



SUNDAY SERVICES IN JANUARY 2022

Please note that given the changing nature of the world, topics may change to address the needs of our times. Below are the topics being considered currently.

January 2: Question Box Sunday	Rev. Sian Wiltshire
January 9: Everything is Waiting for You	Rev. Sian Wiltshire
January 16: Is King Safely Dead?	Rev. Tom Owen-Towle
January 23: The Attention Diet	Rev. Sian Wiltshire
January 30: We Are Called	Rev. Sian Wiltshire



In February we approved the construction of a new sanctuary, in late May we added back onsite Sunday services. These were both very good things. Of course, the construction is taking longer than we'd hoped and we still need to monitor our activities for COVID safety. 2021 was certainly a year like no other, and I for one am grateful we now have a new one.

I am looking forward to this year and what it may bring. As I sat in Daniels Hall on Christmas Eve, I wondered if we will be in our new sanctuary for our next Christmas Eve service. I certainly hope so. We are waiting for the city to approve our plans and it gives us a chance to practice our patience skills!

What about beyond 2022? What will OCUUC be like once we have a new sanctuary? We know why we are building it, but what are the possibilities we'd like to make real and how will we do that? I am looking forward to some meaningful conversations in the months ahead.

In the meantime, I wish you all a very healthy and happy 2022!

Nancy Loughrey



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WORSHIP IN JANUARY 2022

OCUUC will be holding online services only (no onsite) in order to mitigate the holiday spike of COVID cases. Assuming all goes well, we will return to onsite on January 23rd. Please read the Blast for further information and updates. We look forward to seeing you all online! Brew your coffee, stay in your jammies (if you like) and bring your beautiful self!

I've always thought that everyone should go to seminary. I learned so much there – learning how to listen and better communication skills; learning to see different points of view and being aware of my power; learning how to build bridges; and learning, most of all, how to connect to the Holy that resides within and around me.

But then, one day, it occurred to me that going to church is pretty much like going to seminary!

If you are like me, however, going to church takes a lot more intention than seminary, with its grades and deadlines that strongly urge you to learn. At church, no one is made to believe or learn anything – it's all about whatever your intention is. Are you here to learn? Or just while away another hour with some lovely music and words? Sometimes, that's all we can do. Not every Sunday has a lesson to be learned by everyone.

But I'm always amazed when people come up to me to tell me they learned something from the service. Sometimes the lesson they learned wasn't something I even meant to teach! Whether the lesson was intentional or not, when someone tells me that they learned something, it tells me that they came listening with intention: the intention to learn and grow. And that makes me happy because each time I put a service together, I'm learning and growing too! It's nice to know I'm not alone.

I'm blessed with this community of intentional learners!

Rev. Sian

Jan. 2nd: (ON ZOOM ONLY) Question Box Sunday.

Have you got questions? Rev. Sian has answers! This is your chance to ask any question you like— about life, theology, the church, ministry, etc. A favorite service; let's see if Rev. Sian can answer your burning questions! Rev. Sian

Jan. 9th: (ON ZOOM ONLY) Everything is Waiting for You.

How do we live our lives with intention? There are some ancient traditions that might shed some new light. Rev. Sian

Jan. 16th: (ON ZOOM ONLY) Is King Safely Dead?

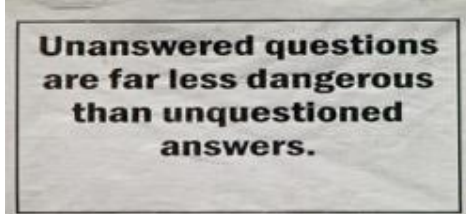
2022 is the 54th anniversary of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s death. And as our country reckons mightily with our history of racism, we must come to grips with this brave and inconvenient hero. If King's radical message remains vigorously alive, we must seriously ask what it truly demands of us right here, right now in America. Rev. Tom Owen-Tolle

Jan. 23rd: (LOCATION TBD) The Attention Diet.

Oh sure, we all know that diet and exercise are good for the body, but how do we keep our mind and soul also healthy? Rev. Sian

Jan. 30th: (LOCATION TBD) We Are Called.

Life's lessons often tell us something about how we are called in the world at different times in our lives. What were your life's lessons? What are you called to now? Come learn more and share! Rev. Sian





JOYS AND SORROWS ON SUNDAY

If you would like to express a Joy or Sorrow to be read during the service on Sunday, you may send an email by 9:00 am on Sunday morning to joysandsorrows@ocuuc.org, type in the chat during this part of the service, or, when we are able to attend the service in person, you may write your joy or sorrow for in-person share.

RETURNING TO ONSITE POLICY UPDATE!

The Returning to Onsite Task Force continues to monitor the status of infections and hospitalizations in Orange County as well as guidance from scientific organizations.

For the next three Sundays (January 2, 9, and 16), the Reopening Committee has decided to return to Online Only for our worship services and meetings. While the new Omicron variant seems to be very virulent, but far less serious, we are coming out of the holidays, and we would like to minimize the spreading of the virus. We are looking forward to coming together again happy and healthy on January 23rd, but we will keep you updated and confirm after January 16th. We have this amazing, beautiful, wonderful community that has fabulous services online. Please join us - come in your jammies and bring your coffee if you like! See you on Zoom!

We do not know of anyone in our community with a recent case, but please remember to notify Marilyn Giss, our Faith Community Nurse, at nurse@ocuuc.org if you have been onsite and test positive.

Be safe, be well!
Nancy Loughrey



OCUUC WINDOW STICKERS

OCUUC now has stickers that may be placed on the rear window of your vehicle. This is the modern version of a bumper sticker and a way to share your OCUUC affiliation while driving in the community. We will distribute them at church when we return to onsite services and place any extras on the usher table near the entrance to Daniels Hall on the following Sundays. Thank you to Christy Montgomery and Sarah Hunter for the idea and implementation.



ZOOM SOCIAL HOUR!

FRIDAY, JAN. 7, 14, 21, 28

5:30PM - 7:30PM (ON ZOOM)

Join us for Social Hour! Bring your own drinks and snacks. Drop in anytime between 5:30 pm and 7:30 pm. Find the meeting ID on our website [calendar](#).

MINISTERIAL DISCRETIONARY FUND

Every Christmas Eve we take a special offering for the Ministerial Discretionary Fund. This fund is used to help those in need at the minister's discretion and is given anonymously. Last year, we had a record amount donated due to your generosity such that in 2021 Rev. Sian was able to do more than help with an electric bill or bus pass.



We helped people deal with such things as financial/personal emergencies, pay rent and fix cars! If you didn't get a chance to donate to the MDF on Christmas Eve, it's not too late! Any amount is greatly appreciated and is gratefully received by the recipients. Click here to donate:

<https://secure.myvanco.com/YP19/campaign/C-Z3FR>



By the time you're reading this, I will be on my sabbatical, which will continue until March 13. I am grateful to the Board, Rev. Sian, and all of you for allowing me this time to rest and revive myself from these difficult few years. You will be well taken care of, with Steve Morihiro, Barbara Morihiro, and Sarah Hunter managing the music for worship and for choir while I'm away. If you have any questions or suggestions about music, please direct them to one of those folks while I'm away.

For the first six weeks, OCUUC will be working with Village Harmony to bring amazing musicians from all over the world via Zoom. Then for the last four weeks, Cris Law, who used to work at the Long Beach church, will take over with the choir and the worship leading. The choir will meet on Thursdays at 7pm **ON ZOOM ONLY** starting January 6.

I'm not going anywhere - no big trip to an Indian ashram is planned. But the Board would really like me to disconnect. You probably won't see me much on social media, and I'll remove myself from church groups during my sabbatical. My church email is being forwarded to Steve Morihiro. Please refrain from contacting me with church business.

I will miss you while I'm away, and I'm a little jealous that you get to enjoy the artists from Village Harmony without me. But I assure you that you are in good hands with our guest culture bearers, Cris, and the Dream Team of Steve, Barbara, and Sarah. And I will be back and ready to roll in mid-March.

Be safe, be well, you mean the world to me!

With love and gratitude,

Beth Syverson



On Sunday, November 21, Rev. Sian proposed that the church "adopt" a refugee family through the organization *Home For Refugees*, based in Irvine. The organization puts together teams of people who work with a refugee family to get it settled.

There will be an information session in January. If you did not already sign up to hear more about it in January and would like to, please contact Rev. Sian at revsian@ocuuc.org and she will put you on the list. This only obligates you for attending the information session. Once we hear more, we will form the core team(s). For more information see: www.homeforrefugeesusa.org.



ALL events are Online until at least 1/22
Check on OCUUC website calendar
for access

Saturday, January 1

StitchWits, 10:30am

Sunday, January 2

Meditation Group, 9:45am
Worship Service, 10:30am
AHA Group, 12:15 pm

Monday, January 3

OCUUC Fiction Book Group 7:30pm

Thursday, January 6

Choir Rehearsal, 7:00pm

Friday, January 7

Social Hour, 5:30pm

Saturday, January 8

StitchWits, 10:30am

Sunday, January 9

Worship Service, 10:30am
RE & Youth Group, 10:30am
Dream Group, 12:30pm

Wednesday, January 12

Comm. on Ministry, 6pm

Thursday, January 13

Choir Rehearsal, 7:00pm

Friday, January 14

Social Hour, 5:30pm

Saturday, January 15

StitchWits, 10:30am

Sunday, January 16

Meditation Group, 9:45am
Worship Service, 10:30am
RE and Youth Group 10:30am
Nonfiction Book Club, 12:30pm

Monday, January 17

Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Tuesday, January 18

Caring Circle, 12:00pm

Wednesday, January 19

Finance Council, 5:00pm

Thursday, January 20

Choir Rehearsal, 7:00pm

Friday, January 21

Social Hour, 5:30pm

Saturday, January 22

Board of Trustees Meeting, 9:00am
StitchWits, 10:30am

Sunday, January 23

Worship Service, 10:30am on Zoom (on-site TBD (To Be Determined))
RE & Youth Group TBD
Women's Circle, 12:00pm venue TBD

Thursday, January 27

Choir Rehearsal, 7:00pm

Friday, January 28

Social Hour, 5:30pm

Saturday, January 29

StitchWits, 10:30am

Sunday, January 30

Worship Service, 10:30am on Zoom (on-site TBD)

RE and Youth Group venue TBD 10:30am



OCUUC is part of the Pacific Western Region of the Unitarian Universalist Association. This includes congregations from Montana through New Mexico and all the states west of them. This year our Regional Assembly is in San Diego February 4-6. It will be a time to gather with other UUs, learn from each other and our regional staff and do the region's business. For the first time this year, it will be truly hybrid, engaging online and onsite participants. More information can be found here:

<https://www.uua.org/pacific-western/blog/ra-2022>

The onsite portion will be at the Hyatt Regency on Mission Bay. Onsite registration ends January 4 so they can plan for right numbers of people. Online registration ends January 22nd. I hope many of you will attend as it offers a great way to expand your UU horizons and grow our community. Tom and I plan to attend in person. There will be no delegates to the business meeting this year. Hope to see you there or online!

Nancy Loughrey

JANUARY SANCTUARY UPDATE

January 2022 kicks off the start of a milestone year at OCUUC as we begin deconstruction of the two-story Suite 4 and construction of the new sanctuary where Suite 4 once stood. Hooray!

The question Nancy and I are asked most often is "when will the deconstruction and construction activity begin on site?" And the answer we provide is the same--when we receive our building permit. Once that happens, the process will move full speed ahead toward a dedication ceremony before the end of 2022.

Work continues on tying down all the details for approval so that the building permit can be obtained. We have been thrown a few curve balls by the transition at Costa Mesa City Hall with the lead on our project--Associate Planner Katelyn Walsh--going on to another position elsewhere and turning over our project to new Assistant Planner Jarrod Coleman, who assumed Katelyn's duties in November. Turnover is not unusual in city government staff positions and our architects at domusstudio are experienced at

dealing with transitions such as the one we have encountered.

So, our team continues to meet, to bring the new city staff member up to speed, and to move forward with new requests being made by the city.

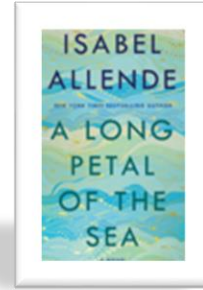
Just a reminder that if you have personal belongings in any of the storage areas of Suite 4, you need *make arrangements* to remove them during January. After February, it will be too late! Thanks in advance for lending a hand. PUG has already begun the process of removing items from Suite 4 according to a comprehensive schedule developed by Nancy.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns about the project, please contact me at craigsperry@aol.com.



FLOWERS FOR SUNDAY SERVICES

If you would like to sign-up for flowers for onsite services, please contact **Jamie Pendarvis** or email jpendarvis@mac.com. When we resume onsite services, you can bring your own flowers or we can purchase them for you at a cost of \$25 cash prepaid.



FICTION BOOK GROUP

The OCUUC Book Group will return to regular first Monday night online sessions starting Jan. 03, 2022 at 7:30pm.

We will read "A Long Petal of the Sea" by Isabel Allende. All are invited to our lively discussions led by a leader. You can get the link from co-chair, Eva Goodwin-Noriega or on our website [calendar page](#).



AHA GROUP (AGNOSTICS, HUMANISTS, ATHEISTS)

SUNDAY, JANUARY 2, 2022
12:15PM ON ZOOM

This month, the Rev. Sian Wiltshire will be our guest, and will address (among other things) why OCUUC sponsors an AHA Group.

Find the Zoom meeting link on our website [calendar page](#).



STITCHWITS

Do you knit, crochet, sew, or enjoy any other crafts? Do you believe in using your skills to help others? Then you might be a StitchWit!

Stitchwits meet on Zoom every Saturday from 10:30am to 12:30pm and are knitting, crocheting, or sewing items for Stand Up for Kids.

Find the zoom link on the [calendar page](#) of our website or contact **Barbara Schilling** at 949/285-0918 or harper0117@gmail.com.



SOURCES ON ANTI-RACISM

Sources on Anti-Racism is a monthly blog that contains a list of articles, time-sensitive virtual events and other resources compiled by **Ralph Haller**. The intent is to provide our community with selected sources on anti-racism to help in our yearning for racial justice and equity as an outgrowth of our seven Principles. Please check out Ralph's latest post: <https://ocuuc.org/sourcesonantiracism>



WOMEN'S CIRCLE

Join us on Sunday, January 23rd at 12:00 p.m. on Zoom.

The Women's Circle meets every month on the fourth Sunday. Find the Zoom meeting link on the [calendar page](#) of the OCUUC website. Contact [Peggy Priver](#) if you have any questions. See you there!



MEDITATION GROUP

Our OCUUC Meditation Group meets every 1st and 3rd Sunday — via Zoom. Meditation and mindfulness practice are so important for our well-being! Please join our community via Zoom before Church on Sunday, January 2nd from 9:45 to 10:20 AM. We will conduct a short but nourishing guided meditation, then share our experiences along the path. All are welcome!

Find the zoom link on the OCUUC website calendar page by clicking [here!](#)

JANUARY PLATE SHARE



One life at a time.

STAND UP FOR KIDS — ORANGE COUNTY was established in 1990 and serves homeless and at-risk youth and young adults 25 and younger. Programs in Orange County offer street outreach, mentoring, housing support and so much more.

Programs have the overall goal of leading homeless youth to self-sufficiency and preventing at-risk youth from gang involvement, substance abuse, teen pregnancy, and from dropping out of high school.

Youth that have been served include sexually exploited youth, victims of abuse and/or neglect, LGBTQ youth, kids with disabilities, pregnant and parenting young people, and kids forced out of their homes.

For information about Stand-Up for Kids contact them directly at 714 356-5437. www.StandUpForKids.org



A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

First of all, thank you for the opportunity and privilege to be part of the production of this newsletter. It very much takes a village...and my gratitude to all of the contributors who make it possible!!! As some of you know, I produced The Reach for a few years when I was the secretary to the minister in the late 60s and early 70s. I typed the stencil and then rolled out each page on the Gestetner machine, stapled the issues and mailed to each member of the church.



This is a breeze in comparison!! And SO much more versatile.

My office was on one side of the vestibule and the minister's office was on the other side. I don't have a photo of my office, but this is the view from my office across the vestibule in those "olden" days. This was before the sanctuary was reversed and the pulpit then was at this end of the church....



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The view from the church parking lot down Hamilton/Victoria toward Huntington Beach looked like this around that time...



The view from the church parking lot down Hamilton/Victoria toward Huntington Beach looked like this around that time...



...and these are a few glimpses of the "old" OCUUC and the procession after the last sermon there to the new and current lo-



cation...many of you were there and made this trek into the new beginning.

And, finally, as a little indulgence to my own personal photo album, some of Jim's and my children were in the OCUUC Children's Choir in those "good old days" (ca 1970?)...perhaps some of you will recognize someone?

My wishes for a bright and healthy New Year!

Linda Clough, Editor



**Be safe, be well,
You mean the world to me.
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You mean the world to me.
- Words by Dan Berggren**

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