

THE REACH

OCUUC'S MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

ORANGE COAST
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
CHURCH



SUNDAY SERVICES IN SEPTEMBER 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.

- September 3: London Calling
-- -KC Pandell
- September 10: Water Ceremony
--Rev. Sian with Wendy Karn
- September 17: Welcome Back?
-- Rev. Sian
- September 24: You're Welcome!
-- Rev. Sian

THE PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

Nancy Loughrey, President, Board of Trustees

I love Fall at OCUUC. Although our fiscal year started two months ago, it feels like a beginning.

Rev. Sian will be back, our new intern, Wendy Karn, will be starting, and we have so many exciting events coming up. It will be busy, and we will use it to transform our lives and communities by living our Principles. That is our mission! We will celebrate transitions, explore new ways to make a difference, and enjoy being together.

We will also celebrate Beth Syverson's transition from our Director of Music Ministries to a new career guiding people on adoption issues. We wish her all the best in her new venture and look forward to next year when she and Jan will be back in our community.

Change is exciting and unsettling all at the same time. We all react differently and let us remember to care for each other using our Principles with respect and love. We are an awesome community. I do believe we are on the threshold of becoming even more so!

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>



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

September 3: London Calling "A Unitarian Universalist and five Episcopalians walk into a pub..." KC Marie Pandell shares her experience on Bexley-Seabury seminary's "Learning from London" course, and the unexpected faith journey it brought.

KC Pandell

September 10: Water Ceremony! In our annual Water Ceremony, we welcome back Rev. Sian, welcome in Wendy, our new intern and we let go with our blessing, Beth, our Director of Music Ministries. What do you want to welcome in this year and lovingly let go of? Remember to bring water from someplace special for you to add to our community water. Symbolic water will also be provided.

Rev. Sian with Wendy Karn

September 17: Welcome back? What does it mean to be a "covenantal" faith in other parts of our lives - with family? Friends? Church? How do we forgive, reconcile, and create boundaries that help us all create a welcoming environment in all the places of our lives?

Rev. Sian

September 24: You're Welcome! Creating a welcoming congregation is not always easy, as people often want different things. How can we practice generosity of spirit in communities and help people with different backgrounds feel welcome?

Rev. Sian

FORMING FAITH

Religious Education News
Karen Magoon Pearson
Director of Religious Education

As we inch towards the end of the summer, I want to highlight the contributions of all the "guest makers" that shared their talents and passions with our children in the UU Maker Space over the past couple of months.

Linda Spery led us in some watercolor experimentation using eye droppers, which was fun and engaging for the kids.

Maureen McConaghy joined us for some woodworking, and each child got to make their own wooden car!

Barbara Morihito did origami with us and even taught us to make boxes out of old greeting cards.

Judith Stamper brought in her beading supplies and helped us make backpack charms for the new school year.

We are blessed to have such a wealth of talent in our congregation and even more so that we have people eager to share the gifts with our young people. Thank you all!

MUSIC NOTES

from Director of Music Ministries: Beth Syverson

Over the years I've written over 200 Reach articles, and this will be my last one. My time at OCUUC is quickly coming to a close. This transition brings about lots of emotions for me - gratitude, sadness, nostalgia, and excitement - all rolled in one.

The famous therapist Virginia Satir created what we now refer to as the *Satir Change Model*:

1. You start off with the **Status Quo**. Things are humming along predictably, everything is familiar.

2. Then a **Foreign Element** appears. It could be a new thought, an incident, something you heard on the radio - literally anything that comes in to disrupt the Status Quo. In this case, the Foreign Element is turning in my resignation to pursue my work as an adoptive parent coach.
3. The next stage is **Chaos** - which is the stage we are all in right now regarding the Music Director job. The search committee is searching for applicants, Susan S and Steve M are stepping in until one is found, and I am navigating a graceful exit. This stage is awkward and presents new difficulties that we are not used to. But it's a very necessary part of Change.
4. **Awareness of Choice** is the next stage. This is the fork in the road where some people revert back to the Status Quo, and others use their tool of Awareness to think of new solutions. We are all on the cusp of this stage relating to my job. We're each crafting a new paradigm - the church is redesigning their music ministries and I'm launching my new career. Things will be different - some things will be worse, some things will be better - and there are many choices along the way out of that Chaos stage that we can make. Let us conscientiously move forward with Courage and Wisdom.
5. The next stage is **Integration/Practice**. The new changes need to be integrated through repetition and conscious intentions. This is where the rubber meets the road. This stage requires some flexibility, discipline, and hope. Without dedicated work in this stage, it's very easy to revert back to old behavior or to become resentful of the Foreign Element.
6. And lastly, we come to a **New Status Quo**, which, after a while, will feel just as good or better than the previous Status Quo. We will become comfortable in our new situations until a new Foreign Element

comes along. Perhaps when OCUUC's new music director is hired this whole cycle will repeat itself.

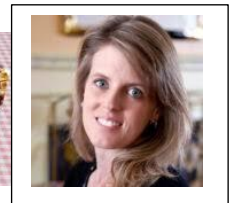
I find this Change Model to be very helpful when I'm in that uncomfortable Chaos phase. Knowing that it's a natural part of change gives me the drive to keep going forward.

I am so grateful for all the many wonderful experiences I've had here at OCUUC, the amazing people I've met here, the lessons I've learned, and the musical skills I've honed in this role. Whoever comes after me is very lucky, and I know you will all ride this wave of change like champions.

I will be keeping my distance from the church for a year, to allow time and space for the new leaders to find their footing. After my last day - September 10 - my church email will be re-routed to Steve M and Susan S. You are in very good hands with these two amazing musicians and leaders!

You will remain in *my* heart, and I hope you continue using music to drop down into *your* heart. I care deeply for this congregation and I wish you all the best.

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



♪ YOU'RE INVITED! ♪

We are holding a potluck luncheon to express our gratitude and love to Beth for uplifting our hearts for 22 years!

It will be held in Daniel's Hall on September 9th from 12-2pm.

Please bring your potluck contributions around 11:30am. Hope to see you there.



HONORING OUR PAST..
BUILDING OUR FUTURE

Many of you have invested in the new sanctuary project since we launched our capital campaign and follow-up fundraising outreach. While we have had obstacles, particularly from the local planning department, your sanctuary construction committee has "kept the faith" and has continued to work on your behalf to bring plans to reality. Many, many hours have been spent with our architect and other consultants to stay the course.

With our eye on our goal of creating the new sanctuary, your construction committee is united in our commitment to pledging major gifts from each committee member to move us toward the finish line.

By mid-September each of you will be receiving an invitation to consider a "Make It Happen" gift, joining the committee in this final push. We trust you will be generous in your response whether you participated in the original campaigns or are new to the congregation and have not yet been asked to make a contribution.

As I've said before, we will get there!

Nancy Loughrey,
Board President



COMING SOON: 5TH ANNUAL
WILD & SCENIC
FILM FESTIVAL

On Saturday, September 30th OCUUC will once again be the site of Orange County's only Wild & Scenic Environmental Film Festival On Tour in Orange County. This year's version of the one-day event will feature a variety of outstanding documentaries and short films highlighting environmental issues and adventures from around the world.



GUEST FILMMAKERS

Two guest filmmakers—**Josh "Bones" Murphy** of THE SCALE OF HOPE and **Carmen Morrow** of THE DUKHA--will be present to mix and mingle with attendees during intermission and will participate in Q&A sessions following the screening of their films. Drinks and snacks will be available in the courtyard at both the 2 p.m. matinee and 6 p.m. evening festival intermissions.

Additionally, local environmental groups will be present to provide information and encourage participation.

Tickets are available for \$25 per person at <https://secure.myvanco.com/YP19/home> or on Sundays at the Film Festival information table staffed by Meg Wilson and Linda Spery.

Here are brief descriptions of this year's films:



THE ROCK POOL WALTZ

The Rock Pool Waltz centers around a boy's affinity with nature which helps to ease his worries and loneliness during the COVID lockdown. This leads him to an incredible friendship with an unlikely creature from the ocean. This inspiring film brings awareness to our connection with nature and the importance of caring for our environment and the amazing creatures we share this world with.



SYM-BEE-O-SIS

In *sym-bee-o-sis*, scientists discover that the alliance between bees and plants depends on an unexpected third partner: microbes! But the chemicals we use in agriculture are putting this ancient partnership at risk.



THE SCALE OF HOPE

The Scale of Hope follows former Obama White House Climate Advisor, Molly Kawahata, as she prepares for a climb in the Alaska Range while struggling with mental illness and working

to create a new climate narrative framed around systemic change and hope.



GAME HAWKER

Shawn Hayes leads a life of devotion. For him, falconry is more than a deep partnership with raptors: it's his life's work. As an American falconry ambassador, he's carved a space for himself where people of color haven't always been welcome. It's taken him across the globe, into strongholds of tradition and conservation. This film is about more than what humans can train birds to do—it's about what those birds can teach us about living in partnership with wild creatures and wild places.



THE DUKHA

In the remote taiga of northern Mongolia live the Dukha, one of the last groups of nomadic reindeer herders in the world. Tuvshuu is five years old. He and his sisters help with their family's herd at the summer camp where the winds are cool and there's plenty of grass. Their way of life and knowledge of reindeer has been passed down for millennia, just as the shamanic myths surrounding their culture. With less than 40 Dukha families left in the world, Tuvshuu will have some big decisions ahead.

WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION OPENS @ OCUUC

OCUUC is proud to present an exhibition showcasing the outstanding work of Ukrainian professional photographer Iryna Obukhovska in our administration lobby. The exhibition is taking place in conjunction with the **5th Annual Wild & Scenic Film Festival** taking place on Saturday, September 30.

A special **"Meet the Photographer"** event will take place in the OCUUC lobby prior to the Festival from 5 to 7 p.m. on Thursday, September 28 to celebrate the opening of the new show. Everyone is invited to attend and bring a friend to meet Iryna and view her work, which will be available for purchase at the Film Festival. All sales proceeds will go to Iryna, who has been a part of OCUUC's Ukrainian refugee support program with her family and fellow refugees over the past year.

The exhibition will feature spectacular wildlife images captured by Iryna on her worldwide travels prior becoming a refugee in the United States. Before the war broke out in Ukraine in 2022, Iryna visited over 50 countries, from Chile and Afghanistan to Myanmar and Tanzania, where she conquered Kilimanjaro. Her photos have been published in print and online in media outlets including *Marie Claire* and *National Geographic*.

For more information about Iryna and her professional photography, visit www.saurlover.com



SEPTEMBER PLATE SHARE



One life at a time.

STAND UP FOR KIDS—ORANGE COUNTY serves homeless and at-risk youth and young adults aged 25 and under. Programs in Orange County offer street outreach, mentoring, housing support and so much more. Programs have the overall goal of leading homeless youth to self-sufficiency and preventing at-risk youth from gang involvement, substance abuse, teen pregnancy, and from dropping out of high school.

Youth that have been served include sexually exploited youth, 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

<https://www.standupforkids.org/who-we-are/>

33 YEARS OF SHOWING UP

We will always be here for these kids



Many Different Beliefs,
One Loving Community

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ocuuc.org



Saturday, September 2

StitchWits, 10:30am on Zoom

Sunday, September 3

Meditation, 9:45am Youth Rm & Zoom

Worship Service, 10:30am Daniels Hall &

Zoom

RE, 10:30am on Site

AHA Group, 12:15pm Victoria Room &

Zoom

Monday, September 4

Labor Day – Church office closed

Fiction Book Group 7:00pm on Zoom

Thursday, September 7

Choir Rehearsal, 7pm Daniels Hall

Saturday, September 9

StitchWits, 10:30am on Zoom

Potluck Luncheon for Beth, 12pm Daniels Hall

Sunday, September 10

Meditation, 9:45am Youth Rm & Zoom

Worship Service, 10:30am Daniels Hall &

Zoom

RE, 10:30am on Site

Writing Group, 11:45am Victoria Room

Dream Group, 12pm Suite 7

Monday, September 11

Anti-racism Reading Group, 7pm on Zoom

Wednesday, September 13

Comm. on Ministry 6pm

Thursday, September 14

Choir Rehearsal, 7pm Daniels Hall

Saturday, September 16

StitchWits, 10:30am on Zoom

Sunday, September 17

Meditation, 9:45am Youth Rm & Zoom

Worship Service, 10:30am Daniels Hall &

Zoom

RE, 10:30am on site

Nonfiction Book Club, 12:30pm on Zoom

Tuesday, September 19

Life Changes Group 12pm on Zoom

Sci Fi Group 7pm on Zoom

Wednesday, September 20

Finance Council, 5pm Zoom

Thursday, September 21

Choir Rehearsal, 7pm Daniels Hall

Saturday, September 23

Board Retreat, 9am Victoria Room

StitchWits, 10:30am on Zoom

Sunday, September 24

Meditation, 9:45am Youth Rm & Zoom

Worship Service, 10:30am Daniels Hall &

Zoom

RE, 10:30am on site

Women's Circle 12pm Victoria & Zoom

Monday, September 25

Anti-racism Reading Grp, 7pm on Zoom

Wednesday, September 27

Cluster Meeting, 10am Youth Room

Thursday, September 28

Wild and Scenic Film Festival Photography Exhibit, 5pm Administration Building

Choir Rehearsal, 7pm Daniels Hall

Saturday, September 30

Stitchwits, 10:30am on Zoom

Wild and Scenic Film Festival, 2pm and 6pm, Daniels Hall





Camp de Benneville Pines is our beloved UU camp. It hosts a number of different camp weeks and weekends throughout the year. Our church joins together every year with Tapestry from Mission Viejo. This year, our weekend is Oct. 6-8, 2023.

Come join us for fresh air, stars, games, friendship, great food, crafts, hiking, archery, a lake visit, canoe ride, worship, song, a massage, a facial and more.

Fill out a registration form now!

Registration form [Camp DeBenneville Pre-Registration for Oct 6-8, 2023](#)



STITCHWITS

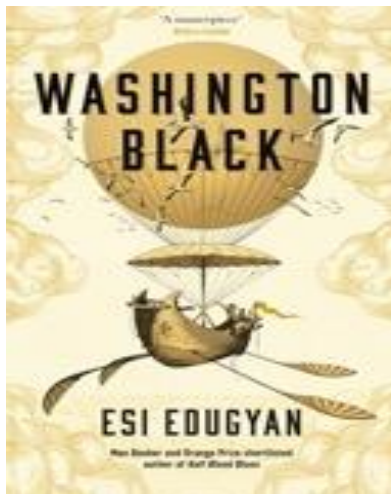
Do you knit, crochet, sew, or enjoy any other crafts? Do you believe in using your skills to help others? Then you might be a StitchWit! Stitchwits meet on Zoom every Saturday from 10:30am to 12:30pm and are knitting, crocheting, or sewing items for different needs. Find the Zoom link on our [website](#) 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 [website](#). **The Atheist/Humanist Group** meets on first Sundays at 12:15 p.m. on Zoom and in person in the Victoria Room. For more information, email programs@ocuuc.org



FICTION BOOK CLUB

The Fiction Book Group meets online on Labor Day, Monday Sept 4th at 7:00pm to discuss *Washington Black* by Esi Edugyan. Please join us for what is usually a lively discussion. Find the link on the church [website](#).

If you wish to plan ahead in your reading, our October book selection is *Horse* by Geraldine Brooks. Questions? Contact co-chairs Eva or Marcia.



MEDITATION GROUP

Our Meditation Group meets every Sunday at 9:45am, in person and on 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 [here](#)!

THE SEVEN PRINCIPLES OF UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISM

We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote:

The inherent worth and dignity of every person

Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations

Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations

A free and responsible search for truth and meaning

The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large

The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all

Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part

There are many ways to connect with our OCUUC community online



OCUUC.org website



Facebook Group Page

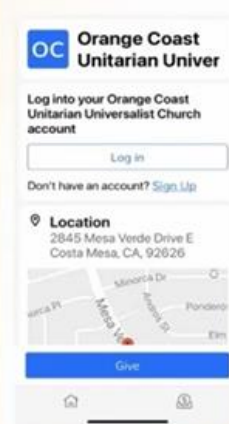


Methods to Give to OCUUC

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.

