

# THE REACH

OCUUC'S MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

ORANGE COAST  
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST  
CHURCH



## SUNDAY SERVICES IN FEBRUARY 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.*

**February 6: I Have Two Dreams**

Rev. Liz Murphy

**February 13: Freedom to Be**

Rev. Sian Wiltshire

**February 20: Many Different Beliefs**

Rev. Sian Wiltshire

**February 27: The Universalist Message**

Rev. Sian Wiltshire

## THE PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

Nancy Loughrey, President, Board of Trustees

A big shout out to Randy Kokal for organizing our special online collection for de Benneville at the end of December. Our lovely camp is dear to many of us. He saw a need and made it happen. Thank you! De Benneville reports they did meet their goal of \$175,000 from over 600 donors from all over Southern California and beyond.

Last year at this time, I was about to start working at the Vaccine Center at Disneyland. I started work January 22<sup>nd</sup> and got my first shot the same day. I was excited to be helping in the vaccination process. It was going to make it all better, right?

COVID19 has been a challenging experience for all of us. I didn't even understand when I wrote the January article a month ago that we would be totally offsite all month. We have all learned to be flexible and make some really hard decisions under competing priorities. I hope I have learned to be more present in the moment. It does look like our case count has peaked for now. We really don't know what is yet to come.

I am truly grateful for OCUUC and each one of you. We are getting through this together. I have learned how much I need and value our community. We have many different beliefs, even about the Corona virus, but we have been one loving community that has worked to be together as best we can while respecting each other. We can do this hard thing.

Be safe, be well. See you at church or on Zoom!

Nancy Loughrey

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

## SIAN'S SHENANIGANS

From Our Minister: Rev. Sian Wiltshire

*He drew a circle that shut me out—  
Heretic, rebel, a thing to flout.  
But Love and I had the wit to win:  
We drew a circle that took him in!*

*Edwin Markham, poet laureate of Oregon from 1923-1931*



Gender pronouns notwithstanding, I love this quote. I think it often gets at the heart of why so many communities don't expand to include those that are different.

We draw circles about who is in and who is out. So many communities ask people who join to be a part of the community as it is. One of the things I love about our New Member ceremony is that we state that every time a person joins, this community changes. At least I hope it does! I hope that each person who comes here changes us for the better. Each person adds their uniqueness, ideas, and gifts.

It can be very easy to fall into the trap of tradition. The trap that says, "But we've always done it that way." Or the trap that says, "We tried that once and it didn't work." I'm a big believer that you go where the energy is. If someone is passionate about something, let them run with it and help us grow and change—even if tried before, even if it makes some people uncomfortable, even if.... That's

the only way growth happens. Embrace it. Love it. Love them for putting their hearts and soul into it!

I'm grateful for all the ways that people here have helped this church change—to grow and learn: from the anti-racism book groups, to the sermon discussion groups, to the finance council, to our Sunday morning volunteers and choir embracing hybrid. Heavens, that list could get really long!

Here's what I know: when we embrace change with love, we grow in spirit. And that's all we ever need to do.

With love,

Rev. Sian



## FORMING FAITH

Religious Education News  
Karen Magoon Pearson  
Director of Religious Education

Our theme in January was Living with Intention. Each week we explored a different facet of intention with ideas for activities families could do together at home since we were not meeting in person. I'd like to share with you some of the picture books and stories I recommended this month to help children get a well-rounded perspective on *Living with Intention*.

When it comes to intentionally going about social change, one of the key things needed is empathy. When we can empathize with and have a personal experience around

a social inequality, it activates our intention and our desire to change things. To explore empathy in the context of social change, I recommend the picture book *New Shoes* by Susan Lynn Meyer. In this story, a girl is upset because at the time the book takes place, in the 1950's, black children and adults were not allowed to try on shoes at many shoe stores. It's a great reminder about what the inequality of segregation was like. Click [here](#) for a read aloud (start at 0:44).

Living with intention also takes persistence and patience because living with intention is hard. Fulfilling our intentions often takes a long time. And what happens when we try to do something that is hard? When we try to play a musical instrument, or fold origami, or try to memorize a poem? We have to take baby steps! And a long road only taking baby steps certainly requires persistence and patience. One of my favorite stories on this topic is [Higgins: A Drop with a Dream](#) by UU minister Christopher Buice.

Something else we need to do to live with intention is to accept mistakes. We need to acknowledge that good intentions can sometimes cause harm and accept that we have caused harm without defensiveness. We also have to be intentional about fixing our mistakes! A lovely children's book on this topic is *Beautiful Oops* by Barney Saltzberg, a story about making mistakes. If we learn from our mistakes, we can sometimes make them into something beautiful instead. Click for a [video](#) that presents the story as a song.

It is certainly our *intention* (see what I did there) to get back together in person as soon as the risk to ourselves and our community has reduced following this latest Omicron wave. Until then, my wish for you all is that you are finding small ways (or maybe big ways!) to connect and refresh during this exhausting ordeal. I can't wait to be with you all again.



## WORSHIP IN FEBRUARY 2022

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

**Feb. 6: I Have Two Dreams.** Let us examine the life and work of Ethelred Brown, an early black Unitarian pioneer, whose ministry was focused on widening the circle.

Rev. Liz Murphy, Affiliated Minister.

**Feb. 13th: Freedom to Be.** In celebration of the founding of the NAACP, the freedom to marry, and Darwin's birthday, let us gather to discuss what freedoms have we gained in the last hundred years and freedoms we still need to gain. Rev. Sian.

**Feb. 20: Many Different Beliefs.** How did religious tolerance, acceptance and even embracing come about? How can we continue to widen our own theological circles? Rev. Sian

**Feb. 27: The Universalist Message.** Our Universalist heritage calls for forgiveness and redemption. How can we use this message today to widen the circle, when so many want to draw a circle that keeps so many of us out? Rev. Sian





## RETURNING TO ONSITE POLICY UPDATE!

### ALMOST THERE!

*We will return to hybrid worship and meetings on site on Sunday, Feb. 13<sup>th</sup>. Yeah!! While Orange County has not yet returned to “pre-Omicron” levels of infection, the trend is definitely moving in the right direction. When we also consider the lower rates of serious illness and death with this round, we feel it is time. **Religious Education classes will return to the park except for the Youth Group which will be back in the nursery.***

*Our guidelines for onsite attendance will be the same as they were before this latest surge:*

*We are requiring that anyone coming onsite to be fully vaccinated if a vaccine is available for them. It is the honor system, no one wants to worry about cards. It also won't be perfect - we will still welcome children too young to be vaccinated with their vaccinated parents.*

- Indoors - Masks are still required for all indoor activities. We have resumed singing with masks in Daniels Hall. *Food may be served*

*and eaten indoors as long as it is served by just a few servers.*

- Outdoors - Masks and physical distancing will be encouraged but not required outside on Sundays after the service. Coffee will be available. Each person must monitor and maintain their own comfort level. The courtyard is a special place, and it is easy to flip back to pre-COVID practices. Let's keep each other safe!

*Thanks to everyone for all the patience and understanding. We appreciate all the caring and suggestions and extra work!*

Be safe, be well!

Nancy Loughrey  
Rev. Sian Wiltshire  
Karen Magoon Pearson  
Steve Morihoro for Beth Syverson (on sabbatical)  
Marilyn Giss  
Debra Quam  
Meg Wilson



## 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](mailto: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.



## 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.

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## ZOOM SOCIAL HOUR!

FRIDAY, FEB. 4, 11, 18, 25  
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](#).



## 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, March 20.

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 Wiltshire and to ask any questions you might have about OCUUC membership or the Church.

Please RSVP to membership Co-Chairs and event Co-Hosts, Nina Smith and Linda Sperry by Friday, March 18, to confirm your attendance at [hello@ocuuc.org](mailto:hello@ocuuc.org). If you do not have a computer or internet access, you can call the Church Office at 714-556-2882.

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 community.

If you are a Zoomer and unable to attend in person, let us know and we'll provide you with links to videos of the presentation and will arrange a Zoom meet-up with you to answer any questions that you might have.



### Home for Refugees Info Session is here!

You've been waiting for it and it's finally here! Last Fall, Rev. Sian preached on helping an Afghan Refugee family and found a wonderful organization, *Home for Refugees*, that puts teams of 5 core people together to support a family.

There is such a need! The info session is the first step (then we can apply).

The session is scheduled for:

**Sunday, February 6th, 7pm on Zoom.**

Zoom link will be sent out in the next few days. If you haven't already expressed interest and if you didn't get an email about it already, please contact Rev. Sian at [revsian@ocuuc.org](mailto:revsian@ocuuc.org) and she'll put you on the list.

If you have any questions, please contact Rev. Sian and she is happy to answer them.



### Thursday, February 3

Choir Rehearsal, 7:00pm on Zoom

### Friday, February 4

Social Hour, 5:30pm on Zoom

### Saturday, February 5

StitchWits, 10:30am on Zoom

### Sunday, February 6

Meditation Group, 9:45am on Zoom

Worship Service, 10:30am on Zoom

RE – on Zoom

Youth Group 11:30am on Zoom

AHA Group, 12:15 pm on Zoom

Dream Group, 12:30pm on Zoom

### Monday, February 7

OCUUC Fiction Book Group 7:30pm on Zoom

### Wednesday, February 9

Comm. on Ministry, 6pm on Zoom

### Thursday, February 10

Choir Rehearsal, 7:00pm on Zoom

### Friday, February 11

Social Hour, 5:30pm on Zoom

### Saturday, February 12

StitchWits, 10:30am on Zoom

### Sunday, February 13

Meditation Group, 9:45am on Zoom

Worship Service, 10:30am on Zoom and on-site

RE – 10:30am In the park

Youth Group 10:30am onsite

### Monday, February 14

Sum of Us discussion group 7:00pm on Zoom

### Tuesday, February 15

Caring Circle, 12:00pm on Zoom

### Wednesday, February 16

Finance Council, 5:00pm on Zoom

### Thursday, February 17

Choir Rehearsal, 7:00pm on Zoom

### Friday, February 18

Social Hour, 5:30pm on Zoom

### Saturday, February 19

StitchWits Community Sew, 10:00am Victoria Room

### Sunday, February 20

Meditation Group, 9:45am on Zoom

Worship Service, 10:30am on Zoom and on-site

RE – 10:30am In the park  
Youth Group 10:30 onsite  
Nonfiction Book Club, 12:30pm on Zoom

**Wednesday, February 23**

Board of Trustees Meeting, 7pm on Zoom

**Thursday, February 24**

Choir Rehearsal, 7:00pm on Zoom

**Friday, February 25**

Social Hour, 5:30pm on Zoom

**Saturday, February 26**

StitchWits, 10:30am on Zoom

**Sunday, February 27**

Meditation Group, 9:45am on Zoom

Worship Service, 10:30am on Zoom and on-site

RE – 10:30am In the park

Youth Group 10:30am onsite

Women's Circle, 12:00pm on Zoom

**Monday, February 28**

Sum of Us discussion group 7:00pm on Zoom



## FEBRUARY SANCTUARY UPDATE

The New Sanctuary Construction Committee, a subcommittee of the Property Use Group (PUG), focused its efforts this past month on work with our architect to provide additional materials requested by the new City of Costa Mesa planner.

Once review of the materials is completed by the planner, we hope the project will finally move closer toward the City granting our building permit. Our team is patiently awaiting a reply from the City in the near

future, and we'll let you know as soon as we get the green light.

Once the building permit is granted, our contractor will move forward with demolition of the two-story building where the sanctuary will be built. A "groundbreaking" event will be scheduled to take place at a date TBD. Construction fencing will be installed, and a portion of the parking lot will be cordoned off to accommodate the staging area for construction. The remainder of the church campus will remain open throughout construction, which is anticipated to last 10 months.

In preparation for demolition to begin, the entire PUG group and volunteers have been busy working to empty the storage shed and Suite 4 of unneeded items.

Sculptures by Isa Graves not sold have been given to a consignment store in Irvine for sale.

Suite 7 (which was the space occupied by the Storytellers) is now vacant. We have recycled flooring from Suite 4 and installed it in the now empty Suite 7. The walls have also been painted and the new space will be used by OCUUC for storage and small group meetings. Progress!

Additional recent work by PUG has included the removal and relocation of a newer HVAC unit from atop Suite 4 to the roof above Daniels Hall. A comprehensive schedule of pre-demolition tasks has been created by Nancy and is guiding our efforts to move forward.

Just a reminder that if you have personal belongings in any of the storage areas of Suite 4, you need to take them with you as soon as possible.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns about the project, please contact me at [craigspery@aol.com](mailto:craigspery@aol.com)



## BUILDING & GROUNDS CHAIR

The church is in need of a new Building & Grounds (B&G) Chair.

The person in this position is primarily responsible for responding to building and grounds maintenance including scheduling work parties.

We do have paid landscape care and housekeeping. The B&G chair responds to non-maintenance needs of the church.

It is a well-supported position by the Property Use Group (PUG) whose members, along with others, can help with projects or problem-oriented maintenance.

Organizational skills are the primary requisite: mechanical, electrical, plumbing skills are generally farmed out.

Audrey Prosser will continue to provide property management services for the church tenants and can discuss the needs of the position with anyone interested in serving.

Please contact me directly at [PUG@ocuuc.org](mailto:PUG@ocuuc.org) for more information.

Tom Loughrey  
[PUG@ocuuc.org](mailto:PUG@ocuuc.org)



## 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](mailto: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 prepaid.



## AHA GROUP

### Agnostics, Humanists, Atheists

Sunday, February 6, 12:15 pm on Zoom...we'll take a look at HUMOR AND RELIGION.

Questions:

*When is humor about religion funny?*

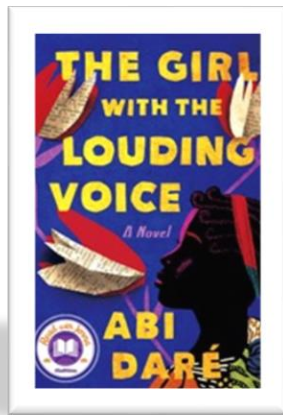
*When does it go too far? Have we finally found a place for Comic Sans?*

*When do we achieve Goldilocks' Equilibrium and find it's just right?*



Drop on by to check out Lewis Black, George Carlin, The Book of Mormon, Kathleen Madigan, Bill Cosby, Ricky Gervais, Monty Python, *Christian Comedy* with Michael Jr. and if we have enough time, even moarr!

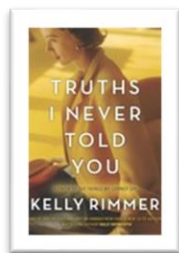
Find the Zoom meeting link on our website [calendar page](#).



## FICTION BOOK GROUP

Monday, Feb. 7th at 7:30 pm is the date the Fiction Book Group meets on *Zoom*. We'll discuss "The Girl with the Louding Voice" by Abi Dare'.

In case you'd like to plan ahead and join us on March 7th, for that meeting we will be reading "Truths I Never Told You" by Kelly Rimmer.



All are welcome to join us for our usual lively discussion. The link is on the church website. Contact Eva Goodwin-Noriega or Marcia Hackett for further details.



## 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](mailto: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 Saturday, February 27<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 p.m. on Zoom. The Women's Circle is one of the longest running church groups at OCUUC and is for women of all ages. Grab your cup of coffee or tea after the Sunday service and join us. If you have not been to the Circle for a while or if it's your first time, no worries! Friendly faces are waiting to greet one and all.

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](#) or the church administrator at [admin@ocuuc.org](mailto:admin@ocuuc.org) if you have any questions. See you there!

## MEDITATION GROUP

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



## FEBRUARY PLATE SHARE



<http://www.fochp.org/>

Our mission is to make homeless and unwanted pets more adoptable and provide them the opportunity to find lifelong families. This mission will be accomplished with training, veterinary services, spay & neuter assistance and rescue. This program is designed to promote the adoption of shelter animals, thus reducing the number of adoptable animals that are euthanized in the shelters.



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

## From You I Receive, To You I Give

### **Sandie and Don Martin Pledge Drive Committee**

We have been talking about what we have received and what we give to Orange Coast Unitarian Universalist Church (OCUUC) as it is the theme for this year's Pledge Drive.

#### **From You I Receive**

We each began as Unitarian Universalists at this church in the early 70's. We both went through life changing trauma with our spouses. We each received understanding, love, and support from our friends in this church which helped tremendously in getting through those difficult times.

In 1981 we combined our families and were married by the Orange Coast Unitarian Universalist Church minister, Eileen Karpeles.

When Don's job relocation required us to move to Santa Barbara in 1983, it was difficult to leave this community that had become the center of our social life. We left our support community behind but kept them in our hearts.

After more than thirty years in Santa Barbara, when we wanted to be closer to our grandkids, knowing that OCUUC was here helped to ease our move back to Orange County. We walked back in and were welcomed with open arms by a few of our old friends and many, many new ones - we had "come back home!"

We have received much from this congregation of Unitarian Universalists and have much to be thankful for.

#### **To You I Give**

We give our Time, Treasure, and Talent to OCUUC as our way of giving back for all that we receive.

Don has served on the Board for many years, two as president, he has also served as Vice President of Finance and as a Trustee. He also has worked with Sandie on the Pledge Drive for several years.

Sandie worked on the Auction Committee for several Auctions, Chaired the Membership Committee for several years, is now an Usher, and has been working on the Pledge Drive now for most of her life.

Each year we pledge as generously as we are able to the support of this church. We want to keep our church financially secure and viable.

**What do you receive from OCUUC?**

**What do you give to OCUUC?**

402                      From You I Receive

The musical score is for the song 'From You I Receive', numbered 402. It is written in 3/4 time with a tempo of 120. The melody is on a treble clef staff with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The lyrics are: 'From you I re-ceive, to you I give, to- geth-er we share, and from this we live.' The chords are: F, Bb, C, F, Dm, Gm, C7, F. The music is attributed to Joseph and Nathan Segal, © 1969 Nathan Segal. The title 'RABBI Irregular' is in the bottom right corner.

Words & music: Joseph and Nathan Segal, © 1969 Nathan Segal                      RABBI Irregular

### What is a Pledge Drive and why do we keep doing it?

The OCUUC Operating Fund Pledge Drive has as its purpose to renew the promises we all make to sustain and revitalize our fund for day-to-day expenditures that keep our buildings usable and keep our staff paid for their services.

We do this annually so that yearly pledges can be used by our Finance Committee to complete an annual budget to guide us financially.

We can only count on pledges made or renewed each year in producing that budget. Each year we run a new Pledge Drive for our FISCAL year, which is July 1-June 30.

Please consider carefully how you can help this year by making a generous pledge when you are asked.

