



## SUNDAY SERVICES IN MAY 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.*

### May 1: Where do you find beauty?

Jan M., JoLynn I.  
Yulis A. and Joël K.

### May 8: The Cosmic Perspective

Rev. Sian Wiltshire

### May 15: Acceptance of One Another

Rev. Sian Wiltshire

### May 22: The Artistic Sensibility

Rev. Sian Wiltshire

### May 29: How Rare, How Lovely, This Fellowship

Rev. Rick Hoyt-McDaniels

## THE PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

Nancy Loughrey, President, Board of Trustees

April has been a busy and exciting month! I am so proud of all of us! We had a great kickoff to our Pledge Drive, welcomed six new members, had a staffed table at the local Earth Day celebration to promote our Environmental Film Festival, and we created and implemented an amazing program to support Ukrainian Refugees. Whew!

Since I was most involved with the Ukrainian Refugee Program, I particularly want to call out all the volunteers who have made it happen. In about ten days, we went from recognizing an urgent need to welcoming our first refugees. We have hosted ten people - all of them chased from their homes by the war in Ukraine. As I write this, our family of six has left to be with their sponsor in Cleveland. We still have three adults and one child staying in the two-story building.

I have been so impressed by our support and volunteerism. Thank you to the Task Force - Rev. Sian, Tracey D., Briana M., Debra Q., Meg W., Judith S., and Tatiana H. and me! They provided the organization and flexibility to make this happen. Thank you to the 40-50 of you who contributed bedding, air mattresses, food, driving, on-site mentoring, and just wanted to do whatever was needed. We are so awesome!

Although we envisioned this program ending when we were ready to demolish the building for our new sanctuary, it may be over by May. The State Department changed

**ORANGE COAST  
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST  
CHURCH**

Many Different Beliefs,  
One Loving Community

 **JOIN FOR OUR SERVICES  
SUNDAYS AT 10:30**  
<https://zoom.us/j/3931579606>

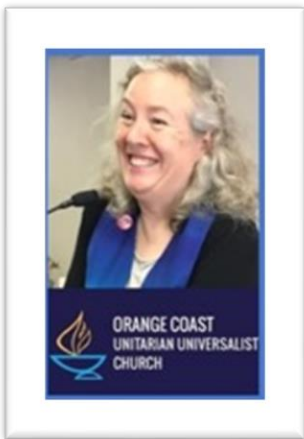
the process for immigration by Ukrainians and shut down their border crossings on April 25<sup>th</sup>. The new program is better organized and will suit everyone's needs in a more organized fashion. We are still concerned about those who may have been caught in the transition.

Thank you, thank you, to everyone who makes our congregation happen! This month, I am especially grateful.

Nancy Loughrey



I've mentioned this before, but I have a really cool gift: I sense the beauty in people. It doesn't matter who they are or what they do, just about everyone has this inner spark of beauty. You can call it a soul if you like. I'm sure it's connected to empathy and compassion, but it's something I've been aware of since I was probably a teenager. Often I can tell that this inner beauty in



them is covered up by fear or sometimes anger. But always it's there, even if a little buried. As a minister, I see it as part of my calling to help people uncover that beauty and let it shine.

That's part of what's been so wonderful about helping these Ukrainian Refugees – it's been helping people uncover that beauty inside them. And people have been shining! It feels good to help! And I see it in the refugees

too. They come scared, uncertain and overwhelmed. And they've left feeling better – refreshed, hopeful and ready to tackle the next thing. It's been so beautiful to behold, it brings tears to my eyes. And you all made that happen! The beauty I see in this congregation is sometimes overwhelming. Dang, but you all shine!

Rev. Sian



It's so good to be back! On Easter Sunday, April 17<sup>th</sup>, we welcomed our PreK-7<sup>th</sup> graders back to our church campus. For some of them, it was their first time in our buildings at all! It was joyful and a little overwhelming to be back in the beginning of the Sunday service with everyone. I got very emotional seeing my own children in the service and interacting with the larger community for the first time in more than two years. We had 25 kids join us, including our always-helpful, egg-hiding Youth Group. We also had a few children from the Orange County Friends Meeting join us. I look forward to more cooperation with their group in the future.

We are still ironing out the details of the return to our buildings, including setting up our nursery and after-service childcare again. I'm feeling very positive about the new crop of workers I've been getting to know, and I hope we will be ready to welcome them soon. I appreciate the immense patience of our parents, religious education volunteers, and lay leadership as they support us through all these changes. There is so much to look forward to as we start moving on from the constant uncertainty of the past couple of years and make big, exciting plans for our program. I hope you'll continue to join with us as we bring them all to fruition!

## YOUTH COOKIE BAKE



Dear Youth Group Families,

We had a small but mighty cookie bake on Friday, April 8. Thank you, Kilchoers, for hosting once again. We made Ms. Judith Stamper's famous oatmeal/chocolate chip cookies and Ms. Briana Malone brought pretzels which we dipped in blue and bright yellow chocolate, the colors of the Ukrainian flag. The youth decided to give the proceeds of the cookie and pretzel sale to Reporters Without Borders. They are making sure the truth about the war in Ukraine gets reported to the world. A great time was had by all.

Echo (formerly known as Eric) and Sloan came to church on Sunday, the 11th, to take donations for cookies today. Thanks to the generosity of our congregation, we ended up with \$337.00! Everyone was very happy to donate to a cause that is supporting Ukraine. Ms. Briana and Sloan made a wonderful poster and they will keep it in case we want to have another sale.

Until next time . . . Thanks everyone!!!

Rev. Judy



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:

**May 1: Where do you find beauty?** Come join Jan M. and JoLynn I., along with our other worship associates, Yulis A. and Joël K. as they explore where we find beauty in the world.

**May 8: The Cosmic Perspective.** There is much beauty on this earth, but what happens when we take a cosmic view of the world and our universe? Rev. Sian

**May 15: Acceptance of One Another... and ourselves.** How does a person grow if they don't even know where to start? And how do we get past the judgements we have of one another and get to see the whole person, in all their beauty and roughness? Note: this topic is in response to the sermon topic won at our last auction by Derek Dunn-Rankin. Rev. Sian

**May 22: The Artistic Sensibility.** Some people argue that artists see the world differently. Is that true? And what the heck is "beauty" anyway? How might we nurture it? Rev. Sian.

**May 29: How Rare, How Lovely, This Fellowship.** The most important value for a religious community is the community. As a faith community, our fellowship is at the ground of all we receive for ourselves and offer to the larger world. When we begin to move other organizations to the center of our mission, we begin to lose our unique purpose and strength. Rev. Rick Hoyt-McDaniels.



Orange Coast Choir is humming along now that we're singing back in Daniels Hall. I'm so grateful to Steve Morihiro, Barbara Morihiro, and Sarah Hunter who kept the choir going in creative ways while I was away on my sabbatical. Now that we're back in full swing, we are adding choir members, working on more challenging material, and improving our technique every week. It's so much more rewarding to sing together in one room than to sing on Zoom and only hear one person at a time.

I got choked up on Easter when we sang new words to our opening song, "Enter, Rejoice and Come In." For the 4th verse we sang "Children, we're glad that you're here!" and I just lost my composure, unexpectedly! It was so wonderful having the murmur - and occasional squeal - of children in our sanctuary again, and to have Time for All Ages again, and to sing "We hold you in love as you go, as you go" again as they left for their classes. If any of the children or youth would like an opportunity to sing or play during the services, please let me know. I, for one, have some catching up to do with the children now that they're back!

We are looking for one or two more volunteers who are NOT in the choir to help with behind-the-scenes tech jobs once a month. The jobs aren't difficult, but you do have to pay attention during the service and be prompt to our Sunday morning rehearsals. If you are interested in serving as a volunteer during a monthly worship service, or if you know someone who would like to get more involved, please let me know.

Keep singing, everyone!  
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). For services onsite, you can bring your own flowers, or we can purchase them for you at a cost of \$25 cash prepaid



OCUUC was a partner at the City of Costa Mesa's **Earth Day Festival** on April 25<sup>th</sup> at Costa Mesa City Hall. Wonderful!



**Spring Auction 2022:  
“Summertime Heat”  
2nd Bi-Annual-ish  
Chili Cookoff FUNraiser  
Saturday, May 21**

We need you, your blazing chili, your mouthwatering cornbread and your auction submissions! The due date for these is Sunday, May 7 at midnight.

For chili and/or cornbread judging entries, let us know at The Auction Table in the courtyard or send an email to [auction@ocuuc.org](mailto:auction@ocuuc.org).

For auction submissions, go to [www.togetherauction.com/ocuuc](http://www.togetherauction.com/ocuuc) or fill out a form at The Auction Table that we will input for you or send an email to [auction@ocuuc.org](mailto:auction@ocuuc.org).

Buy your dinner tickets for \$5.00 in advance so the committee has a head count to secure chili toppings, beverages and desserts. You can buy them at The Auction Table on Sundays or you can let us know at [auction@ocuuc.org](mailto:auction@ocuuc.org) and we can do several things to accept your \$5.00!

Chefs - bring your own crock pot and we will supply a power strip. Have your ingredients (not quantities, of course - have to keep some secrets) fully listed and available for tasters to read for allergies and dietary reasons. You will be serving and talking up your concoctions! If you have a serving item beyond shredded cheese and onions, bring that and serve it as well. I serve my chili with sour cream and my cornbread with honey!

This season, we would love to focus on the FUN in fundraising. We are looking forward to your high-stakes submissions for weekends, wine tastings and surf and turf, of course, but we also want to encourage you to “go out on a limb” so to speak and offer events that you have been thinking of, but were not sure if people would bid on it. Be willing to try it out! This is the season for it! Pool parties, sandcastle tournaments, pickle ball at the park, marshmallow roasts at a bonfire, movie nights, bird watching, a trip to the dog park with all the woofs - get creative, but go for FUN!

We will repeat something we tried out last time. Physical items will mostly be part of a silent, online auction also hosted at [www.togetherauction.com](http://www.togetherauction.com). The submission deadline is also May 7 at midnight, but the bidding won't close till 9:00pm on May 21 to give the live auction attendees time to get home and check their bids before it closes. The physical items will not be displayed on a table at the church. They will have photos on the website. If you win the item, you and the donor will arrange for item pick up.

Any questions, ask a committee member (JoLynn and Joel Ibanez, Tom Loughrey, Peggy Hepler, Debra Quam and Meg Wilson) or send an email to [auction@ocuuc.org](mailto:auction@ocuuc.org). Looking forward to enjoying your recipes and bidding on your submissions in the Summertime Heat!



## NEW SANCTUARY UPDATE

The New Sanctuary Construction Committee continues to focus its efforts on work with our architect to provide additional materials requested by the new City of Costa Mesa planner. It has been a long and frustrating process that has recently culminated in contacts with experienced Assistant Director of Development Services, Scott Drapkin, to discuss concerns in hopes of expediting the review process.

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

Looking on the bright side of the unanticipated delay, until demolition is scheduled, we have been able to provide a safe space for Ukrainian refugee families.



Save the Date - Saturday, June 4th  
9:30-12 noon

for a Fall Prevention Workshop at OCUUC.

*More information to follow later in May*

Marilyn Giss

Faith Community Nurse



## WRITING GROUP

*Esteemed Writers,*

*In honor of our mothers, our Writing Group decided to postpone our May meeting. We will see each other at our regular June meeting.*

*Mifanwy*



## Agnostics, Humanists, Atheists

Sunday, May 1, 12:15 pm on Zoom...

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



## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!



**MIFANWY KAISER**

Mifanwy Kaiser retired after 50 years of teaching English and Creative Writing, middle school through college, in Kentucky and California. While in Kentucky she also taught in a small men's prison. She moved to California after meeting and marrying John (not an inmate). It was love at first sight. Even though retired, she wasn't done with teaching. She teaches in a volunteer capacity at The Orange County Rescue Mission and leads the newly formed OCUUC Writing Club.

**JOHN KAISER**

John Kaiser received both his Masters of Science and Doctorate at Stanford University. He taught Engineering Mechanics at Virginia Tech. He worked for American Air Filter in Kentucky and transferred to Pulsco in

California. John joined the Sierra Club and is a volunteer. He leads and participates in hikes, and mule pack trips. John also participates in trail maintenance, repairing trails that are damaged and removing graffiti from the boulders along the trail so that others may enjoy the outdoors.

Both Mifanwy and John, while attending the Congregation on Victoria Street, helped prepare meal boxes for delivery where needed.



**DONNA McCARTNEY**

Donna McCartney is a five-year Unitarian Universalist and is switching her membership from UUFLB to OCUUC. She is a 35-year elementary school teacher and science specialist. She retired and moved from Pennsylvania to California in 2015 to be closer to her 11-year-old granddaughters. Her interests include leadership in ADK which is an altruistic teacher organization, playing pickleball, and participating in extreme sports such as skydiving.





**MATTHEW PATTERSON**

Matthew Patterson is 38 years old and loves to take romantic walks through convention centers and theme parks with his husband, Alexander. He's originally from San Diego, but has lived in rural Mississippi, Utah, Virginia, Florida, and on a Navy base near Tokyo (NAF Atsugi). He returned to San Diego County in 2010, and lived there until late 2017, when he moved to Anaheim to work for Disney. Now, he does data entry at AmeriCor Financial, and is looking at going back to school in education! He's been a Unitarian Universalist for several years, and a practicing Norse pagan. Hobbies include photography, cosplay (pronounced: kazplay), computer games (World of Warcraft and American Truck Simulator) and playing Dungeons and Dragons!



**GRETEL WHISNANT**

Gretel Whisnant was born in Montevideo, Uruguay and moved to the States when she was 13. She worked as a nurse for Kaiser for 35 years and retired 6 years ago.

Retirement did not turn out exactly as she wanted, but she is making the best of it. She has two daughters, 16 years apart! Her oldest daughter has four children, so Gretel has a granddaughter and three grandsons. Before she became ill, she played water polo with some mature ladies. She loves swimming and anything to do with water. She is certain she's always been a UU when at six years of age, decided to not take communion. She identifies as a spiritual atheist and feels very comfortable and welcomed at OCUUC.



**CRAIG PRESTON**

Craig Preston resides in Costa Mesa, but was raised in Watsonville, CA He studied engineering at Cal Poly SLO, did mission work for four years at Univ. of Hawaii, and achieved an MBA from CSU Fullerton. He joined the First UU of Los Angeles in May of 2019. His parents joined a UU congregation in 1960 in Augusta, GA.

Craig is an Accountant by day and Activist by night. Currently his work is in accounting and finance in the software industry in Anaheim. Craig volunteers as a CCL "Citizens' Climate Lobby" CA State Coordinator, focused on Conservative outreach. He has a deaf brother, likes to sing, and is out of town often on weekends. In his free time, he enjoys hiking, biking, and beach volleyball.





## 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.

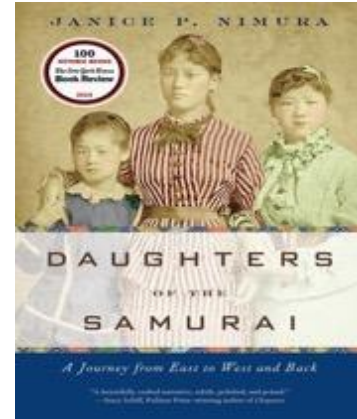
Find the zoom link on the [calendar page](#) of our website or contact Barbara Schilling at 949/285-0918 or [harper0117@gmail.com](mailto:harper0117@gmail.com).



## 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! 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

The OCUUC Fiction Book Group will meet Monday May 2nd at 7:00pm (note new time) online, to discuss "Daughters of the Samurai" by Janice P. Nimura. Please find the link on the church website. All are welcome.

Our June 6th selection is "The Other Half" by Brit Bennett. Questions? Contact Eva Goodwin-Noriega or Marcia Hackett, co-chairs.



## ZOOM SOCIAL HOUR!

FRIDAY, 6, 13, 20, 27

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](#).

## Pledge Drive Update at the End of April 2022

As of April 27<sup>th</sup>, we have 72 Pledges toward the 2022/2023 Operating Fund (last year we ended our Pledge Drive with 104 Pledges total.)

Seventy-two pledges are, of course, good but what would be even better would be to have full participation as we can't build the 2022/2023 Budget until we have all of our pledge cards completed.

We don't have your pledge unless you filled out a current Pledge Card and handed or mailed it in or you completed the online pledge card:

(<https://ocuuc.org/support/canvass/pledge-card/>)

At this point the scene is similar to "Waiting for Godot" with the two Pledge Drive committee members having to invent dialogue to fill the time.

Don't be like Godot, who as you may recall, never actually arrives. Please come on and fulfill the first half of our theme this fiscal year "**From You I Receive.**" The dialogue between Didi and Gogo here is getting tiresome and repetitive at this point!

Please follow through and help us wrap up this show. Do one of the following:

- Pledge online (<https://ocuuc.org/support/canvass/pledge-card/>)
- Find and fill out the pledge card you were mailed;
- Ask us for another card and complete and return it.





**Sunday, May 1**

**OC Marathon**

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

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

RE and Youth Group, 10:30am onsite

AHA Group, 12:15 pm on Zoom

**Monday, May 2**

Dream Group, 7:00pm on Zoom

OCUUC Fiction Book Group 7:00pm on Zoom

**Thursday, May 5**

Choir Rehearsal, 7:00pm Daniels Hall and Zoom

**Friday, May 6**

Social Hour, 5:30pm on Zoom

**Saturday, May 7**

StitchWits, 10:30am on Zoom

**Sunday, May 8**

**Mother's Day**

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

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

RE and Youth Group, 10:30am onsite

**Monday, May 9**

*Sum of Us* discussion group 7:00pm on Zoom

**Wednesday, May 11**

Comm. On Ministry, 6pm

**Thursday, May 12**

Choir Rehearsal, 7:00pm Daniels Hall and Zoom

**Friday, May 13**

Social Hour, 5:30pm on Zoom

**Saturday, May 14**

StitchWits, 10:30am on Zoom

**Sunday, May 15**

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

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

RE and Youth Group, 10:30am onsite

Nonfiction Book Club, 12:30pm on Zoom

**Tuesday, May 17**

Caring Circle, 12:00pm on Zoom

**Wednesday, May 18**

Finance Council, 5:00pm on Zoom

**Thursday, May 19**

Choir Rehearsal, 7:00pm Daniels Hall and Zoom

**Friday, May 20**

Social Hour, 5:30pm on Zoom

**Saturday, May 21**

Board of Trustees Meeting, 9am on Zoom

StitchWits, 10:30am on Zoom

**Summer Heat Spring Auction and Chili cook-off! 3pm**

**Sunday, May 22**

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

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

RE and Youth Group, 10:30am onsite

Women's Circle, 12:00pm on Zoom

**Monday, May 23**

*Sum of Us* discussion group 7:00pm on Zoom

**Wednesday, May 25**

Actionable Anti-racism Group 1pm on Zoom

**Thursday, May 26**

Choir Rehearsal, 7:00pm Daniels Hall and Zoom

**Friday, May 27**

Social Hour, 5:30pm on Zoom

**Saturday, May 28**

StitchWits, 10:30am on Zoom

**Sunday, May 29**

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

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

RE and Youth Group, 10:30am onsite

**Monday, May 30**

**Memorial Day** – Church offices closed



STAND UP FOR KIDS—ORANGE COUNTY serves homeless and at-risk youth and young adults aged 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 visit [www.StandUpforKids.org](http://www.StandUpforKids.org)

## ELEVATOR SPEECHES

*In 2004, UU World magazine asked for contributions of “elevator speeches” explaining Unitarian Universalism. These are short speeches that could be made in the course of an elevator ride to those who knew nothing of the religion. Here are examples of the speeches submitted:*

In Unitarian Universalist congregations, we gather in community to support our individual spiritual journeys. We trust that openness to one another’s experiences will enhance our understanding of our own links with the divine, with our history, and with one another.

--Jonalu Johnstone,  
Oklahoma City, OK

Most Unitarian Universalists believe that no body has a monopoly on all truth, or ultimate proof of the truth of everything in any one belief. Therefore, one’s own truth is unprovable, as is that of others. Consequently, we should respect the beliefs of others, as well as their right to hold those beliefs. Conversely, we expect that others should respect our right to our own beliefs. Several UU’s then, would likely hold as many different beliefs. Other beliefs they may hold in common are a respect for others, for nature, and for common decency, leading to a particular caring for the poor, the weak and the downtrodden. As a result, issues of justice, including social justice are held in common among most.

--Gene Douglas,  
Harra Oklahoma

It’s a blessing each of us was born; it matters what we do with our lives; What each of us knows about God is a piece of the truth; We don’t have to do it alone.

--Laila Ibrahim,  
Berkeley, CA