

# THE REACH

OCUUC'S MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

ORANGE COAST  
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST  
CHURCH



## SUNDAY SERVICES IN SEPTEMBER 2022

*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.*

Sept. 4: Burning Man and Unitarian Universalism.

Rev. Sian Wiltshire and  
Matthew Patterson

Sept. 11: Water Ceremony!

– Rev. Sian Wiltshire

Sept. 18: We Belong to This World.

– Rev. Sian Wiltshire

Sept. 25: Spiritual Report Cards.

– Rev. Michael Eselun

## THE PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

Nancy Loughrey, President, Board of Trustees

Tom and I have had lots of opportunity for travel this summer. This is the second summer that we have driven across the United States. This year we spent some time at the beach in Florida with our children and grandchildren and attended Tom's Penn Hills High School reunion in Pittsburgh. In between, we were able to see some family and friends, including Scott and Margaret Armstrong, long time members who moved to North Carolina. It is so good to be connected.

As we were driving, we remarked that although we don't intend to do this again soon, it is good to get out and see the country. It really restores our perspective. It is so easy to get caught up in the drama of the news. Driving gives us a chance to see the vast and wonderful beauty of all the regions as well as contact with many and diverse people. Of course, we have our challenges, but the United States of America is a great place in so many ways.

I am also grateful that technology offers us ways to be away yet still somewhat connected. I did my best to stay on top of email, led the July 27<sup>th</sup> Zoom Board meeting from a motel room in Florida, and we were able to watch the August 21<sup>st</sup> service while driving through Ohio. I won't apologize for the lapses that happened because I was on the beach!

September brings a sense of new beginnings at OCUUC as Sunday services welcome back more children and the choir. Welcome back to me and all of you!

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>

Many Different Beliefs,  
One Loving Community

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Costa Mesa, CA 92626  
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P.O. Box 3770  
Costa Mesa, CA 92628  
ocuuc.org

## SIAN'S SHENANIGANS

From Our Minister: Rev. Sian Wiltshire



I can't believe it: I'm entering my 10<sup>th</sup> year with OC-UUC! How cool is that!? For those of you who have been a part of the church for much longer, you might think

that's not that long. But for me, it's quite the milestone. I grew up moving almost every year or so. The longest I had ever lived in one place until age 16 was 1.5 years. Since then, as an adult, the most I've been at any job was 8 years (and moved 4 times when employed!). So 10 years for me is a huge deal! And I love it! Getting to know you all, being with you during difficult times and joyful times. This is a place I belong.

And I knew it the moment I came here. I knew it the moment I met the Search Committee. It was a feeling deep in my gut. I knew it when I first stepped on the property for the first time. I've always had these gut feelings and I've always wondered what that feeling was called and now I know: it's belonging. It's knowing that you are not just welcome, but in the right place, a connection to your soul. May you all know that feeling – the feeling of belonging.

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:*

**Sept. 4: Burning Man and Unitarian Universalism.** What do Burning Man and Unitarian Universalism have in common?

Rev. Sian and  
Matthew Patterson (a "Burner")

**Sept. 11: Water Ceremony!** It's our annual ingathering and water ceremony. Come celebrate this quintessential Unitarian Universalist annual ritual. Bring water that is meaningful to you, and your water bottle for a blessing, but, as always, there is water for everyone.

Rev. Sian

**Sept. 18: We belong to this world.** Does the earth belong to us or we to it? What is our responsibility to this beautiful earth?

Rev. Sian

**Sept. 25: Spiritual Report Cards.** How many of us live our lives as if there will be a report card at the end of the term? What would constitute an "A" in your book, spiritually speaking? And does it matter? Oncology chaplain and popular guest speaker, Michael Eselun will explore these questions.



4<sup>th</sup> 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

*Have you bought your tickets for the September 24th Wild & Scenic Film Festival?*

They're selling fast so you don't want to delay. Seating is limited to 90 for the 2 p.m. matinee and for the 6 p.m. screening so don't delay.

A virtual online Festival is also available for those who are unable to attend the in-person events.

Prices are \$25 per person for the in-person festival events at **2 p.m. or 6 p.m.** in Daniels Hall and \$20 per household for the virtual online festival.

To purchase tickets, go to:

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

You'll need to create a Qudio account with username and password to make a purchase. If you need assistance, contact:

[filmfestival@ocuuc.org](mailto:filmfestival@ocuuc.org)

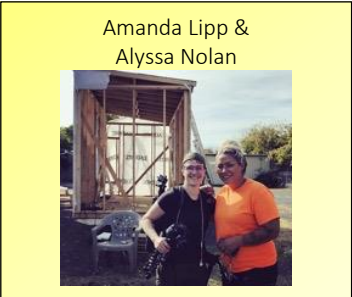
Our special guests booked their travel arrangements this past week and are excited to be a part of our event.

At the 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. in-person events, award-winning filmmakers from the featured documentaries will make remarks and participate in Q&A sessions. Special guests are:

- **"A River Reborn"**  
Producer: Ben Kalina



- **"ReBuilding Butte"** Producer: Amanda Lipp
- Star of **"ReBuilding Butte"** and Tiny Pine Foundation: Alyssa Nolan



Don't miss this special annual event! And tell your friends, family, neighbors and colleagues.

**FORMING FAITH**  
Religious Education News  
Karen Magoon Pearson  
Director of Religious Education

We're gearing up for a fabulous year in Religious Education. We'll be doing a new program called Superhero Academy with our Kindergarten -- 6<sup>th</sup> grade group. The program's introduction states, *"From their humble beginnings in comic books of the 1930s and 40s, to modern day blockbuster movies, irreverent cartoons, and thrilling amusement park attractions, superheroes have certainly invaded our cultural zeitgeist. In fact, you'd be hard pressed to find a child today who hasn't fantasized about being a superhero or developing a superpower all their own. But, behind the colorful spandex, superhuman abilities, and crime fighting antics, there are real lessons to be learned from superheroes about anti-oppression, personal responsibility, and love. That's where this curriculum comes in."* We'll be learning about popular superheroes and their invaluable teams, digging past their origin stories to discover what truly makes them so

powerful, with strong hearts and minds. We'll also learn how we can be just like them.

In our Youth Group (grades 7-12), we'll be utilizing a newly revised program called **Popcorn Theology**, using movies to explore theology, ethics, and morality. Some themes presented in this curriculum include engaging in the quest for racial and economic justice; grieving losses from the pandemic; exploring oppression, privilege, marginalization, and conflict; searching for truth amidst a sea of misinformation; reflecting on values such as gratitude and forgiveness; and building resilience for the hard work of changing our world.

It's shaping up to be a transformative year for our program and for our kids. I hope you'll be part of the journey with us!



Have you met our new Audio Engineer, **Avery Brown** yet? Avery (they/them) was hired last month and has already become an indispensable part of our worship team. They've recently run sound at the Spencer LaJoye concert (which was amazing, by the way!) and for our recent Music Under the Stars concert. They even came out from behind the soundboard at Music Under the Stars to sing and play piano. Multi-talented! I knew Avery from Long Beach Chorale and Orange Coast College as a singer. They are a quick study on the A/V equipment, and with their good musician ears, they are picking up the audio engineering technical aspects very easily. **Steve Morihiro** has been training Avery, as Steve's trained so many of us over the last year or so! Thanks Steve! If you haven't already met Avery, please introduce yourself and say hello. We are so happy to have you with us, Avery!

Orange Coast Choir has begun again for the 2022-2023 church year. If you'd like to join us, we meet Thursdays 7-8:30pm in Daniels Hall AND on Zoom. (The Zoomers can hear us sing but we can't hear the Zoomers singing.) We will sing in the services 3 times a month, starting with our annual Ingathering water ceremony on September 11. If you can match pitch and follow directions, we'd love for you to join us!

Big thanks to **Steve Morihiro** and **Susan Shaw** for leading worship on my days off. You do an awesome job, and we're super lucky to have lay leaders like you who are so conscientious and talented!

If anyone would like to become more involved in the Music Ministries, or if you have any ideas related to music, please contact me anytime at [MusicDirector@ocuuc.org](mailto:MusicDirector@ocuuc.org).

Musically Yours,  
Beth Syverson  
Director of Music Ministries  
[MusicDirector@ocuuc.org](mailto: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](mailto: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.



Take a break..

Take in a movie with friends..

Make new friends!

So far we have had two movie gatherings. What did we see? "Mrs. Harris Goes to Paris" and "Elvis".

All wanted to have a regular movie gathering with more people!

Everyone that attended enjoyed a short visit before and afterward.

Plus some wanted to have a bite to eat before or after the showing! (I'm hoping someone else will arrange that)

And.... a secret... three of the attendees for the *Elvis* show ended in the wrong theatre room! But, we figured it out before the start of *Elvis* :-)

**When:** 2nd Wednesday of the month. Next date: Wednesday, **Sept.14**

**Time:** The 3-4 o'clock showing. - tbd

**Where:** Regency South Coast Village  
<https://regencymovies.com/main.php?theaterId=17>

The movie and time will be announced in The Blast and will be posted on Facebook.

If you send me an email at:

[moviegoers@ocuuc.org](mailto:moviegoers@ocuuc.org)

...I will keep you updated personally, including giving you a vote on the movie selection!

We are trying to keep it simple--same place, same day of the month, same(ish) time, but things happen and if we need to make changes we will keep you updated.

Please join us for a relaxing time!

Tracey Daschbach  
[moviegoers@ocuuc.org](mailto:moviegoers@ocuuc.org)



We relaxed our guidelines in June and the Task Force met again in August to review the County numbers. Although there was a strong surge in cases and slight surge in hospitalization during the summer, it appears we are past the peak. We are pleased that most people continue to wear masks in Daniels Hall even after the children leave for their classes. The choir will be back soon, and the guidelines will be:

- *Daniels Hall on Sunday mornings* - Masks optional once the children leave for their classes. The choir will continue to wear masks.
- *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.

Some things will stay indefinitely:

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

As always, please speak with any member of the Task Force if you have questions or concerns.

#### Returning to Onsite Task Force

Nancy Loughrey	Beth Syverson
Rev. Sian Wiltshire	Meg Wilson
Marilyn Giss	Karen Magoon-Pearson
Debra Quam	



## 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](mailto: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! 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, September 4, 12:15 pm on Zoom...  
Find the Zoom meeting link on our website [calendar page](#).



### Thursday, September 1

Choir Rehearsal 7pm Daniels Hall

### Saturday, September 3

StitchWits, 10:30am on Zoom

### Sunday, September 4

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, September 5

OCUUC Fiction Book Group 7:00pm on Zoom

### Thursday, September 8

Choir Rehearsal 7pm Daniels Hall

### Saturday, September 10

StitchWits, 10:30am on Zoom

### Sunday, September 11

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 Victoria Room

### Monday, September 12

Anti-racism Reading Group, 7pm on Zoom

**Wednesday, September 14**

Comm. On Ministry, 6pm

**Thursday, September 15**

Choir Rehearsal 7pm Daniels Hall

**Saturday, September 17**

OWL Parents Orientation 9am Admin Building

StitchWits, 10:30am on Zoom

**Sunday, September 18**

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

OWL 12:30pm Suite 7

**Tuesday, September 20**

Caring Circle, 12:00pm on Zoom

**Wednesday, September 21**

Finance Council, 5pm on Zoom

**Thursday, September 22**

Choir Rehearsal 7pm Daniels Hall

**Saturday, September 24**

StitchWits, 10:30am on Zoom

Wild and Scenic Environmental Film Festival! 2pm & 6pm Daniels Hall

**Sunday, September 25**

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 12:00pm Victoria Room and Zoom

OWL 12:30pm Suite 7

**Monday, September 26**

Anti-racism Reading Group, 7pm on Zoom

**Wednesday, September 28**

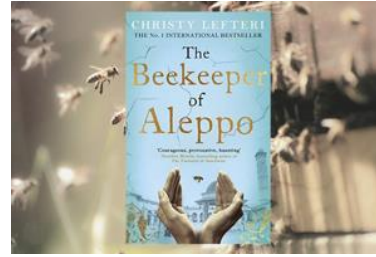
Cluster Meeting 10am Youth Room

Actionable Anti-racism Group 1pm on Zoom

Board of Trustees Mtg 7pm on Zoom

**Thursday, September 29**

Choir Rehearsal 7pm Daniels Hall

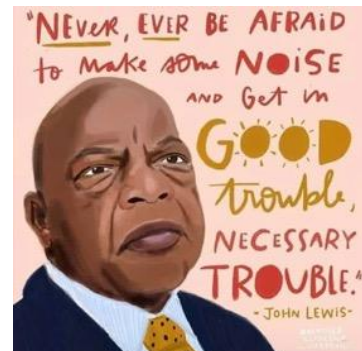


**FICTION BOOK GROUP**

The September selection for the Fiction Book Group is *The Beekeeper of Aleppo* by Christy Lefteri. If you'd like to read ahead, the October selection is *The House We Grew Up In* by Lisa Jewel.

Our group meets online at 7:00pm on Monday evening, Sept. 5th - Labor Day. You can find the link on the church website. All are welcome to join our usual lively discussions.

Co-chairs: Eva Goodwin-Noriega and Marcia Hackett



**GOOD TROUBLE CONGREGATION**

At our Annual Meeting in June, we agreed that we would like to be a "Good Trouble Congregation".

(<https://www.uuthevote.org/goodtroublecongregation/>).

One of the best ways we can live our values to is get personally involved in democracy and work on elections, whether it is getting out the vote or working on issues and campaigns. We are putting the final touches on getting this program together. Watch the upcoming Blasts for more information.



## ANTI-RACISM READING GROUP

The members of this group gather monthly on zoom to discuss individual and group anti-racism projects, get feedback and offer support. These projects include, among others, supporting and monitoring legislative action, engaging in UU initiatives, building congregational involvement, and community interaction. The meetings are open to interested persons. We meet the fourth Wednesday of the month at 1 p.m., closing no later than 2:30 p.m. For more information or to get the link to join, contact the Facilitator, Phyllis Daniel, at:

[phyllisdaniel@sbcglobal.net](mailto:phyllisdaniel@sbcglobal.net)



## 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](mailto: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 prepaid.



## SWEETS & VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

For the Environmental Film Festival

SEPTEMBER 24<sup>TH</sup> 2PM & 6PM

Looking for a few good bakers to donate a couple dozen of your favorite cookie, dessert bar, or brownie creation to be sold at the Environment Film Festival. Also looking for volunteers before or after the event to help with food and beverage set up and service. Contact Peggy at [peggyhepler@gmail.com](mailto:peggyhepler@gmail.com) if you can help.

## SEPTEMBER PLATE SHARE



### StandUp for Kids - Orange County

We work to provide basic needs, housing, mentoring support, care, and love to at-risk and homeless youth ages 12-24.

View our [Programs](#) page to learn how we are continuing to grow in the scope and quality of care we provide to our youth.

Youth that have been served include victims of abuse and/or neglect, LGBTQ youth, kids with disabilities, pregnant and parenting young people, and kids forced out of their homes. For information about Stand-Up for Kids visit [www.StandUpforKids.org](http://www.StandUpforKids.org)