

# THE REACH

OCUUC'S MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

ORANGE COAST  
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST  
CHURCH



## Sunday Services – Feb. 2021

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

**February 7** | Revolutionary Love: All Church Worship!

Various

**February 14** | Side with Love

Rev. Sian Wiltshire

**February 21** | Beloved Community

Rev. Sian Wiltshire

**February 28** | The Truth Hurts, Falsehood Destroys

Rev. Rick Hoyt-McDaniels

## THE PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

From Debra Quam, President, Board of Trustees

*"We have made a huge difference this year in the lives of our neighbors, in the care and protection of our communities, and in the strength of our democracy. This remains to me a source of hope and strength and joy. We are resilient. We have everything we need. We are enough. Love will continue to guide us."*

*Rev. Dr. Susan Frederick-Gray, President  
UUA, January 2021*

2021 is off to a big start at OCUUC. On January 31, 2021 we officially welcomed eight new members to our congregation at a new member ceremony during the Sunday church service. Congratulations and welcome new members to your spiritual home of many different beliefs and one loving community!

On January 31, 2021 we held a Town Hall led by Nancy Loughrey, to review and discuss the plans for the proposed new sanctuary building. The Town Hall was held in preparation for a Congregational Meeting which will be held February 21, 2021. At this Congregational Meeting members will be asked to vote on a motion seeking approval to move forward with building the new sanctuary. In a vote of confidence, the OCUUC Board of Trustees unanimously voted

## 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

2845 Mesa Verde Drive East  
Costa Mesa, CA 92626  
714-556-2882

P.O. Box 3770  
Costa Mesa, CA 92628  
ocuuuc.org

in support of moving forward with the proposed plans for the new sanctuary at their January 23, 2021 Board meeting.

**Please mark your calendar to attend this important Congregational Meeting which will be held immediately after the church service on February 21, 2021.** Please watch the Blast and other special emails for more information on the Congregational Meeting.

I hope many of you have by now had the opportunity to register for, and perhaps receive the first round of the Covid vaccine. Many thanks to the brilliant scientists who developed the vaccines and all the doctors, nurses and volunteers working to deliver them to us. With the continued success of the vaccination roll out plan, I am hopeful it will be safe to see each other in person again in 2021.

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

Debra Quam  
[President@ocuuc.org](mailto:President@ocuuc.org)



## SIAN'S SHENANIGANS

From Our Minister: Rev. Sian Wiltshire

When I, eight years ago, began my search for my first congregation to serve as a called minister, I was looking for one that wanted to be a beloved community. I wasn't looking for perfection (no such thing), but rather, I was looking for a community that wanted to create it (something that is never ending). A congregation that knew that healthy boundaries were important, that also knew that mistakes happen; a congregation that trusted in its leadership and knew how to love one another; a congregation that



wanted to take some risks and knew that risk was an important factor in becoming a beloved community. And I knew immediately when I met the committee that I had found you.

This congregation took some risks in the move here; it has become more open and diverse in membership and has wrestled with transphobia and white supremacy culture. We are rightly known as a welcoming, affirming and open church. We have gentle but firm policies around unhealthy behaviors and our leaders care deeply for everyone and this community. We are constantly learning and growing.

Now we have another choice to make: to build a new sanctuary or not. It's an

exciting and risky venture. I know we all want to make it happen, but it can be anxiety producing. The Board leadership is confident in our future, as I am. And why so confident? Because of all the reasons I mention above: We are not perfect, but we don't have to be; we make mistakes, but we know how to love one another; we know how to take some calculated risk that it is needed in order to become something more. We are indeed a beloved community and I am proud to serve you all!

With love,

Rev. Sian



### Worship in February 2021

*Worship Theme: Beloved Community*

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

**Feb. 7: Revolutionary Love: All Church Worship!** Come join 6 other UU churches as we join together in worship! The Zoom link will be the same as we use every Sunday, but the content will be different! Note: No Joys and Sorrows this Sunday (5-600 people attending!).

**Feb. 14: Side with Love.** In support of Black History Month, let us look at the state of our

culture and how we are doing to dismantle our white supremacy culture.

Rev. Sian

**Feb. 21: Beloved Community.** What does it take to create a Beloved Community as envisioned by Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.?

Rev. Sian

**Feb. 28 | The Truth Hurts, Falsehood Destroys.** As we observed over the last year, a post-truth society is a pre-tyranny society. Without truth all liberal systems suffer: science, economics, democracy, and religion. Truth is strong but new technologies and siloed communities threaten to overwhelm truth with conspiracy theories and confirmation bias. Our world is facing an epistemological crisis. How do we know the truth?

Rev. Rick Hoyt-McDaniels



### Joys and Sorrows on Sundays

If you would like to express a Joy or Sorrow to be read during the service on Sunday, please send an email by 9:00 am on Sunday morning to [joysandsorrows@ocuuc.org](mailto:joysandsorrows@ocuuc.org). You will also have an opportunity to type a response in the Zoom chat. And please continue to reach out to one another and stay in touch. An unexpected phone call is like a smile; free and does a world of good.



## RANDOM KINDNESS

Religious Education News  
from RE Minister Rev. Judy Tomlinson

Beloved Community is a special kind of community. Here we honor Black, Indigenous, people of color. We love each other into healing and we stay in relationship, even when things get tough or messy. Not to mention a place where we use our creativity, offer our unique gifts, have fun and grow.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. gave depth and meaning to the phrase beloved community. For him it was about dignity and respect for every person, equality and justice for all across race and nationality and, an all-embracing divine love. Sounds like a combination of Universalism and our UU Principles. So, it might be familiar to us and seem easy for us to embrace.

Yet there was a power in his voice when he spoke of it and a determination. He was all in, body and soul. A commitment that was unwavering in the face of beatings, bombings, and incarceration. He knew that to lead America out of the sin of racism and transform our country into a beloved community was a task of Biblical proportions.

We aren't there yet but we do seem poised on a tipping point. This month in RE, we will

do our part to move ever closer to that glorious vision.

Here are a few questions that might help us go deeper. What keeps you together as a family, when you're not happy with one another? We might ask the same question substituting 'church' in place of 'family'. See if you can look at the people in your community—grocery store clerk, postal carrier, school principal, garbage collector, our new President and Vice President—what do you have in common? What's the difference between an opponent and an enemy? Have you ever made friends with someone whom you previously thought of as an enemy? What changed to allow that to happen?

Here are our lessons for all age groups:

**Feb. 7:** *Black Leaders are Honored* (Antiracism & Black History Month)

**Feb. 14:** *Love Grows beyond Boundaries* (Valentine's Day)

**Feb. 21:** *Wounds are Healed* (Antiracism)

**Feb. 28:** *We Don't Run Away When Things Get Hard* (Antiracism)

Beloved,  
Rev. Judy

## MUSIC NOTES

from Director of Music Ministries: Beth Syverson

I am continually humbled and awed by the power of music and art. If you think of the recent joyous inauguration, imagine how it would've felt without any of the music or art. Take away Lady Gaga singing the National Anthem (problematic though its lyrics and origin may be), J.Lo singing a mash-up of Woody Guthrie's "This Land is Your Land"

and “America the Beautiful,” and Garth Brooks’ simple a cappella version of “Amazing Grace.” Take away the amazing poem “The Hill We Climb,” written and delivered by Amanda Gorman. Take away the fanfares, the drum cadences, and “Hail to the Chief.” Take away the evening celebration of musicians and dancers across America and the Covid memorial the night before. And take away the visual art—the mall stuffed with an amazing flag and light display instead of people, the bunting and carpet rolls, even the fashion (including Bernie Sanders’ famous handmade mittens). If you take all of the art and music away, it would be a very short and soulless event, with a few necessary formalities and speeches. Music and art provide the heart, the emotional gut-punch, the driving force behind the vision for our country represented in the inauguration.

Next time you attend (live or online) an event—big or small—pay attention to how much the aural and visual milieu informs the impact of the event. And do what you can to support the artists, musicians, designers, and creators who make our world so much richer for their generous creativity.

In church news, we are busily preparing for our exciting joint service on February 7. I am collaborating with several colleagues to present music from each of our congregations. Don’t miss that service!

We are always looking for people who want to get involved, either by singing or playing, or by helping with editing audio/video, creating slideshows, or running the Zoom services behind the scenes. Thanks to Phil Chipman who recently started editing our music projects. And thanks to Don Martin who has been shadowing as a Slideshow Operator. Let me know if you’d like to be

involved, and I’ll help you find the perfect role(s) for you.

Musically Yours,  
Beth Syverson, Director of Music Ministries  
[MusicDirector@ocuuc.org](mailto:MusicDirector@ocuuc.org)



**All events are Online**  
**Sunday Services: 10:30 am on Zoom**

*Most of our meetings take place on Zoom. Find your event on the OCUUC website calendar and click on details to find the Zoom meeting ID.*

**Monday, February 1**

OCUUC Fiction Book Group 7:30pm

**Thursday, February 4**

Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 pm

**Friday, February 5**

Social Hour, 5:00 pm

**Saturday, February 6**

StitchWits, 10:00 am

**Sunday, February 7**

RE Class, 9:30 am

Meditation Group, 9:45 am

Worship Service, 10:30 am

Youth Group, 11:30 am

AHA Group, 12:00 pm

**Thursday, February 11**

Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 pm

**Friday, February 12**

Social Hour, 5:00 pm

**Saturday, February 13**

StitchWits, 10:00 am

**Sunday, February 14**

RE Class, 9:30 am

Worship Service, 10:30 am

Youth Group, 11:30 am

LGBT Action Group, 12:15 pm

**Tuesday, February 16**

Caring Circle, 12:00 pm

**Wednesday, February 17**

Finance Council Meeting 2:00pm

**Thursday, February 18**

Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 pm

**Friday, February 19**

Social Hour, 5:00 pm

**Saturday, February 20**

StitchWits, 10:00 am

**Sunday, February 21**

RE Class, 9:30 am

Meditation Group, 9:45 am

Worship Service, 10:30 am

Youth Group, 11:30 am

**Congregational Meeting 11:45am**

Nonfiction Book Club, 12:30 pm

**Wednesday, February 24**

Board of Trustees Meeting 7:00pm

**Thursday, February 25**

Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 pm

**Friday, February 26**

Social Hour, 5:00 pm

**Saturday, February 27**

StitchWits 10:00 am

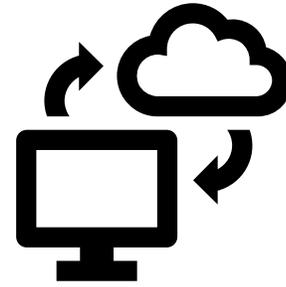
**Sunday, February 28**

RE Class, 9:30 am

Worship Service, 10:30 am

Youth Group, 11:30 am

Women's Circle, 12:00 pm



**Groups at OCUUC**

Due to COVID-19, in person meetings are suspended indefinitely.

Stay in touch (electronically) and stay safe. We need to physically distance, but in these uncertain times, we need social connection more than ever.



**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 is currently meeting weekly on Saturdays at 10am on Zoom! Find the meeting ID on the OCUUC website [calendar](#) or contact Barbara Schilling.



### LGBTQ Action Group

Our regular meeting is on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of every month at 12:15pm on Zoom. This month's meeting is on February 14, and we will have a guest speaker sharing their personal story. Let us know if you (or someone you know) are LGBTQ and would like to be our guest one month, and we'll put you on the schedule.

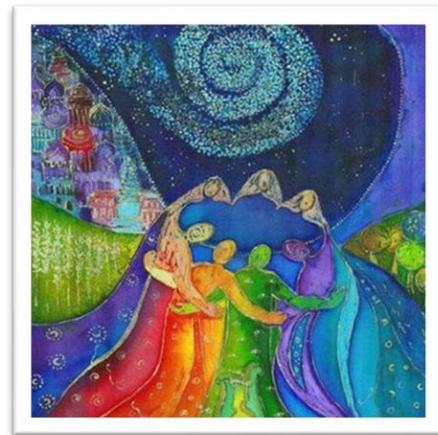
We recently completed the 6-session course "Transgender Inclusion in Congregations." It was a fascinating journey and we dug deep into things like gender norms, cultural shifts, trans spirituality, and the gender binary. If you'd like to view the course—or review any part of the course—our church has access to it ad infinitum. Here's how to get into the course:

- Go to the course page (<https://transforming-hearts-collective.teachable.com>).
- Scroll to the bottom and select the \$500 option (you won't have to pay anything, don't worry!)
- Click "Enroll"
- On the next page click the red text "Add Coupon"

- In the box that appears, enter ORANGECOASTUU and click "Apply" (the total will be adjusted to FREE)
- Continue with enrollment.

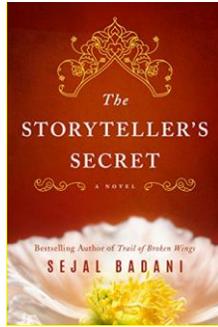
If you attended any of the 6 sessions, I encourage you to provide feedback to the instructors, Alex and Mykal. There is a course evaluation form and we're open to suggestions for future courses or films that would help strengthen and educate our church community as it relates to LGBTQ issues. Contact Beth or Jan at [MusicDirector@occuuc.org](mailto:MusicDirector@occuuc.org) with any comments or questions.

Beth Syverson and Jan Mabie, coordinators  
LGBTQ Action Group  
[Janselectrical@gmail.com](mailto:Janselectrical@gmail.com)



### Women's Circle

The Women's Circle is one of the longest running church groups at OCUUC and welcomes women of all ages. The Circle meets every month on the fourth Sunday at noon and friendly faces are waiting to greet you. Find the zoom meeting link on the [calendar page](#) of the OCUUC website or contact [admin@occuuc.org](mailto:admin@occuuc.org).



### Fiction Book Group

The Fiction Book Group will meet on Zoom at 7:30 pm, Mon., Feb. 1<sup>st</sup> to discuss *The Storyteller's Secret* by Sejal Badani. All are welcome to join our discussion. Contact Eva Goodwin-Noriega, Co-Chair to get the link or find it on the calendar page of our website. Marcia Hackett, Co-Chair



### Sermon Discussion Groups

We currently have four lively Sermon Discussion Groups that meet twice a month via Zoom. We check in and support one another, rehash Rev Sian's compelling, stimulating sermons and readings, and enjoy a thoughtful, pleasant time together. Each group has one facilitator and total 10 members. Currently, Karen Kennedy has an opening for one woman on the 2nd and 4th Monday at 1:00 pm. Also, if anyone is interested in participating in a NEW, yet-to-be formed *evening* SDG, please let Karen know. ([membership@ocuuc.org](mailto:membership@ocuuc.org) or 949-215-3748 for questions).



WELCOME TO THOSE WHO PARTICIPATED IN OUR FIRST ZOOM NEW MEMBER CEREMONY ON JANUARY 31ST. THEY ARE EACH WONDERFUL ADDITIONS TO OUR COMMUNITY!

### Bob and Charlene Gurski

Bob and Charlene Gurski married in 2004. Bob was a widower; Charlene has a son (51) and daughter (45) from a previous marriage. The Gurskis both worked for an organization that served adults with disabilities and retired in 2017. Traveling, mostly cruising, is their passion. Bob was raised Catholic, and Charlene had attended a UU church a few times when she was younger.

Bob and Charlene both fell in love with OCUUC from the first moment they attended in 2018. They became members within a year, but are just now getting around to participating in the New Member Ceremony because of their travels.

They have since served on the auction committee, the grounds committee, the membership committee, and organized the library and the kitchen. Charlene is a Sermon

Discussion Group Leader and together they lead the AHA group meetings.

### Justin and Carolina Tercero Brandon

Justin and Carolina were newlyweds when they found out about the Fullerton UU. After attending their first service they knew that Unitarian Universalism would be the spiritual home where they'd raise their future children. It would be another year when their first daughter was born. They searched for a UU church that had a Religious Education program. They fell in love with OCUUC after the first service, and continued to attend sporadically. As their family grew from one child to three children, a chocolate lab, cats, chickens, ducks and rabbits, they've grown closer to their faith and church community. Carolina currently serves on the OCUUC board, and is attempting to be an Instagram administrator. Justin assists with Sunday morning zoom services. Their children, Trinity (13), Selenge (8), Nina (6), and Ariel (4) participate in the RE classes as much as possible and enjoy it much more than school. As a family they enjoy adventures in nature, bicycling around their new neighborhood, Justin's steaks and BBQ, volunteering in family community service projects, and spending time together in whatever shenanigans life brings. They'd love to hear from you, via FB, Instagram or phone!

### Phyllis Daniel

Phyllis Daniel moved to Fountain Valley in September, 2018, from the Long Beach area, where she had been a member of the UU Church of Long Beach for 50 years. She was active in many programs and activities during those years. She served as President of the Pacific Southwest District, as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Unitarian Universalist Association, and as chair of the Ministerial Fellowship Committee.

Professionally, she was an educator, and for most of her career was in administration at Mayfair High School. She has found the zoom services and groups of OCUUC a wonderful support during these last homebound months. Her family includes OCUUC members Dane and Kathy Nygaard and their son Kade.

### Tatiana Houser

Tatiana Houser came to the U.S. as a student in 1999 from Omsk, Russia. Since then, she studied and taught English as a Second Language and Russian to students in Ohio, Michigan, Germany and England. Tatiana and her husband David were active members of Universalist Unitarian Church of Farmington Hills, Michigan before moving abroad in 2013. Tatiana and family moved to Costa Mesa in December 2018 and began visiting OCUUC the following year. Her husband David and their three children: Mirabelle (7), Finnian (4) and Ronan (2) have enjoyed the church's services, events and outings, and Tatiana became a part of the OCUUC Religious Education teaching staff. Besides spending time with her family and two dogs, Tatiana enjoys a good long run, hiking in beautiful nature spots, and reading historical fiction. She is now looking forward to becoming an official member of the community!

### Angie Andersen

Angie Andersen is a high school Biology, Chemistry and Advanced Placement Environmental Science teacher in Irvine. She has been teaching in the Irvine Unified for 27 years. She is passionate about the environment, the outdoors, education and animals. She lives in Irvine with her 17-year-old daughter, Chelsea, two American Eskimo dogs, and two cats, a Siamese and calico. She

is looking forward to getting more involved with the church.

### Alex Bailey

Alex started attending a UU church in 2012 when he lived in Montana. He moved to Los Angeles in 2015 and attended several congregations. Fortunately for us, he found OCUUC as the best fit. Currently he lives on the west side of Anaheim and works for the VA in Long Beach. The 7 principles drive his choices, personally and professionally. He has been a social worker for 20 years and, in the last 5 years, his focus has been assisting Veterans experiencing homelessness.

In his free time, he enjoys cycling indoors on [zwift.com](http://zwift.com) as well as attending tai chi classes at the Pakua martial arts studio of Orange County.



## FEBRUARY PLATE SHARE



The Wetlands & Wildlife Care Center (WWCC) is dedicated to the rehabilitation and release of sick, injured and orphaned native wildlife, some of which are

threatened/endangered species. The Mission Statement of WWCC is to educate the public about man's impact on the environment and mitigate that impact through care and rehabilitation of native wildlife. Located on Pacific Coast Highway in Huntington Beach, the center is open 365 days a year, open for animal intake every day.

The WWCC is capable of rehabilitating over 400 animals at a time. The facility is equipped with animal washing stations, a hospital, indoor and outdoor caging, an area to prepare food and facilities container. The treatment and rehabilitation areas are closed to the general public, but tours may be arranged. Please call for details.

The Center has evolved over the years into a sophisticated network of rehabilitation professionals and volunteers, unique to the southland in accessibility, expertise and results. They are proud of the dedicated veterinarians, trained wildlife technicians and certified volunteers who make their success possible.

The Center is continually expanding to better serve the needs of Orange County and the surrounding areas. Please join the effort to coexist with local wildlife. Volunteer your time or make a donation. Support your wildlife center! To learn more, visit their website, [WWCCOC.org](http://WWCCOC.org).

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- Words by Dan Berggren