and canned fruit** to pack grocery bags for those in need. Please consider picking up a few of these the next time you go grocery shopping. Donations may be dropped off any time during church office hours (Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.) or on Sunday. Thank you! Your donations are greatly appreciated!

Please Pick Up Your Tables at Church—Thanks!



The Rummage Team is always grateful for members and friends who allow us to borrow tables for the sale. Now that Fall Rummage has come and gone, about a dozen tables remain. Stop by the church to retrieve them—the office is open Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Or pick them up on Sunday. **If you need to make other arrangements, please call the church office at 483-6761.** Thank you!

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

Since many people will be unable to attend our Saturday, Oct. 7 practice, it seemed like a good idea to cancel. We plan to meet on Saturday, Oct. 21 at 3 p.m. in the Sanctuary. The next Coffeehouse has already been announced—New Year's Eve, Sunday, Dec. 31! 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/371268369619360> or email

Anne Backus

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



ORUUC needs to add members 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 at home, in the hospital
- 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

October is ORUUC's turn to run the Ecumenical Storehouse



We need your help! This organization, which supplies furniture and household goods to those in need, will be open **every Tuesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. to noon. For each day we need two people to gather up the small items for the clients, and two people to help load the heavier items.**

The work is easy and very much needed in this community. **Please sign up by contacting Michael Bjerke at 865-567-8385.**



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



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

Monday, Oct. 16 at 12 noon in the Multipurpose Room. The bins of food will be delivered to the schools Tuesday, Oct. 17. Other packing dates for the fall are **November 6 & 7, November 27 & 28, NONE IN DECEMBER.** Questions? Contact Coordinator Cara Weigel at 865-481-8108.

Family News

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](#)
- November 17-19 - [Fall Intermediate Mountain CON](#)
- November/December - Tamaladas (A tamale making party!) TBD
- December 1-3 - [Fall Senior High Mountain CON](#)
- December 3 - Cocoa and Caroling
- December 10 - 5th/6th OWL Parent Orientation
- January 7 - 5th/6th OWL Begins

Registration for Mountain CONs opens soon, and ends two weeks prior to the CON date. Please email Christine Rehder at crehder@oruuc.org when you register to let her know so that she can plan for advisors and transportation.

It's never too late to join Youth Faith Formation! Bring a friend! Check out our updated programming at <http://www.oruuc.org/religious-education>.



The next Middle and High School youth hike is this Sunday, Oct. 8 at Worthington Cemetery. Meet at 2 p.m. at the Elza Gate parking lot. Pickup is at 4 p.m., same location. Parents: Please make sure that you fill out and turn in a release form before the hike. Forms will be available at drop off. Parents are welcome to join the hike! Thanks to Jim Nutaro, Aubrey Wick Sebastian, Jimmy Groton, and Whitney Cole for organizing these monthly hikes!



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 gathering October 19!

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

<https://mailchi.mp/oakridgetn/orploct23>



Get ready for ORUUC's Trunk or Treat, Sunday, Oct. 29, 1-2 p.m., right after the Chili Cookoff! Treat donations are appreciated! There's a bin in the church lobby where you may drop off bagged candy, small toys, books--whatever you'd like to donate to help make it a fun day for all! Thank you!



Check out our monthly Family newsletter, Connecting in Spirit! Visit <http://www.oruuc.org/connectinginspirit>.

October Worship Series

Heritage

October 1:

*How to Live A Life of Courage, and
Compassion*

October 8:

Rooted in Love

October 15:

Your Questions, Please

October 22:

Good Trouble

October 29:

Welcoming the Spirits of our Ancestors

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

Youth and Faith Formation classes are from
11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. There is no FF October 1
(multigenerational potluck) or October 8 (Oak
Ridge Schools' Fall Break).

Nursery is available during the FF hour.



Community News

Information • Demonstrations • Speakers
Art • Music • Food • Games • Prizes

Saturday, October 7, 2023
 11:00 am - 3:00 pm
 Oak Ridge Civic Center & Senior Center

Oak Ridge City Transit Bus
 is providing free rides
 within Oak Ridge.
 Call 800-232-1565 to schedule a ride.

- | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| Wheelchair Basketball | Dancing | X-Treme Challenge Course |
| Low Vision Resources | Panel Discussion | Outdoor Sports Demo |
| Door Prizes | Kids' Games | Independent Living Aids |
| Guide Dogs | Mobility Resources | Aging in Place |
| Adaptive Technology | Punch for Parkinson's | Education Programs |

Thank you to our sponsors. Additional sponsors are invited.



For general information or accessibility accommodations, call (865) 425-3999

Mark your calendars to attend the Celebrate Different Abilities Fair, this Saturday, Oct. 7, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. at the Oak Ridge Civic Center. The first-ever disability fair in Oak Ridge has two main goals: to provide information on resources to people with disabilities, their families and caregivers, and to attract others to come and learn about how we can plan and build our communities so that all can live, work and play to their full potential. There will be 50 vendors, 20 activities, demonstrations, ten speakers, art exhibits, music, food, games, prizes and more! Sponsored by The City of Oak Ridge, United Way of Anderson County, and Periodic Tables: Healing Starts Here. For more information, visit <https://www.oakridgeperiodictables.com/blog/periodic-tables-fall-line-up-is-here>.



Interested in being part of an East TN UU cluster table at this fall's Knox Pride event October 6-8 at World's Fair Park? ORUUC will work with other UU churches to be supportive at this important event. Contact Mark Mohundro at TVUUC: markm667@gmail.com. For more information on the Knox Pride event, visit <https://www.knoxpride.com/pride-fest-2023>.



Join Westside UU Minister Rev. Carol Bodeau for an earth-centered gathering each month, on the third Sunday. 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>



On October 16th, winter coat collection will begin at all locations of Knoxville Area Rescue Ministries (KARM) Stores and Prestige Cleaners. Please encourage individuals, families and groups to gather unused coats and deliver them to a KARM Stores location. Beginning November 13th, customers with a Coats for the Cold ticket can "purchase" a coat at a KARM Stores location. ORUUC will receive coat vouchers to be given out at Stone Soup and on request. Last year, we distributed more than 150! More information on Coats for the Cold can be found at karm.org/coats-for-the-cold/.

Join us for a **15th Anniversary Celebration!**
 MUSIC | FOOD | SILENT AUCTION
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2023
 2ND BAPTIST CHURCH
 FAMILY LIFE CENTER
 777 PUBLIC SAFETY LANE, CLINTON, TN 37716
 DOORS OPEN AT 5:30PM
 PROGRAM 6PM - 8:30PM
 With Special Guests:
McKamey Legacy
 Heather Haley, Chief Meteorologist - WVLT
 Don Hudson, News Anchor - WATE

SCAN HERE FOR TICKETS & DONATIONS

Need more info? Call Jerri Bottom, 865-566-7045

This Week at ORUUUC



Friday, Oct. 6

11am Tai Chi Practice
6pm Set up Silent Auction items

Saturday, Oct. 7

3pm Ukulele (Canceled)

Sunday, Oct. 8

8:15am Circle of Trust VII
10am Worship
11am High School (Canceled)
11am Together in Spirit (Canceled)
11:15am Circle of Trust IV
11:15am Reflections
11:30am Law-Scott Reception
11:30am Circle of Trust II
12:15pm Circle of Trust V
12:30pm Buddhism Study Group
1pm Circle of Trust VI
2pm Middle/High School Youth Hike
3pm Line Dancing
5-7pm Zentangle Group

Monday, Oct. 9

Indigenous Peoples' Day

Office Closed

11am Tai Chi Practice
6pm EMBERS

Tuesday, Oct. 10

6pm Presidents' Council
6pm Depression and Anxiety Group
6:30pm Auction Meeting

Wednesday, Oct. 11

6:30am Breakfast Rotary
11am Tai Chi Practice
5:15pm Circle of Trust III
7pm Choir Practice
7:45pm Band Rehearsal

Thursday, Oct. 12

12pm NWUUC & Launchpad Meeting
12:30pm Thursday Lunch Bunch
7pm Cornhole Game

There will be no Exponent Friday, Oct. 13 due to Fall Break vacation. Look for the next issue on Friday, Oct. 20. Thank you!



Childcare is provided for children ages 10 and under for church meetings and events. Please complete this form TWO WEEKS in advance: <https://form.jotform.com/231284551294053>. Once you click "Submit," the form goes to ORUUUC's Multigenerational Coordinator Whitney Cole, who will work with Childcare Coordinator Laura Scott to arrange childcare. Thank you!



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



ORUUC Board of Trustees 2023-24

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Christine Rehder

Amanda Fishel

Donna Maloney

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Sunday, Oct. 15 Your Questions, Please!

Rev. Lisa Romantum Schwartz,
Interim Minister



Today's service is a UU tradition called a "Question Box sermon," an energetic celebration of our faith's heritage of questioning, and questing after the truth! Here's how it works: YOU (yes, you) ask the minister questions (you can submit questions in advance to rev.lisa@oruuc.org) and she answers 'em on the spot. If you have a burning question, a ticklish quandary, or simply want to "stump the chump," this is the service for

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