

THE REACH

OCUUC'S MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

ORANGE COAST
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
CHURCH



SUNDAY SERVICES IN JUNE 2023

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.

June 4: Flower Communion

– Rev. Sian Wiltshire &
Karen Magoon-Pearson

June 11: Tickle Your Soul

– Rev. Sian Wiltshire

June 18: Ecotones--Readings

–Rev. Michael Eselun

June 25: Rebel Yell: Igniting a Turning Point in
the Fight for LGBTQ+ Rights

– K.C. Marie Pandell

THE PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

Nancy Loughrey, President, Board of Trustees



What a great Auction! It was super fun and raised more than \$15,000, well above the budgeted amount. Thank you JoLynn and Debra, our co-chairs, the entire Auction Committee, and everyone else who contributed, bought, and helped make it happen. We are awesome! It truly takes a village, and this is one of the best examples of all the ways we make it happen.

Tom and I are looking forward to returning to attending General Assembly (GA) in person in Pittsburgh. It is always inspiring to be among so many other Unitarian Universalists and learn all the ways we are the same and different. I love singing in the GA Choir – watch for me! It is a totally different experience to sing in a choir of 200.

Of course, the debate and vote on Article 2 and other issues are fascinating to us, although I will take my knitting! It can drag on.... Watch for our report next month.

I'm looking forward to our Annual Meeting. See you there!

Nancy Loughrey
president@ocuuc.org

ORANGE COAST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH



Many Different Beliefs,
One Loving Community



JOIN FOR OUR SERVICES
SUNDAYS AT 10:30

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

**SIAN'S
SHENANIGANS**
From Our Minister: Rev. Sian Wiltshire



DELIGHT

Delight is a word I often use in describing how I feel when someone does something wonderful for someone else. The word comes from the Latin, “*delectare*” meaning “*to charm*.” I feel delight when I see this congregation reaching out and helping one another. I feel delight when I find the perfect match for my foster puppies. I feel delight when someone takes the time to give kudos where they are due. I feel delight when I see our RE kids play “minister” in the pulpit. I feel delight when after three years, my camelia bush is finally blooming – and keeps on blooming! Delight is a kind of uncomplicated, simple pleasure that seems, not unexpected, but unlooked for and so a little surprising. And it is a kind of charm placed on us that lightens the mood, makes us smile, and brings out our own loving nature.

What is it that brings you delight? What charms you? Do you see any commonalities? For me, it seems to stem with how we connect with one another and other living things that gives us delight. So maybe delight is just a reminder that we are all interconnected.

With love, Rev. Sian



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

June 4: Flower Communion – 100th Anniversary! Come join us as we celebrate the Unitarian Universalist multigenerational tradition of “Flower Communion.” This year is the 100th anniversary and our choir has pulled out all the stops with a wonderful cantata! With Rev. Sian and Karen Magoon-Pearson.

June 11: Tickle Your Soul: The Art of Finding Delight in Unexpected Places. What brings us delight? And how can we get more of it? Come celebrate what it means to be a delightful human being! -- Rev. Sian.

*Note that we will be bridging two of our youth this morning, and after the service is our Annual Meeting – how delightful!

June 18: Ecotones – Readings. We will explore those liminal spaces, occupying a position on both sides of a threshold, in which we sometimes find ourselves on life’s mysterious journey. Thresholds that are neither one reality or another, and yet may open a path to our deepest truths. Possibly even the sacred.

--Michael Eselun, UCLA Oncology Chaplain

June 25: Rebel Yell: Igniting a Turning Point in the Fight for LGBTQ+ Rights. Nearly 55 years after the Stonewall Uprising, misconceptions and misunderstandings still abound. Today, we examine the stories and the place the uprising holds in history and ask ourselves how we can use the same spark in today's fight for LGBTQ+ justice. -- KC Marie Pandell



SUNDAY, JUNE 11TH, 2023
11:45AM

Pursuant to the Bylaws, the OCUUC Board calls for The Annual Meeting of the Congregation to convene in Daniels Hall and on Zoom Video Conferencing at 11:45am.

Come participate in the democratic process at your church as we vote on the budget, a slate of officers, present awards and more.

Zoom Video Conferencing via
<https://zoom.us/j/3931579606>.

Anyone is welcome to attend, only Members vote.

If you require assistance, please email
admin@ocuuc.org.



Many thanks to all who have made a financial pledge for the 2023/2024 fiscal year. Your generosity and financial support keep OCUUC thriving!

As of May 24, 2023, pledges received for the 2023/2024 fiscal year total \$229,332.73.

The total pledge amount raised for the 2022/2023 fiscal year was \$222,333.63.

If you have not yet made a pledge, you may do so online by opening this link: <https://ocuuc.org/support/pledge/>.

The pledges received each year make up a large portion of the revenue needed to pay the staff, maintain the buildings, pay the utilities, and provide programs.

Debra Quam volunteered to be the chair for the fiscal year 2023/2024 pledge drive. Pledge drive committee members were Tom Loughrey, Meg Wilson, JoLynn Ibáñez, Joel Ibáñez, Rev. Sian Wiltshire, Nina Smith, Craig Preston, Sarah Jones, OCUUC Administrator, Nancy Loughrey – ex officio. Many thanks to all who volunteered to be on this crucial committee.

This year's pledge drive lunch and official kick off was held March 19, 2023, in the OCUUC courtyard and featured freshly made crepes, French music, and mimosas. Special thanks to JoLynn Ibáñez for finding the wonderful crepes caterer and for providing the French themed playlist for the music.

Thank you to those who gave a pledge testimonial during Sunday services this year: Bob Loeschen, Craig Preston, Tom Loughrey, Donna McCartney, and Tatiana Houser.

Thank you to Sandie Martin, past pledge drive chair for her guidance.

Debra Quam, Pledge Drive Chair



On June 11th we will begin our summer *UU Maker Space* program in Religious Education. Kids in grades K-12 are invited to join us every Sunday to play creatively, solve problems, and learn from failure so that they can grow up to

change the world! As UU religious educator Joy Berry writes,

Our kids thrive on DOING. It changes their brains and the way they see themselves: When we make things, we are more confident, more open, less anxious about perfection. We naturally collaborate and take risks, and we begin to see ourselves as creators of the world around us, not passive consumers.... We can bring our UU values and theology to life when we build capacity in our kids for imagining, doing, helping, healing. We say we are the church of the open minds, loving hearts, and helping hands. Makerspace work in RE programs can help make that a reality.

This is a model I am very excited about, and we need your help! Please take a look at this extensive donation list:

https://ocuuc-my.sharepoint.com/:b/g/person/karenmp_ocuuc_org/EdIMkAXCYG5Kl2fwTSjjsqABtFdfn-HylZ5OkIQVdnpMog?e=E6uzdM

to help you identify materials you might have laying around or that you can collect for us and donate to our project. You can drop off your donations in the Maker Space tub that will be near the Welcome Table on Sunday mornings. You can also pick up a copy of the list at the Welcome Table.

This summer we will also be inviting individuals from our congregation (RE teachers, parents, and the larger church community) to share their skills with our children. Are you a creator? Artist? Crafter? Inventor? Baker? Builder? Problem solver? I would love to work with you to develop a project that will engage and excite our RE children one Sunday morning this summer. Let me know if you would like to be involved!

William Ellery Channing said, *"The great end in religious education is not to stamp our minds upon the young, but to stir up their own."* Won't you join us in putting this philosophy into practice this summer?



By now I'm sure you've heard that I have submitted my resignation to the Board, and my last day will be our ingathering Water Communion service on September 10. I gave the church a long notice so the transition can be as smooth as possible. The reason I'm resigning is that I am feeling led to do more work in the adoption space -- with my podcast, speaking opportunities, and parent coaching. It was a difficult decision for me since I have absolutely no complaints about my OCUUC job, and I will miss you all very much. But I am sure you will find someone fabulous that is fresh and has a diverse array of talents and repertoire at their fingertips. I have no doubt that the church will continue to thrive with whomever you choose as your new music director. You are a music-loving, exuberant congregation that feels deeply through music. Whoever comes after me will be delighted with the talent and musical vitality at OCUUC.

We are wrapping up our choir season, and June 11 will be Orange Coast Choir's last Sunday to sing until September 10. We will have about 2 months off from Thursday night rehearsals, and we will resume on August 24.

In the meantime, we will have openings for solos, duets, and small groups of vocalists and instrumentalists throughout the summer. Please let me know if you're interested in preparing something for summer worship.

Musically Yours, Beth Syverson,
Director of Music Ministries
MusicDirector@Ocuuc.org





We are all saddened to hear of Beth's resignation and excited for her on her next calling.

We are also excited to find out what's next for our music ministries. We are looking for Search Committee Members to find her successor(s?). If you are interested, the expectations can be found here. Please contact board@ocuuc.org if you are interested in serving on this important committee.

OCUUC Director of Music Ministries Search Committee Charge: Opening Comments

The OCUUC Board is looking to set up a Search Committee to fill the position created by Beth Syverson's resignation, effective September 11, 2023. We envision a five-person committee, with the President and the Minister sharing one of the slots. Two of the people should be active in our choir, and two should be from the congregation at large. OCUUC membership is not required but longevity with the congregation is preferred.

The Board envisions the work of the Search Committee in three phases:

Phase 1: Definition of the Position and recruiting and selecting an interim person for selected tasks (includes President). Summer 2023

Phase 2 : Recruiting and selecting long term candidates (includes Minister). To start September 2023.

Phase 3: Serving on the Music Committee for one year after the long-term person starts (could be optional) to provide support for the new DMM. To start as soon as the new long-term person begins the position.

We strongly emphasize the OCUUC's focus on inclusion and commitment to recruiting a broadly diverse candidate pool.

Phase 1 through 3: Committee Chair Roles and Responsibilities

- Convene the Committee and manage agendas. The President will do the initial convening, but will not be the Chair.
- Discuss the duties of the search committee and its members. Assign responsibilities as necessary.
- Oversee progress of the committee tasks.

Keep the Board and Congregation informed on progress through monthly reports or email if information or questions are timely in nature.

Phase 1-a: Specification of the Position

Beth's role has evolved over the years, and she now has a very comprehensive position based on her strengths. She will provide her existing job description to the committee with that in mind. We encourage the search committee to understand the scope of music ministries at OCUUC and envision how to serve congregational needs and encourage volunteer engagement.

- Develop a working job description for the paid position(s), understanding that it could take more than one candidate to fulfill all the roles.
- Articulate essential competencies, professional behavioral characteristics, and qualifications for candidates.
- Specifically look for ways to recruit a diverse candidate pool.
- Develop a working job description for an interim position, starting early September and continuing until the long-term position(s) are filled. The expectation is that it will be at least Nov. 1st or later. The Interim person will not be eligible to apply for the long-term position.

Phase 1-b:

Recruitment and Selection Strategies for Interim position(s), Summer 2023.

- Determine if there are aspects of the overall tasks that may be covered by volunteers on an interim basis..
- Create and implement a proactive recruitment strategies that incorporate diverse sources where qualified and diverse applicants may be found for each of the positions.
- Review applicant materials;
- Create interview questions;
- Schedule and conduct screening interviews;
- Emphasize maintaining confidentiality for all applicants/candidates.

Phase 2:

Recruitment and Selection Strategies for long-term DMM position(s), beginning Sept. 2023.

- Create and implement a proactive recruitment strategy that incorporates diverse sources where qualified and diverse applicants may be found.
- Develop a screening tool (i.e. rubric) to facilitate a consistent methodology for the review of applications; e.g. same questions asked each time.
- Review applicant materials;
- Create interview questions;
- Schedule and conduct screening interviews;
- Oversee schedule for Choir auditions;
- Communicate the expectation that the committee is to use consistent, job-related criteria when reviewing and screening applicants.
- Emphasize maintaining confidentiality for all applicants/candidates.

Phase 3:

Support of new DMM, beginning after hire of the DMM.

- Convene monthly meetings to discuss any issues that arise

- Assist in recruitment for the choir and other musicians
- Assist in music events, such as Music Under the Stars and Open Mike Night.
- Help the DMM understand how to work with the minister and the congregation.



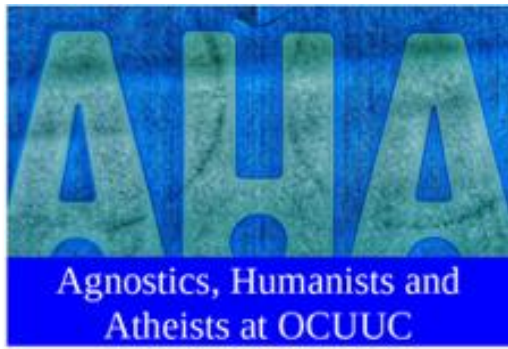
JOYS & SORROWS ON SUNDAY

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



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 Stitch-Wit! 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 [here](#), on our website or contact Barbara Schilling at 949/285-0918 or at harper0117@gmail.com



AHA – ATHEIST/HUMANIST/ AGNOSTIC GROUP

This is a discussion group supporting humanists, agnostics, atheists, deists, and others who view human activity as the basis for moral systems, and view humans as an integral part of the nature of the cosmos. The Zoom link is on the church [website](#). **The Atheist/Humanist Group** meets on first Sundays at 12:15 p.m. on Zoom.

For more information, email programs@ocuuc.org



MEDITATION GROUP

Our Meditation Group meets every Sunday at 9:45am — in person and via Zoom. Meditation and mindfulness practice are so important for our well-being! Please join our community. We will conduct a short but nourishing guided meditation, then share our experiences along the path. All are welcome!

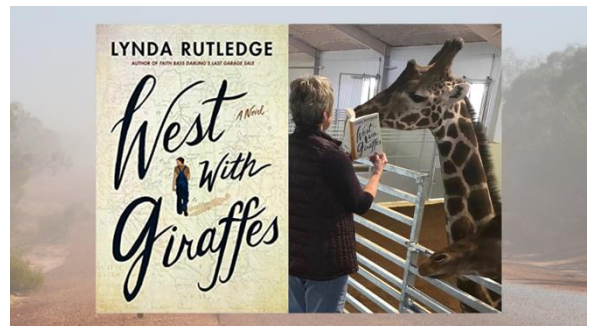
Find the zoom link on the OCUUC website calendar page by clicking [here](#)!



FLOWERS FOR SUNDAY SERVICES

If you would like to sign-up for flowers to celebrate someone or for yourself, please see [Sandie Martin](#) after the service to reserve your date. You can also email her at sandiemartin@mac.com.

Let her know if you'd like to bring your own flowers on a particular date, or she can make an arrangement for you at a cost of \$20 cash.



FICTION BOOK GROUP

The OCUUC Fiction Book Group will meet online on Monday, June 5th at 7:00pm to discuss “*West with Giraffes*” by Linda Rutledge. Although the book is fiction, it is based on a true story. The two giraffes were purchased by the San Diego Zoo. They traveled across the US by truck during the early years of WW II, much to the delight of folks in small towns across the country. Please join us for this wonderful story.

The link can be found [here](#) on the church website. Co-chairs are Eva Goodwin-Noriega and Marcia Hackett.



Thursday, June 1

Choir Rehearsal, 7pm Daniels Hall & Zoom

Saturday, June 3

StitchWits, 10:30am on Zoom

Sunday, June 4

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

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

Dream Group, 12pm Suite 7

AHA Group, 12:15 pm on Zoom

Monday, June 5

OCUUC Fiction Book Group 7:00pm on Zoom

Thursday, June 8

Choir Rehearsal, 7pm Daniels Hall & Zoom

Saturday, June 10

StitchWits, 10:30am on Zoom

Sunday, June 11

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

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

RE & Youth Group, 10:30am on site

Writing Club, 11:45am Victoria Room

Annual Congregational Meeting, 11:45am

Monday, June 12

Anti-racism Reading Group, 7pm on Zoom

Wednesday, June 14

Comm. On Ministry 6pm

Saturday, June 17

StitchWits, 10:30am on Zoom

Board Dinner, 5:30pm

Sunday, June 18

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

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

RE & Youth Group, 10:30am on site

Nonfiction Book Club, 12:30pm on Zoom

Tuesday, June 20

Life Changes Group 12pm on Zoom

Sci Fi Group 7pm on Zoom

Wednesday, June 21

OCUUC Moviegoers (TBD) Regency SC

Finance Council 5pm Zoom

Saturday, June 24

StitchWits, 10:30am on Zoom

Sunday, June 25

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

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

RE & Youth Group, 10:30am on site

Women's Circle 12:00pm on Zoom

Monday, June 26

Anti-racism Reading Group, 7pm on Zoom

Wednesday, June 28

Cluster Meeting, 10:00am

JUNE PLATE SHARE

Let's send our kids to camp! After a pandemic hiatus, it is time to return to this worthy cause.

This month's plate share will support OCUUC children and youth attending [Camp deBenneville Pines Youth Camps](#).

Camp deBenneville Pines is our UU camp in the San Bernardino mountains and offers wonderful week-long camps with opportunities for fun in the outdoors with UUs from all over Southern California and Arizona. We have been able to offer 50% scholarships this Spring. Please be generous!

For more information visit the camp website [here](#).

