

THE REACH

OCUUC'S MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

ORANGE COAST
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
CHURCH



SUNDAY SERVICES IN MARCH 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.

March 6: Dehumanization - Starts with Words & Ends with Genocide

Akbar Hussaini

March 13: From You I Receive, To You I Give

Rev. Sian Wiltshire

March 20: Faith in Humanity

Rev. Sian Wiltshire

March 27: This Faith

Rev. Sian Wiltshire

THE PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

Nancy Loughrey, President, Board of Trustees

I love coming to Daniels Hall on Sunday mornings. For me, the experience is richer and deeper. I know it doesn't work for many, but it works for me. In the past couple of weeks, I've found myself picking up my cell phone more often because it is so much easier to clearly communicate than on email or text. Electronic media is wonderful in some ways but limiting in others.

Our congregation has had fewer challenges than some others because we have been on the leading edge with our volunteers and making the service accessible and inclusive even when we could not meet in person. Technology has allowed us to continue so many direct conversations even when we cannot be together. We will want to retain what we have learned and always offer an online version.

Before too much longer, we may be able to not only return to onsite but also relax a few of the restrictions. Please help the Task Force discern what is best for our congregation by sharing your opinions and listening carefully as others share theirs. It is hard to be patient, but we will get there! We are all interested in arriving at the procedures that will best serve our entire congregation.

Tom and I are going on a trip to Peru and the Galapagos soon for about two and half weeks. This is our first adventure to South America, and we are very much looking forward to it. Email will be spotty, but we will answer if we can. We will return March 27th. Be safe, be well!

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
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"Faith is taking the first step, even when you don't see the whole staircase."

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Faith is sometimes a difficult concept for Unitarian Universalists. We want to trust only the concrete, the science, the numbers. But Faith is about trusting in yourself, in human-



ity and in the future. It's not an easy thing to do and the reality is that sometimes even having faith doesn't mean that the future you want will come true. But faith isn't always about everything going

your way. It's about trusting that the work you do now will have an effect eventually in the future.

That's why we say, "we stand on the shoulders of those who came before us." What if Unitarian Elizabeth Cady Stanton didn't have faith that women could vote? Or Unitarian Rev. Theodore Parker didn't have faith that we would end slavery? Or Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. have faith that we could end Jim Crow laws? They didn't fight for these things because they *knew* they would happen. They had faith that their work would eventually change the world. Sometimes we don't even live to see the day we all have faith for. But we still move up that staircase, one step at a time.

In faith, Rev. Sian

FORMING FAITH

Religious Education News
Karen Magoon Pearson
Director of Religious Education

We're back! It was so wonderful to welcome back our children and youth to in-person programming on February 13th. On Sunday mornings our PreK-7th graders are back to meeting at Estancia Park and our Youth Group (8th-12th grade) are meeting in the Nursery in the RE/Admin Building. It's been wonderful to be together as we've explored February's theme of Widening the Circle.

Our younger group has explored Widening the Love We Share by learning more about refugees and our congregation's burgeoning efforts to support them, Widening the History We Tell by learning about Black historical figures whose stories have been ignored and Black UUs who have helped form our faith, and Widening the Principles We Live By by learning more about the proposed 8th Principle.

Our Youth Group explored Widening the Love We Share with discussion and reflection on who is excluded in our society and communities, Widening the History We Tell with some thought-provoking discussion of the issue of teaching Critical Race Theory in schools and learning about some of our Black UU ancestors, and Widening the Circle of Patriotism with some thinking-through of individualism vs. communitarianism in our country, in our faith, and in our congregation.

I look forward to the experiences and discussions we will have next month as we explore our theme of Renewing Faith.



WORSHIP IN MARCH 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:

Mar. 6: Dehumanization - Starts with Words & Ends with Genocide. We will walk through anecdotes of Dehumanization on a collective scale and on a personal level. We will explore identifying the earliest signs and what each one of us can do to stop it from going any further.

Akbar Hussaini, Executive Director,
NMIIC Interfaith Council

Mar. 13th: From You I Receive, To You I Give. Just how are we interdependent with one another? How can we both give and receive in mutuality? Come discuss as we launch our annual pledge drive! (***NOTE: Daylight Savings Time today!***)

Rev. Sian

Mar. 20: Faith in Humanity. Humanism is one of our common theologies, the belief that Humanity causes and solves all our own problems. During this time of war, environmental devastation, and oppression, how do we continue to have faith in humanity? Rev. Sian and Beth, our Director of Music Ministries, is back!

Mar. 27: This Faith. What does it mean to be a part of this Unitarian Universalist faith tradition? Come explore how Unitarian Universalism has affected our history and is building the future.

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.



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. These have been distributed at church in February and extras are now on the usher table near the entrance to Daniels Hall. Thank you to Christy Montgomery and Sarah Hunter for the idea and implementation.



**Sandie and Don Martin
Pledge Drive Committee**

You Are Invited -

This year we will be offering small group meals hosted by OCUUC members in their homes. The meals will take place the first weekend in April.

In a small group social setting you will have the chance to get to know others in the congregation, hear their “church stories” and tell your own. You will have the opportunity to ask questions about the Pledge Drive and/or budgeting process and to make your pledge for the upcoming Fiscal year.

To participate in a small group meal, you can sign up for one of these meals after church Sunday, March 13th, March 20th, or March 27th. You can also contact Sandiemartin@mac.com or call her at 805-680-5771.

What is this Pledge Drive, why do we do it, how do we do it?

What:

Making a monetary commitment to the church. As you hear at the end of every Sunday service OCUUC is entirely self-supporting and counts on annual pledges of contributions for the coming fiscal year.

Why:

Funding for the coming Fiscal Year (July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023) for our programs and staff. We must have financial commitments from members and friends to keep our doors open and to pay our staff.

How:

You will receive a Pledge Brochure in the mail the first week of March. It will have current budget, expenses, and pledge information in it. Please look it over carefully and pose any questions you may have to us directly and/or at the Pledge meal you attend.

If you are not able to attend one of the meals, please contact Sandie Martin for your Pledge card.



RETURNING TO ONSITE POLICY UPDATE!

Government agencies are dropping mask mandates and cases continue to decline. We are all anxious to return to “normal”, but are we ready? Last October, more than half the “onsite” congregation said they would go back to Zoom if masks were not required indoors. It does us no good to remove masks if attendance drops. October was nearly six months ago. How do we feel now? We would all dearly love to have our children back on site. How does that factor in?

The Returning to Onsite Task Force is planning another survey to gather data on our readiness for the next step. Please watch for it and complete it when it arrives. We are listening carefully. There will also be a survey addressed specifically to parents. If you are a parent of children in Religious Education, please complete both surveys.

In the meantime, please continue to follow our current guidelines. We will get there! Your answers will determine the pace and method and results will be published when they are available. The Task Force always appreciates your patience and thoughtfulness as we walk together.

Be safe, be well!

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



UU Men's Fellowship Spring Renewal, April 22-24, 2022, at Camp deBenneville Pines

*Friends and Brothers, Nurturing the
Connections in Our Lives*

As we emerge from the veil of COVID isolation and uncertainty, we search for a new normal. It becomes clear that we are dependent on the support, nurture, and love that our communities provide.

Please join us IN-PERSON at our Spring Brotherhood Renewal at Camp deBenneville Pines. It will be an opportunity to refresh, celebrate, and renew our cherished bonds established and nurtured over many years, establish new ones, and to open our hearts to songs of life and fulfillment.

In the beauty of the mountains and the safety and fellowship of our brothers, we may unpack these issues, support each other, and just hang out together.

The weekend will include workshops, deep sharing, music and drumming, silence, ritual, songs, laughter, great food and just spending "quality time" together.

Enrollment is limited and there are special COVID restrictions. All participants MUST fully be vaccinated and symptom free in the week prior.

Early arrival on Thursday, April 21 in the afternoon, to adjust to the altitude and help setting up the camp on Friday morning, is an option.

Our Unitarian Universalist Men's Renewal welcomes men of all ages, backgrounds, and diversities.

If you are interested in attending or have questions, contact Cory Brown at KG6EP@AOL.COM. The registration form can be obtained at this link [Registration Form](#).



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. 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.



Thursday, March 3

Choir Rehearsal, 7pm Daniels Hall & Zoom

Friday, March 4

Social Hour, 5:30pm on Zoom

Saturday, March 5

StitchWits, 10:30am on Zoom

Sunday, March 6

Meditation Group, 9:45am Suite 7 & Zoom

Worship Service, 10:30am Daniels Hall & Zoom

RE, 10:30am Estancia Park

Youth Group, 10:30am Nursery

AHA Group, 12:15 pm on Zoom

Dream Group, 12:30pm in Suite 7

Monday, March 7

OCUUC Fiction Book Group 7:00pm on Zoom

Wednesday, March 9

Actionable Anti-Racism Group, 1pm on Zoom
Comm. on Ministry, 6pm on Zoom

Thursday, March 10

Choir Rehearsal, 7pm Daniels Hall & Zoom

Friday, March 11

Social Hour, 5:30pm on Zoom

Saturday, March 12

StitchWits, 10:30am on Zoom

Sunday, March 13

Daylight Savings Time begins

Meditation Group, 9:45am Suite 7 & Zoom
Worship Service, 10:30am Daniels Hall & Zoom
RE, 10:30am Estancia Park
Youth Group, 10:30am Nursery

Monday, March 14

Sum of Us discussion group 7:00pm on Zoom

Tuesday, March 15

Caring Circle, 12:00pm on Zoom

Wednesday, March 16

Finance Council, 5:00pm on Zoom

Thursday, March 17

Choir Rehearsal, 7pm Daniels Hall & Zoom

Friday, March 18

Social Hour, 5:30pm on Zoom

Saturday, March 19

StitchWits, 10:30am on Zoom

Sunday, March 20

Meditation Group, 9:45am Suite 7 & Zoom
Worship Service, 10:30am Daniels Hall & Zoom
RE, 10:30am Estancia Park
Youth Group, 10:30am Nursery

Newcomer Orientation 11:45am Victoria Room
Nonfiction Book Club, 12:30pm on Zoom

Wednesday, March 23

Board of Trustees Meeting, 7pm on Zoom

Thursday, March 24

Choir Rehearsal, 7pm Daniels Hall & Zoom

Friday, March 25

Social Hour, 5:30pm on Zoom

Saturday, March 26

StitchWits, 10:30am on Zoom

Sunday, March 27

Meditation Group, 9:45am Suite 7 & Zoom
Worship Service, 10:30am Daniels Hall & Zoom
RE, 10:30am Estancia Park
Youth Group, 10:30am Nursery
Women's Circle, 12:00pm on Zoom (and possibly the Victoria Room)

Monday, March 28

Sum of Us discussion group 7:00pm on Zoom

Tuesday, March 29

Social Justice Movie Night, 7:00pm on Zoom

Thursday, March 31

Choir Rehearsal, 7pm Daniels Hall & Zoom



AHA GROUP

Agnostics, Humanists, Atheists

Sunday, March 6, 12:15 pm on Zoom...
Find the Zoom meeting link on our website [calendar page](#). All are welcome!



We have completed the sale of the beautiful sculptures created and left to us by Issa Graves. Seventeen of us have one to keep, and there are two at church - one in our lobby and one in Rev. Sian's office. After expenses, OCUUC received over two thousand dollars. After review by the Finance Council and those who were most active in the process, the Board approved \$1,159.59 to go to both the Sanctuary Fund and the Endowment Fund. Thank you, everyone, for making it all happen!



ZOOM SOCIAL HOUR!

FRIDAY, MAR. 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](#).



RICHARD O'NEILL

LOBBY ART

New acrylic paintings by Richard O'Neill are now on display in the RE/Admin lobby brightening the walls and showcasing work by our talented congregation. Richard's paintings hang alongside those by other OCUUC artists--John Cartaya, Barbara Morihoro and Linda Sperry.

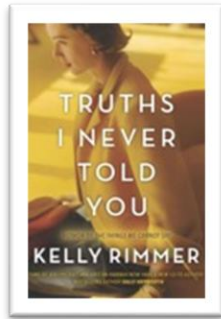


JOHN CARTAYA



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

On Monday, Mar. 7th at 7:00 pm (note the time change!) the Fiction Book Group will meet on Zoom. We'll discuss "Truths I Never Told You" by Kelly Rimmer.

All are welcome to join us for our usual lively discussion. Find the Zoom link on the [church website](#). Contact Eva Lu or Marcia with any questions.

In case you'd like to plan ahead and join us on April 4th, for that meeting we will be reading "The Overstory" by Richard Powers.



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 at 10:30am 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, March 27th at 12:00 p.m. on Zoom. We may also be meeting in the Victoria Room, check future Blasts for details. The Women's Circle is one of the longest running church groups at OCUUC and is for women of all ages. They meet on the fourth Sunday of the month. Friendly faces are waiting to greet one and all.

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 Sunday at 9:45am — via Zoom and frequently in Suite 7. Meditation and mindfulness practice are so important for our well-being! Please join us! We will conduct a short but nourishing guided meditation, then share our experiences along the path. All are welcome! For more information, contact Marilyn Frenz.

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



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



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