

THE REACH

OCUUC'S MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

ORANGE COAST
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
CHURCH



SUNDAY SERVICES IN JANUARY 2023

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.

- Jan. 1: Fire Ceremony: Turn, Turn, Turn
– Rev. Judy Tomlinson
- Jan. 8: Are You a UU?
– Rev. Sian Wiltshire
- Jan. 15: TBA
– Akbar Hussaini
- Jan. 22: Centering
– Rev. Sian Wiltshire
- Jan. 29: Grounding
– Rev. Sian Wiltshire

THE PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

Nancy Loughrey, President, Board of Trustees

“Look at all the work we’ve done, everybody showin’ up!” This is the first line of one of my favorite choir songs. We’ve really lived it this Fall! As we go into another calendar year, we can be proud of ourselves.

We have had lots of “regular” activities with sermon discussion groups, book groups, another successful auction, and other groups that usually meet on a regular basis. Of course, Sunday mornings is our favorite activity.

In addition, Rev. Sian taught a class on the historical Jesus, we welcomed six new members (get to know Jennifer, Pat, Emily, Phyllis, Karen, and Glenn!), 36 people attended our weekend camp at deBenneville, 47 Ukrainians have been living at some point in our two-story building, a Town Hall meeting for sanctuary updates, and there was a national election.

I’m afraid I can’t report we quite made it to the published standards for a “Good Trouble Congregation”. We were so close. When I was asking people to report their efforts and said, *“We just need 400 more letters or postcards!”*, I was accused of sounding like our former president. I like to think we made it.

ORANGE COAST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH



Many Different Beliefs,
One Loving Community



JOIN FOR OUR SERVICES
SUNDAYS AT 10:30

<https://zoom.us/j/3931579606>

Many Different Beliefs,
One Loving Community

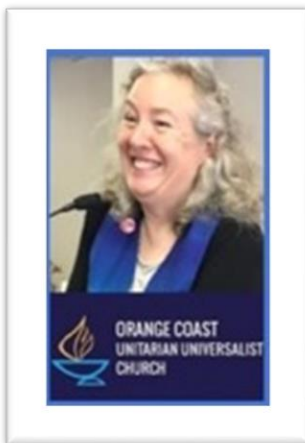
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Costa Mesa, CA 92626
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Costa Mesa, CA 92628
ocuuc.org

Collectively, we sent 2,430 postcards or letters, 2,000 text messages, made 4,020 phone calls, 455 door knocks, registered 5,000 new voters, and three of us worked at the polls. Seventeen people reported, and I do believe there were more of us. That's fantastic! Given the unpredicted outcome, I say we made a difference!

We are an awesome congregation, and I am excited about what 2023 may bring. The last line of the song is "And we gotta keep walkin' it"!

Nancy Loughrey
president@ocuuc.org



Welcome to the new year! Each year, people around the globe find a spurt of motivation to make a new year's resolution – to diet, get in shape, expand their mind, see family more – the

list goes on and on. We try year after year to change and grow. I think it's a rather beautiful tradition even if it tends to fade away within a few weeks. It's so wonderfully human to *try!*

Recently I was talking to one of you and instead of a resolution, they come up with a "mantra" each year. One that they hope will help them grow and that they can use when life gets stressful, or they

want to remember something important in their life. It's got me thinking that maybe, instead of a resolution, I should come up with a mantra. I do have some favorite mantras. One is "this too shall pass." It's a favorite in both times of stress and joy (for joy, it reminds me to enjoy the moment!). So what mantra might you come up with this year to see you through stressful times? Or one that reminds you of the beautiful person you are?

If you come up with one, let me know! I'm still trying to figure out a good one for next year.

With love, Rev. Sian



UPDATE ON BOARD GOALS

It is halfway through our church year, and we think we have finally settled on Board Goals. Some of them took some time to determine what was possible, and the release of the draft of a new Article 2 of the UUA Bylaws created a question whether to focus on the proposed 8th Principle as an amendment to the existing Article 2 or the newly proposed rewrite of Article 2. For more information on the 8th Principle see <https://www.8thprincipleuu.org>.

More information on Article 2 is at <https://www.uua.org/uuagovernance/committees/article-ii-study-commission>.

WHICH ONE OR BOTH?

Although some say we should work on both projects, we decided to focus our efforts on Article 2 for these reasons:

1. Both amendments address the same thing:
 - a. Specifically incorporating anti-racism and support for all people
 - b. Holding ourselves accountable for all the work we do to further our mission.
2. Article 2 is more elegantly worded and incorporates the entire UUA mission, work, and covenant.
3. Article 2 is more likely to pass, eliminating the need for the Eighth Principle.
4. Working on both would be confusing!

Here are the updated Board Goals for 22-23:

- **More Visibility in Community:** Unified signage on the street.
- **Centering Families:** Increase the visibility of families in the service with specific roles. Make childcare possibilities for events easier to access.
- **New Sanctuary:** The congregation is well informed and supportive about the sanctuary throughout the process. A plan is in place for making resources available as needed.
- **Bring Article 2 to Congregation:** By the Annual Meeting, the delegates are prepared and informed of the congregation opinions on Article 2.

There have been adequate opportunities for discussion and learning about Article 2. We will use Article 2 as an impetus for our conversation on anti-racism and anti-oppression.

Some of these are already in process, such as our Christmas Eve signs. Please talk to any Board Member if you have questions or would like to help.

Nancy Loughrey
president@ocuuc.org



Town Hall Meeting: Dec. 11



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

Jan. 1: Fire Ceremony: Turn, Turn, Turn
We will celebrate New Year's Day reflecting on the past, accessing the present, and looking forward with forgiveness,

hope, and joy. Our Fire Communion ceremony allows us to let go of the past and set our prayers and intentions for the new year. This will take the place of together! Rev. Judy Tomlinson

Jan. 8: Are you a UU? What does it mean to be grounded in Unitarian Universalism as a faith tradition? Come explore some ideas with Rev. Sian about what and who we are as a faith tradition. Rev. Sian

Jan. 15: TBA Akbar Hussaini

Jan. 22: Centering. In anti-racism work, some people suggest that we not center whiteness. What does that mean? And what would it mean to center around love instead. Rev. Sian

Jan. 29: Grounding. Meditation has long been known to bring about both physical and mental health benefits. Today we explore the benefits, challenges and joys of meditation. Rev. Sian with the Meditation Group leaders.



NEW TO OCUUC?

Are you new to OCUUC as a visitor or are you a friend of the congregation considering membership?

If so, we'd like to invite you to a Newcomer **Orientation/Meet the Minister** event on Sunday, February 12.

We'll be serving a light lunch in an informal setting in the Victoria Room after the church service. This will be a great opportunity for you to get to know Rev. Sian and to ask any questions you might have about OCUUC membership. We'll gather at noon and be finished no later than 1:30.

Please RSVP to Linda Spery to confirm your attendance at:

lindaspery@gmail.com

Attending the lunch meeting does not obligate you to membership, but hopefully will provide you with information that might prove useful for a better understanding of the OCUUC church community.

If you are a Zoomer and unable to attend in person, please let us know and we'll arrange to have you attend virtually.

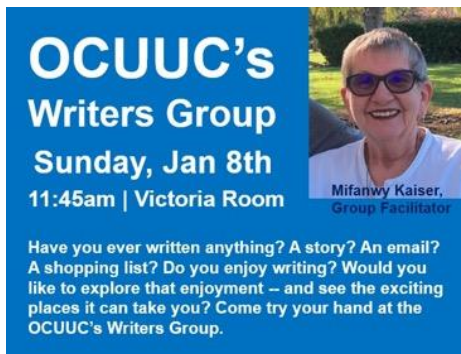
FORMING FAITH

Religious Education News
Karen Magoon Pearson
Director of Religious Education

For ten weeks, nine 4th-6th graders from OCUUC, Tapestry UU, and the wider community gave it their all in the vital and life-affirming Our Whole Lives (OWL) Lifespan Sexuality Education program. With the intrepid leadership of our OWL facilitators, Maria Goode, Jacques Kilchoer, and Rev. Judy Tomlinson, they explored *Sexuality and Values, Images in Popular Culture, Body Image, Changes of Puberty, Gender, Feelings and Attraction, Reproduction and Staying Healthy, Decisions and Actions, Consent and Peer Pressure, and Healthy Relationships*.

By all measures, the program was a huge success, and we can all feel good about providing such an important service to our community. We are all so proud of our OWL graduates for their commitment and their openness. We hope the momentum generated by this program will continue to grow so that we can offer classes for other age groups in the months to come.

You can find out more about OWL at <https://www.uua.org/re/owl>.



**OCUUC's
Writers Group**
Sunday, Jan 8th
11:45am | Victoria Room

Mifanwy Kaiser,
Group Facilitator

Have you ever written anything? A story? An email? A shopping list? Do you enjoy writing? Would you like to explore that enjoyment – and see the exciting places it can take you? Come try your hand at the OCUUC's Writers Group.

All are welcome! Whether you already love writing or don't think you can write it all, join this friendly, helpful gathering and share the fun!

Stop by and see how easy it is to get started! They meet the second Sunday at 11:45am in the Victoria Room and their next meeting is Sunday, January 8th.

What they do at meetings: One week before the meeting, everyone submits a piece that will be presented to the group. Each writer brings a copy to read to the group and then there is discussion.

At some point, they are planning a reading of their work to the congregation, along with a paperback version of their writing. Details are still being worked out. Mifanwy Kaiser is the facilitator of this group.



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 attending the service in person, you may write your joy or sorrow for in-person share.



Some of us remember Tony and Sandy Host from the time they were members until they moved to Iowa in 2005. Tony was President for a while, and they were both very active in our Aids Team Ministry as well as many other activities. They plan to be at church on Sunday, Jan. 8th. They are staying at the Loughrey's and there will be a dinner for anyone who remembers them and would like to attend that evening at the Loughrey's from 5 to 8 pm..

Please RSVP to nloughrey@me.com if you will attend. We need an idea of how much food we need!



SPECIAL CONGREGATION MEETING: POSTPONED

The Special Congregation Meeting to discuss a price increase for the new sanctuary is now postponed. We expect to get the bid mid-January. The earliest it might happen is Jan. 29th. Stay tuned! If you would like more information, please see:

<https://ocuuc.org/who-we-are/sanctuary/>

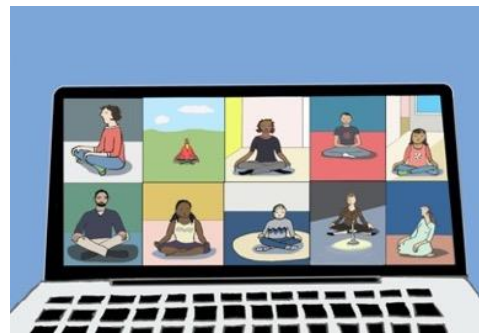


STITCHWITS

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**.

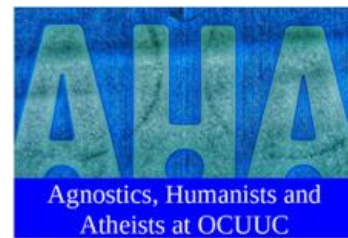
Find the zoom link on the [calendar page](#) of our website or contact Barbara Schilling at 949/285-0918 or harper0117@gmail.com



MEDITATION GROUP

Our **Meditation Group** meets every Sunday at 9:45am — in person and via Zoom. Meditation and mindfulness practice are so important for our well-being! Please join our community. 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](#)!



AGNOSTICS, HUMANISTS AND ATHEISTS

The **Atheist/Humanist Group** meets on first Sundays at 12:15 p.m. on Zoom. This is a discussion group supporting humanists, agnostics, atheists, deists, and others who view human activity as the basis for moral systems, and view humans as integral parts of the nature of the cosmos. The Zoom link is on the [church calendar](#).

For more information, email programs@ocuuc.org.



Sunday, January 1

Meditation Group, 9:45am Youth Room and on Zoom

Worship Service, 10:30am Daniels Hall and on Zoom

AHA Group, 12:15 pm on Zoom

Tuesday, January 3

OCUUC Fiction Book Group 7:00pm on Zoom

Thursday, January 5

Choir Rehearsal 7pm Daniels Hall & Zoom

Saturday, January 7

StitchWits, 10:30am on Zoom

Sunday, January 8

Meditation Group – cancelled 1/8
Worship Service, 10:30am Daniels Hall and on Zoom

RE & Youth Group, 10:30am on site
Writing Club, 11:45am Victoria Room

Monday, January 9

Anti-racism Reading Group, 7pm on Zoom

Wednesday, January 11

Comm. On Ministry 6pm

Thursday, January 12

Choir Rehearsal 7pm Daniels Hall & Zoom

Saturday, January 14

StitchWits, 10:30am on Zoom

Sunday, January 15

Meditation Group, 9:45am Youth Room and on Zoom

Worship Service, 10:30am Daniels Hall and on Zoom

RE & Youth Group, 10:30am on site

Nonfiction Book Club, 12:30pm on Zoom

Tuesday, January 17

Caring Circle 12pm on Zoom

Wednesday, January 18

Home for Refugee Mtg, Victoria Room

Moviegoers, 3:40pm Regency SC

Thursday, January 19

Choir Rehearsal 7pm Daniels Hall & Zoom

Saturday, January 21

StitchWits, 10:30am on Zoom

Sunday, January 22

Meditation Group, 9:45am Youth Room and on Zoom

Worship Service, 10:30am Daniels Hall and on Zoom

Women's Circle, 12pm Suite 7 and Zoom

Dream Group Open House, 12pm Victoria Room RSVP required

Monday, January 23

Finance Council, 5pm on Zoom
Anti-racism Reading Group, 7pm on Zoom

Wednesday, January 25

Cluster Meeting, 10am Youth Room

Actionable Anti-racism Group, 1pm on Zoom

Board of Trustees, 7pm on Zoom

Thursday, January 26

Choir Rehearsal 7pm Daniels Hall & Zoom

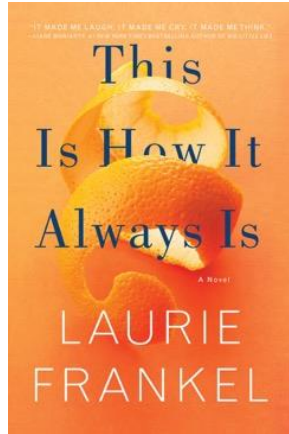
Saturday, January 28

StitchWits, 10:30am on Zoom

Sunday, January 29

Meditation Group, 9:45am Youth Room and on Zoom

Worship Service, 10:30am Daniels Hall and on Zoom



FICTION BOOK GROUP

The Fiction Book Group will meet on **Tuesday, Jan. 3rd (not Monday)** at 7:00pm on Zoom. We'll discuss *"This is How It Always Is"* by Laurie Frankel. All are welcome to join our lively discussion.

Co-chairs: Eva Goodwin-Noriega and Marcia Hackett



FLOWERS FOR SUNDAY SERVICES

If you would like to sign-up for flowers to celebrate someone or for yourself, please see [Sandie Martin](#) after the service to reserve your date. You can also email her at sandiemartin@mac.com.

Let her know if you'd like to bring your own flowers on a particular date, or she can make an arrangement for you at a cost of \$20 cash.

JANUARY PLATE SHARE



StandUp for Kids - Orange County was launched in 2003 with a single focus: To end the cycle of youth homelessness in our community.

We work to provide basic needs, housing, mentoring support, care, and love to at-risk and homeless youth ages 12-24. In 2021, we adjusted programming to address COVID restrictions and changes.

View our [Programs](#) page to learn how we are continuing to grow in the scope and quality of care we provide to our youth.

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 visit www.standupforkids.org

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VIA ORG/IMAGES

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