



SUNDAY SERVICES IN JULY 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.

- July 2: The Death and Resurrection of Unitarian Universalism
– Rev. Dr. Arvid Straube
- July 9: Life, the Universe, and Everything
– KC Pandell
- July 16: The Art of Finishing Life Well!
– Rev. Tom Owen Towle
- July 23: Unraveling Adoption
– Beth Syverson
- July 30: Everyday Spiritual Practices in Our Chaotic World
– Linda Spery

THE PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

Nancy Loughrey, President, Board of Trustees

I am really looking forward to this new year. While I will dearly miss Phyllis Daniel and Birdie Reed on the Board, we will have new energy with Emily Scherping and Eric Noël. Welcome! We have lots to anticipate. We will have a new intern, Wendy Karn, and I very much look forward to getting to know her and work with her. With very mixed feelings, we will have a big transition in staff with Beth leaving. We are all waiting to meet our next music leader.

We also have some big decisions to make this year. We need to get the new sanctuary moving forward again. We solicited the last bid at the height of inflation last winter and felt that letting that pressure cool off was appropriate. However, it is also clear that the sanctuary we envision is going to be more expensive than the money we have already raised. We are so fortunate that we have a great hybrid service that keeps attendance at pre-pandemic levels. We need it more than ever!

I have been active in our anti-racism efforts for several years now, mostly in book discussion groups. However, it has changed me as it is changing broader Unitarian Universalism. We have a *Widening the Circle* group that has been considering how to bring these changes to our whole congregation. I hope we can strengthen our efforts in this new year. Please talk with me if you are interested in joining in this important work.

General Assembly, the annual gathering of Unitarian Universalist congregations, was wonderful. Please see my report elsewhere in this REACH.

Tom and I will be in Scandinavia for the first two weeks of July with my sister and her husband. Vacations are good! See you in church when we return!

Nancy Loughrey
president@ocuuc.org

A dark blue rectangular box with white text. At the top, 'ORANGE COAST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH' is written in large, bold, sans-serif font. Below the text is the church logo (a stylized flame above a chalice). Underneath the logo, the text reads 'Many Different Beliefs, One Loving Community'. At the bottom left is a white video camera icon inside a circle. To its right, the text says 'JOIN FOR OUR SERVICES SUNDAYS AT 10:30' followed by the Zoom link 'https://zoom.us/j/3931579606'.

SIAN'S SHENANIGANS

From Our Minister: Rev. Sian Wiltshire



Rev. Sian is on sabbatical this summer and will return to the pulpit in September.



Worship With Us

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

July 2: The Death and Resurrection of Unitarian Universalism Let's look into the future based on analyzing an extensive survey. How can our congregations thrive? What happens if we don't? We need spiritual community to show us how to be authentic human beings. Are we doing that?

Rev. Dr. Arvid Straube

July 9: Life, the Universe and Everything A feature of Unitarian Universalism is our willingness to admit that we don't have the answers. Today we explore our third and fourth principles, and how they help us shape not only our faith, but how we move through the world. KC Pandell will fill in at OCUUC a number of times this summer while Rev. Sian is on sabbatical. KC is also serving as intern Minister at Tapestry UU.

KC Pandell

July 16: The Art of Finishing Well! Unitarian Universalism is increasingly a world of seniors. There exists a deep hunger to engage the difficult yet enlivening homestretch challenges of solitude and quest, joy

and service, surrender and legacy. Tom is a bona fide elder who has been a parish minister since 1967.

--Rev. Tom Owen-Towle

July 23: Unraveling Adoption What is the first thing that comes to mind when you think about adoption? Beth Syverson is an adoptive mom and an advocate for adoptees. She will explain the many shades of gray inherent in adoption and why some of the popular cultural tropes around adoption can be harmful to adoptees. Besides Beth, you will also hear from adoptees themselves, both in word and song. You will walk away more aware of the complexities of adoption, and with tools to better support adoptive families in our church and community. Beth is our beloved Director of Music Ministries.

Beth Syverson

July 30: Everyday Spiritual Practices in our Chaotic World OCUUC Members, led by Linda Spery, share personal reflections about spiritual practices and how they bring meaning to their everyday lives. Regardless of your religious leanings, we hope you'll be inspired to consider a practice of your own as together we face life challenges in our chaotic world. Linda is a long-time member of OCUUC and a pillar of our community wearing many leadership hats over the years.

Linda Spery

FORMING FAITH

Religious Education News

Karen Magoon Pearson

Director of Religious Education

At our Congregational Meeting on June 11th we honored Reverend Judy Tomlinson with the *Joan Gillan Award* for service to our Religious Education program.

Rev. Judy is our former Director of Religious Education who has continued to serve our church community in her retirement. This church year she taught OWL to our 4th-6th graders all Fall and led our Youth Group twice a month in the Winter and Spring. She organized a cookie bake event for the Youth Group and served as an advisor to our bridging youth this spring, meeting with them several times and

supporting them as they prepared to speak at the Bridging Ceremony, which she also helped organize.

We are so fortunate to have Rev. Judy's experience, leadership, and caring to depend on. Please join me in thanking her for her valuable contributions to our Religious Education program and our church community at large.



Don't miss our special *Music Under the Stars* event on Saturday, July 15 at 7pm. Some of you purchased this as an auction item, but even if you didn't you can still come. The suggested donation is \$10, either through the auction or at the door.

The musicians will provide snacks and beverages and we'll set up tables and chairs in the courtyard under the pergola. Music Under the Stars is always a lovely evening filled with great music from our OCUUC musicians, along with a good dose of laughter, friendship, and starglight.

I want to give a huge thank you to the choir members who worked so hard this year, and who are now off for the summer. They worked really hard to rebuild this past year after our Covid disruption. Some folks weren't able to come back onsite to sing again, so it took us a while to get our numbers back up. But the choir just powered through with dedication, hard practice, and passion for the music. Thank you all for the time you spent rehearsing with the choir and on your own, and for being so reliable and dedicated to this church. I love you all and I'm grateful that you've been such a huge part of my life for all these years.

Along with many of you, I am trying to get my mind wrapped around the fact that my ministry here at OCUUC is coming to a close soon. September 10 will be my last Sunday.

A search committee has been formed, and it's a dream team made up of folks who care deeply about music at OCUUC. I assure you that your new music leader(s) will be able to continue leading OCUUC on your musical journey. They will be different than I have been, but sometimes different is good. Someone new might have different strengths than I do and

will bring wonderful new things to the table. I will be walking beside you all through the summer, and we will tie up all the loose ends over the coming weeks.

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

U.U.A. GENERAL ASSEMBLY DELEGATE'S REPORT

Pittsburgh is a great place for General Assembly. It is a very welcoming city with great resources for our annual Unitarian Universalist gathering. Tom and



I have lived in Pittsburgh at various points in our lives, and it was good to reconnect and see how it was different and the same.

There is great energy in being with nearly 4,000 Unitarian Universalists from 715 congregations and all 50 states. I loved singing in the choir. It is a wonderful experience to sing with about 100 other singers, many of them

Music Directors at their own churches. The choir was led by Clif Hardin, who is the Director of Music Ministries at River Road UU Church and a composer of some of the songs we have sung at OCUUC. The entire Sunday morning service is available for viewing online.

The business sessions are how the work of the UUA is done. It compares to our Annual Meeting but lasts for 12.5 hours over the five days of General Assembly. The biggest issue was the proposed revision to Article 2 of the UUA Bylaws, which describes our purpose for being. Over the last few months, we publicized this possibility and solicited your opinions. There were 84 amendments offered to it, and 13 were brought up for discussion and vote. Five of them passed, all additional clarifications on specific nuances of wording (and additional words!).

At the opening of the discussion, it was stressed that this vote was just one step in the approval process, and there would be an additional vote next

year. Many of the delegates expressed dismay at the wordiness and lack of inspiring language in the text and I do believe the Article 2 Study Commission (A2SC) understood their concern. I did vote in favor of it for two main reasons:

1. I believe the overall inherent content better reflects who we are today, especially the importance of adding caring for one another, broad inclusion, and acting on our values.
2. I trust that the A2SC will work to refine the wording. A no vote would mean the process would stop for at least two years.

The proposal did pass with an 86% positive vote. I know those at OCUUC who expressed an opinion were fairly evenly divided pro and con. There will be more discussion!

There was also a resolution brought by the Young Adult caucus regarding investments in the fossil fuel industry that did not pass, but the Board vowed to work closely with them to create some of the actions they requested. I had a chance to hear Dr. Sofia Betancourt, the new UUA President and feel she will be an inspirational leader. The rest of the Business Sessions were standard stuff – electing officers, hearing reports, making awards, celebrating another year. The Ware Lecture by Dr. Imani Perry was wonderful, and I brought back three signed copies of her current book. Our Anti-Racism Book Group is tackling it next.

Like most meetings, General Assembly is now a hybrid meeting. Parts of it were great improvements, like online voting at the end of each day. What a better use of delegates time than manually counting voting cards! The discussions were great, allowing onsite and remote delegates clear access to speaking. Allowing UUs to participate without the expense of traveling to another city is certainly a plus. However, most workshops were recorded in advance and so did not offer nearly as much opportunity to get to know other participants. I did miss that.

Next year, General Assembly will be totally online, and in 2025, it will be in Baltimore. It is always a great opportunity for learning more about our faith and connecting with the larger UU world.

Nancy Loughrey



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 joy-sandsorrows@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.



OCUUC is a **fragrance-free zone**. Several members and friends have sensitivities to strong scents.

In order to prevent our fellow congregants from getting uncomfortable and even in pain, we're asking that everyone avoid using cologne and perfume when you come to church.

Typically it's the stronger scents that people are sensitive to the most. To demonstrate how committed we are to inclusivity, we're asking everyone to keep their scents down to a minimum so everyone can enjoy the service together. Thank you!



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 different needs. Find the Zoom link on the [calendar page](#) of our website or contact Barbara Schilling at 949/285-0918 or 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 calendar](#). The **Atheist/Humanist Group** meets on first Sundays at 12:15 p.m. on Zoom. For more information, email programs@ocuuc.org



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.



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!](#)



GAMES, GAMES, GAMES!

JULY 13, 2023 at 6:30pm at OCUUC

Come get together and have some healthy fun, laughs, and connections!

The day for games has been set for Thursday, July 13th at 6:30 p.m. in the Victoria Room.

I will have a selection of games to choose from and bring some along if you like. We will play as a large group or break out into smaller groups. We will see what works.

It would really help if you RSVP at least a couple days ahead of time. Contact Tracey if you have any questions. tdaschbach@gmail.com





Saturday, July 1

CPR Class, 9am Daniels Hall
StitchWits, 10:30am on Zoom

Sunday, July 2

Meditation Group, 9:45am Youth Room & Zoom
Worship Service, 10:30am Daniels Hall & Zoom
RE, 10:30am on Site
Dream Group, 12pm Suite 7
AHA Group, 12:15 pm on Zoom

Monday, July 3

OCUUC Fiction Book Group 7:00pm on Zoom

Saturday, July 8

StitchWits, 10:30am on Zoom

Sunday, July 9

Meditation Group, 9:45am Youth Room & Zoom
Worship Service, 10:30am Daniels Hall & Zoom
RE, 10:30am on Site

Monday, July 10

Anti-racism Reading Group, 7pm on Zoom

Wednesday, July 12

Comm. On Ministry 6pm

Thursday, July 13

Game Night, 6:30pm Victoria Room

Saturday, July 15

StitchWits, 10:30am on Zoom
Music Under the Stars, 7pm Courtyard

Sunday, July 16

Meditation Group, 9:45am Youth Room & Zoom
Worship Service, 10:30am Daniels Hall & Zoom
RE, 10:30am on site
Nonfiction Book Club, 12:30pm on Zoom

Tuesday, July 18

Life Changes Group 12pm on Zoom
Sci Fi Group 7pm on Zoom

Wednesday, July 19

Finance Council 5pm Zoom
DMM Search Comm., 6:30pm Suite 7

Saturday, July 22

StitchWits, 10:30am on Zoom

Sunday, July 23

Meditation Group, 9:45am Youth Room & Zoom
Worship Service, 10:30am Daniels Hall & Zoom
RE, 10:30am on site
Women's Circle 12:00pm on Zoom

Monday, July 24

Anti-racism Reading Group, 7pm on Zoom

Wednesday, July 26

Cluster Meeting, 10:00am
Board Meeting, 7pm

Saturday, July 29

Chat with Rica, 10am Victoria Room
StitchWits, 10:30am on Zoom

Sunday, July 30

Meditation Group, 9:45am Youth Room & Zoom
Worship Service, 10:30am Daniels Hall & Zoom
RE, 10:30am on site



JUST A REMINDER: FACILITIES USE

...Just a friendly reminder to all groups, committees, auction event donors, the Board, and anyone who uses the rooms and spaces on the church campus for meetings and gatherings: Please leave the space as you found it, cleaning up any refreshments, and replacing all furniture to where it was when you arrived.

Thank you for your cooperation!

CAMP DE BENNEVILLE PINES
FAMILY CAMP
OCT. 6-8
PRE-REGISTRATION!



LINK TO ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION FORM

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSddgR - Ruijz8HZSE5xu0pfvxqESrBZYa7rM1bMnsByhxG eA/viewform?usp=sf_link

PAPER FORM AVAILABLE ON THE PATIO AT CHURCH ON SUNDAY

Registration Questions? Maria Goode at mq9411@yahoo.com, Jacques Kilchoer at jacques@kilchoer.name for answers

JULY PLATE SHARE



StandUp for Kids - Orange County was launched in 2003 with a single focus: To end the cycle of youth homelessness in our community. We work to provide basic needs, housing, mentoring support, care, and love to at-risk and homeless youth ages 12-24. In 2021, we adjusted programming to address COVID restrictions and changes.

View our [Programs](#) page to learn how we are continuing to grow in the scope and quality of care we provide to our youth. For information about Stand-Up for Kids visit www.standupforkids.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

There are many ways to connect with our OCUUC community online



OCUUC.org website



Facebook Group Page

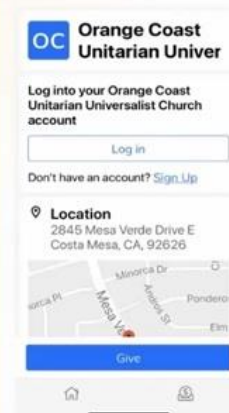


Methods to Give to OCUUC

1. Our Website: OCUUC.org



2. Vanco Mobile



3. Baskets

Those worshipping onsite will have our traditional offering baskets available at the door for check and cash donations.

