

THE REACH

OCUUC'S MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

ORANGE COAST
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
CHURCH



SUNDAY SERVICES IN AUGUST 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.

August 6: Camp Songs

– Rev. Dr. Kikanza Nuri-Robins

August 13: A Very Spiritual Education

--KC Pandell

August 20: How We Fight

-- Rev. Everett Howe

August 27: The Ben Parker Appeal

– KC Pandell

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 PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

Nancy Loughrey, President, Board of Trustees

Tom and I had a wonderful time in Scandinavia. We are thoroughly enjoying the opportunity to travel at this point in our lives. It helps us learn so much about other cultures! It inspires me to see how other people do things and how they live their values. Here is one of my favorite pictures – it is how one Norwegian woman gets through those long dark winters! She knits tree



sweaters. What fun! There were about twenty of them. Our StitchWits group was impressed.

I don't know how many of you know it, but we have five congregations that meet on our site. In addition to us, you probably know about the *Orange County Meeting of Friends (Quakers)* and the *Christian Scientists*. In addition, we have a *Metropolitan Community Church* on Sunday evenings in the Victoria Room. They are a Christian congregation that is especially welcoming to LGBTQ+ people. We also have an *Apostolic Church* in Daniels Hall on Sunday afternoons and Friday evenings. They are a multicultural evangelical Christian congregation. That's five!

We are truly living our values, making it possible for five different religious groups to meet and draw inspiration and community in the way that best suits them. I am proud of us, but I wish I knew how to make some synergy from it and let the larger community know about us. How might that happen?

Nancy Loughrey
president@ocuuc.org

SIAN'S SHENANIGANS

From Our Minister: Rev. Sian Wiltshire



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



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

August 6: Camp Songs While some of our friends are away camping this summer, we will reminisce about the best and worst of camp life. Did you go to camp? As an adult or as a child? What are some of your indelible memories? Why is camping such a significant aspect of American life? And most important of all, which are your favorite camp songs? Come worship and sing with us.

Rev. Dr. Kikanza Nuri-Robins

August 13: A Very Spiritual Education A seminary education is a vital requirement of our Unitarian Universalist ministry. But what actually goes on there and why is this education so necessary? Today we explore some practicalities as well as the experiences of recent seminarians.

KC Pandell

August 20: How We Fight Throughout our history, Unitarian Universalists and our spiritual ancestors have fought for justice, sometimes by

building bridges across divisions and sometimes through direct conflict. In this service we'll explore the tension between these two approaches to how a "gentle, angry people" can build beloved community in the face of oppression.

Rev. Everett Howe

August 27: The Ben Parker Appeal Our social locations inform much about us: from opportunities available to us, to the ways we move and interact with the world. Today, we investigate our "Constellation of Privilege" and how we can use the information from it to live into our Unitarian Universalist Principles.

KC Pandell

FORMING FAITH

Religious Education News
Karen Magoon Pearson
Director of Religious Education

Our OCUUC kids have truly been enjoying their time in our **Maker Space** on Sunday mornings this summer. My deepest gratitude goes out to each and every one of you that has donated materials (and there are a lot of you!). I am also so thankful for all of the "guest makers" that have joined us to share their talents and, of course, none of it would be possible without our trusty, dependable religious education volunteers who are making it happen for our kids all year round. Our young makers are absolutely loving the time to be creative and solve problems. It has been amazing to see them using their brains in new ways, helping one another bring their ideas to fruition, building their confidence, and just loving being at church. I hope you can all join us at the **All-Church Picnic on Saturday, August 5th**, at 10:30 AM at Estancia Park. The makers have been working hard to create some fun games to share with everyone there, and I'm excited for you to experience the fruits of their labor!



It is a bit surreal to be writing my second-to-last Reach article. After 22 years my time at OCUUC is drawing to a close as my last day with you all will be September 10th. I am experiencing lots of "this will be the last time I..." as I am wrapping up my responsibilities. A crack search committee is working hard to find an interim music director to manage things while an official search (with Rev. Sian) for a long-term music director occurs.

We enjoyed a lovely *Music Under the Stars* in mid-July, and we had the most performers of any *Music Under the Stars* this time around!

I've been enjoying all the special music on Sunday mornings this summer while the choir is off - the Ibáñez family, Phil Chipman, Craig Sperry, Susan Shaw, Amy Tompkins, Steve & Barbara Morihiro, Sarah Kimball, and Amelia Russo-Neustadt. So many talented musicians in our congregation! Plus we've enjoyed special guests Kole Yoshi and Taylor Cox, both from Orange Coast College.

I am feeling deep gratitude for all of you who I have had the pleasure of collaborating with for all these years, for all the things I've learned through my association with OCUUC, and for all the wonderful experiences I've had. I have a few weeks left to create music with you all and I plan to make the most of it.

Some of you have asked if I plan to come back to church as a congregant. Unfortunately, I will need to keep my distance from church and church activities for a year (just like ministers do when they retire/leave), to give the new music director a chance to get settled in without me looking over their shoulder.

Many of you are engaged with my adoption work, and we can continue that association, as long as we don't talk about the church. After a year is up, I hope Jan and I can stop by and enjoy special events with you all again.

With deep gratitude,
Musically Yours,
Beth Syverson, Director of Music Ministries
MusicDirector@ocuuc.org

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

As one of your three delegates to the Unitarian Universalist Association's General Assembly, I wish to make it clear that I am in 100% agreement with the Unitarian Universalist goals of the UUA, particularly regarding combatting both personal and structural racism. I believe, along with the UUA, that UU churches and individual members need to put much more concerted effort into living our principles/values and putting our love into action in these areas.

However, I am not in agreement with the *methods* proposed by the UUA for doing this work, including the proposed Article II revisions.

Further, I believe that the UUA's approach and the "decision-making" process I observed at GA 2023 are in serious conflict with our UU principles, in particular with those which refer to the democratic process, the inherent worth and dignity of every person, equity and compassion in human relations, and justice for all.

I would be happy to discuss these issues further with anyone who is interested.

Maureen McConaghy



2023 FILM FESTIVAL TICKETS NOW ON SALE

Tickets are now available for the 5th Annual Orange Coast Wild & Scenic Environmental Film Festival taking place **Saturday, September 30** at our Orange Coast Unitarian Universalist Church campus.

To purchase tickets (\$25 per ticket), go to www.ocuuc.org. A limited number of tickets will be available at the door; advance admission ticket purchases are strongly encouraged.

This year's **IN PERSON** event will feature a matinee starting at 2 p.m. and an evening screening with the same lineup of films starting at 6 p.m. in Daniels Hall. Snacks and drinks will be available for purchase at intermission and at the conclusion of both screenings.

During the courtyard receptions, attendees will be able to mix and mingle with special guest filmmakers as well as representatives of local environmental groups. Filmmakers who will be present to discuss their films and mingle with Festival attendees are **Josh "Bones" Murphy** and **Carmen Morrow**.

Murphy is an award-winning director and producer whose work includes documentaries, short and feature narrative films, TV, branded content and commercials. He is co-founder of the production company Liars & Thieves, based in San Francisco and Brooklyn. Murphy's film "**The Scale of Hope**" is the featured title in this year's Festival. The film's subject is Molly Kawahata, a former climate advisor to the Obama White House. She is also a dedicated alpine climber who dreams of climbing higher and more challenging summits as she continues to hone her climbing skills while coping with a life-changing mental health diagnosis.

Carmen Morrow is co-director (with **Zach Wolf**), of "**The Dukha**," a short film that marks her directorial and animation debut. She is a Vancouver native who now lives and works in Los Angeles. Her film editing credits include the independent film "Rich Kids," winner for Best Feature at the HBO New York Latino Film Festival (2018) and "Scrap Dolls," winner for Best Live Action Short Film at the Children's Film Festival in Seattle (2017). Morrow is a self-taught needle felt artist and created the stop motion animation scenes in "The Dukha," which chronicles one of the last groups of nomadic reindeer herders in the world with less than 40 Dukha families still alive today.

The **Orange Coast Wild & Scenic Environmental Film Festival**, now in its fifth year, features short films on timely environmental topics with the goal of inspiring environmental activism and a love for nature through film. The annual event is staffed by local OC-UUC volunteers in cooperation with the annual 20-year-old flagship Wild & Scenic Film Festival, held in February in Nevada City and Grass Valley, California. The Orange Coast festival is one of 165 Wild & Scenic On Tour events taking place across the U.S. in 2023 and is the only one in Orange County.

This project is funded in part by the City of Costa Mesa's Arts Grant program. The local Festival is also grateful to the City of Costa Mesa Parks & Community Services department for its support .

For more information about tickets and sponsorship opportunities, contact

filmfestival@ocuuc.org or go to [Wild and Scenic Environmental Film Festival - Orange Coast Unitarian Universalist Church \(ocuuc.org\)](https://www.wildandscenic.org/).



Tuesday, August 1

Steinway Tuning, 9:30am Daniels Hall

Saturday, August 5

StitchWits, 10:30am on Zoom

All Church Picnic 10:30am Estancia Park

Sunday, August 6

Meditation Group, 9:45am Youth Room & Zoom

Worship Service, 10:30am Daniels Hall & Zoom

RE, 10:30am on Site

AHA Group, 12:15pm Victoria Room & Zoom

Monday, August 7

Fiction Book Group 7:00pm on Zoom

Wednesday, August 9

Comm. on Ministry 6pm

Saturday, August 12

StitchWits, 10:30am on Zoom

Sunday, August 13

Meditation Group, 9:45am Youth Room & Zoom

Worship Service, 10:30am Daniels Hall & Zoom

RE, 10:30am on Site

Dream Group, 12pm Suite 7

Monday, August 14

Anti-racism Reading Group, 7pm on Zoom

Tuesday, August 15

Life Changes Group 12pm on Zoom

Sci Fi Group 7pm on Zoom

Wednesday, August 16

Finance Council 5pm Zoom

DMM Search Comm., 6:30pm Suite 7

Saturday, August 19

StitchWits, 10:30am on Zoom

Sunday, August 20

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

Wednesday, August 23

Cluster Meeting, 10:00am

Saturday, August 26

Board Meeting 9am Victoria Room
StitchWits, 10:30am on Zoom

Sunday, August 27

Meditation Group, 9:45am Youth Room & Zoom
Worship Service, 10:30am Daniels Hall & Zoom
RE, 10:30am on site
Women's Circle will **NOT** meet in August

Monday, August 28

Anti-racism Reading Group, 7pm on Zoom

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



GAMES, GAMES, GAMES!

Next game night is Thursday August 24th 6:30pm - come and have a lot of fun.

The last game night we had 14 people! Lots of fun, talk, and so many people pitched in and brought games and snacks!



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

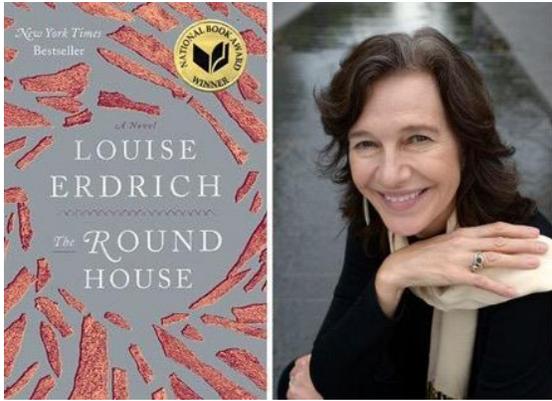
In order to prevent our fellow congregants from getting uncomfortable and even in pain, we're asking that everyone avoid using cologne and perfume when you come to church.



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 pm in the Victoria Room and on Zoom.

Questions? Email programs@ocuuc.org



FICTION BOOK CLUB

The Fiction Book Group will meet on Zoom on Monday, August 7th at 7:00pm to discuss *The Round House* by Louise Erdrich. The author is well known for her writings on Native Americans. Visitors and newcomers, please feel welcome to join our usual lively discussions. You can access the link on the church [website](#). Co-chairs: Eva Goodwin-Noriega and Marcia Hackett



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](#)!

AUGUST PLATE SHARE



Heartfelt is a nonprofit organization dedicated to saving lives from this nation's number one cause of death: **Sudden Cardiac Arrest**, through early detection, education and increased public awareness.

Heartfelt has provided screenings to more than 55,000 student-athletes, children and adults. These screenings have resulted in more than 1,000 lives being saved.

A donation of \$500.00 can provide a total of \$9,000 worth of comprehensive cardiac evaluation. Please give generously to this worthwhile local organization.

<https://heartfeltscreening.org/>

ALL CHURCH PICNIC!

Saturday, Aug. 5th
10:30AM – 2:00PM

Bring your picnic lunch and a lawn chair to Estancia Park (1900 Adams Ave, Costa Mesa, at the corner of Mesa Verde Dr West). We have a reservation from 10am until 2pm. Our RE kids requested this get-together, and they have been making some games to play. OCUUC will provide drinks (bring your own water/lemonade bottle) and desserts. Questions? Reach out to: programs@ocuuc.org



There are many ways to connect with our OCUUC community online

OCUUC.org website

Instagram

Facebook Group Page

YouTube Channel

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](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 mg9411@yahoo.com and Jacques Kilchoer at jacques@kilchoer.name have the answers!

Come to Camp with us!