

THE REACH

OCUUC'S MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

ORANGE COAST
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
CHURCH



Sunday Services in Mar. 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.

March 7 | Reconning and Reparations
Rev. Sian Wiltshire

March 14 | Many Different Beliefs, One Loving Community
Rev. Sian Wiltshire

March 21 | We Are Not Broken, Simply Unfinished
Rev. Tom Owen-Tolle

March 28 | The 4th Estate
Rev. Sian Wiltshire

THE PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

From Debra Quam, President, Board of Trustees

On February 21, 2021 at a special congregational meeting, the OCUUC members present and voting overwhelming approved the motion to move forward with the proposed design and funding plans for the new sanctuary building. Hurray for all of us! This is a momentous step in the history of our congregation and one for which many people have carefully and diligently worked to reach this point and outline the path forward.

So many people have given generously of their time, talent and treasure over the last three years to bring the new sanctuary project where it is today. A very special thanks to all of our generous Donors to the sanctuary pledge drive. They truly made it happen!

Special thanks to Linda Sperry, for her expertise and leadership of the Sanctuary Design Committee and then the Sanctuary Pledge Drive Committee. Craig Sperry has been instrumental in this work as well especially on the Sanctuary Design Committee and leading the interactions with the architects interviewed and the architect chosen.

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
ocuuc.org

Special thanks also to Property Use Group Co-Chairs, Nancy and Tom Loughrey, the Board of Trustees, Reverend Sian Wiltshire for her constant positivity and inspiration, and past president Don Martin who worked to start the ball rolling on building a new sanctuary. And many thanks to all those who have served on the committees named above.

The refurbishment of the RE/Administration building lobby, conference room, hallways, bathrooms, and a new storage room has been completed. Many thanks to B&G Chair Audrey Prosser and B&G members and volunteers Craig Sperry, Bob Loeschen, Cory Brown, Bob Gurski, Tom Loughrey and Anna Ryan for the many hours of planning and work put into this major renovation. Next month we will publish pictures of the refurbished space once it has been completely cleaned and the furnishings put back in place. Audrey and I were in the RE/Administration building again today and it looks so fresh, bright and spacious.

On February 20, 2021 the entire Board of Directors attended an all-day Board Development Training program presented by the staff of the Pacific Western Region. We interacted with board members from eight other UU congregations from California, Montana, Colorado and Alaska. I have heard back from our board members that it was a day well spent and we will implement several of the tools presented.

Here is a link which will take you to the many resources available to UU's in the Pacific Western Region to which OCUUC belongs www.pwruua.org. You can also use this link to Subscribe to the Pacific Western Region Newsletter, for the latest from the region as well as your district board.

With gratitude for all that you do for OCUUC, Debra Quam, president@ocuuc.org

SIAN'S SHENANIGANS

From Our Minister: Rev. Sian Wiltshire

Tom Loughrey, one of the fabulous "patriarchs" (and I say that with admiration) of this congregation, once told me that 30+ years ago, he and his wife Nancy sat down to decide what commitments they were going to make in their lives – for themselves, their



children and to better their community. I'm sure they had a lot of options - clubs to join, nonprofits to support, etc. But together, they decided that they would make a commitment to this congregation,

OCUUC, and to Unitarian Universalism. They knew that commitment meant seeing it through thick and thin. That it wouldn't always be an easy road, but they were all in. And throughout the years they have repeatedly lived up to their commitment, giving moneys as they have been able, and certainly giving of their time. Both Tom and Nancy have served on the Board, not only of this congregation, but on the UUA, PSWD and Camp de Benneville Pines. They are dedicated to keeping this community and Unitarian Universalism thriving in SoCal.

This kind of commitment kind of blows my mind. I just reached my 55th year of existence, and I have never known that kind of commitment to an institution or a

community. It's awe inspiring to me. And it teaches me. It teaches me that commitment is more than a promise. It is about living your values; it's about dedication to ideals; it's about seeing it through, even when at times life is rough. Commitment is an act of freedom and we all get to choose what (or who) we are committed to.

So I want to thank you all who are committed to this church—who will see it through thick and thin—who choose to be dedicated to living out our Principles – who have chosen us, and Unitarian Universalism, in freedom.

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.

Mar. 7: Reconning and Reparations. How does someone, or even a nation, make reparations for the wrongs of the past? Can we ever? It may not be as hard as you think!

Rev. Sian

Mar. 14: Many Different Beliefs, One Loving Community. As we launch our annual pledge drive, let's take a look at where our congregation is now and where it is going.

Rev. Sian

Mar. 21: We Are Not Broken, Simply Unfinished. The capacity for hope is the most significant fact in life. It provides humans with a sense of destination and the energy to get started.

Rev. Tom Owen-Tolle

Mar. 28: The 4th Estate. The Free Press has played a vital and important role in our democracy since the beginning of this country. How do we combat lies, conspiracy theories, and exaggerations that threaten our democracy?

Rev. Sian



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. 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

To what and to whom are you committed?

This month we focus our attention on Commitment. I suppose if we put this in children's language we would ask, "*What promises do you make?*"

For me commitment is firmly linked with responsibility. I seem to have had a heavy dose of that in my life from an early age. Mostly, it has served me well, though stress is often responsibility's close companion.

Soul Matters, a UU religious professionals consortium, is the source of our Religious Education/Exploration lessons for children and youth. Each month we explore a new theme and March is dedicated to Commitment. We have four Sundays to do a

deep dive. They take us to curiosity, change, conscience, and compassion.

Curiosity is the first. The commitment to asking questions. I've never thought about commitment that way. What a great practice! Francis David, our Transylvanian forbearer and one of our Unitarian founders died in prison for the crime of innovation, of being curious about the Scriptures. So, this commitment is truly part of our DNA. Curiosity has consequences, so the cat learned. Yet we are here today because David wouldn't be silenced. Let's get and stay curious.

Then there is the commitment to being open to change—to have our minds changed; the promise to keep an open mind. Wow, so we have to be humble and admit that we might not have all the answers. If we keep an open mind we open ourselves to the exciting possibility of change and growth!

The commitment to individual conscience and the value of each person. Sound familiar? Maybe because it is similar to our 5th UU Principle, *"The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process."* So, a commitment to search our conscience for what is right and true and then to act on it. That's healthy for us and for our wider community.

Our final March lesson will be on the Commitment to caring or, compassion. This lesson extends our commitments by asking us to put our caring into action. It asks us to, *"Commit to treating the struggles of others as our own."*

Has thinking about commitment in these ways changed your way of thinking about it?

Curiously yours,
Rev. Judy, Director of Religious Education



In this edition of Music Notes, I want to call out and honor the choir for their hard work and perseverance during this quarantine period. As you probably have heard, singing is one of the superspreader activities, and singing will probably be the last thing to come back on board when we think about returning (someday...). The choir and I have been dealing with that sadness for almost a year now. Maybe you have too. Do you miss singing together as a congregation? Or if you're not a singer yourself, do you miss hearing live singing in a common space?

Singing is very difficult to do together online. Zoom's latency makes it impossible to sing together, with almost a 2-second spread between connections. About 10 choir members join for a short time every Thursday on a software called Jamulus, where we can sort of sing together with almost no (~50 ms) latency. But it's clunky and technically challenging and just isn't the same....

But the choir carries on, meeting every Thursday to connect with each other, work on sight-reading, and practice (without hearing each other) our next recording project. They record on their own, with a guide track in their headphones, and send in their file weeks before they hear the completed project in a service. It's a disjointed and individualistic musical pursuit, much less satisfying than the connected and communal choral singing we all love and long to do again. But it's better than nothing. And we are collecting a catalog of videos that we will be able to enjoy forever.

Next time you see a choir member, give them some appreciation for all they are doing to keep music at OCUUC limping along until we are able to sing together in person.

I also wanted to make sure you knew that there's a new Playlist on our YouTube channel (youtube.com/orangecoastuu) with all the outside videos we use in services, such as the ones by Lea Morris, Vienna Teng, and Meg Barnhouse.

Keep on singing, everyone!

Musically yours,

Beth Syverson

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, March 1

OCUUC Fiction Book Group 7:30pm

Thursday, March 4

Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 pm

Friday, March 5

Social Hour, 5:00 pm

Saturday, March 6

StitchWits, 10:00 am

Sunday, March 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, March 11

Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 pm

Friday, March 12

Social Hour, 5:00 pm

Saturday, March 13

StitchWits, 10:00 am

Sunday, March 14

RE Class, 9:30 am

Worship Service, 10:30 am

Youth Group, 11:30 am

LGBT Action Group, 12:15 pm

Tuesday, March 16

Caring Circle, 12:00 pm

Wednesday, March 17

Finance Council Meeting 2:00pm

Thursday, March 18

Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 pm

Friday, March 19

Social Hour, 5:00 pm

Saturday, March 20

StitchWits, 10:00 am

Sunday, March 21

RE Class, 9:30 am

Meditation Group, 9:45 am

Worship Service, 10:30 am

Youth Group, 11:30 am

Nonfiction Book Club, 12:30 pm

Wednesday, March 24

Board of Trustees Meeting 7:00pm

Thursday, March 25

Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 pm

Friday, March 26

Social Hour, 5:00 pm

Saturday, March 27

StitchWits 10:00 am

Rainbow Movie Night 7:00pm

Sunday, March 28

RE Class, 9:30 am

Worship Service, 10:30 am

Youth Group, 11:30 am

Women's Circle, 12:00 pm



UPDATE!!

Please make sure that you have updated your Zoom app, whether it's on your iPhone, iPad, or desktop computer. Zoom is making some security changes and you have to have version 5.0.5 or later for you to access Zoom. If you don't know how to update, here is a helpful link: <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362233-Upgrade-update-to-the-latest-version>



UUMF SPRING MEN'S RENEWAL

The Unitarian Universalist Men's Fellowship (UUMF) will be holding its 2021 Virtual Spring Men's Renewal on Zoom, April 23rd and 24th. Those in our Congregation who identify as male are invited and encouraged to attend/participate in a supportive, caring environment. The gathering will be free to participants, though we are asking for a donation to the Camp which is not required if it causes financial hardship. The theme for this renewal is "Finding Courage." As of the writing of this notification, COVID-19 is preventing many of us from enjoying fellowship at Camp de Benneville Pines in Angeles Oaks, CA. You can join us from the

comfort of your own home, though the beauty of the Camp is always welcome and certainly desired by many who have been up the mountain. The mission of the UUMF is to support those who identify as male in the quest for lives of compassion, integrity, responsibility and balance. We are a caring, intentionally diverse brotherhood, offering opportunities and forums which promote intimate sharing, personal growth, and spiritual deepening with the hope that we may come to know and better understand ourselves. If you have any questions please contact Cory Brown at:

KG6EP@AOL.COM

for more information. When the registration flyer is in final form, it will be made available in the BLAST and in the April 2021 REACH. Registration will be limited to the first 100 registrants.



Vanco Contributions

Each week many members, friends and visitors make contributions through VANCO for everything from the Plate to their annual Pledge and their Sanctuary Pledge. We hope that you find this mode of giving to be convenient while we are meeting virtually, and there are some things you can do to make sure your contributions are recorded correctly.

Here is the list of ways that you can give online. **Please make sure that you are putting your contributions in the correct box.**

Spring Auction: Do not use until the NEXT Auction (March 2021 at the earliest).

Fall Auction: This is only for purchases you made at the last Auction in November 2020.

Contributions: This is for contributions that will go ONLY to the Church. Any money here will NOT be shared with our PlateShare recipient.

Plate: This is for contributions to be shared between OCUUC and our monthly Plateshare recipient.

Pledge 19-20: Do Not Use

MDF Ministers Disc Fund: Self-explanatory.

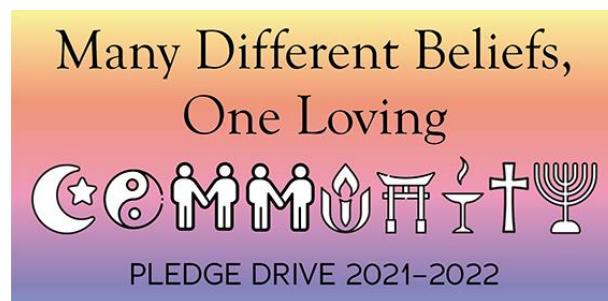
Pledge 20-21: This is for your current Operating Fund Pledge

Sanctuary Fund: This is for pledges made in the first round of pledging for the new sanctuary.

Sanctuary Relaunch: This is for the Sanctuary Pledges made in 2020 and any NEW pledges to the Sanctuary.

SOS: Share Our Selves donation.

Help offset the ACH fee: Please note that we have a minimum transaction fee of **22 cents**. Any contribution here under **22 cents** actually costs the church money.



Operating Fund Pledge Drive Fiscal Year 2021/2022

Well, here we are after operating “socially-distanced” and avoiding spreading COVID-19 for a year! We’ve done well, we’ve survived through a steep learning curve with Zoom and been running our meetings and our church services using that powerful tool. During Sunday services in March and April you will see some behind the scenes videos of what it takes to bring the church into your home.

We even conducted last year’s Operating Fund Pledge Drive using only electronic communications and the US Mail - and we did well - thank you so much for all who contributed! This helped keep OCUUC going throughout the pandemic.

We must complete our Annual Operating Pledge Drive so that the Annual Budget can be created for Fiscal Year (FY) 2021/2022. During the 2021 Congregational Meeting, on June 13th, we will vote on the budget proposed by the Finance Committee for the next fiscal year which starts July 1, 2021.

We must do this so we can be certain of the continued existence of our beloved institution. This, frankly, provides the substance and the cost of all programs necessary, including the Zoom software, for us all to remain connected.

The Annual Operating Pledge information packet will be mailed out the week of March 15th. It will include a brochure, a letter from our President, Debra Quam, and our minister, Rev. Sian Wiltshire.

A pledge card will also be included reminding you of the amount you pledged for FY 2020/2021. You may use that information to complete your pledge for FY 2021/2022. There will be information about alternative ways of making and paying your pledge.

Please complete your pledge card and return it as soon as possible so our Finance Wizards can plan for our upcoming church fiscal year. Thank you!



Your Operating Fund Pledge Drive Committee



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.

OCUUC
WRITING CLUB

Are you interested in writing an article, essays, poems, short stories for OCUUC? There is a new OCUUC Writing Club that is open to all members and friends of OCUUC who are interested in writing written reflections about the monthly themes we use in worship (e.g., Beloved Community, Commitment, Play, Imagination, Curiosity, etc.). The group will gather once a month to go over the themes, discuss how we might write about them, share our writing, and be given support in our writing. Then, twice a year we will publish the selective writings as a special publication.

If you are interested in joining, please sign up for the club's newsletter and go get writing monthly theme here:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc82aVxFF4cVG8zGEZE3cX8S0BipFFBJYf5QBYXgJe2-WhY6w/viewform>

Join the Writing Club Facebook group forum to get updates:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ocuwritingclub>

If you have any questions, please contact: writingclub@ocuuc.org



=====

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
ocuuc.org



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 are knitting, crocheting or sewing the following items for Stand Up for Kids:

- *hats
- *scarves
- *fingerless mitts
- *cowls
- *baby blankets

Preferred colors: dark blue, purple, black, grey. Sizes for 12-24 year-olds. We have no specific patterns to use, just use your favorite. If you would like a pattern, just ask! Our first deadline (we see this as an ongoing activity) was 2/28/21...but let's keep it going.

If you would like to participate, please let Barbara Schilling know at 949/285-0918 or harper0117@gmail.com. Stitchwits meet on Zoom every Saturday at 10am. Find the link on the calendar page of our website or contact Barbara.



LGBTQ Action Group

The LGBTQ Action Group meets on the 2nd Sunday of every month at 12:15pm on Zoom. This month's meeting is on March 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!

And we are excited to announce a new film series called Rainbow Movie Night. On the 4th Saturday of every month, we will host a communal viewing of an LGBTQ-related film, followed by a discussion. Our next Rainbow Movie Night will be March 27. Contact Alex Bailey if you have a movie recommendation.

We always have several wonderful allies joining us in our events, which are open to everyone. We appreciate and honor our allies' contributions and support of the LGBTQ community at OCUUC. The LGBTQ Actions Group's purpose is to educate minds and change hearts, ensuring everyone feels like they belong in our welcoming community. If you have any questions or suggestions, contact Beth Syverson or Jan Mabie anytime. (MusicDirector@ocuuc.org, Janselectrical@gmail.com) Thank you for your support!

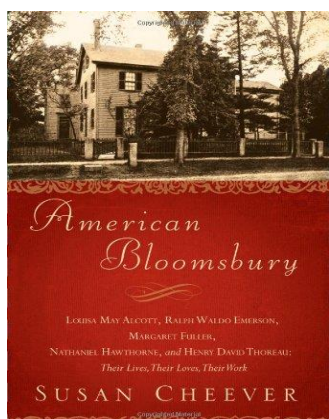
Beth Syverson and Jan Mabie, coordinators
LGBTQ Action Group
Janselectrical@gmail.com



Women's Circle

Please mark your calendars for March 28th at 12pm when the Women's Circle will meet 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 drop in the zoom gathering. 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 if you have any questions. See you there!



FICTION BOOK GROUP

The OCUUC Fiction Book Group meets via Zoom at 7:30 pm on Monday, March 1st to

discuss *American Bloomsbury* by Susan Cheever. It's a non-fiction book about the famous group of writers (Emerson, Alcott, Hawthorne, etc.), most Transcendentalists, in Concord, MA in the mid-19th century. All are welcome to the discussion. Please get the link on the church website. Co-chairs: Eva Goodwin-Noriega and Marcia Hackett.



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.

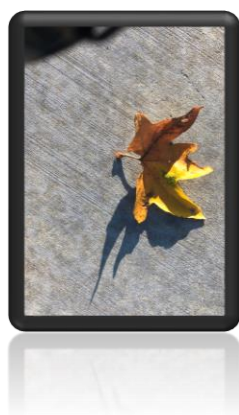
We now have three people and a possible leader interested in an evening Sermon Discussion Group. It will cater to our members who work or have other commitments during the day. I'm looking for SIX more people to sign up! Please contact Karen Kennedy for questions. (949/215-3748) or kkg17kk@gmail.com.



The Meditation Group put together an invitation video that is posted on the OCUUC website. Here is the link for viewing:
<https://ocuuc.org/community/groups/meditation-group/>

"We find that even over Zoom, there's something about meditating together... there's that collective energy of mindfulness that can make it easier to meditate so that's why I really value this group and I'm so happy we have it." - Amelia Russo-Neustadt

Please feel free to join on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month from 9:45 to 10:20 am PST – before the Worship service. All are welcome! Find the Zoom invite info on the website calendar:
<https://ocuuc.org/events/meditation-group/>



MARCH 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

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

- Words by Dan Berggren

HISTORY OF UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISM

Tapestry has invited OCUUC to participate in a workshop series regarding the history of Unitarian Universalism.

It is being hosted on Zoom.

Join the Zoom meeting at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2925414573> or by phone at 669-900-9128 meeting id 2925414573#

All workshops are at 6:30pm – 8:00pm.

There are workshops scheduled into August. Here is the list of workshops through April:

Mon. March 8

UU History Workshop - Shall We Gather at the River? Religious Tolerance

Mon. March 22

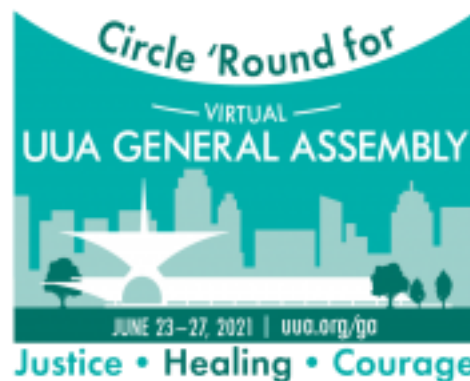
UU History Workshop - We're All Swimming in the Stream Together: Covenant

Mon. April 12

UU History Workshop - Gently Down the Stream: Polity

Mon. April 26

UU History Workshop - Rise in the Sea: Unitarianism



General Assembly (GA) is the annual meeting of our Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). Participants worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association through democratic process. Anyone may attend; congregations must [certify](#) annually to have voting delegates

The UUA Board of Trustees has passed a resolution making the 2021 UUA General Assembly a **100% virtual event**. Let's reach record-breaking attendance **June 23-27, 2021!**