

THE REACH

OCUUC'S MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

ORANGE COAST
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
CHURCH



SUNDAY SERVICES IN NOVEMBER 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.

November 5: For the Love of Pets!

--Rev. Sian

November 12: Good vs Evil

--Rev. Sian

November 19: Transgender Day of Remembrance and Resilience

--Wendy Karn, Intern Minister

November 26: Grin and Share It!

--Rev. Sian

THE PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

Nancy Loughrey, President, Board of Trustees

It is not *all* about the new Sanctuary! The OCUUC Board has been meeting monthly and talking about what it would like to see accomplished this church year (by June). We are energized by all the ideas and are using a tree analogy to focus our work.

First the Branches – we would love to extend our visibility and welcoming to the broader community. Developing a marketing plan, a path to membership, and improved signage are all in our branches.

The Trunk – ok, it is partly about new sanctuary. 😊 We are mindful that it will take board efforts. We are very hopeful that we will have congregation approval in December and have construction well under way by June.

The Roots – It has been a busy Fall, and we are mindful that we must always support our members and volunteers. Leadership training, engaging our membership in meaningful programs, and opportunities to get involved are part of the roots needed to sustain us.

We absolutely will not be able to do this alone. If you are interested in helping with any of these, please contact me at (president@ocucc.org) or any board member.

Nancy Loughrey

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

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

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

SIAN'S SHENANIGANS

From Our Minister: Rev. Sian Wiltshire



Generosity

Generosity, it is said, comes in many different forms. We say each Sunday that we are grateful for the time, treasure and talent of everyone - the generosity of everyone, really. But is it just time, treasure and talent?

I heard recently from a colleague that she was so impressed with our generosity toward our new Music Director. She had been so impressed that after loving Beth for so long, that we have been so open and embracing of Jakob. That, my dear congregants, is generosity of heart! Personally, I'm not surprised. You've always been that way. You welcomed me, you welcomed Rev. Judy, and Karen MP. Every Sunday you welcome new people into the life of this congregation. Every time you take a moment to introduce yourself or invite someone out to lunch; every time you bring a meal to someone in need or give a ride or do a "check in" phone call, that's generosity of heart. Every time you volunteer on Sunday morning or spend some time fixing up our building, you are giving your love to the congregation generously. And now that I think about it, every time you give to the Capital Campaign and our Pledge Drive is generosity of the heart.

Ok, Let's face it - generosity, in any of its forms comes from the heart. Because generosity is love. And again, let's face it, this congregation knows how to love! I felt it deeply at my 10-year anniversary celebration. I think about all the time, treasure, talent and love that

went into that and I'm overwhelmed. You do love, you do generosity so well!

Yours in generosity,

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

Nov. 5: For the Love of Pets! Today we celebrate our furry, feathered and scaly friends who bring so much love into our lives. You are invited to bring your pet for a blessing. If your pet would find it too stressful, you are welcome to bring a picture. Zoomers can show theirs off on camera! We will have a barking good time as we honor these beautiful beings in our lives! Rev. Sian

Nov. 12: Good vs. Evil. In honor of Diwali, the Hindu Festival of Lights, we will be exploring the concept of Good and Evil. How do we know as UUs what is good or evil? How do we define both? Come explore these concepts with Rev. Sian.

Nov. 19: Transgender day of Remembrance and Resilience has been observed annually on November 20 since 1999. This day memorializes transgender individuals who have been victims of violence and hate crimes because of their gender identity. As global day of mourning and activism, we will honor those who we have lost and examine how to best support and love our beloved transgender community. Wendy Karn, Intern Minister

Nov. 26: Grin and Share it! Cultivating generosity and gratitude sounds easy, but it isn't always when we have so many stressors in our lives. As we gear up for the holidays, how can we cultivate a feeling of generosity and gratitude without overwhelming ourselves? Rev. Sian.



Thursday, November 2

Choir Rehearsal, 7pm Daniels Hall

Saturday, November 4

Rea School Robotics Room volunteer day,
9:00am, Rea School

StitchWits, 10:30am on Zoom

Autumn Auction -Time to Tailgate 3:00pm
Daniels Hall

Sunday, November 5

Meditation Grp, 9:45am Youth Rm/ Zoom
Worship Service, 10:30am Daniels Hall &
Zoom

RE, 10:30am on Site

AHA Group, 12:15pm Victoria Rm & Zoom

Monday, November 6

Fiction Book Group 7:00pm on Zoom

Wednesday, November 8

Comm. on Ministry 6pm

Thursday, November 9

Choir Rehearsal, 7pm Daniels Hall

Saturday, November 11

StitchWits, 10:30am on Zoom

Sunday, November 12

Meditation Grp, 9:45am Youth Rm/ Zoom
Worship Service, 10:30am Daniels Hall &
Zoom

RE, 10:30am on Site

Writing Group, 12:00pm Victoria Room

Dream Group, 12pm Suite 7

Monday, November 13

Anti-racism Reading Group, 7pm on Zoom

Wednesday, November 15

Finance Council, 5pm Zoom

Thursday, November 16

Choir Rehearsal, 7pm Daniels Hall

Saturday, November 18

Board Meeting, 9am Victoria Room

StitchWits, 10:30am on Zoom

Memorial Service, Daniels Hall

Sunday, November 19

Meditation Grp, 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, November 21

Life Changes Group 12pm on Zoom

Wednesday, November 22

Cluster Meeting, 10am Youth Room

Thursday, November 23

Thanksgiving Day

Saturday, November 25

StitchWits, 10:30am on Zoom

Sunday, November 26

Meditation Grp, 9:45am Youth Rm & Zoom
Worship Service, 10:30am Daniels Hall and
on Zoom

RE, 10:30am on site

Women's Circle 12pm Victoria Rm & Zoom

Monday, November 27

Anti-racism Reading Group, 7pm on Zoom

Tuesday, November 28

Sci Fi & Philosophy Group 7pm on Zoom

Thursday, November 30

Choir Rehearsal, 7pm Daniels Hall



**HANDS-ON VOLUNTEER
OPPORTUNITY AT REA
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Saturday, November 4, is *Love Our Schools Day* in Costa Mesa. That morning, from about 9:00am to 1:00pm, a team of volunteers from OCUUC will meet at Rea Elementary School to set up the robotics room. We will be assembling the Ikea cabinets we have purchased and fastening Lego baseplates to the wall.

Come help out! Most of the work does not involve any heavy lifting. Sign up by emailing the Rea team, coordinated by [Maureen M.](#)



NEW SANCTUARY: GETTING TO GROUNDBREAKING

But I've already given enough! That is what I said when we realized how much the price of our new sanctuary had increased. I was right – I had. Tom and I made good pledges to both of the first two rounds of fundraising for the sanctuary. Then I realized that it was necessary, even critical, to get to our goal and I realized that I was willing to go farther. We have come so far, and the new sanctuary will be such a wonderful addition to our site. It is more than we imagined, but we must pay for it.

I celebrate that many of you have already been generous donors and also suspect you are saying the same things. We are coming soon to a point where we need to decide on our future.

We are having a special congregational meeting after the worship service on December 3. In the meantime, we are getting a final bid from our contractor and assembling the information we all will need to make a good decision. Money raised is one critical piece of information we will need. Please send your pledges to bur-sar@ocuuc.org or see us on the patio after church each Sunday until then.

For those of you who are new to the idea of a new sanctuary, we have been working for five years to build a new sanctuary where the two-story building is now. Prices increased during the pandemic and since, and the price is now \$2.7M. Our current Sanctuary Groundbreaking

campaign is working to raise the \$700,000 needed to cover the price increase. We need \$155,717 to get there. It takes a village!

Nancy Loughrey



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 Stitch-Wit! 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



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 calendar](#). **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 GROUP

For the first time in many moons the fiction book group will discuss a *science* fiction book at its Nov. 6th meeting online at 7:00pm. The book, "The Measure" by Nikki Erlick, explores the question of "If possible, do we *really* want to know *when* we will die?" The topic is bound to generate a very lively discussion, led by a volunteer leader. You can find the link to our meeting [here](#). Please join us.

Our book selection for Mon., Dec. 4th is THE DEAD ROMANTICS by Ashley Poston. Same time online.

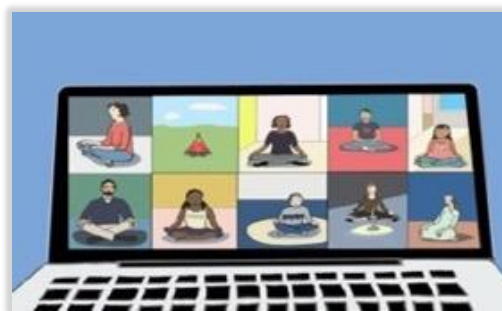
Co-chairs: Eva Goodwin-Noriega and Marcia Hackett



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

In our fast-paced culture, more than ever before we need to set time aside to quietly be in touch with ourselves and our surroundings in the present moment. True presence, termed mindfulness, is a quiet state of mind that, when practiced regularly, increases concentration, reduces stress and creates opportunities for significant personal growth over time.

Mindfulness practice allows us to set aside our worries, regrets and plans for a brief but important period of time, opening us up to refreshing, real elements of nature (both within us and around us!). As we all know, regular practice (for even very brief periods) is essential for turning a new skill into a healthy habit. Practicing with a group is always easier than developing this new skill on one's own. Please join us any Sunday before church service (9:45 – 10:20 AM in the Youth Room) for a brief meditation practice, followed by opportunity to briefly share something about our experience along the path. Newcomers are most welcome! In person and on Zoom. Link is [here](#).

Autumn Auction: Time to Tailgate



Autumn Auction: Saturday, Nov 4, 2023
3:00pm Check-in, cocktails, heavy hors d'oeuvres
4:00pm Auction



UU SENIOR HIGH WINTER CAMP

Registration is now open!
Wed, 12/27/2023 – Mon, 1/1/2024

Adult Deans: **Patti Buck & Mary Carter Vail**

Youth Deans: **Lilly Astudillo & Cady Cole**

Youth currently in 9th-12th grade are welcome and welcomed back to join us this winter at Camp Carry UUn. Campers will spend five nights/six days playing games and laughing with friends, both old and new! During camp, youth will have the opportunity to connect with one another during small group discussions and workshops, fun group events like our s'mores making party by the cozy lodge fire, the talent filled variety show, the always entertaining youth auction, and the festive New Year's Eve dance!

Here's how our Youth Deans describe this year's theme:

"Life after high school can be a daunting thing to think about, even for the most courageous individuals. Letting go of childhood and heading into the unknown terrain of adulthood is often a confusing experience that many high-schoolers can relate to. Camp Carry UUn will provide a safe and welcoming space for campers to talk about the future with other people their age, preparing for important moments in life as we welcome in the new year together!"

Campers can learn and unwind together during the many bonding opportunities camp offers! As usual for winter camp up in the mountains, prepare for snow, hot chocolate, and building snow people! We hope to see you there :)

Youth Deans,
Lilly and Cady"

NOVEMBER 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 younger. 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/>





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3:00pm Check-in, cocktails, heavy hors d'oeuvres
4:00pm Auction

Don't forget to come
to the Auction!

This is a great way to
support the church,
get to know people,
have a wonderful time,
and fill your social cal-
endar for months!

We just need you to be
there!

Saturday, November 4

3PM Check in,
Cocktails and
Heavy hors
d'oeuvres

4pm Live Auction
begins, fun
continues!

There are many ways to connect with our OCUUC community online



OCUUC.org website



Facebook Group Page

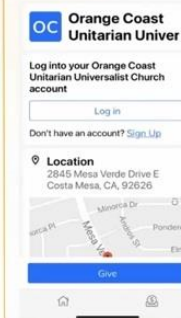


Methods to Give to OCUUC

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.

