



The REACH

Monthly Newsletter of **ORANGE COAST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH**

November 2019

Sunday Services in November:

November 3rd ▪ **“Volunteering”** ▪ *Rica Kaufel, Intern Minister*

November 10th ▪ **“Blessed are the Animals”** ▪ *Rev. Sian and Rica Kaufel, Intern Minister.*

November 17th ▪ **“Your Step-by-Step Guide to Saving the Planet!”** ▪ *Rev. Sian*

November 24th ▪ **“We are the Body: Breaking Bread Together”** ▪ *Rev. Sian*



**Sunday Services are
at 10:30am**

Visit our Website:
www.ocuuc.org

ORANGE COAST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

Sunday Services: 10:30am
Rev. Sian Wiltshire, Minister
2845 Mesa Verde Drive East,
Costa Mesa, CA 92626
www.ocuuc.org
email: uu@ocuuc.org
Telephone: 714-556-2882

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The President's Perspective

Debra Quam, Board President

"Together may we walk the path of justice, speak words of love, live the selfless deed, tread gently upon the earth, and fill the world with compassion."

Kathy A. Huff

For me, one of the greatest things about being a member of OCUUC is the warmth and strength of our church community. I have come to better know many of you by participating in church life through service on various committees and the Board, and by attending Sunday services, church discussion groups, and social activities. Through these interactions with so many of you, I have found we have amongst ourselves a treasure trove of goodwill, wisdom, knowledge, and generosity of commitment to improve our world and to care for one another.

I encourage you to regularly attend the Sunday church service to hear Rev. Sian's inspiring sermons and enjoy the music provided by the choir and our Director of Music Ministry, Beth. I always feel uplifted from attending the Sunday service and connecting with others during and after the service.

One of the best ways to get to know other church members and friends is by participating in small group activities such as circle suppers, covenant groups and discussions groups. I have had many people tell me how much they enjoyed learning about other people's



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experiences and lives by sitting down with them over a circle supper or by being in a discussion group together.

Another great way to get to know others and make a positive impact on the life and growth of our community is to serve in one of the many ways the church needs and welcomes your participation. This service includes elected positions on the Board, or as Steward or on the Nominating Committee. There are also numerous other service opportunities that may match your interests such as joining the choir, hosting a circle supper or leading a discussion group, or serving on the religious education, church communications, buildings and grounds, pledge and sanctuary drive, and auction committees.

In short, there are many and sundry ways to participate at OCUUC and all are welcome to do so. The members and friends of OCUUC, along with our minister and staff, are the ones making this church thrive. Through all of our participation, we continue to make our church home a place of caring, encouragement, growth and solace to all.



During this season of Thanksgiving, I am thankful for each of you and for all that you do for OCUUC.

Debra Quam

President@OCUUC.org

Sian's Shenanigans

My father was a complete luddite (someone who does not understand technology); my twin sister, Regan, is a complete geek and went on to be an IT professional. My father valued higher education; my twin sister (ironically the smartest of all of us siblings) never finished college. You can imagine then that my father had a hard time relating to my sister. But one of the fondest memories I have of my father, was when he tried to understand her world. Regan, about age 22, had just starting to work at Microsoft, setting up email accounts and servers for the already large company. My father didn't understand and yet for about 90 minutes sat asking her question after question, nodding his head while she went on and on with all kind of technical jargon. I knew that he wasn't following her. Heck, I had a hard time following her! But he kept puffing on his pipe, nodding his head, giving her his complete undivided attention. This was how my father showed his love: by giving you his attention.

I remember the importance of attention whenever someone wants to talk to me, especially on Sunday mornings. Sunday morning is often a tough time to get my attention. Before the service, I'm usually focused on the upcoming Worship Service. And after the service, I'm often mentally exhausted. But when someone comes up to me, often to make a comment about the service, ask a question, or update me on their lives, I try to make sure they have my undivided attention, if even for just a few moments. There might be 2 or 3 people waiting to talk with me, but I want the person to know that I care about them and what they are saying. I hope, I pray, that no one has ever felt anything less than my attention on Sunday morning. Attention, after all, is one of the ways

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that I was taught by my father to say, "I love you."

This church, as always, has my undivided attention.

Rev. Sian

Worship in November 2019:

This Month's Theme: Attention

Nov. 3: Volunteering – working for a better community and building relationships in the process – is deeply ingrained in American culture, as well as the culture of our congregation. Join us as we explore this topic together, and hear about some exciting new projects at OCUUC! *Rica Kaufel, Intern Minister.*

Nov. 10: Blessed are the Animals. Come join us as we celebrate all the animals that nurture us in so many ways! *Rev. Sian and Rica Kaufel, Intern Minister.*

Nov. 17th. Your Step-by-Step Guide to Saving the Planet! Want to know what you can do to save our gracious mother earth? Come hear this step by step guide to changing your impact on the earth. *Rev. Sian*



Nov. 24th. We are the Body: Breaking Bread Together. The ritual breaking of bread has been a tradition for over three millennia. Come celebrate this day when we lift up the beauty of this community and all its blessings. *Rev. Sian*

Random Kindness – Religious Education News

Rev. Judy Tomlinson

It is time to dive into the holidays!

We will start with a Dia de los Muertos celebration. This has been a big topic of conversation. Can we engage in a cultural celebration that does not have Unitarian Universalist roots? It is a good question. And, I'm not finding any easy answers. After colonizing a culture can the dominant culture then celebrate the festivals of the indigenous one? It doesn't seem right. On the other hand, does celebrating the holiday put us in touch with the culture and give us more respect and appreciation for a culture not our own? These are the questions of our time. We are growing mindful of the harm we have inflicted in the past that continues to this very day. And yet, the United States is a nation of many cultures and tradition and we live in the midst of so many here in Southern California. It behooves us to learn, honor and celebrate each other. But, let's not start and stop with a single holiday. If we do this with an intention to learn, we can't stop with sugar skulls. We need to go deeper and develop relationships, build alliances and structures that promote love and justice. Let's celebrate with the people whose tradition it is. Let's go to Santa Ana on Nov. 2. See you there. And then we will also celebrate Dia here on Sunday morning.



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On Sundays, Nov. 3, 10 and 17 we will be collecting donations to buy First Aid kit supplies for our homeless neighbors. The Youth Group will be staffing a table and will gratefully accept your donations. Then, on Saturday, Nov. 23 we will meet at the church at 8:45AM and go to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints meetinghouse at 801 Dover Drive, Newport Beach 92660. There we will work with other communities of faith on a variety of projects. StitchWits will also be there. It's fun. Come and join us!



On Nov. 6 I'm heading to Baltimore, MD for the Liberal Religious Educators Association (LREDA) Fall Conference. Our theme is Theologies of Suffering and Wholeness: Companions in Liberation. We have four illustrious presenters: Rev. Rosemary Bray McNatt President of Starr King School for the Ministry, Dr. Elias Ortega-Aponte, President of Meadville Lombard Theological School, Rev. Sofia Betancourt, Assistant Professor of UU Theologies and Ethics at Starr King and Jennifer Hayman, Director of Music and Arts at All Souls Unitarian, Washington, DC. We will talk about and experience what it means to faithfully engage the realities of suffering and what that has to do with faith formation. It will be an intense few days. I hope to come back with new insights about dismantling white supremacy and what it means to have hope that we can begin to build a new culture of love, forgiveness and accountability. I'll have lots to share!

In the Faith,

Rev. Judy

Director of Religious Education



Celebrate Thanksgiving at OCUUC!

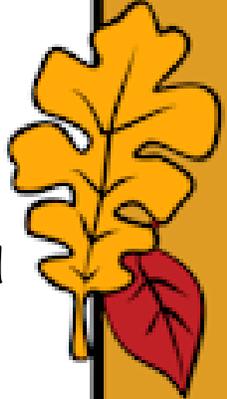
Thursday, Nov. 28th at 2pm

A delicious potluck dinner

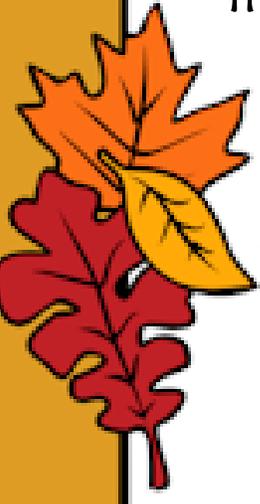
(with turkey & ham provided by OCUUC)

Thursday, November 28th, 2019

at 2:00pm in Daniels Hall.



Sign-up sheets will be at the activities table until November 24th. Let us know that you will be attending, and what dish you will bring. Family and friends are welcome! Donations to OCUUC will be collected at the event to offset the cost of turkeys & ham (suggested \$5/ adult).



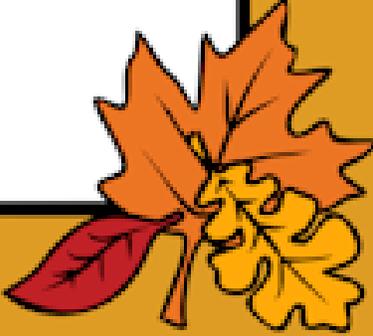
Want to help out? **Volunteers** are still needed!

Contact Jazzie jazziep9@gmail.com,

Jamie jpendarvis@icloud.com, or

Mary Smithberger, me.smitty1@gmail.com

if you have any questions or if you'd like to volunteer to help.



Women's Circle

The Women's Circle typically meets in the Victoria Room on the **fourth Sunday of each month** immediately after the worship service. (unless a special meeting is announced)

Feel free to bring your cup of tea/coffee, sack lunch, and if you like, any nibbles to share. Our doors are always open, and guests are always welcome.

Join the Women's Circle, come by and discuss our monthly topic. We create connections with other like-minded women, share information and share our lives in a caring and safe environment. For more information, contact women@ocuuc.org.

LGBTQ Action Group

The LGBTQ Action Group meets in Suite 4 on the second Sunday of the month at noon. LGBTQ's, friends, allies, and supporters meet to dream, discuss, and plan activities that support the LGBTQ community while educating them and others with various monthly speakers. Feel free to bring your lunch to the meeting. Join our email list or visit our facebook page, LGBTQ Action Group, or contact us via our chair Jan Mabie at Janselectrical@gmail.com

Atheist Humanist Group

In lieu of its regular meeting on November 3rd at 12 pm, **The Atheist/Humanist Group** will be sponsoring a panel discussion in Daniels Hall, "**Who Is Helping the Homeless?**" Bring your questions to our panel of expert speakers.



Afternoon of Gaming

Saturday, November 23rd at 3pm

Please join us for an afternoon of board gaming at 3 pm on Saturday, November 23rd in Suite 4. This monthly event is hosted by Geoff and Yulis Ayton. Geoff will bring his collection, but anyone is welcome to bring their own games. All are welcome. Let's play!

OCUUC Fiction Book Club

Meets on the 1st Monday at 7:30pm, in the Victoria Room. (Call Eva at 949-836-3113 if the door is locked (security reasons.)

The OCUUC Fiction Book Group continues to have lively discussions each month. On November 4th, we'll be discussing the NON-fiction book, Educated: A Memoir by Tara Westover. (Yes, we make exceptions at times and read a NON-fiction book. This one is so popular that it's virtually impossible to get ahold from a library. The wait lists are HU-UGE!) Please join us at 7:30p.m. in the Victoria Room.

All are welcome. Co-chairs: Marcia Hackett and Eva Goodwin-Noriega.

For your advanced planning for the next 7 months, we will be reading the following]:

- Bridge of Clay by Markus Zusak 12/2/19
- Change of Heart by Jodi Picoult 1/6/20
- Hotel New Hampshire by John Irvine 2/3/20
- The Illegal by Lawrence Hill for 3/2/20
- The Woman in the Window by A. J. Finn 4/6/20
- Madam Bovary by Gustave Flaubert 5/4/20
- 1000 White Women by Jim Fergus 6/1/20

Love to have you join us!

Artists UUnite

Mark your calendars for a new group starting at OCUUC called "Artists UUnite." The next meeting will be Friday, November 8 in Suite 4 from 2-4 pm. It will continue to meet monthly on the second Friday.



The purpose is for artists, or those with creative projects, to come and work on their new or current work together, and encourage one another, build community, and have fun. Bring all your own art supplies and any information you might have about upcoming events, exhibitions, classes, etc. that might be of interest to the group.

Contact Linda Spery at lindaspery@gmail.com or 562-212-5317 if you have any questions.

More Opportunity to be Creative!

Card making!! We would like to get together for a time of fellowship and fun to make homemade cards to be used by the Caring Committee on Sunday mornings. Please bring your scissors and glue if you have them, or just come and create with Rica and Karen on Saturday, November 9th after Snack and Chat at around 11:30am. (Maybe earlier depending on SnC, so give us your cell phone number!) Please sign up at Programs@ocuuc.org or call Karen at 949-215-3748 if interested. Creative kids welcome. Refreshments provided!



November Snack and Chat

Intern Minister Rica Kaufel and VP Programs Karen Kennedy will host Snack and Chat on Saturday, November 9th. If you are a new friend or visitor to the church, come and we will get to know each other, and chat about theology, OCUUC Programs, membership or anything else you want to talk about. Join us at 10am in the Victoria Room at OCUUC. RSVP to Programs@ocuuc.org.

November Plateshare – Stand Up for Kids



Stand Up For Kids – Orange County, was established in 1990 and serves homeless and at risk youth and young adults age 25 and younger. Programs in Orange County include Street Outreach, Mentoring, Apartment and Housing Support and Outreach Centers.

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 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, former juvenile justice and foster care youth, pregnant and parenting young people, and kids forced out of their homes.

For information about Stand-Up For Kids and our continuing role, speak with Intern Minister Rica Kaufel or Rev. Sian, or contact Stand Up For Kids directly at 714-356-5437. www.StandUpForKids.org

In Our Thoughts...

- **Simone B** lit a candle of joy for her wonderful visit with her two granddaughters, ages five and three, in Portland.
- **Peggy P** feels joyous her recent trip to go to Salt Lake City with her oldest son, for her cousin's grandson's wedding.
- **Paula P** lit a candle of sorrow for her friend **Roberta**, who has early-onset Alzheimer's.
- **Jana Y**, daughter of **Issa G**, lit a candle of joy for the good friends who have been visiting and maintaining contact with **Issa**. These contacts really help her and are appreciated so much.
- **Sarah J** shared the joy that her granddaughter, **Jordon Vader** turned one-year old last month and she got a new baby brother, **Gabriel Xavier** on her birthday! Also, **Sarah's** daughter **Hannah** turned 21 that week. Their son **Austin** gave them a new grandson this month. **Levi** is healthy and beautiful.
- **Judith S** shared the joy that she is finishing training to become a Court Appointed Special Advocate for a child in foster care and will meet her CASA child within 8 weeks.
- **Marilyn F** lit a candle of sorrow for **Gail D** whose sister **Alice** died recently, after suffering a stroke a few weeks prior. **Alice** was **Gail's** only sister.
- **Jan R** lit a candle of joy for her family: her stepson and step-daughter left for Korea and her son and his wife returned from Paris and London.
- **Simone B** lit a candle of love for her mother who passed away on this day in 1989, at the age of 76.
- **Adam G** shared that he left his job with NAMI after more than 41/2 years. He hopes he made a positive impact on people's lives.
- **Laura G B** lit a candle of concern for her cousin, **Richard**, who is ill and on a ventilator.
- **Franci C** finds it hard to believe it has been a year since her son **Joel's** passing. He would've been 50 years old September 30th. She misses him dearly and remembers him always.

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- **Maureen McC** lit a candle of joy for having laser treatment of both eyes for scarring after cataract surgery, and now having wonderful clear vision again.
- **Mary S** lit a candle of love for **Issa G**. She misses us and she likes visitors. If you can visit just call Oakmont in Orange and let them know about what time you would be there and they will let **Issa** know.
- **William A** lit a candle of joy for grandma and grandpa coming home safe from Europe.
- **Lysa D** lit a candle of joy for the UU Justice Ministry training and **Mark** for showing us a fun way to serve at the OC Food Bank this weekend.
- **Elysse J** shares her joy. She is at home with her new baby boy, **Everett**. Cards, phone calls, and visits are welcome. She misses us all.
- **Shirley T** lit a candle of joy and big thank you to all who sent cards, called her and helped her in her recovery from back surgery
- **Dave C** lit a candle of sorrow for his dear friend, **Agit B**, a Kurd, and his Kurdish family in Northern Syria.
- **Violet** lit a candle of sorrow. She met a transwoman named **Willow**, talked and became friends. **Violet** recently found out from other friends that she committed suicide. She will miss her deeply.
- **Barbara S** lit a candle of joy for **Charles Xavier**, her great-nephew born 10/19 to her nephew **Tom** and his wife **Rebecca**. All are doing well.
- **Amelia R-N** lit a candle of joy for the blessing of celebrating her mother's 94th birthday.
- **Karen K** lit a candle of joy for a great time in Maui with her family, enjoying nature.
- **Marilyn G** lit a candle of hope for her sister **Jean** who has been diagnosed with slow-growing lymphoma, stage 2. She will begin immune therapy in November with a positive prognosis for recovery.
- **Marilyn** also lit a candle of joy for grandson **Darren** who turns 16. She wishes him the best as he continues his life journey.

Calendar of Events at OCUUC

Sunday Services: 10:30 am

Saturday, November 2nd

Fall Auction, Daniels Hall, 5pm

Sunday, November 3rd

Daylight Saving Time ends



Meditation Group, Youth Room, 9:45 am
Sunday Service, Daniels Hall, 10:30 am
"Who is Helping the Homeless?" Panel Discussion
Daniels Hall, 12 pm

Monday, November 4th

OCUUC Book Group, Victoria Room, 7:30 pm

Tuesday, November 5th

Big Questions, Victoria Room, 7pm

Thursday, November 7th

Sermon Discussion Group, Victoria Room, 1:30 pm
Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 pm

Friday, November 8th

Grief and Caregivers Group, Minister's Office, 12pm
Artists UUnite, Suite 4, 2 pm

Saturday, November 9th

2nd Saturday Snack and Chat, Victoria Room, 10 am
Card Making, Victoria Room 11:30am

Sunday, November 10th

Sunday Service, Daniels Hall, 10:30 am
LGBT Action Group, Suite 4 12 pm

Monday, November 11th

Veterans Day

Tuesday, November 12th

Covenant Group, Victoria Room, 7pm

Wednesday, November 13th

Comm. on Ministry, Minister's Office, 6 pm

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Thursday, November 14th

WSSR Rehearsal, Daniels Hall 6:30 pm
PAC Meeting, Minister's office, 7 pm
Choir Rehearsal, Daniels Hall 7:30 pm

Sunday, November 17th

Meditation Group, Youth Room, 9:45 am
Sunday Service, Daniels Hall, 10:30 am
3rd Sunday All Church Potluck, 11:45 am
RECY Comm., Youth Room, 11:45
CBT Classes (Secrets of Cognitive Behavioral
Therapy), Suite 4 Lower, 12:15 pm

Tuesday, November 19th

Big Questions (Leadership Grp), Victoria Room, 7pm

Wednesday, November 20th

Finance Council, Victoria Room, 6 pm
Transgender Day of Remembrance, Daniels Hall,
7pm

Thursday, November 21th

WSSR Rehearsal, 6:30 pm
Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 pm

Saturday, November 23rd

Board of Trustees, Suite 4, 9 am
Afternoon of Gaming, Suite 4 3pm

Sunday, November 24th

Sunday Service, Daniels Hall, 10:30 am
Women's Circle, Victoria Room, 11:45 am
RE Group (4-7) Movie, Youth Room, 12 pm

Wednesday, November 27th

Cluster Meeting, Youth Room, 10 am

Thursday, November 28th

Thanksgiving Dinner, 2 pm



Mark your calendars –

Daylight Savings Time- Nov 3

Homelessness Panel – November 3

Veterans Day – November 11

**Transgender Day of Remembrance –
November 20**

Thanksgiving Day – Nov 28



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