



## SUNDAY SERVICES IN DECEMBER 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.*

- Dec. 4: Wonders of the Universe  
– Rev. Sian Wiltshire
- Dec. 11: “What a Wonderful World!”  
– Donna McCartney
- Dec. 18: The Wonderful, Amazing Human Body  
– Rev. Sian Wiltshire
- Dec. 24: Christmas Eve Service  
– Rev. Sian Wiltshire
- Dec. 25: UUs and the Battle for Christmas  
– Linda and Craig Sperry

## THE PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

Nancy Loughrey, President, Board of Trustees

### Are We Getting Close?

Yes! But we aren't there yet. Our building drawings for our new sanctuary for their second review the day after Thanksgiving, which means we hopefully have very few changes left to be done. Our architect is also supplying those drawings to our contractor so they can prepare an accurate bid. Yippee!

Now for the hard part. The Sanctuary Construction Committee and the Board have been watching carefully. Given that it has been almost two years since we got the last bid and that the City is requiring us to add some more improvements than we originally proposed, we are anticipating a price increase. The question is, how much? We won't know until we get that proposal from the contractor. However, we are getting ready. The contractor is ready to go once we sign a contract. However, we know we may need time to consider the proposal.

On Sunday, December 11th, there will be a **Town Hall Meeting to present our current situation.** We may or may not have a bid by then, but it should be useful to understand our resources and options. We are also calling a Special Congregation Meeting for Sunday, January 8th after church as necessary. The January 8th date is tentative. If the bid is low, we won't need it, or if it is very high, leadership may need more time to prepare. Please mark it on your calendar as it is likely.

A dark blue rectangular box. At the top, 'ORANGE COAST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH' is written in white, bold, sans-serif font. To the right is a stylized flame logo. Below the text, 'Many Different Beliefs, One Loving Community' is written in a smaller white font. At the bottom left is a white video camera icon inside a blue circle. To its right, 'JOIN FOR OUR SERVICES SUNDAYS AT 10:30' is written in white, bold, sans-serif font, with the Zoom link 'https://zoom.us/j/3931579606' below it.

I'm really looking forward to 2023. In addition to the construction, we have some celebrations to anticipate. It will be ten years since Rev. Sian became our minister and ten years since we moved from Victoria Street to our current site. Don't miss the service on December 4<sup>th</sup> – we will be celebrating 50 years of membership for Jeanne Criss and Shirley Thorne. There will be cake!

Nancy Loughrey  
[president@ocuuc.org](mailto:president@ocuuc.org)

journal and, as she predicted, it became a new Christmas tradition.

I think about that image of the children staring in wonderment at the beauty and surprise of that tree and remember times when I have felt that way. And so my Christmas wish for you is that your holiday season is filled the wonderment of beauty and surprises!

With love,  
Rev. Sian



### WONDER

There is a lovely story I read recently about the history of the Christmas tree. Christmas trees were brought over to the US by German immigrants, but they were made famous by Harriet Martineau, a writer and abolitionist, who had been invited to the family of Rev. Charles Follen, a Unitarian, to stay with them over Christmas. Charles and his wife had secretly brought a tree into the house (usually Christmas trees were outside) unbeknownst to their three young children and had decorated it with candles and toys. After dinner that evening, the doors to the living room were thrown open and the children who had been running around as children do, stopped in their tracks and stared in wonder at the amazing sight of that tree, all lit up and glowing. Martineau wrote about the event in a popular women's



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**Dec. 4: Wonders of the Universe.** The Webb Telescope is revolutionizing how we see the Universe and creating even more wonders than we ever imagined. Come join and gaze in wonder at the amazing Universe we are a part of! Rev. Sian

**Dec. 11: "What a Wonderful World!"** The Oxford Dictionary defines "wonder" as "a feeling of surprise mingled with admiration, caused by something beautiful, unexpected, unfamiliar or inexplicable." Let's take a deep dive into the meaning of wonder. Let's explore some steps we can take to focus on wonder. As Louis Armstrong sang, "What a Wonderful World!" What can we do right now as UUs to help create this world? Donna McCartney

**Dec. 18: The Wonderful, Amazing Human Body!** Today we celebrate and learn about this human body, in all its amazing glory. We also honor our OWL participants as they graduate. Rev. Sian with Karen Magoon-Pearson, Director of Religious Education

**Dec. 24: Christmas Eve Service.** Come join us for our annual Christmas Eve service filled with stories, poetry, and wonderful music and songs. Rev. Sian

**Dec. 25: UU's and the Battle for Christmas.** Join us on Christmas Day as we turn back the clock and find out how both the Unitarians and the Universalists were instrumental in making the celebration of Christmas a reality "back in the day." You'll learn how three Unitarian ministers played major roles in shaping Christmas traditions that still hold true for us in America today, from carols to Christmas trees. Linda and Craig Sperry. *Note that this service will be in person only.*



First a word of gratitude to Steve Morihiro and Susan Shaw, who have often been leading the music on my days off. They are consistent, conscientious, talented, and collaborative. We're so lucky to have these two willing to be leaders in our church!

I also want to give a shout-out to the tech crew - Avery Brown, our awesome weekly Audio Engineer, plus all the volunteers who run the camera, run the slideshow, act as Zoom MC, and create the slideshows. There are about 15 of you rotating through each week of the month. You are so reliable and dedicated to your jobs. Thank you so much! Your quality work behind-the-scenes

helps us have meaningful and memorable worship services.

And thanks to our dedicated choir, who have been happily rehearsing on-site and on Zoom since August. As we emerge out of the Covid quarantine, our on-site choir is smaller than it usually is, but I am sure as time goes on more folks will come sing with us. If any of you would like to join the choir, just email me and I'll give you all the details.

This year, because our choir is so small, we sadly are not able to produce the Winter Solstice Singing Ritual like we usually do. I know this is a beloved tradition for some of you - and for the choir. So instead, on Thursday, December 15, around 8pm, the choir is going to do a sing-along version with the video we created 2 years ago. If any of you who really, really love the solstice service want to join us for a very informal, karaoke-type version of the service, you're welcome to join us.

As we make our way through the rest of the holidays of 2022, do take care of yourself. Play your favorite music and fill your days with the holiday traditions that make you happy.

Musically Yours,  
Beth Syverson

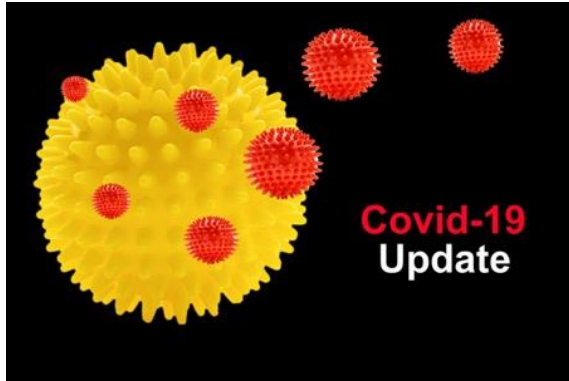
[MusicDirector@ocuuc.org](mailto:MusicDirector@ocuuc.org)



## 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.



Fall has been a time of low serious infections. However, the Orange County hospitalizations from COVID doubled in the last week and flu and RSV are upon us. The Task Force feels it is not the time to relax. We are hopeful that Spring will be the right time.

We will continue to require masks in Daniels Hall on Sundays until the children go to their classes and in the RE/Admin Building. Masks are optional at other times in buildings and outside anytime. One of the few benefits of all this is that we are all better at staying home if we are sick. We will get there!

Returning to Onsite Task Force

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



## UUA BYLAWS, PRINCIPLES AND PURPOSES

In September 2022, with the assistance of our new Outreach Team, the Article II Study Commission scheduled ten Zoom sessions at various times for people to look at draft language and discuss it. The feedback collected aided the Study Commission who are crafting a [full draft of Article II \(PDF, 3 Pages\)](#). For the latest draft and more information:

<https://www.uua.org/uuagovernance/committees/article-ii-study-commission>



SUNDAY, DEC. 11

12:00 NOON

Latest updates on status of the new sanctuary!





## FIRST AMENDMENT AUDITORS

There has been a recent surge in activity by self-styled First Amendment Auditors in Orange County. They appeared at another UU Church in Fullerton last Sunday. These are people who try to provoke reactions from police and government officials in order to video them and put them out to the public. The police are now wise to their tactics and refuse to engage as long there is no trespass, assault or other activity that is illegal. Please remember that the first amendment applies to governments and not private individuals or organizations.

The Orange County Sheriff's Department considers these people a very low threat and an annoyance. Their advice is to ignore them as much as possible. If they stay off the property, they have a right to be there unless they block access in or out. If they come onto the property we can ask them to leave. If they disrupt the service we will respond by calling 911. Remember, these groups have never been violent. Their goal is to try to goad the police into suppressing their first amendment rights. If we ever have the misfortune to attract this group to our sanctuary, I hope we can provide them with a flat, boring experience unworthy of a YouTube video.

Alan Block  
Safety Committee

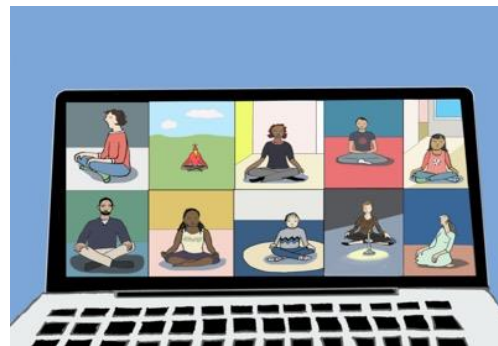


## STITCHWITS

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 — via Zoom. Meditation and mindfulness practice are so important for our well-being! Please join our community via Zoom. 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](#)!



**Thursday, December 1**

Choir Rehearsal 7pm Daniels Hall & Zoom

**Saturday, December 3**

StitchWits, 10:30am on Zoom

**Sunday, December 4**

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

RE & Youth Group, 10:30am on site

AHA Group, 12:15pm on Zoom

Owl Class 1:00pm Suite 7

**Monday, December 5**

OCUUC Fiction Book Grp 7:00pm on Zoom

**Thursday, December 8**

**Deck the Hall** – Daniels Hall! Campus decorating, 2pm

Choir Rehearsal 7pm Daniels Hall & Zoom

**Saturday, December 10**

StitchWits, 10:30am on Zoom

Women's Circle Holiday Party, 12pm on Zoom

**Sunday, December 11**

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

RE & Youth Group, 10:30am on site

Writing Club, 11:45am Victoria Room

**Town Hall Meeting, 12:00pm Daniels Hall**

Owl Class 1:00pm Suite 7

**Monday, December 12**

Actionable Anti-racism Grp, 7pm on Zoom

**Wednesday, December 14**

Finance Council, 5pm on Zoom

Comm. On Ministry 6pm

**Thursday, December 15**

Choir Rehearsal 7pm Daniels Hall & Zoom

**Saturday, December 17**

StitchWits, 10:30am on Zoom

Hanukkah Party, Daniels Hall 5pm

**Sunday, December 18**

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

RE & Youth Group, 10:30am on site

Nonfiction Book Club, 12:30pm on Zoom

**Tuesday, December 20**

Caring Circle 12pm on Zoom

**Wednesday, December 21**

Moviegoers, (TBD) Regency South Coast  
Board of Trustees, 7pm Victoria Room

**Thursday, December 22**

Choir Rehearsal 7pm Daniels Hall & Zoom

**Saturday, December 24**

StitchWits, 10:30am on Zoom

**Christmas Eve Service 7pm Daniels Hall**

**Sunday, December 25**

Worship Service, 10:30am Daniels Hall and on Zoom

**Monday, December 26**

Actionable Anti-racism Group, 7pm on Zoom

**Wednesday, December 28**

Cluster Meeting, 10am Youth Room

Actionable Anti-racism Group, 1pm on Zoom

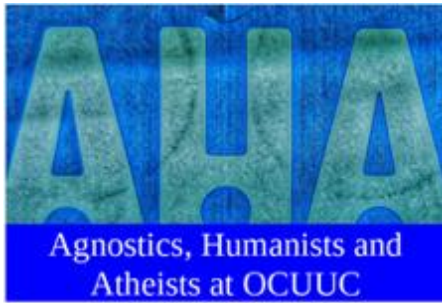
**Thursday, December 29**

Choir Rehearsal 7pm Daniels Hall & Zoom

**Saturday, December 31**

StitchWits, 10:30am on Zoom

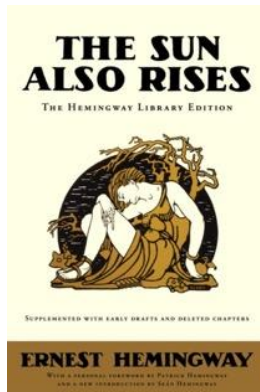




## AGNOSTICS, HUMANISTS AND ATHEISTS

The Atheist/Humanist Group meets on first Sundays at 12:15 p.m. 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. The Zoom link is on the [church calendar](#).

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



## FICTION BOOK GROUP

The December selection for the Fiction Book Group is *The Sun Also Rises* by Ernest Hemingway. Our group meets online at 7:00pm on Monday evening, Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>. You can find the link on the [church website](#). All are welcome to join our usual lively discussions.

For planning ahead: The book for Monday, Jan. 2<sup>nd</sup> is *This is How It Always Is* by Laurie Frankle.

Co-chairs: Eva Goodwin-Noriega and Marcia Hackett



## ACTIONABLE ANTI-RACISM 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 all 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 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](mailto: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.





## POINSETTIAS FOR DANIELS HALL

We have a lovely tradition of decorating Daniel's Hall with Poinsettias every year for the month of December. If you'd like to bring a festive air to our sanctuary, please feel free to bring a poinsettia anytime in the next few weeks. Color is your choice!

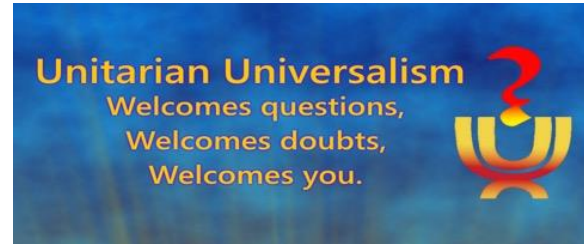


## GRATITUDE IS MY ATTITUDE!

Yes, I am so very grateful to the many OCUUC Members and Friends who so graciously contributed to the **Turkey Dinner Basket** drive. Many people donated complete dinner boxes (some donating multiple boxes!) and others contributed funds to purchase the items. In total, we donated 24

complete Thanksgiving dinners, *twice* what we provided last year, which helped **The Friendly Center** in Orange provide 624 Thanksgiving dinners! That's right, over **600!** Thank you, thank you, so much for your generosity and loving spirit. Thank you to Judith Stamper for helping to organize this wonderful effort.

Blessings!  
Sarah Jones



## DECEMBER PLATE SHARE



Share Our Selves (SOS) is a nationally recognized health center providing high quality, comprehensive safety net services to the Orange County community. We are one of 300 health centers nationally to be designated as a Healthcare for the Homeless provider. SOS is a patient-centered medical home and values the concept of the right person, the right treatment, at the right time.

[WWW.SHAREOURSELVES.ORG](http://WWW.SHAREOURSELVES.ORG)

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Costa Mesa, CA 92627

Many Different Beliefs,  
One Loving Community

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