



SUNDAY SERVICES IN AUGUST 2022

August 7: TBA – Rev. Sian Wiltshire

August 14: TBA – Rev. Sian Wiltshire

August 21: TBA – Rev. Sian Wiltshire

August 28: TBA – Rev. Arvid Straube

THE PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

Nancy Loughrey, President, Board of Trustees

It is a new church year and a great time for beginnings. I am really looking forward to working with our excellent Board and all of you to make OCUUC all it can be. We have so many opportunities. The Environmental Film Festival promises to be a fantastic event and our beloved deBenneville weekend is in the works for October.

It was a pleasure to work with Carolina Tercero Brandon, Eva Lu Goodwin Noriega, Nina Smith and Phyllis Daniel on our service July 12 on anti-racism. We had a good turnout in the four feedback sessions the following week. People really appreciated a chance to discuss the issues and their experiences. I know the book discussion groups have offered me the opportunity to expand my thinking. What I learned is that although the book groups have offered many opportunities for sharing, there are any number of ways to create that opportunity. Thank you all for your input.

This is certainly going to be a marathon and not a sprint. We are now working on creating a structure to offer many opportunities for insight and action. I expect we will be adding a web page to our site to help organize and present our next steps so people can find meaningful ways to connect.

Tom and I have had lots of opportunity for travel this summer. I am grateful that technology offers us ways to be away yet still



**ORANGE COAST
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
CHURCH**

Many Different Beliefs,
One Loving Community



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

somewhat connected. Have a wonderful August!

Nancy Loughrey
president@ocuuc.org



Rev. Sian will be returning from her well-deserved vacation August 2nd.

For any pastoral emergencies, please contact Laurie Kluge at 714-337-4833 and she can get in touch with Rev. Sian.

For non-emergencies, you can write to: pastoralcare@ocuuc.org or contact Laurie.



4th Annual Orange Coast Wild & Scenic Film Festival Saturday,
September 24, 2022
Orange Coast Unitarian Universalist Church

PRODUCERS BEN KALINA AND AMANDA LIPP TO ATTEND FALL ENVIRONMENTAL FILM FESTIVAL IN COSTA MESA

The 4th Annual Orange Coast Wild & Scenic Film Festival is proud to announce that award-winning documentary producers

and directors Ben Kalina and Amanda Lipp will attend (in person) the festival on Saturday, September 24.

The Festival will feature a matinee screening at 2 p.m. and also an evening screening at 6 p.m. at the O.C. Unitarian Universalist Church campus at 2845 Mesa Verde Drive East in Costa Mesa.

Tickets will go on sale August 1. Prices are \$25 for in person festival in Daniels Hall (including filmmakers) and \$20 for virtual online festival. For tickets:

<https://qudio.com/event/ocuuc-2022>

For more information: <https://ocuuc.org/community/social-justice/environmental-film-festival/>

Festival sponsorships are available to underwrite the event and recognize you or your organization. Information is available from Linda Spery at lindaspery@gmail.com.

Ben Kalina's work explores the colliding forces of human nature and environmental change. His most recent film, *A River Reborn*, is one of the featured documentaries in this year's Festival lineup of 10 short films. Following the screening of his film Kalina will talk about the making of *A River Reborn* and will be available for Q & A.

Amanda Lipp's documentaries focus on mental health and social impact storytelling. Her festival film *ReBuilding Butte* follows a heartfelt tiny house building project in response to the deadliest fire in California history—the 2018 Camp Fire—that destroyed Paradise and surrounding Butte County communities. The story follows Alyssa Nolan, a local resident and mother of three, who learned how to build tiny homes by watching YouTube videos. The tiny home build site became a place for recovery and community. Alyssa, who continues her work as head of the Tiny Home Foundation, will also be attending the festival in September. Both

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2845 Mesa Verde Drive East
Costa Mesa, CA 92626
714-556-2882

P.O. Box 3770
Costa Mesa, CA 92628
ocuuc.org

Amanda and Alyssa will talk about the film and will be available for Q & A.

The 4th Annual Orange Coast Wild & Scenic Film Festival is one of more than 150 "On Tour" events held throughout the United States and the only one of its kind in Orange County. The Nevada City, California-based flagship Wild & Scenic Film Festival, a five-day event held annually in January, partners with local groups seeking to inspire environmental activism and a love for nature through film.

The Orange Coast festival is staffed by a team of 30 Orange County-based activist-volunteers based at the Orange Coast Unitarian Universalist Church. For sponsorship information, contact:

lindaspery@gmail.com.



We've been having a joyful and service-filled summer in Religious Education. We began our Magic Summer curriculum from Soul Matters in July, encompassing the three S's of Silence, Service, and Sunshine. We have experienced silence through a guided meditation that had us imagining ourselves as a sprouting seed, an activity in which we mindfully passed a cup of water without spilling a drop, a meditation on the meaningfulness of books, and a loving kindness meditation.

Our first act of service was planting wildflower seeds to take home and nurture in our own neck of the woods. The following week we did a deep dive into water justice, focusing on the daily journey of women and children in remote areas of Ethiopia who spend up to 6 hours a day retrieving what is ultimately barely enough unclean water for

their families to survive. On our third Sunday we wrote secret book notes to hide in our RE library and hopefully delight future readers who come across them unexpectedly. Our most recent service project was picking up trash around our church campus.

We've also enjoyed ourselves by creating a maze for ping pong balls; completing an obstacle course while carrying a bucket of water and trying not to spill it; playing a game with words, pictures, and water balloons; and playing the classic game of follow the leader outside in the sunshine. I hope your summer has been as fulfilling, meaningful, and fun as ours has been so far!



I just got back from my first Association for Unitarian Universalist Music Ministries (AUUMM) Conference in 3 years. This year it was in Ann Arbor, and we really lucked out with good weather plus a GIANT art festival happening in town last week. My cup has been filled up by SO. MUCH. SINGING and camaraderie with my wonderful colleagues. There were only about 100 attendees in person this year, much fewer than normal, and we didn't have a conference choir with a choral clinician like we usually do. They would've had to book the clinician months ago, when we didn't even know if the conference was feasible. But other than that, all the other elements were there.

I led two choral reading sessions, where a colleague and I chose a diverse assortment of new-ish music for everyone to read together. This is one of the primary ways we choir directors learn about new music. It's so

much easier to get a feel for a piece after experiencing it sung live than just by glancing at the score visually. I also sang in two services with a small ad hoc group of singers. I taught a workshop about the AUUMM Music Database, which I created years ago, and which is starting to get some real traction with users. I attended several workshops including a conducting master class, a song leading master class, and a sound bath (which was AMAZING) that was billed as "Take a Nap And I'll Sing Lullabies To You." Brilliant!

I organized a group of 10 of us to venture downtown to the art festival and to one of only two vegan restaurants in the area. It's during these social times where stories are swapped, connections are deepened, and new friends are made. Plus we had fun at our Open Mic Night at the hotel one evening. We have some world class talent in our membership, including Jim Scott (Gather the Spirit, etc.) and many others.

The theme for the conference this year was Renewal, and the worship services every morning did just that - renewed my spirit. They had a UUA representative talking about how we as music directors can deal with our own and our congregants' trauma from the pandemic. She urged us to think about what we learned from having to shift our whole job around for the quarantine: Were there things that we'd like to keep from the shifts we've made? Were there things we realized we didn't need anymore? Were there things that we really missed from The Before Times and want to reincorporate, and were there things we used for a time during the quarantine but are ready to release now?

Thank you to the OCUUC Board and congregation for once again supporting my professional development by sending me to this conference every year. Just about everything I know about UU music comes from

these conferences and from my connections with my AUUMM friends in between conferences.

With deep gratitude!

Beth Syverson

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, 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.



Please check weekly updates (if any) on the BLAST on Thursdays...and in the meantime:

- Daniels Hall on Sunday mornings - Masks optional once the children leave for their classes.
- Religious Education and Administration building Sunday Mornings - Masks required
- All other times and spaces - Masks optional

We will continue to run the fans in

Daniels Hall for good ventilation. The speaker/singer screens are down, and we will be adding back the extra row of seats in Daniels Hall that were removed when we re-opened.

- Please stay home if you are feeling unwell.
- Please let our Congregation Nurse know if you test positive for COVID.
- Placing the offertory plate outside the doors instead of passing them.

We have always worked to balance everyone's safety with our need to be together. There is no perfect answer and many options! We will continue to monitor the Orange County statistics and will meet again in this month.

Returning to Onsite Task Force
Nancy Loughrey
Rev. Sian Wiltshire
Marilyn Giss
Karen Magoon-Pearson
Beth Syverson
Meg Wilson



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.



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](#)!



AGNOSTICS, HUMANISTS AND ATHEISTS

Sunday, August 7, 12:15 pm on Zoom...

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





Monday, August 1

OCUUC Fiction Book Group 7pm on Zoom

Thursday, August 4

Spencer LaJoye Concert, 7pm in Daniels Hall

Friday, August 5

Social Hour, 5:30pm on Zoom

Saturday, August 6

StitchWits, 10:30am on Zoom

Sunday, August 7

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

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

RE, 10:30am Activity Room

AHA Group, 12:15 pm on Zoom

Dream Group, 12:30pm Suite 7

Monday, August 8

Anti-racism Reading Group, 7pm on Zoom

Wednesday, August 10

Comm. On Ministry, 6pm

Friday, August 12

Social Hour, 5:30pm on Zoom

Saturday, August 13

StitchWits, 10:30am on Zoom

Sunday, August 14

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

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

RE, 10:30am Activity Room

Writing Club, 11:45am Suite 7

Tuesday, August 16

Caring Circle, 12:00pm on Zoom

Wednesday, August 17

Finance Council, 5pm on Zoom

Thursday, August 18

Choir Rehearsal 7pm Daniels Hall

Friday, August 19

Social Hour, 5:30pm on Zoom

Saturday, August 20

StitchWits, 10:30am on Zoom

MUTS (Music Under the Stars) 7pm Courtyard

Sunday, August 21

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

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

RE, 10:30am Activity Room

Nonfiction Book Club, 12:30pm on Zoom

Monday, August 22

Anti-racism Reading Group, 7pm on Zoom

Wednesday, August 24

Actionable Anti-racism Group 1pm on Zoom

Thursday, August 25

Choir Rehearsal 7pm Daniels Hall

Friday, August 26

Board Retreat, 5pm Victoria Room

Social Hour, 5:30pm on Zoom

Saturday, August 27

Board Retreat, 9am Victoria Room

StitchWits, 10:30am on Zoom

Sunday, August 28

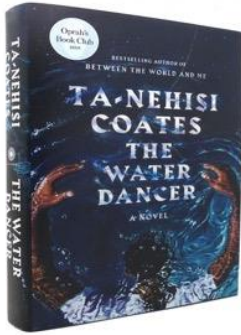
Meditation Group, 9:45am Youth Room and on Zoom

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

RE, 10:30am Activity Room

Women's Circle, 12pm Victoria Room and Zoom





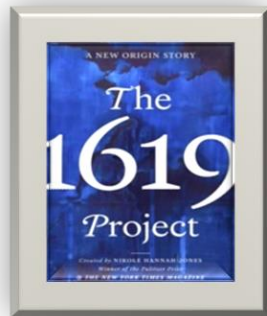
FICTION BOOK GROUP

The book we'll discuss on August 1st at 7pm is *The Water Dancer* by Ta-Nehisi Coates, a sur-realist story set in the pre-Civil War South, concerning a superhuman protagonist named Hiram Walker who possesses photographic memory, but who cannot remember his mother.

We invite any newcomers to the church to join us for our lively discussions on Zoom.

Our September 5 selection is *The Beekeeper of Aleppo* by Christy Lefteri. The link can be found on the [church website](#).

Co-chairs: Eva Goodwin-Noriega and Marcia Hackett



ANTI-RACISM READING GROUP

On Aug. 8, the Anti-Racism Reading Group is starting its next book: *The 1619 Project* created by Nikole Hannah-Jones & the New York Times Magazine. Limiting the group to a maximum of 12 for workable discussion, our group invites four people interested in reading *The 1619 Project* and amenable to the group participation Covenant to join us. We meet via Zoom on the 2nd & 4th Mondays at 7pm. *Leadership will be rotated. For our August 8th meeting we*

will be reading the Preface(Origins) and Chapter 1 (Democracy), p.xvii - 44, of The 1619 Project.

If interested in joining the group, please contact

Eva Goodwin-Noriega at evagnoriega@gmail.com

or

Alex Coho at alexbailey4@gmail.com.



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. For services onsite, you can bring your own flowers, or we can purchase them for you at a cost of \$25 cash pre-paid.



ZOOM SOCIAL HOUR!

FRIDAY, AUGUST 5, 12, 19, 26

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](#).

There is Still Time for Adult Camp

August 12 – 16

at Camp de Benneville Pines!

This is our first year back among the trees and I'd love to see a huge turn-out. The Theme is "Relax and Reconnect." And I can't think of a better place to relax and reconnect than Camp!

There will be artwork, singing, story writing, storytelling, archery, walks in the woods, hot tub, swimming pool and so much more.

Our keynote speaker Laila Ibrahim actually attended Camp a few years ago and her novels have been translated into ten languages, reaching more than 1.5 million readers. Her theme will be "Living Our Faith Out Loud."

This year's team of leaders include some familiar faces:

- Rev. Carolyn Owen-Towle will lead us in morning worship
- Rev. Tom Owen-Towle will lead a multi-day workshop titled "Who Am I!" as well as singing on the deck in the afternoons
- Chris Epting will lead a multi-day workshop titled "Finding Your Story in Nature" as well as sharing stories about people, places, and subjects in the evenings.

So, take a break and come join us for Summer Camp for Adults!

Registration is open. Click [here](#) to read more about this camp and to register.



AUGUST PLATE SHARE



Our mission is to provide Orange County's impoverished families and individuals with the support they need to achieve self-sufficiency and independence. Working together with private and social agencies, we provide counseling, support, and solutions for the specific needs of each client that comes to Micah's Way for help.

Each morning of the week Micah's Way is on the streets of Santa Ana serving coffee, food, and providing clothes to those in need.

We continue our efforts helping our Veterans, the elderly, the infirmed, and all those living on the streets in Orange County.

Micahswayoc.org

Nominated by Dolly Doran

Address 1517 E. 4th St

Santa Ana CA 92701

Micah's Way is an All-Volunteer Public
Benefit Corporation
Tax ID 54-2166918

Unitarian Universalism
Welcomes questions,
Welcomes doubts,
Welcomes you.



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