

**THE REACH**  
OCUUC'S MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

ORANGE COAST  
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST  
CHURCH



### SUNDAY SERVICES IN DECEMBER 2021

*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.*

December 5: Finding Joy	Rev. Sian Wiltshire
December 12: Joy to the World	Rev. Sian Wiltshire
December 19: Both Sides of Addiction	Joel Ibanez & Meg Wilson
December 26: Fire Communion	Rev. Judy

**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

I have a mixed feelings about December. I love the community, shared rituals, seeing family and friends, and reconnecting with the legacies provided by them. I dislike the busyness, the obligation to buy “meaningful and welcome” presents, and the stress of getting “it” all done. Even though I am no longer engaged for pay, it is still daunting.

This season, I wish all the things I love to each of you. We should all be so blessed. I give you each permission to let go of the things that do not bring you joy! I’m going to try to take it for myself, and hope you will, too. December has so much to offer if we can just appreciate it.

Be safe, be well. We will get there together!

Nancy

### SIAN'S SHENANIGANS

From Our Minister: Rev. Sian Wiltshire

December can be a busy month for ministers. Not only do we have additional services like Christmas Eve and the Winter Solstice Singing Ritual, but there is all the normal planning around Christmas that goes on. I admit, I tend to get a little humbug and hunker down, resenting the need to shop, to

hit the malls and post office. Until two years ago.

Before the pandemic hit, Rev. Judy, when she was our Director of Religious Education, asked me "so are we having a Christmas party for the staff?" My first thought was "bah humbug!" But she seemed so disappointed at my resistance, that I organized a luncheon for us all to get together and have a Christmas gathering. And you know what? It made me feel better! I felt the joy of it – laughing and joking with my wonderful staff, thanking them for all the hard work they had done the previous year. Christmas didn't feel like then something I had to get through, but something I could embrace.

I remember that now and look forward to it. Sometimes letting go and embracing the craziness is all that is needed to find the joy.

Wishing you love and joy this holiday season.

Rev. Sian



## WORSHIP IN DECEMBER 2021

*Please note that given the changing nature of the world, topics may change to address the needs of our times. Below are the topics currently being considered.*

**Dec. 5th: Finding Joy.** We often mix up happiness and joy, but they are different. Come join Rev. Sian as she explores how to find those moments of joy in our daily lives. Rev. Sian

**Dec. 12th: Joy to the World.** Who would have thought that Joy would be an act of resistance? Come learn about Pleasure Activism and how joy is an act of justice. Rev. Sian

**Dec. 19th: Both Sides of Addiction:** Come hear Joel Ibanez and Meg Wilson as they share personal stories and lessons about being part of AA and Al-Anon.

**Dec. 24th: Christmas Eve Service** in Daniels Hall. Both online and in person, we celebrate Christmas Eve with the stories and songs of our childhood. Children are welcome to be in the service, masked (if over 2 years old), as there will be no childcare available.

**Dec. 26th: 4th Annual Fire Communion service.** We will sit in the liminal transition space of the ending of 2021 and the beginning of 2022. This has been a year of reemerging and receding; a back-and-forth year. Many people are yearning for the waiting to be over and for a new beginning. Let's take some time for deep reflection letting go of what has been as we prepare for what will be. Rev. Judy



## 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, if you are attending the service in person, you may write your joy or sorrow for in-person share.

## FORMING FAITH

Religious Education News

Karen Magoon Pearson

Director of Religious Education

Throughout November, we all shared in the theme of Holding History. In our Religious Education program, that involved a lot of “truthful telling” and honesty about some painful parts of our nation’s past. These truths can be very difficult for adults to share with children and youth and doing so in a developmentally appropriate way can be a challenge. Nevertheless, my goal for our program is to push forward boldly, past our own hang ups as adults, and be honest with our children about the hard things in our history (and our present) in a way that we ourselves did not always experience in our youth.

This search for the true history is reflected in our Fourth Principle: “A free and responsible search for truth and meaning” and our proposed Eighth Principle: “Journeying toward spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions.” Our faith has taken up this work and called on white UU’s to be especially vigilant about the work of correcting stories that have caused harm. It is only through truth-telling that we can bring about healing.

One topic we told the truth about with our younger group this month was Native American residential schools. Beginning in the 1870s and continuing into the 1980s, boarding schools were created to “educate” Native Americans about Western culture. Children—some as young as five years old—were removed from their homes and sent away. Families who resisted were threatened with legal punishment.

The schools were deliberately located far from home. It was thought that separating children from their communities would make the assimilation process faster and more complete. Forced to abandon their Native American beliefs, clothing, and customs, and to learn and speak only English, the children were stripped of their Native American identity, culture, and history. Physical abuse, malnutrition, and other horrific conditions were common. Generations of Native American children were traumatized by their experiences, and the repercussions of this national travesty are still being felt, as highlighted by [this article](#) that discusses how the loss of Native American languages has been accelerated due to the pandemic. Although many communities are now working to reclaim, revitalize, and preserve their rich and diverse cultures, some languages and traditions have been lost forever.

This truthful telling is important work. What could you learn more about to challenge the historical lies you grew up with? Is there a child or youth in your life with whom you could share some truth?



### MUSIC NOTES, HOLIDAY EDITION

It's that time of year when the holidays bunch up like homework assignments when your teacher realizes they have more content to get through than there are weeks left in the semester.

If you missed it (or if you want to watch it again), here is the link to our annual appearance in the NMIIC Thanksgiving Interfaith Music Celebration from November 21: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dX3POp\\_6Cfs&t=2728s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dX3POp_6Cfs&t=2728s) I produced the event

again this year, and it was such a pleasure to work with musicians from so many different faiths: Christian, Mormon, Hindu, Muslim, Christian Science, Sikh, Jewish, Baha'i, and of course UU. Our choir presented our train-themed video "Amazing Gratitude" at the event. Check it out!

Next up is the Winter Solstice Singing Ritual. This year, we will be doing a hybrid service, with most of the music from last year's videos, but with narration, readings, the altar, and candlelight happening live in Daniels Hall. Our Winter Solstice service is legendary! If you haven't ever attended, this year you can attend in person or online. The Solstice service will be Saturday, December 18 at 7pm, at our usual Zoom number.

For Christmas Eve, we will be presenting a more traditional "lessons and carols" type service, with lots of congregational singing of our favorite Christmas carols (with the original words). The choir is preparing a beautifully nostalgic song for a special video for Christmas Eve. I am looking for family Christmas photos from your childhood. Please email me digital copies of your favorite Christmas memories by December 15. The choir will sing our traditional "Peace, Peace" live with candlelight as well. Our Christmas Eve service will also be a hybrid service, so you can choose which way you'd like to attend.

After all these festivities are over, I will be away for several weeks on a sabbatical, until March 14, 2022. Steve Morihiro, Barbara Morihiro, and Sarah Hunter are working closely with me this month to get things ready for when I'm away, and they will be coordinating all the worship music while I'm gone. Thank you, Dream Team! The choir will continue to rehearse on Thursday nights (now hybrid from Daniels Hall) with one or more sub choir directors that we'll bring in. It's always good to learn from other people. I

just want to assure everyone that quality music-making will continue while I'm on my sabbatical. I plan to return refreshed, renewed, and inspired to change the world through our art-making.

If you'd ever like to be involved in the choir or as an instrumentalist, please let me know and I'll plug you in.

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



## ZOOM SOCIAL HOUR!

FRIDAY, DEC. 3, 10, AND 17<sup>TH</sup>

5:30PM - 7:30PM (VIA 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](#).



PACIFIC WESTERN REGION (PWR) Regional Assembly is that inspirational, radically inclusive, beyond-the-congregation UU community we've missed.

February 4-6, we can engage fully, wherever we are. Whether onsite at the Hyatt along the bay in San Diego, or online in the



comfort of our own homes, we will have opportunities for connection in small groups, inspirational worship, transformative learning, and just plain community fun. [Join in the community](#)



WHERE? ...

## VIRTUAL AND SAN DIEGO

Hyatt Regency Mission Bay, 1441 Quivira Road, San Diego, California You can [explore the venue directly](#); for our group rate, please make [Hotel Reservations \(Hyatt.com\)](#)



## HOME FOR REFUGEES

January 2022

On Sunday, November 21, Rev. Sian proposed that the church "adopt" a refugee family through the organization Home For Refugees, based in Irvine. The organization puts together teams of people who work with a refugee family to get it settled.

There will be an information session in January. If you did not already sign up to hear more about it in January and would like to, please contact Rev. Sian at [revsian@ocuuc.org](mailto:revsian@ocuuc.org) and she will put you on the list. This

only obligates you for attending the information session. Once we hear more, we will form the core team(s). For more information see: [www.homeforrefugeesusa.org](http://www.homeforrefugeesusa.org).



## HAVE YOU BOUGHT YOUR COOKBOOK?

Copies of "Cooking With Love" are selling quickly but still available for holiday gift giving. \$20 check or cash. Available during the coffee hour in the courtyard or contact [lin-daspery@gmail.com](mailto:lin-daspery@gmail.com). ALL proceeds go to sanctuary capital campaign.



## FLOWERS FOR SUNDAY SERVICES

If you would like to sign-up for flowers, please see **Jamie Pendarvis** or email [jpendarvis@mac.com](mailto:jpendarvis@mac.com). You can bring your own flowers or we can purchase them for you at a cost of \$25 cash prepaid.

Many Different Beliefs,  
One Loving Community

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Costa Mesa, CA 92626  
714-556-2882

P.O. Box 3770  
Costa Mesa, CA 92628  
[ocuuc.org](http://ocuuc.org)



Some events are Online

**Wednesday, December 1**

Antiracism book discussion, 3:30pm on Zoom

**Thursday, December 2**

Choir Rehearsal, 7pm Daniels Hall/ Zoom

**Friday, December 3**

Social Hour, 5:30pm on Zoom

**Saturday, December 4**

StitchWits, 10:30am on Zoom

Youth Group Baking 12:30pm Kitchen

**Sunday, December 5**

Meditation Group, 9:45am Youth Room and Zoom

Worship Service, 10:30am Daniels Hall and Zoom

RE in the Park, Youth Group onsite 10:30am

AHA Group, 12:15 pm on Zoom

Dream Group, 12:30pm Suite 4

**Tuesday, December 7**

OCUUC Fiction Book Group 7:30pm on Zoom

**Wednesday, December 8**

Finance Council, 5:00pm on Zoom

**Thursday, December 9**

Choir Rehearsal, 7pm Daniels Hall/ Zoom

**Friday, December 10**

Social Hour, 5:30pm on Zoom

**Saturday, December 11**

StitchWits, 10:30am on Zoom

Women's Circle Holiday Party, 1pm on Zoom

**Sunday, December 12**

Worship Service, 10:30am Daniels Hall and Zoom

RE in the Park, Youth Group onsite 10:30am

Nonfiction Book Club, 12:30pm on Zoom  
**Wednesday, December 15**

Board of Trustees Meeting, 7pm on Zoom

**Thursday, December 16**

Choir Rehearsal, 7pm Daniels Hall/Zoom

**Friday, December 17**

Social Hour, 5:30pm on Zoom

**Saturday, December 18**

StitchWits, 10:30am on Zoom

Winter Solstice Singing Ritual, 7pm in Daniels Hall and on Zoom

**Sunday, December 19**

Meditation Group, 9:45am Youth Room and Zoom

Worship Service, 10:30am Daniels Hall and Zoom

RE in the Park, Youth Group onsite 10:30am

**Tuesday, December 21**

Caring Circle, 12:00pm on Zoom

**Thursday, December 23**

Choir Rehearsal, 7pm Daniels Hall/ Zoom

**Friday, December 24**

7:00pm Christmas Eve Service in Daniels Hall and on Zoom

**Saturday, December 25**

Christmas Day

**Sunday, December 26**

Worship Service, 10:30am Daniels Hall and Zoom

RE in the Park, Youth Group onsite 10:30am

**Thursday, December 30**

Choir Rehearsal, 7pm Daniels Hall/Zoom

**Friday, December 31**

Social Hour, 5:30pm on Zoom



## NEW SANCTUARY CAPITAL CAMPAIGN YEAR END UPDATE

As you make your year-end financial planning decisions, please keep in mind your new sanctuary capital campaign pledges.

To date we have received 97% of the pledges made in the first round of the campaign beginning in fall 2018. We are grateful for those of you who have generously fulfilled your commitments with payments either paid in full or spread over the three years of the pledge.

If you need more information about your first-round pledge and the amount still due, please contact either bursar Tom Loughrey or me.

Our 2020 relaunch campaign pledge commitments to bolster phase one of the campaign are coming in strong also, currently at over 55%. Thank you to everyone who has honored their relaunch pledge and have even exceeded their original dollar amount.

Of course, we WELCOME additional pledges and gifts of any amount, large and small, to the capital campaign. The more we give, the less we will need to borrow as we begin incurring greater expenses in 2022 as the project moves into high gear.

Any questions? Please contact me at [lin-daspery@gmail.com](mailto:lin-daspery@gmail.com) or 562-212-5317.



## DECEMBER SANCTUARY UPDATE

The sanctuary committee met with the architect, domusstudio, on November 10 on Zoom to discuss project status and information requested by the City of Costa Mesa for approval of the Development Review Plan. Committee members who worked on the original new sanctuary plan back in 2013 were able to access important documents from that project including the shared parking agreement with Piecemakers and Torrelli Real Estate. Additionally, we contacted Dig Alert to verify that the location of the existing underground utilities would not affect construction of the new building. Verification was received that there were no issues with the utilities.

Another important step in the project took place on November 19 when project lead architect David Keitel and I met at Costa Mesa City Hall with Associate Planner Katelyn Walsh and Assistant Planner Jarrod Coleman. Due to COVID restrictions, this was the first in person meeting held with the planners. All prior communications between our architects and the City planners have taken place via e-mail, phone and Zoom. During this important meeting we provided feedback in writing and verbally to address any outstanding issues on the Development Review Plan.

David requested that building plans be allowed to be submitted concurrently as the planning requirements go forward for review, which is dependent on the parking



analysis element of the project. Katelyn indicated she hoped to follow through on the parking analysis and other items before she turned over the project lead to Jarrod, who will be replacing her on City staff as she heads to other employment. She also indicated they hoped to make a site visit before her departure.

The next Zoom meeting of the entire committee and architectural team will be held on December 1. Work will continue on tying down all the details for approval so that the building permit can be obtained and the project can move forward according to schedule with demolition and groundbreaking in February.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns about the project, please contact me at [craigsperry@aol.com](mailto:craigsperry@aol.com).



### 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!

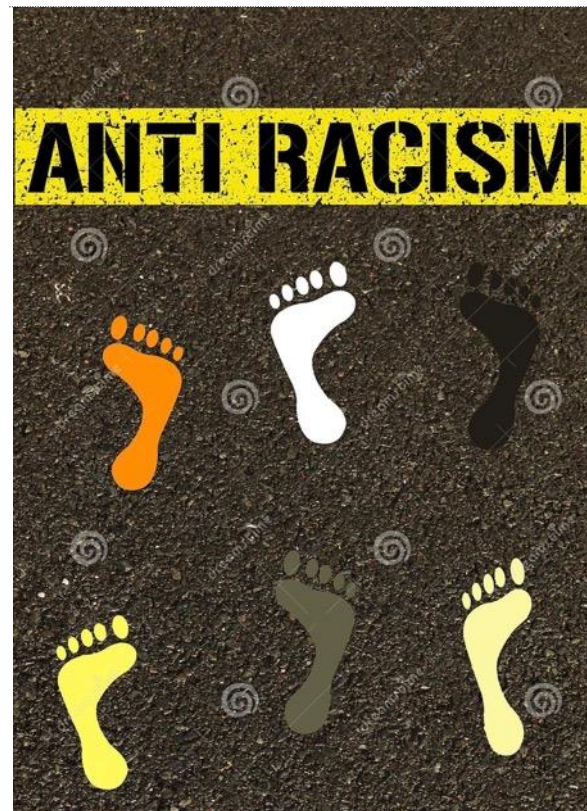
Stitchwits meet on Zoom every Saturday from 10:30am to 12:30pm and are knitting, crocheting, or sewing items for Stand Up for Kids.

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).



The Atheist/Humanist Group meets on first Sundays at 12:15pm on Zoom. 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 integral parts of the nature of the cosmos.

For more information, email [programs@ocuuc.org](mailto:programs@ocuuc.org).



### SOURCES ON ANTI-RACISM

*Sources on Anti-Racism* is a weekly blog that contains a list of articles, time-sensitive virtual events and other resources compiled by **Ralph Haller**. The intent is to provide our



community with selected sources on anti-racism to help in our yearning for racial justice and equity as an outgrowth of our seven Principles. Please check out Ralph's latest post: <https://ocuuc.org/sourcesonantiracism>



## WOMEN'S CIRCLE HOLIDAY PARTY

Join us on Saturday, December 11 at 1pm for our annual Holiday Party, this year again on Zoom. We will celebrate tradition with do-it-yourself "crackers":

1. Make yourself a paper crown (festive wrapping paper works well).
2. Give yourself a gift and share what it is.
3. Bring a joke to tell.
4. Ask a trivia question we can guess at.
5. Share a fun fact (perhaps about UU's!).

Be sure to pour a glass of holiday cheer of your choice and feel free to indulge in snacks during our party. All are welcome for good times, good laughs.

Holiday Party Zoom link [here](#).

The Women's Circle meets on the fourth Sunday every month (except December) in the Victoria Room and on Zoom. Find the monthly Zoom meeting link [here](#). Contact [Peggy Priver](#) or the church administrator if you have any questions. See you there!



## MEDITATION GROUP

Our OCUUC Meditation Group meets every 1st and 3rd Sunday in the Youth Room and on Zoom. Meditation and mindfulness practice are so important for our well-being! Please join our community before Church on Sunday, from 9:45am to 10:20am. We will conduct a short but nourishing guided meditation, then share our experiences along the path. All are welcome!



## RETURNING TO ONSITE POLICY UPDATES

*The Returning to Onsite Task Force continues to monitor the status of infections and hospitalizations in Orange County as well as guidance from scientific organizations. We have added carbon dioxide monitors and increased ventilation in Daniels Hall and have been able to encourage masked singing by everyone in the room. We are also sanctioning eating indoors as long as food is served by just a few servers.*

*We are requiring that anyone coming on-site to be fully vaccinated if a vaccine is available for them. It is the honor system, no one wants to worry about cards. It also won't be perfect - we will still welcome visitors, and children with their vaccinated parents.*

- Indoors - Masks are still required for all indoor activities. We have resumed singing with masks in Daniels Hall.

- Outdoors - Masks and physical distancing will be encouraged but not required outside on Sundays after the service. Coffee will be available. Each person must monitor and maintain their own comfort level. The courtyard is a special place, and it is easy to flip back to pre-COVID practices. Let's keep each other safe!

*The Omicron mutation is too new for information on changing our policies at this point, but of course we will be monitoring its status.*

Be safe, be well!  
Nancy Loughrey

## DECEMBER PLATE SHARE



### HEARTS AND HANDS...

**Hearts and Hands** is sponsored by the Newport Mesa Irvine Interfaith Council. For 20 years various groups (scouts, churches, sororities, etc.) have been organizing hands-on projects for the community to

assist with. These projects help various charities, both local and overseas.

OCUUC's project will provide Christmas stockings to teenage residents of shelters in Orange County. Any funds not used for Hearts and Hands will go to Share Ourselves Food Pantry.

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### SPIRIT OF GIVING THIS SEASON

Think how nice it would be to receive a hand-decorated stocking with a note of encouragement and a few toiletries and toys.

OCUUC will be providing these tokens of friendship and caring for 30 teenagers in Orange County shelters this holiday season. We will be coordinating with Mercy House and The Newport-Mesa-Irvine Interfaith Council. Here's how you can participate:

1. **Donate funds for Stockings** – Hearts and Hands is our December plate share.

2. **Be Santa's Helper** - Provide the gifts. For a list of suggestions, please go to our website - <https://ocuuc.org/community/social-justice/giving-to-others/> We will be collecting your gifts at Church after service December 5th and 12th.

3. **Be an Elf** and put the gifts in the stockings – OCUUC youth will be assembling the stocking in December at Church. Come join us!

Contact Judith Stamper at:

[juudithstamper@gmail.com](mailto:juudithstamper@gmail.com)

with your questions, comments and offers to help. This is one of the most valuable outreach projects we do.

Thank you for caring.

**Be safe, be well,  
You mean the world to me.  
Be safe, be well,  
You mean the world to me.  
- Words by Dan Berggren**