

THE REACH

OCUUC'S MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

ORANGE COAST
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
CHURCH



Sunday Services in August 2021

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

August 1: Exodus Moments

Liz Murphy, MDiv

August 8: When Everything is a Gift

Rev. Rica Kaufel

August 15: Grace

K.C. Pandell

August 22: Loss - Holding On and Letting Go

Michael Eselun

August 29: The Greatest Common Denominator

Rev. Rica Kaufel

THE PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

Nancy Loughrey, President, Board of Trustees

Thank you for your trust and honoring me with the presidency. It should be a great year and I am truly looking forward to it. This is not my first time around this flagpole, and I am fully aware that I will need lots of help and understanding. We are an awesome congregation. I know it will happen.

The pandemic has challenged all of us for many months and it turns out that discovering what our new normal will be is also challenging. We have made sacrifices and learned new skills. Although California has loosened its restrictions, the virus has not gone away. I can tell you OCUUC has a full spectrum of opinions on our readiness to return. We have some who want us to fully go back to "normal", and some who say they expect to be happy on Zoom indefinitely. We are all so good at being tolerant of others' theological positions. Please carry that on to your tolerance for virus positions!

Tom and I have been planning a trip across the country for a long time. The farthest point will be attending his mother's 92nd birthday in Maine. We plan to be gone from August 12th to September 17th, just over five weeks. We will be in email and phone contact on a regular basis, so please reach out if necessary. It should be a great time to get away and see friends and family. In accommodation of this and a few other Board

ORANGE COAST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

Many Different Beliefs,
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JOIN FOR OUR SERVICES
SUNDAYS AT 10:30

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

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members who will be away in late August, the August Board meeting will be on Wednesday, August 11th at 7pm. It will be hybrid – in the Victoria Room and on Zoom. We always welcome visitors!

We already held a Board retreat, and we have lots of exciting ideas for the new year, as if a new sanctuary wasn't exciting enough! We have set some ambitious goals for growing both membership and small group participation by 10%. Ask any Board member! We are on our way – the Summer Picnic on August 21st is a new event toward our goals.

We will get there!

Nancy Loughrey
President



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



The Committee on Ministry and the Board of Trustees reminds the congregation that Rev. Sian will return from sabbatical in early September.



ORANGE COAST
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CHURCH

COFFEE IS BACK!

Coffee is awesome. But Coffee Hour is really about YOU and our lovely community! Your presence at OCUUC makes all the difference! Let's drink to that on Sunday! We look forward to seeing you soon.



All Church Picnic
Estancia Park
4:00pm-6:00pm
Saturday
Aug 21st

Saturday, August 21st

4:00-6:00 p.m.

Estancia Park, Costa Mesa*

OCUUC is having an **All Church Picnic** at Estancia Park* in Costa Mesa on Saturday, August 21st from 4pm-6pm. This is a wonderful opportunity to get together and catch up with friends from OCUUC. Please bring your own food and drinks. Desserts will be supplied by several volunteers. There are activities, entertainment and fun being planned for all ages. So, bring your lawn chair or picnic blanket, and join us for this summer event.

*Estancia Park is located at 1900 Adams Ave., Costa Mesa, CA 92626. The park is at the corner of Adams Ave. and Mesa Verde Dr. W.

ZOOM SOCIAL HOUR!

7:30pm-9:00pm (via Zoom)

Every Friday: join us for Social Hour! Bring your own drinks and snacks. Drop in anytime between 7:30pm and 9:00pm. Find the meeting ID on our website [here](#).

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WORSHIP IN AUGUST 2021

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

August 1: Exodus Moments In a season of immense change, we'll be turning to one of the classic stories of transition: Exodus. It's a story of freedom, of fear, of an upside-down world... sound familiar? This Sunday we'll re-examine this story—which is one of our 7 UU sources—to glean wisdom, hope, and strength. These days are full of “Exodus Moments”—how might we respond to these thresholds with connection to community, with compassionate love, with a conviction of justice? *Liz Murphy, MDiv*

August 8: When Everything is a Gift We live in a world where we often feel disconnected from nature, and yet our concern for the survival of the planet can sometimes become overwhelming. Can gratitude be a way for us to reconnect? *Rev. Rica Kaufel*

August 15: Grace: What that can mean for us as U.U.s *K.C. Pandell*

August 22: Loss - Holding on and Letting Go Moving together through these challenging times, we find ourselves confronted by loss in so many dimensions. What might be there for us? *Michael Eselun*

August 29: The Greatest Common Denominator When meeting those unknown to us,

those we deem ‘other,’ sometimes focusing on our perceived similarities, on the common ground we share, seems like the safest bet. But what if instead we took the leap and embraced each other’s differences? And how far can this embrace of difference go without putting our own values in question? *Rev. Rica Kaufel*



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 9:00am on Sunday morning to joysandsorrows@oc-uuc.org, type in the chat during this part of the service, or, if you are attending the service in person, you may write your joy or sorrow for in-person share.

FORMING FAITH

Religious Education News
Karen Magoon Pearson
Director of Religious Education

I am so thrilled to be returning as your Director of Religious Education here at OCUUC! Despite a challenging last year, Rev. Judy has left the program in terrific shape with the help of our dedicated volunteers and terrific families. Thanks to all of their support I am off to a running start, and we have kicked off our exciting new summer program, Circle of Trees.

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This is a multigenerational program that nurtures deep connection with trees, nature, and all of earth's living creatures. We use trees as an entry point to understand and connect with life on earth, beginning with some lighthearted learning about trees—how they are structured, what they contribute to life on our planet—then moving into appreciation for these providers of life. We incorporate movement, story learning, meditation, and taking action. And we're doing all of it outdoors at Estancia Park surrounded by – you guessed it – trees! We've had 21 children and youth representing 11 families attend at least one of our outdoor gatherings since we resumed meeting in person on June 6th. It is glorious to be together!

Our centering story on July 25th was "You're Saved by Something Green" by Charlene Brotman. It talks about how the carbon dioxide every living creature on Earth breathes out would suffocate us if too much of it was allowed to remain in the air. How all over the world green plants on land and in water take in the carbon dioxide and replace it with the oxygen we need. *We are saved by something green.* I love this tale of interdependence. After a year+ of living through a pandemic, I'm sure I'm not the only one who has been reminded over and over of the many ways our world is interconnected and that, for better or for worse, our actions can affect those near us and even those we have never met. As the story reminds us, "Oxygen from plants travels on wind currents from far-away continents and oceans. It reaches you even when the trees around you have lost their leaves, or if you live in a place with no leaves at all. Right this minute, you may be breathing oxygen from a rain forest in Costa Rica, or a field of red poppies in Turkey." What a beautiful and awe-inspiring thought!

I have always been proud of the way our community comes together to support

one another, and the way we have adapted and changed over the past 16 months to continue to do our best to meet everyone's needs and maintain our spirit of welcome is truly remarkable. I so look forward to being part of how we incorporate what we've learned to go forward, thriving, into our future as a community.

With hope,

Karen



How have you been enjoying our hybrid services so far? I've heard from several of you who are appreciating the flexibility and inclusivity of everyone, whether they feel comfortable in the sanctuary or not, and whether they are physically able to come in person or not. A big thank you to Steve Morihiro who continues to hone the tech set-up in Daniels Hall and has trained our new crew of camera operators and audio engineers. Thanks to all our volunteers on Sunday morning! It's definitely a team effort!

I bet you're wondering when we'll get to sing together again. Believe me, I wish we could! I am in a holding pattern, waiting to hear from AUUMM, and watching the Delta variant carefully. Singing is one of the worst ways to spread the virus, since there's so much air interchanged and since we are sitting in a room together for over an hour. BUT I will be hosting an OUTDOOR sing-along on Saturday, August 14 at 7pm in our courtyard. We will all sing WITH masks on, but we will be able to sing and hear each other and it will be a wonderful thing. If you have any song requests, send them over. And feel free to bring your own instrument if you'd like to play along.

Orange Coast Choir will resume rehearsals on Thursday August 19, 6:30-7:30pm in the courtyard. At this time, I anticipate we will continue to rehearse outdoors and masked, like before, and we will keep making virtual choir videos for a while, probably.

I'm very excited to hear our communal voices together again soon. I hope you take advantage of the Saturday Singalong on August 14 and/or the choir rehearsals resuming. In the meanwhile, I hope you are singing in the shower, in your car, and throughout the day. It's good for the soul.

Musically Yours,
Beth Syverson
Director of Music Ministries



Some events are Online

Sunday, August 1

Worship Service, 10:30am Daniels Hall
RE in the Park, 10:30am Estancia Park
AHA Group, 12:15 pm on Zoom

Monday, August 2

OCUUC Fiction Book Group 7:30pm on Zoom

Wednesday, August 4

Finance Council, 2pm Victoria Room

Friday, August 6

Social Hour, 7:30pm on Zoom

Saturday, August 7

StitchWits, 10:30am on Zoom
Writing Club 6:30pm on Zoom

Sunday, August 8

Worship Service, 10:30am Daniels Hall
RE in the Park, 10:30am Estancia Park
LGBTQ Action Group 12:15pm Suite 4

Wednesday, August 11

Board of Trustees 7pm Victoria Room

Friday, August 13

Artists UUnite, 1:00pm Courtyard
Social Hour, 7:30pm on Zoom

Saturday, August 14

StitchWits, 10:30am in Victoria Room and on Zoom

Church Sing a Long 7pm Courtyard

Sunday, August 15

Meditation Group, 9:45am Youth Room
Worship Service, 10:30am Daniels Hall
RE in the Park, 10:30am Estancia Park
Nonfiction Book Club, 12:30pm on Zoom

Monday, August 16

What Do You Think? 7:30pm on Zoom

Tuesday, August 17

Caring Circle, 12:00pm on Zoom

Thursday, August 19

Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm Courtyard

Friday, August 20

Social Hour, 7:30pm on Zoom

Saturday, August 21

StitchWits, 10:30am on Zoom
All Church Picnic, 4pm Estancia Park

Sunday, August 22

Worship Service, 10:30am Daniels Hall
RE in the Park, 10:30am Estancia Park
Women's Circle, 12:00pm Victoria Room

Monday, August 23

How to Be an Antiracist book discussion
7:00pm on Zoom

Thursday, August 26

Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm Courtyard

Friday, August 27

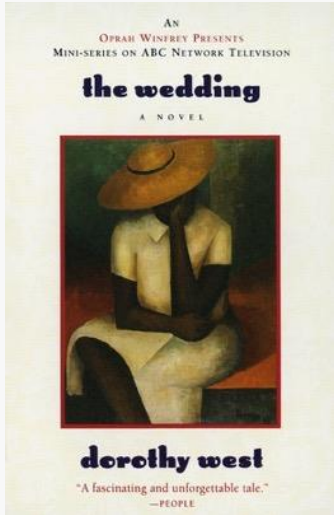
Social Hour, 7:30pm on Zoom

Saturday, August 28

Beach Meet, 9:00am Newport Beach
StitchWits, 10:30am on Zoom
Rainbow Movie Night 7:30pm on Zoom

Sunday, August 29

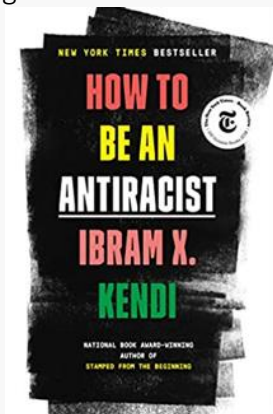
Worship Service, 10:30am Daniels Hall
RE in the Park, 10:30am Estancia Park



FICTION BOOK GROUP

The OCUUC Fiction Group continues to enjoy lively discussions on Zoom. For Aug. 2nd we'll be discussing The Wedding: A Novel by Dorothy West.

Join us at 7:30pm online. Find the Zoom meeting link [here](#). Co-chairs: Eva Goodwin-Noriega and Marcia Hackett



BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

An afternoon Book Discussion Group is forming and will begin in August to discuss How to Be an Antiracist, a 2021 Book to Action selection. Our conversation will situate the central themes of the book, including definitions and examples of antiracism and racism, and discuss how to move from reflection to meaningful action on issues of racial

equity. This Group will meet on Zoom (every other week) and there are a few more spots available for people to join. If interested, please reach out to Nina Smith (nm_smith@yahoo.com) or Phyllis Daniel (phyllisdaniel@sbcglobal.net).



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 will be meeting in the Victoria Room on 8/14/21 at 10:30 am. We will also be on Zoom for those who prefer to zoom. Bring whatever project you are working on, or finished projects so we can admire them!

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.

OCUUC FACEBOOK GROUP PAGE

Did you know that OCUUC has a Facebook Group page?

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/OCUUC>

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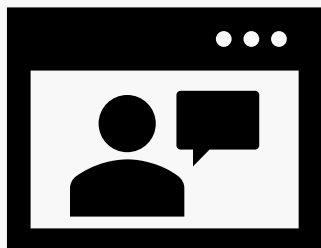
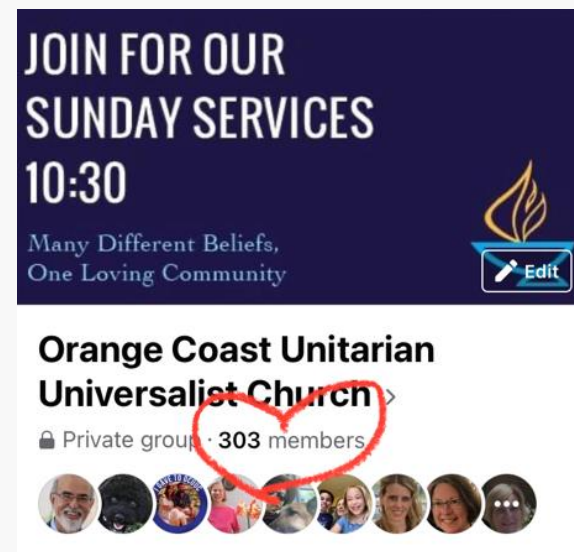
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This is different from the OCUUC Facebook Main page:

<https://www.facebook.com/OCUUCChurch>

The Group page has nearly 300 Group members made up of OCUUC Members, Friends and UU-related followers. The purpose of the Group page is to enable Group members to post content that might interest other Group members. Some good examples are Social Justice events or opportunities, more information or details about specific programs or events happening at OCUUC, or in the community, and items related to the Sunday Worship themes, such as resources that come out of Sermon Discussion Groups, etc. Please think of this Facebook Group page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/OCUUC> as your page and post freely with your group mates in mind!



SOURCES ON ANTI-RACISM

NEW BLOG

SOURCES ON ANTI-RACISM

([HTTPS://OCUUC.ORG/SOURCESONANTIRACISM](https://ocuuc.org/sourcesonantiracism))

Sources on Anti-Racism is a weekly 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>



Illustration Copyright Chuck Jones Ent., Inc.

CHURCH COOKBOOK PROJECT

Dear Members and Friends of OCUUC,

A Committee to develop a cookbook to raise funds for our church has been formed. Our goal is to collect recipes from all of you by September 13, 2021 and complete our task in time for the Autumn Auction.

We want this to be a fun and inclusive activity for all of us. We encourage you to include brief stories about your recipes. Maybe a recipe has been handed down from generation to generation or is associated with an important event in your life (funny or otherwise). Of course, it is not a necessary requirement. Not knowing what your response will be, in case we are overwhelmed with recipes, we ask you to prioritize your entries.

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Another goal of the committee is to introduce our Church to the community through the cookbook. We would like to include information on the history of OCUUC as well as our principles and activities.

To help us out, we would appreciate it if you could follow a protocol in how you present your recipes.

**Name of Recipe
(story of recipe)**

Ingredients

*

*

Directions

1.

2.

Submitted by: (Your Name)

Please submit recipes by mail or email to a member of the Cookbook Committee:

**Betsy Enger, Marcia Hackett, Sarah Hunter,
Judith Stamper**

**LET'S MAKE THE COOKBOOK A HUGE
SUCCESS!**

Thank you



LGBTQ ACTION GROUP

LGBTQ Action Group's August hybrid meeting will be held on Sunday, August 8 at 12:15pm on Zoom AND in Suite 4. A special guest will be sharing their story.

Rainbow Movie Night on Saturday, August 28 at 7:30pm (note new time), is going to feature a documentary about Provincetown called *Clambake*. The filmmaker, Andrea Meyerson, a friend of Debra Quam and Audrey Prosser, will be there for a discussion after the film. This event is free, open to everyone, and on Zoom.

All our events are open to everyone, no matter which letter of the LGBTQ+ spectrum you're on, and we welcome our straight allies with open arms. If anyone who is LGBTQ+ would like to share their personal story at one of our upcoming meetings (typically on the 2nd Sunday of the month), please contact Beth Syverson

(musicdirector@ocuuc.org)

or Jan Mabie

(janselectrical@gmail.com).

Beth Syverson (she/her/hers)



WOMEN'S CIRCLE

Mark your calendars for August 22nd at noon when the Women's Circle will meet in the Victoria Room and on Zoom. The Women's Circle is one of the longest running church groups at OCUUC and is for women of all ages. Grab your cup of coffee or tea after the Sunday service and head to the Victoria Room. If you have not been to

the Circle for a while or if it's your first time, no worries! Friendly faces are waiting to greet one and all.

The Women's Circle meets every month on the fourth Sunday. Find the zoom meeting link on the [calendar page](#) of the OCUUC website. Contact [Peggy Priver](#) or the church administrator at admin@ocuuc.org if you have any questions. See you there!



UPDATE ON ONSITE SERVICES

The Returning to On Site Task Force agreed to continue the mask requirement for Daniels Hall, Victoria Room and Suite 4 at least until our September 19th service. That will give us time to observe the progression of infections and reassess. We will continue with physical distancing (and masks!) in the Victoria Room and Suite 4, and we have discontinued advance registration for seating in these rooms.

We know that everyone has their own risk level and tolerance for the risk. The challenge is that each person's decision affects everyone else. Respect for the Interdependent Web, right?



FIRE SUPPRESSION WORK PARTY

Camp deBenneville Pines

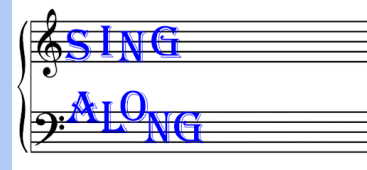
There will be a Fire Suppression Work Camp from August 19th to August 23rd at Camp de Benneville Pines. The Camp campus needs to be cleared of flammable forest floor debris to 200 feet from structures. This could save the Camp \$40,000 in insurance premiums. Lodging in the cabins will be made available. Volunteers can work any or all of the days indicated. If you can assist, please contact Chris Heaton at

chris_heaton@sbcglobal.net

or at

714-876-4625.

Note that Chris is Shirley Thorne's son, one of our longtime OCUUC members!



Sing a Long in the OCUUC Courtyard!
Saturday, August 14, 7pm.
Read Beth's Music Notes (page 4) for details!



UU MEN'S FELLOWSHIP FALL RENEWAL

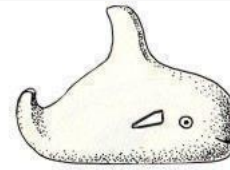
Camp deBenneville Pines

Mark your calendars for the UU Men's Fellowship Fall Renewal now scheduled to occur at Camp deBenneville Pines on October 29-31, with an option to arrive on Thursday, October 28. Attendance will be limited to 65 persons, and all attendees must have had their full COVID-19 vaccinations completed prior to October 7th. Attendees must also be free of any signs or symptoms of new infection such as elevated temperature, loss of appetite, malaise, or be exposed to others with such. A \$200 fee this fall includes all meals and lodging. Scholarships are available to persons in need of such.

The Men's Fellowship Renewals offer a safe place in which we as brothers, can be open to the issues that challenge us to the core of who we are and help us to begin the process of exploring them. It is also a time for music and singing, hot tub and hiking, drumming and ritual, conversation and renewing friendships, meditation and quiet time. If you are interested contact Cory Brown at KG6EP@AOL.COM, and/or check out the following: [First UU Church San Diego Men's Fellowship Fall Renewal](#)

Thanks,
Cory Brown

AUGUST PLATE SHARE



C.C.R.P.A.

PRESERVING THE PAST FOR THE FUTURE

THE CALIFORNIA CULTURAL RESOURCES PRESERVATION ALLIANCE

The California Cultural Resources Preservation Alliance, Inc. (CCRPA) is an alliance of Native Americans, anthropologists, historians, scientists, and interested citizens. Their mission is to protect and preserve cultural resources such as sacred sites, archaeological sites, historic sites, and Traditional Cultural Places in Southern California with a focus on Orange and Los Angeles counties. CCRPA estimates that at least 90% of the known archeological sites that once existed in the county have been destroyed by development. The remaining sites are fragile, non-renewable and must be protected. CCRPA was formed in 1998 and incorporated as a 501(c) 3 non-profit in 2003. Learn more about them [here](#).

Be safe, be well,
You mean the world to me.

Be safe, be well,
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- Words by Dan Berggren

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