

# THE REACH

OCUUC'S MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

ORANGE COAST  
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST  
CHURCH



## SUNDAY SERVICES IN APRIL 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.*

Apr. 3: UUMF Gatherings: For Sharing,  
Supporting, and Growth.  
Cory Brown, John Holl  
Mike Dorfi, and Michael Jarvis

Apr. 10: Turning Swords into Plowshares  
Rev. Sian Wiltshire

Apr. 17: Easter: New life!  
Rev. Sian Wiltshire

Apr. 24: Earth Day.  
Rev. Sian Wiltshire

## THE PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

Nancy Loughrey, President, Board of Trustees

Dealing with our policies on COVID 19 have been a significant part of my efforts this month (year!), so the updates are my President's article!

Thank you to the 87 of you who completed the survey on our COVID policies. Your feedback is really helpful in making these tough decisions. If you are interested, the results are here: <https://ocuuc.org/wp-content/uploads/Survey-Results-March-2002.pdf>. The Task Force feels 87 is a great response rate and represents us well. We have decided to make a few tweaks to our policies to reflect the survey results and our continuing improvements in OC COVID statistics.

**MASKS** - A strong majority still prefers requiring masks. In addition, our Religious Education parents are willing to have children back in Daniels Hall (starting April 17<sup>th</sup>) only if everyone is masked including their children over two years of age. Masks will still be required on Sunday Mornings in Daniels Hall and the RE/Admin Building. However, we know some people are anxious to be together without masks or are comfortable being with unmasked people. For this reason, our new meeting room in Suite 7 will be masks optional.

**NON-SUNDAY MORNINGS** - Masks are optional on site. We encourage each other to be considerate of others and wear masks if requested.

**SINGING** - Masks continue to be required whenever we are singing.

**COURTYARD** - Masks continue to be optional.

**VACCINATIONS** - We didn't specifically ask this question on the survey, but the Task Force has noted that the current data shows infections

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JOIN FOR OUR SERVICES  
SUNDAYS AT 10:30

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

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are not significantly different by vaccination status. The severity of illness is greatly affected, but not the infection rate itself. In addition, just one person responded that they will not be vaccinated. We have decided to remove the vaccination requirement to be on site. However, unvaccinated people should always wear masks.

We are all in this together with a variety of opinions and preferences. We are trying to balance everyone's needs to be safe with the realization that COVID will probably be active in some form indefinitely. At some point, we may all just take it as part of life and be willing to live without most restrictions. Masks will always be optional, never forbidden, as we have all seen the additional health benefits, and we hope "stay home if you are sick" will be permanent. We did hear the feedback that most are not ready to give up most mask requirements yet.

The Returning to Onsite Task Force will meet again on April 28 to review whatever happens next! We will get there!

Nancy Loughrey, Rev. Sian Wiltshire, Karen Magoon Pearson, Beth Syverson, Marilyn Giss, Debra Quam, Meg Wilson

I know I hope I am not wearing masks indefinitely. I expect most of you will agree. However, we are not there yet even if it is hard. We are all in relationship and doing our best to get through this together.

Nancy Loughrey



About 20 years ago, I was going through a rather stressful time. And every morning my alarm would go off and jar me awake with its insistent noise. After all an "alarm" is meant to raise your anxiety level, almost to the point of panic, so that you get out of bed. I decided that this was not a good way to start my day, so now I have an alarm that wakes me up

with a light that slowly turns on over the course of 30 minutes. If I'm so tired that I don't wake up with the light, little birds start chirping softly at me, getting slowly louder and louder. It's such a non-stressful way to wake up!

Every health professional will tell you that sleep is one of the most important things a person can get, for their physical and mental health. But so is waking up! And waking up with light is way less stressful than an alarm.

So, looking at this as a metaphor, how do



we try to "alarm" people into "waking up" to the inequities of the world? Is fear/alarm the best way to do it? How, instead, might we use light/love to help people awaken to face the new chal-

lenges of the day? What do you think that looks like?

Unsure? Well come to church this month and let's explore this together!

With love,  
Rev. Sian



I have wonderful news to share! All our Sunday morning religious education programs will be returning on-site to our OCUUC classrooms on Sunday, April 17<sup>th</sup>! It has been two years since our younger children have

met on campus, and it will be wonderful to be back. A survey of our religious education parents and teachers showed that everyone is ready to return, and Easter Sunday felt like a very auspicious day to make it happen. We will have an egg hunt in the courtyard following the service, so all congregants will be able to witness the festivities and interact with the kids.

Our younger group has been meeting at Estancia Park for 10 months now, and it will be a bit bittersweet to say goodbye. For many of our youngest children and for children who have joined us for the first time in the last year, this is the only church location they have known. Every Sunday as we drive up to the park, my three-year-old son shouts out, "I see church!" The park has been a special place of refuge and safety during a scary time, and we will honor it our last Sunday there, April 10<sup>th</sup>, with a special ritual.

I want to thank our unbelievably dedicated religious education volunteers for their commitment and resilience during the past couple of years. Teaching at the park has been a challenge, requiring them to arrive earlier and leave later than they needed to on our church campus. They were no longer able to connect with their church friends during coffee hour on the days they were teaching. They had to figure out how to do activities outdoors that were designed to be done indoors. They had to supervise children in a big open space and learn to project their voices over the noise of traffic (and through a mask!). They have handled it all with grace, flexibility, and good humor, for which I am eternally grateful.

And to our religious education parents, who have kept bringing their children to church even when it's inconvenient: I know your struggle and I'm so grateful you have been part of our community anyways. Making the extra trip to the park before heading

to the service, leaving the service without much chance to connect with your friends during coffee hour, and, for many of you, joining us at the park on Sundays because your children are too young to attend by themselves or otherwise need extra support. Thank you.

I am always bolstered by the way our entire OCUUC community shows support for our religious education program, and that has never been truer than during these complicated times. We never stopped being united in spirit, but I sure am looking forward to us all being together physically, too.

See you soon!



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:

**Apr. 3: UUMF Gatherings: For Sharing, Supporting, and Growth.** What is the Unitarian Universalist Men's Fellowship, and what can be gained from participation in men's support groups? This resource is available to all men who wish to improve upon and strengthen their relationships with family, friends, and partners. Come join our own Cory Brown along with John Holl, Mike Dorfi and Michael Jarvis of the Unitarian Universalist Men's Fellowship.

**Apr. 10: Turning Swords into Plowshares.** One of the challenges with identity politics is that it often reduces people to labels. How do

we get beyond labels, but honor the individual identities we have? Rev. Sian

**Apr. 17: Easter: New life!** On this day we celebrate the emergence of new life following a difficult time. On this day, we hope to welcome our children back to the campus! Rev. Sian

**Apr. 24: Earth Day.** Some argue that freedom gives us rights; others might say freedom gives us responsibilities. How do we use our freedom to save this Earth? This is also New Member Sunday! Rev. Sian.



Thank you, congregation and Board, for allowing me to have my 10-week sabbatical. It was rich in self-discovery, renewal, and relaxation. I am happy to be back, making music live in Daniels Hall again + on Zoom for rehearsals and Sunday services.

While I was on my sabbatical, I attended seven other Sunday (Zoom) services from all different faith traditions. I "went" to a Hindu temple, a giant Jewish synagogue, a black church in LA, a new age non-denominational church, a contemporary Christian church, a Buddhist meditation service, and a Muslim prayer service. In each one I learned a bit about their religious beliefs and paid attention to the music. Some services truly fed me, and some were purely for research. Some services were easier than others to follow along on Zoom or YouTube. All in all, it made me happy to have a church where I don't have to "sort out" which parts of the service I don't believe in theologically, a church that has reliable online services with good sound quality on Zoom (thanks to Steve Morihiro),

and one which gives us ample opportunity to create all kinds of musical experiences. We can draw from our Six Sources and beyond for our musical inspiration, which I love.

This is a great time for folks to jump into music-making if they aren't already involved. Our choir runs through mid-June and then is off for the summer. And we are always looking for instrumentalists and soloists. Contact me anytime and I'll find the perfect way to use your skills and talents.

I'm grateful for this church community!

Musically yours,

Beth Syverson, Director of Music Ministries

[MusicDirector@ocuuc.org](mailto:MusicDirector@ocuuc.org)



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



## 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 cash prepaid.





**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 be fully 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](mailto:KG6EP@AOL.COM). The registration form can be obtained at this link [Registration Form](#).



## MEDITATION GROUP

Our OCUUC Meditation Group meets every Sunday at 9:45am in the Youth Room and 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](#)!



## FICTION BOOK GROUP

Monday, April 4th at 7:00pm is the online time for OCUUC's Fiction Book Group. We will discuss "The Overstory" by Richard Powers. It's the 2021 Pulitzer Prize winner, a good read but long (500 pages).

Please join our discussion. The link is on the [church website](#). The book for May 2nd is "Daughter of the Samurai" by Janice P. Namura.



Leading up to the 2022-2023 Pledge Drive we have had:

- Reminders of some of our UU forebears and their accomplishments
- A Pledge packet with a letter from our Minister and President
- A Brochure with budget, income, and pledge information
- A sermon from Rev. Sian, How can we both give and receive in mutuality?
- Heartfelt testimonials

Now we are here.

The small group meal events happened the first weekend in April. Those who attended completed their pledge cards. Others have mailed in pledges or filled out on-line pledge cards.

If you haven't filled out your pledge card yet you will be receiving one in the mail. You can complete your pledge card and return it to the church or go online [OCUUC.org](https://ocuuc.org) and click on Support, Pledge Now, Pledge Card to complete your pledge online.

*"Each morning we must hold out the chalice of our being to receive, to carry, and give back."*

*- Dag Hammarskjold*



## NEW MEMBER CEREMONY

Our New Member Ceremony will take place on Sunday, April 24th. Several people attended the Newcomer Orientation and Meet the Minister event in March and have expressed interest in joining OCUUC. We are excited to welcome them formally into our community as once we were welcomed ourselves. If you are not yet a Member and wish to join, please reach out to

[MEMBERSHIP@OCUUC.ORG](mailto:MEMBERSHIP@OCUUC.ORG)



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**Friday, April 1**

Social Hour, 5:30pm on Zoom

**Saturday, April 2**

StitchWits, 10:30am on Zoom

**Sunday, April 3**

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

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

RE, Estancia Park; Youth Group, Nursery 10:30am

AHA Group, 12:15 pm on Zoom

Dream Group, 12:00pm Suite 7

**Monday, April 4**

OCUUC Fiction Book Group 7:00pm on Zoom

**Thursday, April 7**

Choir Rehearsal, 7:00pm Daniels Hall and Zoom

**Friday, April 8**

Social Hour, 5:30pm on Zoom

**Saturday, April 9**

Women's Circle Spring Outing, 9:00am Shipley Nature Center, Huntington Beach

StitchWits, 10:30am on Zoom

**Sunday, April 10**

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

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

RE, Estancia Park; Youth Group, Nursery 10:30am

Writing Group 11:45am Suite 7

**Monday, April 11**

Sum of Us Discussion Group 7:00pm on Zoom

**Wednesday, April 13**

Comm. On Ministry, 6:00pm

**Thursday, April 14**

Choir Rehearsal, 7:00pm Daniels Hall and Zoom

**Friday, April 15**

Social Hour, 5:30pm on Zoom

**Saturday, April 16**

StitchWits, 10:30am on Zoom

**Sunday, April 17**

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

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

**Easter Sunday**

RE and Youth Group, 10:30am Onsite!

Nonfiction Book Club, 12:30pm on Zoom

**Tuesday, April 19**

Caring Circle, 12:00pm on Zoom

**Wednesday, April 20**

Finance Council, 5:00pm on Zoom

**Thursday, April 21**

Choir Rehearsal, 7:00pm Daniels Hall and Zoom

**Friday, April 22**

Social Hour, 5:30pm on Zoom

**Saturday, April 23**

StitchWits, 10:30am on Zoom

**Sunday, April 24**

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

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

**New Member Ceremony!**

RE and Youth Group, 10:30am Onsite!

Women's Circle, 12:00pm on Zoom

**Monday, April 25**

Sum of Us Discussion Group 7:00pm on Zoom

**Wednesday, April 27**

Actionable Anti-racism Grp. 1:00pm on Zoom

Board of Trustees Meeting, 7:00pm on Zoom

**Thursday, April 28**

Choir Rehearsal, 7:00pm Daniels Hall & Zoom

**Friday, April 29**

Social Hour, 5:30pm on Zoom

**Saturday, April 30**

StitchWits, 10:30am on Zoom



**AHA GROUP**

**Atheists, Humanists, & Agnostics**

Sunday, April 3, 12:15 pm on Zoom...

*Is Unitarian Universalism a Religion?* Join us for the next meeting of the Atheists, Humanists, and Agnostics (AHA). Find the Zoom meeting link on our website [calendar page](#).

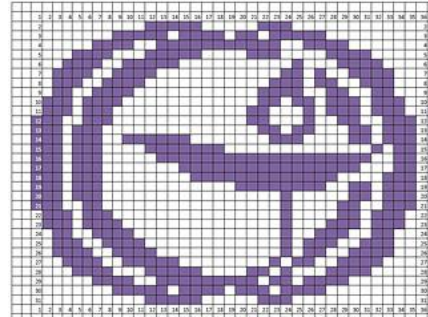


**ZOOM SOCIAL HOUR!**

FRIDAY, APRIL 1, 8, 15, 22, & 29

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](#).



**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).



**Spring Auction 2022:**

**“Summertime Heat”**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Bi-Annual-ish**

**Chili Cookoff FUNraiser**

**Saturday, May 21, 3:00pm**

It may be a mouthful, but it is just a tease for the delicious chili that will be presented by...you! This year we will have a grand prize



and will recognize superlative recipes in several categories which will be judged by...you! Then we will bid on amazing events and items provided by...you! So put on your thinking caps along with your simmering ingredients because we need...you! Save the date of **May 21** and get your donations lined up. This season we wish to focus on meeting our new congregants, getting to know our current friends even better and having truly fun adventures together. Offer new things, bid on new things, stock up on favorites!

More details will be coming but please mark those calendars now.

The website will be ready to go soon. Check The Blast and [www.ocuuc.org](http://www.ocuuc.org) for updated information including donation instructions and deadline dates.

**We are hungry to see you there!**



## WOMEN'S CIRCLE

Join the Women's Circle on their Spring outing to the Shipley Nature Center in Huntington Beach on Saturday, April 9 at 9am. We will meet at the bench by the gate then take a short walk inside to another bench by the Riparian Garden. Several small gardens are close by and those who feel up to it can walk on the mulched trail to the observation deck on Sage Hill. Flowers are blooming and there are many birds. Native plants are for

sale near the restrooms. All ladies are welcome.

There is parking on the west side of Goldenwest and further south at the Senior Center. Contact [Peggy Priver](#) if you have any questions. The regular meeting of the Women's Circle will still take place on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday at 12pm.

## APRIL PLATE SHARE



By serving people in crisis CAP OC reaches out with practical tools and resources that cover basic needs like food, diapers, youth programs, funds for utility payments, rental assistance, as well as homelessness prevention. Only when people survive, can they thrive.

The OC Food Bank, a program of Community Action Partnership of Orange County, unites communities to end hunger and malnutrition by partnering with more than 300 local charities, soup kitchens and community organizations. Through donated food, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) commodities and purchased food, and the generous support of individuals we are able to support nonprofit agencies in Orange County serving low-income families and individuals. In a typical year, the food bank distributes more than 23 million pounds of food. In June 2020, we have increased the pounds of food distributed by 59% compared to this time last year. The OC Food Bank

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partnered with Power of One Foundation to set up weekly mass drive-thru distributions. In August 2020 we acknowledged serving 1 million people affected by the economic downturn caused by COVID-19 and we anticipate the need will continue to grow.

Ending generational poverty begins with a Whole Family Approach. We work with the entire family unit – grandparent, parent, and child, and help them receive the tools they need allowing them to set their own goals and achieve long-term change and stability. By addressing the root causes that perpetuate poverty such as poor education, employment readiness, and systemic racism we are able to empower people to find their way out of poverty and into vibrant communities. Our aim is to end poverty in three generations.

For more information, visit their website, [capoc.org](http://capoc.org).



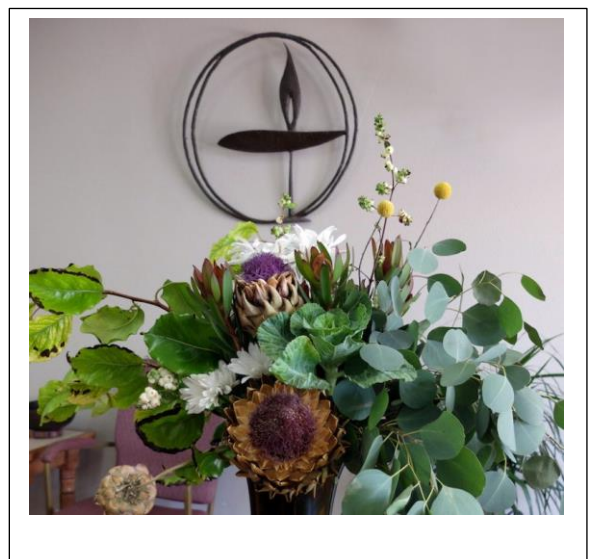
We welcome you...

## CHALICE LIGHTING FOR CHALLENGING TIMES

By [Lisa Doege](#)

"Why a flaming chalice?" the question comes.  
It's the cup of life, we answer.  
A cup of blessings overflowing.  
A cup of water to quench our spirits' thirst.  
A cup of wine for celebration and dedication.  
The flame of truth.  
The fire of purification.  
Oil for anointing, healing.  
Out of chaos, fear, and horror,  
thus was the symbol crafted, a generation ago.  
So may it be for us,  
in these days of uncertainty, sorrow, and rage.  
And a light to warm our souls and guide us home.

*Written just after 9/11...but relevant always...*



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