



OCUUC Office Hours  
Monday - Thursday  
9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.  
Sunday  
9:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.  
(949) 646-4652: phone  
(949) 646-9016: fax

## December 2011

### Holiday Service Schedule:

**December 17th**, 8:00 pm -- Winter Solstice Singing Ritual

**December 18th**, 10:00 am -- Winter Solstice Singing Ritual -- one Sunday service only

**December 24th**, 7:30 pm -- Christmas Eve family service

**December 25th**, 10:00 am -- Musical meditation (non-Christmas) -- one Sunday service only

**January 1st**, 10:00 am -- One Sunday service only

### Staff Reports



#### Interim Minister's Report

For the month of December we will start to examine a new theme of the month by exploring some of the world religions. The statement of the Unitarian Universalism seven principles includes the quote that Unitarian Universalists “draw from many sources” such as “Wisdom from the world’s religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life.” So in the month of December we will explore this theme by looking at three major world religions: the Judeo-Christian tradition, the Buddhist tradition and the Pagan tradition. I look forward to engaging in this exploration with you.

Someone asked me “What is the difference between an Interim Minister and a Settled Minister?” In the following remarks, I will try to answer this question.

A settled minister has a long-term relationship with a congregation. Their role includes preaching, pastoral care, administrative leadership, and teaching. An interim minister acts as a “settled minister” to a certain extent, in that the interim minister performs the ordinary tasks of a settled minister, such as preaching, pastoral care, administrative leadership, and teaching. But the more significant and important role of the interim minister is to prepare a congregation for its next settled minister. One might define this as a “consulting” role vis-à-vis their “ministerial” role.

One way of describing this “consulting” role is that the interim minister looks at several dimensions of church life to get a sense of its readiness to move on toward its next stage – the introduction of its next settled minister into the life of the congregation. In a broader sense, this “consulting” role of the interim minister engages the congregation in the opportunity to look at the long-term goals and needs of the congregation and the community.

An interim minister seeks to engage church leaders about the long-term goals and aspirations of the church. This is often a substantial change from the habit of a congregation’s leaders being immersed in the details of day-to-day management of the church and not looking beyond that. Some, but not all of the “dimensions” of church life examined by the interim minister are the following:

1. Does the congregation have a mission statement that is in alignment with where the congregation actually wants to go and is able to go? Does the congregation have a mission statement that is exciting to a majority of the congregation? This is a very important issue for a number of reasons. In the process of trying to match the congregation with a settled minister the people of the congregation need to carefully define what it wants and therefore what it needs in a settled minister. Prospective ministers will want to “hear” that a congregation has a clear sense of direction. Ministers will want to match themselves with congregations with compatible goals. Furthermore, a clear, compelling mission statement provides all church leaders -- minister, DRE, staff, and lay leaders-- with a clear sense of direction. Without this, everyone makes up their own “mission.” In a very fundamental sense, for UU

congregations, a mission statement provides the “authority” and legitimacy for all that ministers, staff, and lay leaders do; without it, a congregation is rudderless.

2. Do the policies, procedures, by-laws, and other governing documents reflect where the church wants to go institutionally? Are these documents outdated? Do they reflect prevailing wisdom in UU congregations regarding best practices? Do they reflect where the congregation wishes to go, and specifically, what the congregation’s mission requires? In healthy congregations, the policies support the mission. This too, is very important because it is imperative that the Board, Minister, staff, committee chairs, and anyone else involved in leadership in a church are reading from the same playbook. If there is not a common set of rules, then everyone makes up their own. That is not a situation the church will want to be in as it seeks a new settled minister.

3. Are a congregation’s finances healthy? More specifically, a congregation needs to analyze if they will be able to absorb the costs of a new settled minister, while maintaining the financial obligations they are already committed to. A point will come in which the church will commit itself to a specific salary package for the new settled minister. This figure is very likely to be higher than what it has been in the past. It is important that a congregation be certain they can sustain the level of financial commitment it will be making. Some of the areas to look at are: the annual canvass, special fundraisers, and whether or not there is an effective endowment development program in place. There is another issue at play. Prospective ministers will be looking at OCUUC and asking the question “What is the church’s level of commitment as reflected in its level of giving?” and what the answer is will be important to ministers making a decision about where to engage in ministry.

4. Are there programs to support the mission of the church? The most important aspect of this issue is does the church have a covenant group or small group ministry in place to support the growth and development of the church. In a broader sense, a church’s mission determines what programming goals will be most important for the church.

5. Are there programs for leadership training adequate to the needs of the church? Being a leader in a UU church is very challenging and deserves and requires adequate training. One of the roles of an interim

minister is to engage in leadership training, and to bring in persons from the district or national level who can provide needed leadership training. Most importantly, it is imperative to make sure the church leadership will have training in the future adequate to its needs.

It is important to address the tasks described above while a congregation is in its interim ministry period because a congregation will want its settled minister to focus on the basic tasks of ministry, i.e., preaching, worship, pastoral care, teaching, etc. and be less associated with administrative and organizational changes. Change and experimentation are natural aspects of the processes mentioned above, and change can be stressful. A congregation does not want its settled minister to be entangled in the discomfort that change evokes; however, an interim minister, who will be with a congregation for a specifically defined period of time, can be more easily associated with the opprobrium of change without creating problems for the church.

I hope these comments are helpful. If you have any questions about my comments please do not hesitate to contact me.

Rev. Ed



## Notes From the Nurse

### Blood Donation

The Winter Blood Drive will be on Sunday, December 11 from 8:30 -- 2:30 in the OCUUC parking lot. This is a particularly tough time of year on the nation's blood supply. We have members of our own congregation needing frequent transfusions. Please donate if you can. Appointments are very helpful, but walk-ins are always welcome! Sign Up at the Caring Table or [online](#).

### Blood Pressure Screening

December 11 will also be an opportunity for you to have your BP checked whether or not you are donating blood! During the Arts and Crafts Fair, Sally Cowan, RN, will be providing this service at the Caring Table, where Adair's Heart Healthy Holiday Trail Mix will also be on sale!

## Whooping Cough Vaccine

Pertussis, better known as Whooping Cough, has seen a dramatic resurgence in recent years. Although it is rarely life threatening to adults, it is not a minor illness. We are susceptible since our childhood immunity has worn off long ago and when adults do get it, they can pass it to babies and unimmunized children where it is a very serious illness. Now there is an effective new killed vaccine with no mercury preservative. Side effects are very unlikely, except for some tenderness at the injection site. The vaccine is a three-in-one: tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis.

You can get this from your health care provider or, if you have no insurance, the health department. Call them at 1-800-564-8448 for an appointment for: children, women of childbearing age (pregnant or not), any adult who cares for children or comes into contact with them regularly, and all over 64.

Adair Small, Congregational Nurse



### Music Ministry Notes

#### Christmas Eve Children's Choir

It's not too late to have your child join the children's choir which will perform at the Christmas Eve

service. We'll rehearse 2 more Sundays plus one Thursday evening:

December 11th -- Rehearse at 1pm in Gillan 3

December 18th -- Rehearse at 11:30am in Gillan 3

December 22nd -- Dress rehearsal for all Christmas Eve participants, Sanctuary, evening time TBA

December 24th -- Christmas Eve



## Jason Shelton Worship Weekend

Do you have the [Worship Weekend with Jason Shelton](#) on your calendar? On February 10–12, 2012, OCUUC will be hosting a Worship Weekend with Rev. Jason Shelton (Music Minister at the Nashville UU church, and composer of “Standing on the Side of Love,” “Morning Has Come,” and many more). A worship workshop led by Jason Shelton will occur all day Saturday February 11 — it’s open to anyone who is interested in creating worship. There will be a concert featuring Jason Shelton, our own Orange Coast Choir, plus a mass choir and special guests on Saturday night, February 11th. And Jason Shelton will be presenting the service on Sunday morning, February 12. **We are looking for volunteers to help with the planning and execution of this big event.** [Contact Beth Syverson](#) if you’d like to volunteer to help out.



## [Monthly Calendar](#)

### **Thursday, December 8**

6:15pm – WSSR Rehearsal

6:30pm – Religious Education for Children and Youth Committee Meeting

7:30pm – Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

### **Saturday, December 10**

8:00am – AIDS Team Ministry Cooking

2:00pm – Memorial Service, Sanctuary

### **Sunday, December 11**

8:30am – Bloodmobile Blood Drive

9:45am – Early Sunday Service, Sanctuary

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10:00am - Blood Pressure Screening, Social Hall

10:30am - Craft Faire, Social Hall

11:15am - Late Sunday Service, Sanctuary

1:00pm - Children's Choir Rehearsal, Gillan 3

### **Monday, December 12**

7:00pm - Membership Committee Meeting, Boag 2

### **Tuesday, December 13**

7:00pm - Worship Services Ministry, Boag 2

7:00pm - Taizé Singing As A Spiritual Practice, Sanctuary

### **Thursday, December 15**

6:15pm - WSSR Rehearsal

7:30pm - Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

### **Saturday, December 17**

8:00pm - Winter Solstice Singing Ritual, Sanctuary

### **Sunday, December 18**

**10:00am** - Only Sunday Service, Sanctuary

11:00am - Ethical Eating: Shared Brunch and Presentation, Social Hall

11:30am - Faith In Action Council, Boag 2

1:00pm - Children's Choir Rehearsal, Gillan 3

5:00pm - Navigators Meeting, Gillan 2 and 3

### **Monday, December 19**

7:00pm - MSSC Meeting, Gillan 2

### **Tuesday, December 20**

7:15pm - Board of Trustees Meeting

### **Thursday, December 22**

7:30pm - Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

### **Saturday, December 24**

#### **Christmas Eve**

7:30 pm - Christmas Eve Family Service

**Sunday, December 25**

**Christmas**

10:00am - Musical Meditation (non-Christmas) Service, Sanctuary

12:30pm - Hospitality Committee, Boag 2

12:45pm - Knit Wits

**Tuesday, December 27**

7:00pm - ATM Steering Committee

**Wednesday, December 28**

7:00pm - Music Committee Meeting

**Thursday, December 29**

7:30pm - Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

**Sunday, January 1, 2012**

**New Year's Day**

10:00am - One Sunday Service Only, Sanctuary

**Monday, January 2, 2012**

7:30pm - OCUUC Book Group, Gillan 3

**Pastoral Associates Offer "Companioning"**

The associates are commissioned to augment to pastoral work of our minister. If illness, physical limitations, impending or recent hospitalization, personal losses, significant life changes, spiritual or emotional distress are concerns for you or someone you know, please call one of the pastoral care associates listed. Their numbers are in the church directory. You may also contact [caring@ocuuc.org](mailto:caring@ocuuc.org) to reach them.

**Paul Gethard**

**Ted Lundholm**

**Joan Parry**

**Adair Small**

**Judith Stamper**

**Bill Stoker**

**Shannon Stoker**

**Shirley Thorne**

**Vera Viana-Asper**

## December Recipient of Church Donations

**Team of Advocates for Special Kids (TASK)** assists disabled children to reach their maximum potential by providing them and their families with training, support, resources and referrals. **TASK** families learn to become advocates for their children. Workshops and information are in English, Spanish and Vietnamese. Dealing with a disabled child is an overwhelming first-time experience for most parents. A grateful parent states, "...We would have been totally lost and helpless in our efforts to secure appropriate support and education services for Kevin had it not been for your 'hotline' providing us with essential information, emotional and personal support and counseling." Founded in 1978 by a small group of parents of children with disabilities, **TASK** now annually reaches several thousand of individuals and families through printed materials, presentations, workshops and the hotline. To learn more see Maureen McConaghy or contact the **TASK** main office at (714) 533-8275.

The Community Service Committee continues to seek your nominations of recipients to share church funds. For assistance see Naomi Blackwood, Kathleen McFarlin or Maurice Giss.

## Winter Solstice Singing Ritual Returns!

Our most popular event of the year is just around the corner!

The Winter Solstice Singing Ritual has become a much-anticipated annual event at OCUUC for good reasons: beautiful music, a meaningful story, and the inspiring message of spreading light to the world.

This unique ritual is truly different from everything else we do. Celebrating the darkest day of the year and the beginning of light's return to the world, we tell the myth of Persephone's descent into the underworld through narration, poetry, and- most of all- song.

The service is powerful, meditative, and joyful.

Join us in the sanctuary for a special evening performance on December 17th at 8:00 pm. We also will perform the ritual on Sunday December 18th at 10:00 am as the church's Sunday service. Come and celebrate the return of light and life to our world!

## Winter 2011-12 Adult Education Schedule Update

### New Opportunities to Deepen Your Faith Coming in January, 2012

**Early Christianity** – a Video and Discussion Group based on the PBS Series on Early Christianity "From Jesus to Constantine: A History of Early Christianity" with Ken and Adair Small

8 Wednesdays, 7–9 PM in the Social Hall starting approx. January 18, 2012. Look for more information in the January Reach.

**Drum Circle** – With Summer Albayati, Rev. Kent Doss of UU Congregation of Laguna Beach, and Ben Pruess

Sunday January 22, 2012. Brown Bag lunch at 1 PM; Drum circle 2:30–3:30 or 4.

In the park across the street from OCUUC (Victoria Vista Park); in the event of rain or cold, it will be held at OCUUC.

Bring your drum or use one that Summer will bring. Look for more information in the January Reach.

### **Deepening Your Faith Workshop: Learning to Meditate with Chris Soriano**

Two-night course Mondays January 23rd and 30th from 7–8 pm in Gillan 3. Come one or both evenings to learn to meditate.

Those interested in learning to meditate are invited to attend one or both of these two sessions of meditation and instruction. The simple Buddhist meditation techniques taught in these sessions are intended to help foster tranquility as well as encourage mindfulness for the practitioner. Each one-hour session will begin with simple instruction, followed by a short meditation period. You may meditate sitting on floor cushions or on a chair. Those with prior meditation experience are also welcome to attend. Please register to let Chris know you will be coming.

Contact Chris Soriano or Karen Anderson for more details.

**Wicca 101** – with Christine Hernandez

Dates to be announced. Please check with Christine for more information. Look for more information in the January Reach.

For more information, please check with the listed Facilitator. For information or to register, contact Christine or Karen Anderson.

### **A UU Exploration of Economical/Healthy/Ethical Eating**

Each 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after the second service (Nov 20, Dec 18, etc.).

The UU General Assembly selected “Ethical Eating” as a Congregational Study/Action Issue. Hunger is both a community problem and an international problem; this is part of the “interdependent web of which we are all a part” from our 7<sup>th</sup> UU principle. Through this series, we will explore different facets of this issue.

Many people in our community and even in our congregation are struggling to get food to eat that is both economical and healthy. Our first session looks at ways to feed yourself and your family for possibly as little as \$25 per week for a family.

Join us for shared simple meal followed by a presentation/discussion

Date	Light Lunch for entire congregation(\$ 2 donation suggested)	Presentation/Discussion in Social Hall
Dec 18 at NOON	Pot luck luncheon	Understanding the UU Ethical Eating Action Item

We hope you will want to join in to make this a great institution of our church. To do so, we will need people to bring their contributions and also volunteers to help with the set up and clean up. We need 2–3 volunteers for set-up and 2–3 for clean up each time we do a Lunch; to sign up, please contact Karen Anderson ([AdultEducation@ocuuc.org](mailto:AdultEducation@ocuuc.org)). If there is sufficient interest, we will continue Sunday Pot Luck Lunch on a monthly basis.

## [Women's Circle](#)

**Pot Luck Holiday Party at the home of Lili Laksberger.**

Held on Saturday, December 17th at 6pm

**Please call Lili - 714 893 - 3133 to let us know if you can attend and what dish you're bringing and if you need driving directions.**

**Please join us for a relaxed evening of warm conversation, good food and our traditional candle lighting ceremony.**

## Taizé Singing as a Spiritual Practice

Taizé Singing as a Spiritual Practice meets the second Tuesday of each month, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. in Gillan 3. This month, it will be **December 13**.

## Share Our Selves

### **Adopt a Family for the 2011 Holiday**

This is the 13th year OCUUC members and friends have adopted families from SOS and CHOC KIDS clinic, providing gifts and food they would not otherwise be able to afford. Please visit our table on the patio on Sunday morning to find out how you can become involved. (Look for the decorated pine tree).

Special needs this year:

- Scrip for food purchases
- Financial donations to purchase scrip and gifts
- Blankets, new and gently used
- Warm clothing for children, new and gently used

### **Details**

OCUUC has been participating in this program since 1998. We receive information about local families that will not be able to celebrate the holidays because of various circumstances. We agree to donate gifts for all the family members as well as enough food for them to have a holiday meal.

You can choose to adopt a whole family, by yourself or with others, or you can choose the name of one person from our Angel Tree. You may

find out more information and sign up to adopt a family at our SOS table on the patio.

**Angel Tree:** This year our Angel Tree will contain the names of individuals we adopt from Children's Hospital of Orange County. These are families where one of the children is fighting HIV/AIDS. You may choose a name to give one or more gifts.

**Food:** We give scrip for local grocery stores so the families can choose their own holiday meal items. Each family receives \$100, if we have enough donations. Please consider purchasing scrip at the table on the patio on Sunday morning.

**Cash:** Hate shopping? Not enough time? We love shopping with your money. Cash and checks made out to Judith Stamper will be spent carefully to benefit our adoptive families.

**Collection dates: December 4th, 11th, and 18th.** The 18th is the **last** day we will collect donations on the patio.

Stop by the Adopt a Family table on the patio each Sunday until December 18th to learn what you can do to help.

For more information, contact Judith Stamper.

## [Guest At Your Table is Back](#)

### **Participate in UUSC through the GUEST AT YOUR TABLE Program**

One of the ways OCUUC works with UUSC is through the Guest at Your Table Program. By bringing home a beautiful Guest at Your Table box and a Stories of Hope booklet, families and individuals learn about how the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee puts our shared values into action in the United States and around the world.



Through the Stories of Hope booklet, we connect with people throughout the world who have shared their personal struggles and are working hard for human rights in partnership with UUSC. In each household, the Guest at Your Table box is placed in a

prominent spot, often at the family dinner table. When family and friends gather to enjoy their blessings, they can reflect on the contributions of their “guests” to the movement for universal human rights and share generously. Each week, we can choose a different story to read, bringing our guests to life and helping celebrate our own rights.

Sharing our blessings through Guest at Your Table ensures that UUSC’s human rights work continues. Please consider making a contribution that meets membership levels. Since UUSC is an independent organization that receives no funding from government or the UUA, your support and membership are vitally important.

If you would prefer not to bring home a box, you can take a donation envelope. Boxes will be distributed on December 4th and collected on January 8th, 2012. If you have any questions about the program, please contact one of our UU Service Committee co-representatives, Jason Cook and Laurel Adcock.

## [Book Club – New Schedule for 2012](#)

Book readers! Welcome, to the monthly discussion at the OCUUC Book Group which meets on the first Monday of each month (except January 2012) in Gillan 3 at 7:30 pm. We have lively discussions, always facilitated by a leader. If you're a reader, especially of fiction, do join us! Here is a six-month list of up-coming books we'll be reading, and the dates. Clayton Gorrie is our new chairperson.

**Jan. 9th:** Bury Me Standing by Isabel Fonseca

**Feb. 6th:** Your Republic is Calling You by Young-Ha Kim

**Mar. 5th:** The Cat's Table by Michael Ondaatje

**Apr. 2nd:** Adrift on the Nile by Naguib Mahfouz

**May 7th:** Secret Daughter by Shilpi Somaya Gowda

**Jun. 4th:** The Marriage Plot by Jeffrey Eugenides

**July 2nd:** Parrot and Olivier in America by Peter Carey

[All In The Family](#) By Marcia Hackett and Katherine Martin

Long time member and dear friend of OCUUC **Bob Lovell** had passed away during the night of November 13th. His memorial service will take place at church on **Saturday, Dec. 10, at 2:00 pm.**

We extend our sincere sympathy to **Nancy Palmer** on the passing of her husband, **Paul Harris**, on Nov. 23rd after a long illness. A memorial service will be held for Paul at 11:00 AM on Dec. 10th at Harbor Lawn-Mt. Olive Chapel in Costa Mesa.

**Sheri Loeschen** is making rapid recovery at home from cancer surgery on her left lung. She is most appreciative of cards and emails that have been sent.

Choir member **Alexandra Berrocal** is currently at College Hospital in Costa Mesa receiving treatment for bipolar disorder. Her mother **Barbara** asked for our healing thoughts and prayers.

Office administrator **Sarah Jones** also asked for our healing thoughts for her friend **Amy** who has been diagnosed with cancer.

Our sincere sympathies go to **Suzi Cassidy** and her family on the passing of her father. There was a card on the Caring table.

**Alec Kimmel** shared that Steffanie Jan, a friend of his at UCI, had passed away. She was a UU minister before attending UCI. Also Alec said he'd been working as a USDA raisin Inspector to pay off some debts. He asked us to think of him when we eat raisins (Sun Maid).

The church Book Group has a new facilitator, **Clayton Gorrie**, who has taken over from **Mickey Jackson** who served us faithfully for so many years.

**Dolly Doran** rejoiced that after multiple tests it has been determined she does not have a tumor on her kidney – simply gallstones!

**Jeanne Blakesley Criss** shared that two years ago her cousin **Paul Blakesley**, in this country since the age of five, married and a father,

was ordered to be deported. Last week the Governor of Maine executed Paul's final hope – official clemency! He now will not be deported and can finally get on with his life. The family is ecstatic!

**Fabiola Daniels** (**Dan Noel's** wife) is recovering at home from her recent health ordeal **John Cazier**, recovering from successful hip replacement surgery. There were cards on the Caring Table for both of them.

A final joy came from **Rayna Hamre**, our Religious Education Director who recently participated in Our Whole Lives training for junior and senior high students.

Our minister, the **Reverend Ed Brock**, reminded me in his Sunday sermon on gratitude how grateful I am to be a part of OCUUC! The church with its wonderful, caring people, its programs, activities and social events, its outreach to the community, and on and on has been an integral part of my life for almost 30 years. He asked us to find some way on a daily basis to put gratitude into our lives. I, for one, am going to try it. How about you?

We were pleased to hear that **Fabiola Noel** is on the mend and expected to return home from the hospital in a few days. While at OC Memorial Hospital she had a large tumor removed from her stomach; her digestive system is slowly starting to work. And, she celebrated her birthday while confined. We send her our caring and healing thoughts.

**Tom Loughrey's** dad after having hip replacement surgery is doing well, and has been discharged. **Nancy** and Tom went to Las Vegas to get him. He will be recuperating in their home in Orange for about a month.

By the time you read this, **John Cazier** will have also had hip replacement surgery at Hoag/Irvine this week. He expects the operation to be totally successful and looks forward to be back walking his dog soon.