

May 3-9, 2024

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## News from Oak Ridge Unitarian Universalist Church

# The Exponent



### ORUUC Welcomes Lóre Stevens as Minister July 17!



Last Sunday, April 28, 122 members showed up for worship and the in-person vote that followed to call Lóre to serve as the next minister of our congregation. The results of the paper ballot vote were as follows: 118 - yes, 1 - no, and 3 blank responses.



Join Lóre for her Service of Ordination on Saturday, May 18 at 3 p.m. ET at First UU Nashville and on Zoom (link shared soon).

## How to Keep a Minister

Rev. Lisa Romantum Schwartz, Interim Minister

A hearty congratulations to ORUUC for a stellar call of Lóre Stevens to be your next settled minister! I shower you all with blessings as you prepare to begin this next chapter of strong and engaged ministry.

Your church has a wonderful foundation of excellent long-term ministry. And, since Rev. Jake and Rev. Tandy began serving ORUUC, a lot has changed in UU ministry. It's now rare for congregations and ministers to partner for longer than about seven years. Having just been through the search process, I know you want to keep Lóre in a vibrant partnership for longer than that!

The Rev. Dr. Matthew Johnson, who's served the UU church in Rockford, Illinois for over 15 years, wrote a great article a few years ago about how churches maximize their chances of a fruitful, long-term partnership with a minister. Here are some of his ideas, in my first installment of a series of Exponent articles titled, "How to Keep a Minister."

Johnson has a self-assessment tool for congregations with five areas. A church adds up its points, with higher point values being better predictors of success at keeping a minister. See how you'd rate ORUUC in his first two areas:

### Mission

4. The church has a strong sense of mission, to change lives in and out of the church.

3. The church is a beacon for liberal values, and many people are engaged in outward ministry.

2. The church is a refuge for liberal people, and some work in the community for good.

1. The church is a club-house and resists any effort to change the world, let alone the gathered people.

### Participation

4. Many people joyfully participate in worship, leadership, and social activities.

The minister has strong partners in the ministry.

3. There is a core of active leaders in many areas.

2. Though there are some good leaders, the minister is expected to drive most of the ministry.

1. Members see themselves as consumers of the ministry, not co-creators or owners of the church. (Unless there is conflict with the minister.)

I'd give ORUUC high scores in both of these areas, yet I'm aware that my subjective scoring is much less important than your own! It's worthy of some conversation among you, especially leaders and emerging leaders, about where you'd put ORUUC on the above scales. I look forward to engaging in the process with you!



# This Sunday, May 5

## The End of Faith Formation

What is the goal of educating children and adults about matters of faith? Interim Minister Rev. Lisa Schwartz helps us explore why we do what we do in this service honoring our Faith Formation leaders. Stay afterwards for the May Day picnic!

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](mailto:prayers@oruuc.org)

May 5, 2024

## The End of Faith Formation

Rev. Lisa Romantum Schwartz  
Interim Minister



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

After worship, everyone is invited to the May Day Picnic. Hot dogs, buns, and condiments will be provided. There will be no Faith Formation classes or childcare second hour. Enjoy food and fellowship together!

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.



**The Annual May Day Picnic is this Sunday, May 5! Please bring a side dish or dessert that feeds at least 6 people.** Hot dogs, buns, and condiments will be provided. If you're planning to sit outside, bring a chair or a blanket. For more information, contact Val Herd.

***There will be no Faith Formation classes or childcare during the second hour (11:15-12:15) this Sunday. Enjoy food and fellowship with one another!***

## 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: ***The End of Faith Formation***

Rev. Lisa Romantum Schwartz

Youth Faith Formation Leader Awards and the Bob Kernahan 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***

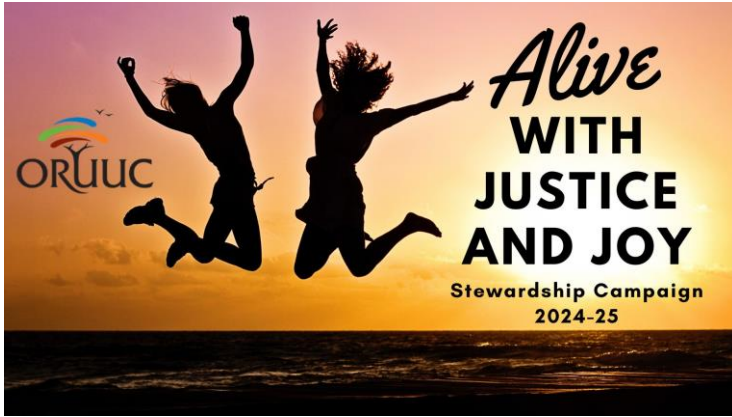
A special service of readings and hymns.

### **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



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!*

What a difference our Church makes in the world. Generous and transformational giving makes our vital and vibrant community possible. As our church welcomes a new minister, let's ensure that ORUUC continues to have a role to play in shaping the larger community by giving boldly.



Contact Steven Albright for more information. All are welcome!



A service to honor the life of Karen Toucey Wilson will be held at ORUUC on Friday, May 17 at 9:30 a.m. Burial will follow at 1 p.m. at Oak Ridge Memorial Park. Karen passed away on April 14 at the age of 79 in Fairfax, Virginia. She was born in Oak Ridge, traveled the world with her husband, John, during his Naval career, later returning to Oak Ridge, where she worked as a research librarian at Oak Ridge National Laboratory until her retirement in 2005. She served as Board President at ORUUC, and was a member of the choir. To read more about Karen, visit

<https://www.oakridger.com/obituaries/pokr0795857>.

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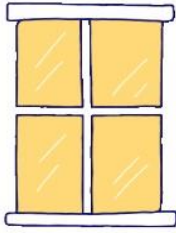
## Wine and Winds Saturday, June 1 at 3:30 p.m. at ORUUC



Come enjoy Hal Hoyt's wine and listen to the Tanasi Winds Woodwind Quintet on Saturday, June 1<sup>st</sup> at 3:30 p.m. at ORUUC. The quintet will play a variety of music from pop (Beatles, rags, swing), to showtunes, traditional-based pieces and to classical.

Light finger food (in the lobby) will also accompany the wine and music. Tickets are \$30 and will be sold at the door. The music starts at 3:30 in the Sanctuary with two 40-minute sets and an intermission. We want this to be casual, relaxed and enjoyable.

## Caring for Each Other

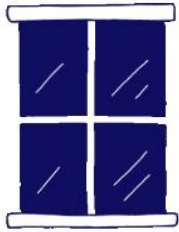


Are you going through a difficult time? Are you in a situation where support and caring are needed--someone to do grocery shopping, take you to a doctor's appointment, or provide a meal following an upcoming surgery? Contact the church office: (865) 483-6761 or [office@oruuc.org](mailto:office@oruuc.org)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

### Caring Coordinators for May

Ellen Faby [elfab418@gmail.com](mailto:elfab418@gmail.com) 865-363-1092

Amanda Fishel [amsfishel@gmail.com](mailto: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.

## Jean Newton Box (June 13, 1925 - April 26, 2024)



Jean Newton Box, age 98, passed away peacefully on Friday April 26, 2024 at Commonwealth Assisted Living in Oak Ridge, TN. Mrs. Box and her family have appreciated her longevity and the love and friendship she has experienced from so many persons throughout her life. She has written this obituary herself.

Jean Newton Box was born in Maywood, Illinois, June 13, 1925, to Leon and Viola Newton. He was a locomotive engineer and she was an elementary school teacher. Jean grew up in this western suburb of Chicago in a musical family. At nine, she moved from piano to flute, which she played into her nineties.

She graduated from Cornell College in Iowa in 1947 with a major in Sociology and a plan to become a social worker. Her first position after college was in an American Friends Service Committee student program for attendants at the New Jersey Psychiatric Hospital in Trenton. There she met another student who was learning about counseling in mental illness. That was Howard Box who was attending Yale University preparing for the ministry. They kept in touch through their further education and first jobs and married in 1952. She found the position of minister's wife quite to her liking and saw the opportunity to use her social work skills in their congregations.

The Unitarian Church in Newburgh, NY, was the first of four congregations Rev. and Mrs. Box lived in. They then moved to the Unitarian Church in Ottawa, Canada. It was an interesting experience to live in another country. Daughter Ruth and son Gordon were both born there and have dual Canadian and American citizenship. Howard was serving their next congregation when Carol was born. It was very similar to the Unitarian denomination: the Society for Ethical Culture in Brooklyn, NY. Through most of her life, Jean had various part-time jobs in social work or positions on boards. And in Brooklyn she and two other members used their musical skills to perform together for their own and other congregations in the NY City area. The last congregation that Howard served was The Unitarian Universalist Church of Oak Ridge, TN, starting in 1976. In this city Jean was in the Community Band, the Symphony Orchestra, played solos and accompanied the church choir. She gave private flute lessons to 150 students in the Music Arts School from 1980 to 2000. Rev. Box retired in 1991. They continued to live active lives in Oak Ridge. In 2018 they moved into Commonwealth Senior Living where Howard died in 2021 after 69 years of marriage.

The Boxes are survived by daughter Ruth Westfall of Mahomet, IL, son Gordon Box (Betsy Williams) of Durham, NC, and Carol Box (Alessandro Nicita) in Switzerland; he works for the United Nations Headquarters in Geneva. Grandchildren are Robert Westfall, and Sofia and Matteo Nicita.

There will be a family memorial service at a later time with burial in the Memorial Garden of the Oak Ridge Unitarian Universalist Church in Oak Ridge, TN. To leave a message for Jean's family or to share a memory, please go to our online guestbook at [www.jacksonfuneralservices.com](http://www.jacksonfuneralservices.com), or you may call the office at 865-435-3800 to ask for a family member to get in touch with 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 Albricht.



### 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 meetups are Saturday, May 4 and 18 at 3 p.m. in the Sanctuary. We'd love to have you join us! Abbie Moore [abbie.moore@icloud.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:michaelbjerke@comcast.net) for more information.



Play cribbage, eat breakfast, have fun at **Eggs and Pegs, Sunday, May 5!** 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](mailto: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.** This program provides backpacks with non-perishable foods for preschool and elementary students to take home on weekends. **The next packing date (and final one for this school year) is Monday, May 6 starting at 12 noon.** Questions? Contact Coordinator Cara Weigel at 865-481-8108.



## Youth Faith Formation Leaders and Volunteers



This Sunday, May 5, join us during morning worship as we thank our Youth Faith Formation leaders and volunteers for a wonderful year!

### Nursery: Susan Rosenbaum

Ashley Fee  
Rob Cole

### Preschool: Susan Rosenbaum

Margaret Durgin  
Michael Raymond  
Jimmy Groton  
Christina Elliott

### Spirit Play: Christine Rehder

Erin Read  
Donna Maloney  
Peter Scheffler  
Jim Nutaro

### Middle School: Whitney Cole

Melissa Bishop  
Steven Barker  
Aubrey Wick-Sebastian

### High School: Jason Fishel

Jami Garner  
Robyn Naughton  
Becky Spain-Kaiser



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>



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



**The Jewish Congregation of Oak Ridge invites the community to its Holocaust Remembrance Program - Yom HaShoah**  
**Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup>**  
**3:00 PM – 4:00 PM**  
**In the JCOR Sanctuary and On Zoom**  
101 Madison Lane, Oak Ridge

*Candle lighting ceremony*  
*City Proclamation*  
*Readings, Songs, and Prayers*  
*ORUUC Chorus*

*Closing Speaker, Sheila Morton, ORHS Teacher, Holocaust and Human Behavior*

*Holocaust Memorial Candles will be available to attendees for pick-up at the service.*



The League of Women Voters of Oak Ridge welcomes the community to Lunch With the League Tuesday, May 7 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at ORUUC. All are welcome to bring their lunch or purchase a boxed lunch for a nominal fee. Coffee and tea will be served. The presentation will begin at noon. This week's guest speakers will be Mary Michelle Gillum and Paula Trujillo from the Legal Aid Society of Middle Tennessee and the Cumberland. For more information, visit <https://my.lwv.org/tennessee/oak-ridge>.



**ORUUC is planning to host a booth at this year's Youth Pride event, Saturday, May 11 from noon to 4:30 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church, Oak Ridge. Would you like to help for an hour or two? Contact Kara Raymond at [kraymondlovesmath@gmail.com](mailto:kraymondlovesmath@gmail.com). Thanks!**

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!

Interested in donating money for snacks? Contact Laura LaPrad at [lauralaprad@gmail.com](mailto:lauralaprad@gmail.com). Want to be part of the Security team? Contact Chuck Hilliard at [cdhilliard213@gmail.com](mailto:cdhilliard213@gmail.com). Want to volunteer? Contact Anne Backus at [backusanne@comcast.net](mailto:backusanne@comcast.net). If you have time the day of the event, show up and she will put you to work!



Photo courtesy of the ORUUC Softball Team

Cheer on the ORUUC Softball Team Tuesday, May 7 at 6:30 p.m. as they play Sons of Pitches at Big Turtle Park (2525 Oak Ridge Turnpike). Go Team!



# This Week at ORUUC



## Friday, May 3

11am Tai Chi Practice

## Saturday, May 4

2pm Rental (Wedding Shower)

3pm Ukulele

## Sunday, May 5

8:30am Eggs & Pegs

### **10am Worship Service**

11am High School (Canceled)

11am Together in Spirit (Canceled)

11:15 am Circle of Trust I

11:15am Knitting and Crocheting Group (Canceled)

11:15am Newcomers (Canceled)

11:15am Reflections (Canceled)

11:30am May Day Picnic

12:30pm Buddhism Study Group

12:30pm Circle of Trust IX

3pm Line Dancing

4pm Circle of Trust XI

5pm Zentangle

5:30pm Circle of Trust X

## Monday, May 6

11am Tai Chi Practice

12noon Pack Food for Kids

(Second Harvest) First United Methodist Church

## Tuesday, May 7

11:30am League of Women Voters

Lunch with the League

6pm Depression & Anxiety Group

6:30pm ORUUC Softball v. Sons of Pitches (Big Turtle Park)

## Wednesday, May 8

6:30am Breakfast Rotary

11am Tai Chi Practice

5:15pm Circle of Trust III

7pm Choir Practice

7:45pm Band Rehearsal

## Thursday, May 9

12noon NWUUC & Launchpad Meeting

12:30pm Lunch Bunch



Mark your calendar for Bridging Sunday, May 19! This special service is followed by an all-church luncheon.

Let's celebrate our high school graduates!



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*

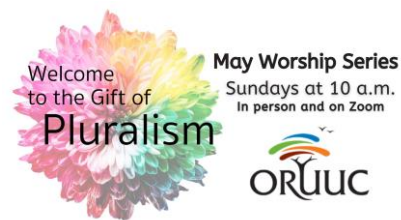
*Christine Rehder*

*Amanda Fishel*

*Donna Maloney*

*Jeannie Cuevas, Office Administrator*

## **Coming up...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.

**The deadline to submit news for the next *Exponent* is Wednesday, May 8 at noon. Please send news, comments, and feedback to Rachel at [communications@oruuc.org](mailto:communications@oruuc.org).**