

May 10-16, 2024

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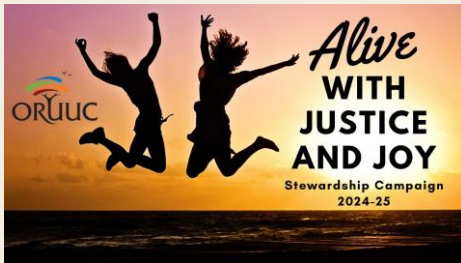
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News from Oak Ridge Unitarian Universalist Church

The Exponent



Help us come Alive with Justice and Joy at ORUUC—fill out your pledge card today! Or pledge online here:

<https://onrealm.org/oruuc/-/form/pledge/20242025pledge>.

We're currently at 50% of pledging units as of May 2!

The annual Congregational Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, June 16 following morning worship. That means we're just FIVE WEEKS AWAY from voting on a budget for the upcoming church year, which begins July 1. It's difficult to build a budget without a clear idea of how much funding we'll have to operate the church. We thank all of you who have sent in your pledge—if you haven't gotten around to it yet, please use the link above, or mail your yellow pledge card. Thank you for supporting ORUUC as we look ahead to this exciting next chapter!

How to Keep a Minister, Part 2

Rev. Lisa Romantum Schwartz, Interim Minister

Happy springtime, ORUUC! I continue to feel excited about your call of Lóre Stevens as your settled minister. As promised, this week's column is part 2 in a short series on How to Keep a Minister. (Missed last week's installment? Read it here:

<https://www.oruuc.org/newsletters>.

Continuing with the Rev. Dr. Matthew Johnson's thoughts on how churches can increase their chances for a successful long-term ministry, here's more of the self-assessment tool for congregations. Make your own assessment of where ORUUC fits, add up your points, and get a sense of how to maximize your church's chances of keeping a minister.

Respect for Authority

- 4. The church values the minister's expertise and authority in theology, leadership, worship, and care. The minister is the clear chief of staff. (This includes the ability to hire and fire staff.)
- 3. Most members respect the minister most of the time, but an undercurrent of suspicion may be present.
- 2. Members often question the minister's authority and judgement. Some act out, and leaders let it go unchallenged.

- 1. The minister is seen as a service provider whose job is to make people happy. They are regularly critiqued and attacked. They are not consulted about important decisions.

Pay

- 4. The congregation is joyfully fair-

-compensation.

- 3. Though some members grumble about it, the congregation is fair-compensation and committed to remaining so.

- 2. Many leaders want to be fair-compensation, but the congregation isn't there yet.

- 1. The congregation is not fair-compensation and doesn't really see why they should be.

Balance

- 4. The congregation insists that the minister maintains a healthy work-life balance, and joyfully welcomes the minister's family (if any) at the level they wish to be engaged.

- 3. The congregation respects the minister's boundaries and need for time off.

- 2. Though most members respect the minister's time off, some do not, and the congregation sees this as the minister's problem to solve.

- 1. The congregation regularly invades the minister's time off, privacy, and family life.

I hope these ideas spark conversation among you, and increase a general awareness of what's active in the process of not just calling, but keeping a minister for the long haul. There's a lot at stake in today's complicated world, and I know you have a powerful partnership ahead.

Tune in again next week for another installment of: How To Keep A Minister!



This Sunday, May 12

Arise, Women of This Day

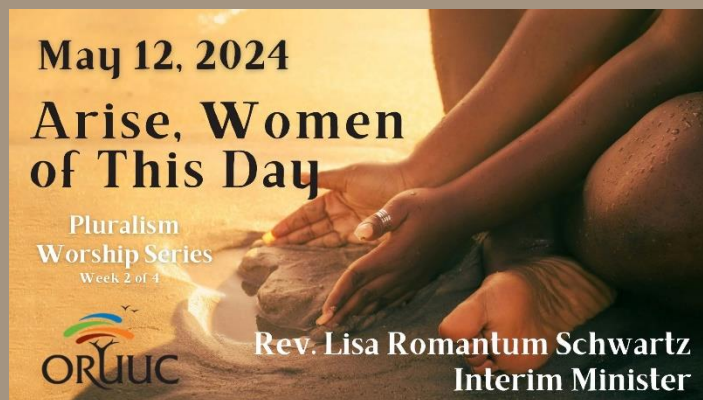
The 19th Century Unitarian Julia Ward Howe proclaimed: "From the voice of a devastated Earth a voice goes up with our own. It is the voice of the Divine, and it says: 'Disarm! Disarm! The sword of murder is not the balance of justice.'" Thus did our ancestor declare a Mother's Day of Peace, calling for people of all ages and stages of lives to be the nurturers and peace makers of the human race.

Worship with us at 10 a.m. in person or on ZOOM.
Zoom door opens at 9:45 a.m.

To Zoom: Please install the Zoom app on your device and use Zoom Worship Service Meeting ID: 946 8973 5846.

The Order of Service may be found [here](#).

Email or Text Prayer Requests to prayers@oruuc.org



May Split the Plate Offering: [Anderson County Family Justice Center](#)

After worship, everyone is invited to have coffee and treats in the Social Hall. Adult and Youth Faith Formation classes meet from 11:15 to 12:15. Childcare will be available during worship and 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.



This Sunday is the final Sunday of Youth Faith Formation before the program takes a break for the summer. Classes will resume Sunday, Aug. 4.



Don't miss Bridging Sunday, May 19! This special service is followed by an all-church luncheon. Let's celebrate our high school graduates!

May Split the Plate Offering: Anderson County Family Justice Center



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 recipient is the Anderson County Family Justice Center.

The Anderson County Family Justice Center is a free, confidential safe space that assists survivors of elder abuse, sexual assault, domestic violence, exploitation, and child abuse. Staff help survivors create a safety plan, find emergency shelter, and obtain an order of protection in the most dangerous hours for a

victim leaving an abusive environment. They also provide space for survivors to meet with law enforcement, prosecutors, and counselors. FJC helps survivors grow and thrive after their trauma by helping with transportation, resume writing, and referrals to other agencies.

To learn more about the Family Justice Center of Anderson County, visit <https://www.fjcanderson.org/>.

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



May Worship Series

Pluralism

May 5: ***Celebrating Faith Formation***

Christine Rehder

Youth Faith Formation Leader Awards and the Bob Kernohan Award will be given out during worship. Stay for the annual May Day Picnic after the service! Bring a dish to share, and a blanket or chair if you plan to sit outside. There will be no Faith Formation classes or childcare second hour.

May 12: ***Arise, Women of This Day***

Rev. Lisa Romantum Schwartz

Last day of Youth Faith Formation classes! Have a wonderful summer! See you on August 4!

May 19: ***A Moment, A Process, A Lifelong Commitment***

Celebrate our Bridging Seniors and their families during worship and a luncheon reception afterward.

May 26: ***Memorial Day Remembrance***

A special service of readings and hymns.

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

Adult Faith Formation classes meet from 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. every Sunday unless otherwise noted. Youth Faith Formation classes take a break for summer beginning May 19 and resume August 4. Nursery is available during Worship and the FF hour.



Announcements



Our Volunteer of the Month for May is one who helps out in many quiet, behind-the-scenes kind of ways. Chances are, if you've enjoyed a meal or special dessert—this person has been part of making that happen. From reaching out to folks to make meals and snacks for Rummage volunteers, to ordering and picking up special cakes, organizing food for the Auction last fall, and peering into a hot oven baking lasagnas in the church kitchen this spring for the Stewardship luncheon, she's done it. She also serves as a Sanctuary steward, coming in during the week to tidy the sanctuary and prepare it for the following Sunday. And she's one of the faithful voices in the church choir. For all of this and much more, the Executive Team has named Charlene Luther Volunteer of the Month! Thank you, Charlene!



Contact Steven Albright for more information. All are welcome!

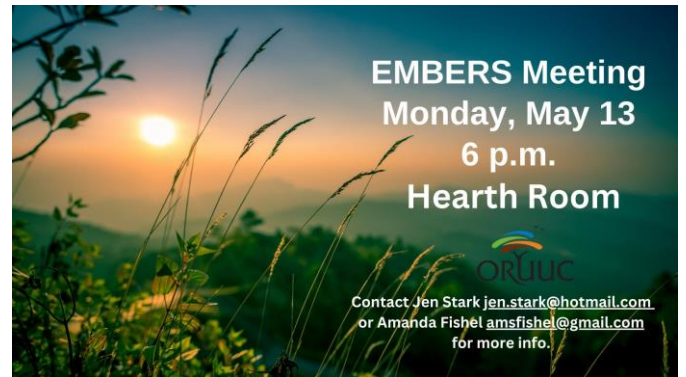
Join the Sunday morning Coffee (and Tea) Ministry



Connect with Michael Bjerke for more information!



Opportunities to gather in casual ways are essential to a vibrant community like ORUUC. One of the ways to facilitate this sense of belonging is to make sure there's coffee and tea available after services. This warm hospitality is truly a ministry, and if you feel called to make coffee, heat water for tea, and wash a few cups and saucers, please let Michael Bjerke (michaelbjerke@comcast.net) know you're interested. There's a team that works on this, so no one has to do it more than once a month or so. Training on how to make coffee is available.



The EMBERS (Earth Mindfulness Based on Earth Religions and Spirituality) Group invites you to its meeting Monday, May 13 at 6 p.m. in the Hearth Room. For more information, connect with Jen Stark or Amanda Fishel.



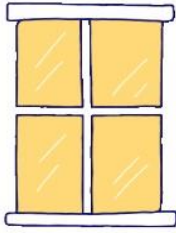
Congregational Meeting Sunday, June 16 at 11:30 a.m.

In the Sanctuary and on Zoom



Mark your calendar for the annual Congregational Meeting, Sunday, June 16!

Caring for Each Other

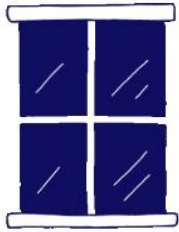


Are you going through a difficult time? Are you in a situation where support and caring are needed--someone to do grocery shopping, take you to a doctor's appointment, or provide a meal following an upcoming surgery? Contact the church office: (865) 483-6761 or office@oruuc.org or a Caring Coordinator!

Caring Coordinators for May

Ellen Faby elfab418@gmail.com 865-363-1092

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



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.

Marguerite Cain (Ebert) Blake (April 23, 1929 - April 12, 2024)



Born April 23, 1929 passed away on April 12, 2024. She was with her family at home, just as she wished. **A gathering will be held in Oak Ridge on Saturday, June 1 from 12:00-2:00pm at the Unitarian Universalist Church 809 Oak Ridge Turnpike. We will have a light lunch and share memories!**

Marguerite is survived by her son, Edward, his wife, Brigitte, of San Mateo, CA and their three children, Ellen, Julia and Claire: daughter Patty Ebert Gordon and her husband, Alan Sibley of Minneapolis, MN: and Sharon Hackney and her husband, Lonnie, of Nashville TN. She is also survived by her stepchildren, Wendy Blake of Park City, UT, and Jody Blake of San Antonio, TX. Her stepson, Chuck, passed away in 2006. Her special friend was Norbert Grant, who passed away in 2022.

Marguerite was always her own person, beginning when she was the age of 16 and driving her parent's car all over Minneapolis during the winter to deliver sets & props to a theater troupe based at the Women's Club of Minneapolis.

She graduated Washburn High School as valedictorian and went to Mills College in California for a year before returning to the theater world at the University of Minnesota. There she met lifelong friends and Paul Ebert. They married in 1954 and had (as Marguerite always said) the amazing good luck to move to Oak Ridge, TN where Paul became the director of the Oak Ridge Community Playhouse. After 3 years working for the Highland Rim Girl Scout Council and volunteering at the Playhouse, she was selected as one of the directors for the Oak Ridge Children's Theatre, later known as Junior Playhouse.

Marguerite also became the business manager of the Playhouse in 1959 and for the next 25 years she was the face of the Playhouse and Junior Playhouse. Innumerable children went through her Creative Dramatics classes and spent hours at the Playhouse for the two shows a year she directed. She loved the work there, the incredible volunteers, and years of being part of a fantastic group of creative, dedicated, funny and talented people who were part of the Playhouse family.

She also volunteered with the League of Women Voters, Recording for the Blind, and the Arts Council and wrote the Ask Inky column at *The Oak Ridger* in conjunction first with Mary Smyser and then Sam Richter. She was a founder and enthusiastic member of the lunch group, Monday Thing, which is still going after over 60 years.

In 1984, Marguerite retired from the Playhouse and married Charlie Blake of Danbury, CT. After living there for three years, they moved back to Oak Ridge where they both resumed their volunteer work with the Playhouse and where she served on the Arts Council Board for the next 14 years. *Continue reading at* <https://www.oakridger.com/obituaries/pokro797704>. *An online memorial is available at:* <https://www.alternativecremationandfuneralservice.com/obituary/marguerite-blake>.

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. *There will be no line dancing this Sunday, May 12. Happy Mother's Day!*



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

Our next scheduled meet-up is Saturday, May 18 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



Zentangle Group Sundays 5 to 7 PM

Introductory and Continuing Classes
\$10 including starter supplies (cash only)
For more information, contact
Nancy Starr, Certified Zentangle Teacher
865-483-8684 (landline)
865-742-9993 (mobile/text)
starroakridge@gmail.com

Ecumenical Storehouse Pick Up Saturday, May 18, 9 a.m.-12 noon Volunteers needed!



Each month, ORUUC picks up donations for Ecumenical Storehouse, which supplies furniture and household goods to those in need. There are many ways you can help! Please contact Michael Bjerke at michaelbjerke@comcast.net for more information.



Play cribbage, eat breakfast, have fun at **Eggs and Pegs!** These get-togethers will be held the first Sunday of each month at 8:30 a.m. in the Social Hall. Questions? Talk to Brandon White, Christina Elliott, Jane Flanagan, or Shelaine Curd.



ORUUC 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



Packing "Food for Kids" with Second Harvest at First United Methodist Church of Oak Ridge is done for the school year! This program provides backpacks with non-perishable foods for preschool and elementary students to take home on weekends. **Packing will resume in August.** Interested in volunteering? Contact Coordinator Cara Weigel at 865-481-8108 or rcweigel@comcast.net.

Family News

Congratulations to our Bridgers and the Class of 2024 at ORHS! Graduation is Friday, May 17 at 7 p.m. at Blankenship Field.

Join us for worship at ORUUC Sunday, May 19 at 10 a.m. in person and on Zoom for ORUUC's Bridging Service and Luncheon.



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
May 16!*

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

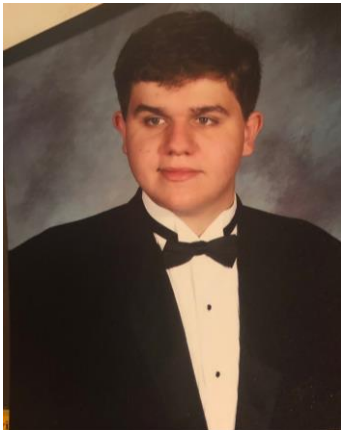
<https://mailchi.mp/oakridgetn/orplmay24>



Laura Scott

What's next for you? After graduation, I plan to pursue a combination of Education and Psychology at Tennessee Technological University in Cookeville.

A Special ORUUC Memory: The most significant aspect of ORUUC for me is the support and opportunity it provided for me to pursue my dream of becoming an educator, even at the age of 8. I spent most of my time in the preschool room or nursery, and eventually, people didn't even realize I was attending church because I was always there. I am grateful to Whitney and Susan for allowing me to explore my passion and for being so open and kind to my curiosity.



Luke Stark

What's next for you? I'll be attending Pellissippi State Community College where I'll be studying computer programming.

A special ORUUC memory: the Boston trip and Mountain Cons.



Kelsey "Big K" Kaiser

What's next for you? I'll be attending Tennessee College of Applied Technology (TCAT) in Knoxville.

A special ORUUC Memory: Spring 2023 MountainCon. We made music together and it was awesome!



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>. Thanks!



Check out ORUUC's monthly Family newsletter, *Connecting in Spirit*, by visiting <https://www.oruuc.org/connectinginspirit>.

Community News



YOM HASHOAH - HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

My Holocaust Legacy: An Evening with Dr. Alex Kor



May 16, 2024 • 7 PM
Knoxville Jewish Alliance
6800 Deane Hill Drive, Knoxville

The evening will also include
Memorial Candle Lighting Ceremony
Reception & Book Signing with Dr. Kor
Perpetrators of the Holocaust exhibit

Everyone is invited to the Knoxville Jewish Alliance's Yom HaShoah, Thursday, May 16 at 7 p.m. at 6800 Deane Hill Drive. The keynote speaker is Dr. Alex Kor, the son of world-recognized Holocaust survivor, Eva Kor. Ms. Kor was recognized worldwide for speaking about her experience as a "Mengele Twin," along with her twin sister. Both were performed on widely by Josef Mengele. Alex will incorporate his mother's recording for Shoah Foundation's "Dimensions in Testimony." Alex's father is also a Holocaust survivor. His debut book features his father's story. A reception and book-signing will follow the (free) event.



ORUUC is hosting a booth at this year's Youth Pride event, TOMORROW (Saturday, May 11) from noon to 4:30 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church, Oak Ridge. Show up and lend a hand!

Join friends at Youth Pride for an afternoon of fun for LGBTQ+ youth and their allies. Activities are aimed at middle and high school kids. The theme is "Finding our Joy." Parents and caregivers are welcome (we may put you to work!) For more information, visit <https://fb.me/e/6JYnBYcZE>. Spread the word!



Do you have a few hours to volunteer each month? Do you want to make a difference in children's lives? Then become a member of ORUUC's Fresh Fruit for Kids shared ministry! We provide a piece of fresh fruit for each Oak Ridge preschool and elementary school child who participates in Second Harvest's Backpack Program. For additional information or to make a "trial run", talk to Lynda McLaren (865) 207-8139 or Patsy Stacy (865) 399-1370.



Photo courtesy of the ORUUC Softball Team

Cheer on the ORUUC Softball Team Tuesday, May 14 at 6:30 p.m. as they play Blue Ballers at Carl Yearwood Park (235 Bus Terminal Rd). Go Team!

ORUUC Reminder: If your group hosts a meal during the week, please remember to take out the trash bags in the Social Hall and Kitchen when you clean up. Garbage and recycling should be left in the cans in the fenced area by the shed. Thank you! Jeannie

This Week at ORUUC



Friday, May 10

9am Good Trouble
11am Tai Chi Practice

Saturday, May 11

12-4:30pm Youth Pride Fest (First Presbyterian Church, Oak Ridge)

Sunday, May 12

8:15am Circle of Trust VII
10am Worship Service
11am High School
11am Together in Spirit
11:15 am Circle of Trust IV
11:15am Newcomers
11:15am Reflections
11:30am Circle of Trust II
12:15pm Circle of Trust V
12:30pm Buddhism Study Group
1pm Circle of Trust VI
1:30pm Book Club
3pm Line Dancing (Canceled—Happy Mother's Day!)
5pm Zentangle

Monday, May 13

11am Tai Chi Practice
6pm EMBERS

Tuesday, May 14

6pm Presidents Council
6pm Depression & Anxiety Group
6:30pm ORUUC Softball v. Blue Ballers (Carl Yearwood Park)

Wednesday, May 15

6:30am Breakfast Rotary
11am Tai Chi Practice
11am Circle of Trust VIII
1:30pm Executive Team Meeting
7pm Choir Practice
7:45pm Band Rehearsal

Thursday, May 16

12:30pm Lunch Bunch (Canceled) *Note: The Lunch Bunch is taking a break for a few weeks. They will begin meeting again June 20.*

Friday, May 17

9:30am Memorial Service for Karen Wilson
<https://www.oakridger.com/obituaries/pokr0795857>



Did a member of your family serve in the armed forces? We're seeking photos of those who served who are no longer with us to share during morning worship on Sunday, May 26. Please email photos to communications@oruuc.org, and join us in person or on Zoom for this special service.



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



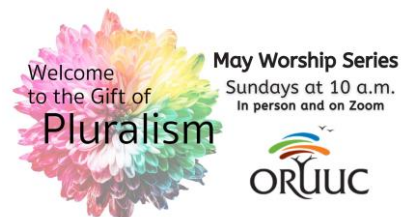
ORUUC Board of Trustees 2023-24

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ORUUC Executive Team

Rev. Lisa Romantum Schwartz
Christine Rehder
Amanda Fishel
Donna Maloney
Jeannie Cuevas, Office Administrator

Coming up...Sunday, May 19 A Moment, A Process, A Lifelong Commitment



One of the most important things Unitarian Universalist congregations can do for our youth is to support them into adulthood, to keep them connected to Unitarian Universalism, and continue to minister to them as they become adults. Today's service will include a Bridging Ceremony for Kelsey Kaiser, Laura Scott and Luke Stark.

The deadline to submit news for the next *Exponent* is Wednesday, May 15 at noon. Please send news, comments, and feedback to Rachel at communications@oruuc.org.