

# THE REACH

OCUUC'S MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

ORANGE COAST  
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST  
CHURCH



## Sunday Services in Aug 2020

**August 2nd** | I Can't Breathe—When  
Wading in the Water Isn't Enough

*Rev. Summer Albayati*

**August 9th** | Spirit Says Do!

*Rev. Lee Marie Sanchez*

**August 16th** | Joyful Noise

*Beth Syverson and the Music Ministries*

**August 23rd** | Truthiness!

*Rev. Lee Marie Sanchez*

**August 30th** | What Matters

*Michael Eselun*

## THE PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

*From Debra Quam, President, Board of Trustees*

Jennifer Abt has been the editor of this publication for many years. Effective this edition, Jennifer turned over the editor position to Linda Clough. Jennifer did an outstanding job as the REACH editor on top of her many duties as bookkeeper for OCUUC. We at OCUUC are all grateful to Jennifer for her generous gifts of time and talent. A big thank you also to Linda for volunteering to be the new editor.

I hope you are all doing well during this difficult time of the Covid-19 pandemic. Like many of you, I am missing my church friends in person. Thank goodness we can see and interact with each other via our Zoom church services and meetings. We can also utilize email, the church Website and Facebook page and good old phone calls to keep in touch. I encourage each of you to pick up the phone or send an email or written note to connect with others in our beloved community. It always lifts my spirits to hear from or reach out to others.

On July 25, 2020 the Board of Trustees conducted the first board meeting of the fiscal year and the annual board retreat. The purpose of the annual retreat is to get better acquainted with each other, review how our church finances operate, decide on

# 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  
[ocuuc.org](http://ocuuc.org)

norms for board participation and identify two or three top board and congregational priorities for the year.

An important initiative underway at this time is the relaunch of the new sanctuary capital campaign. Sanctuary Fundraising Chair, Linda Spery, and her team of volunteers have developed a great relaunch campaign and have been and will be reaching out to the congregation for assistance in reaching the campaign goal.

Due to Covid-19, plans for a joint spring campaign with the operating fund pledge drive were changed and the new sanctuary capital campaign was delayed. The goal of the campaign is "virtual implementation" of the earlier outreach plan to secure new pledges and increases in current pledges toward the goal of raising \$500,000 by Labor Day.

For more information about the relaunch of the sanctuary capital campaign, please see the article by Linda Spery in this REACH.

The OCUUC buildings have been closed since mid-March due to the pandemic. The Property Use Group and Buildings and Grounds committee have been working together on a plan to freshen up the RE/Administration building while it is closed. This is the ideal time to refurbish this building at minimal cost and with no disruption to the workplace.

The Board has approved moving forward with a proposal from PUG and B&G on the refurbishment. This will include removing the carpet from the walls in the Victoria Room and hallways and painting those areas. We will relocate the RE FUUn Room to another area in the building and combine

the Victoria Room and FUUn Room to create a larger conference room. Our Sextons will be doing this work since the cleaning that normally takes the majority of their time is unnecessary due to the closure of the buildings.

Wishing all of you a safe and happy August and I look forward to seeing you on Zoom.

Debra Quam  
[President@ocuuc.org](mailto:President@ocuuc.org)

**SIAN'S  
SHENANIGANS**  
From Our Minister: Rev. Sian Wiltshire

### Rev. Sian on Sabbatical



The Committee on Ministry and the Board of Trustees reminds the congregation that Rev. Sian started her sabbatical on June 30th and will return in September.

As was the case when Rev. Sian took a sabbatical in the summer of 2017, we have a plan for handling the various ministries of the church, from worship services and pastoral care, to administration and communication regarding the dynamic situation with Covid-19 and its impact on church activities.

The Rev. Lee Marie Sanchez will return to our Zoom pulpit to give sermons twice a month. Rev. Sanchez is known to many of us, having periodically spoken at OCUUC and serving other UU Congregations in our area. Other favorites such as Rev. Tom Owen-Towle, Rev. Summer Albayati and Michael Eselun will also be preaching. Director of Music Ministries, Beth Syverson, continues to choreograph our enriching Sunday services.

Pastoral needs continue to be supported by the Caring Committee, made up of our Pastoral Care Associates and Helping Hands. They can be reached at [pastoralcare@ocuuc.org](mailto:pastoralcare@ocuuc.org) and [caring@ocuuc.org](mailto:caring@ocuuc.org), respectively.

For anyone experiencing serious life transitions, the Rev. Judy Tomlinson, the Director of Religious Education, is available. She can be reached at [revjudy@ocuuc.org](mailto:revjudy@ocuuc.org), or [DRE@ocuuc.org](mailto:DRE@ocuuc.org).

## Worship in August 2020

### August 2<sup>nd</sup> | I Can't Breathe—When Wading in the Water Isn't Enough

We are at a tumultuous time in our nation—our world. So many of us wonder, is there hope? If so, where? Let us come together to search for the answers in the spirit of community and love.

*Rev. Summer Albayati*

### August 9<sup>th</sup> | Spirit Says Do!

Spirituality, by my lights, is defined by our relationships; with ourselves, our communities and with that “Something Larger Than Ourselves,” however we define this: God, Goddess, Nature, the Community,

the Cosmos. Our 3<sup>rd</sup> UU Principle is that we covenant to affirm and promote the “Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations,” which lines up perfectly with our progressive values, our inclusiveness and how we engage with the world.

*Rev. Lee Marie Sanchez*

### August 16<sup>th</sup> | Joyful Noise

The Music Ministries will be presenting a worship service on the topic of singing. You will hear from congregants about the relationship of singing, you'll experience lots of songs about singing, and hopefully, you will open the door to your own singing, just a little bit wider than before.

*Beth Syverson and the Music Ministries*

### August 23<sup>rd</sup> | Truthiness!

Defined as “the belief or assertion that a particular statement is true based on the intuition or perceptions of some individual or individuals, without regard to evidence, logic, intellectual examination, or facts. Truthiness can range from ignorant assertions of falsehoods to deliberate duplicity or propaganda intended to sway opinions.” This could not be further from our 4<sup>th</sup> Unitarian Universalist Principle that “We covenant to affirm and promote a free and responsible search for truth and meaning.” I promise I will not try to trick you with “Fake News” or “Alternative Facts” this morning. You can expect to hear why this Principle is core to who we are as UU's!

*Rev. Lee Marie Sanchez*

### August 30<sup>th</sup> | What Matters

Moving together through these challenging times, we find ourselves, perhaps on a daily basis, reassessing our priorities.

*Michael Eselun*



### Reminder: Send mail to PO Box!

Please address any mail for OCUUC to:

Orange Coast Unitarian Universalist Church  
P.O. Box 3770  
Costa Mesa CA 92628-3770



### Joys and Sorrows on Sundays

If you would like to express a Joy or Sorrow to be read during the service on Sunday, please send an email by 9:00 AM on Sunday morning to [joysandsorrows@ocuuc.org](mailto:joysandsorrows@ocuuc.org). You will also have an opportunity to type a response in the Zoom chat. And please continue to reach out to one another and stay in touch. An unexpected phone call is like a smile; free and does a world of good.

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

## RANDOM KINDNESS

Religious Education News  
from RE Minister Rev. Judy Tomlinson

Chalice Camp: Identity, Race and Justice is going great! Thank you, Maria Goode, for creating our camp lessons with an emphasis on fun and learning. Last week we made our own tee shirts, played 20 Questions, distributed prizes and expressed our own identity. We learned why that is important for ourselves and that we need to create space where others, who are different from we are, can do the same. Our inherent worth and dignity.

Over the course of the month we will learn about slavery and Chinese immigration, especially as it relates to the transcontinental railroad, discover that we can make a difference, and find out about inspiring resistance to oppression and the freedom struggle.

In the fall, worship and Religious Education will be in sync. We both will be using the Soul Matters monthly themes at age appropriate levels throughout the congregation. This will give families the opportunity to have intergenerational conversations about important spiritual themes and values. The topics include: renewal, deep listening, healing, stillness, imagination, beloved community, commitment, becoming, story, and play. Let your imagination run wild!

The lessons include a centering time of meditation, a story, games, some UU values to think about and apply to your daily life. They also include resources like books and music. And things to do at home, as family,



to deepen your connection with the theme. Even though we are online, rather than in person, we can approach our time together with a sense of adventure.

Children PreK-7th grades meet at 9:30 while Youth Group, 8th-12th grades, meet at 11:30. The link is sent out each week along with information about that week's lesson, in the weekly RE newsletter. Please contact me if you need the link or would like to subscribe. [revjudy@ocuuc.org](mailto:revjudy@ocuuc.org).

I'm excited to be on adventure with you.

In faith,  
Rev. Judy



What is your relationship to SINGING? Over the years, I've run into so many people who proclaim that they just aren't singers, or that someone suggested that they shouldn't sing in public. Many of us have shut down our voices, quite literally. It's really unfortunate that in our culture, only "great" singers get to participate in singing. Before recorded music was invented, everyone sang—with their families, at special celebrations, and at worship. I'm sure not everyone was a "great" singer, but all voices together provided a rich cultural tapestry for everyone to enjoy.

Today we have American Idol and other competitions that knock out "bad" singers, leaving only one winner. I believe that paradigm is very damaging to our culture. I prefer to "make a joyful noise" with all of us

together, the Beloved Community. Even though none of us sing perfectly—we have some flat notes, and we are not totally synchronous, and someone always sings just a little too loudly—when we sing together, we represent the perfectly imperfect community that we are. And we accept each other's flaws, just as we know that we are all continuing to improve, little by little. In life and in singing.

On August 16, the Music Ministries will be presenting a worship service on the topic of singing. You will hear from congregants about their relationship to singing, you'll experience lots of songs about singing, and hopefully, you will open the door to your own singing, just a little bit wider than before. Since you're at home and no one outside of your housemates can hear you during our Zoom worship services, it's an ideal time to explore making an even more joyful noise than usual! I wish for you all the healing and joyful effects of singing loud and proud from your own heart.

Musically Yours,

Beth Syverson  
Director of Music Ministries



**Calendar of Online Events at OCUUC**  
**Sunday Services: 10:30 am on Zoom**

*Most of our meetings take place on Zoom. Find your event on the OCUUC website calendar and click on details for that event to find the Zoom meeting ID. OCUUC.org*

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**Saturday, August 1**

Stitchwits, 10am

**Sunday, August 2**

RE Class, 9:30am

Meditation Group, 9:45am

Worship Service, 10:30am

Youth Group, 11:30am

AHA Group, 12:00pm

**Monday, August 3**

Fiction Book Group, 7:30pm

**Thursday, August 6**

Orange Coast Choir Rehearsal, 7:30pm

**Friday, August 7**

Social Hour, 5:00pm

**Saturday, August 8**

Stitchwits, 10am

**Sunday, August 9**

RE Class, 9:30am

Worship Service, 10:30am

Youth Group, 11:30am

LGBT Action Group, 12 noon

Nonfiction Book Club, 12:30pm

Facebook Live Event: Tour of Gloria Dei

Lutheran Church, 1pm

**Tuesday, August 11**

Caring Circle, 1:30pm

**Thursday, August 13**

White Fragility, 9:30am

Orange Coast Choir Rehearsal, 7:30pm

**Friday, August 14**

Social Hour, 5pm

**Saturday, August 15**

Stitchwits, 10am

**Sunday, August 16**

RE Class, 9:30am

Meditation Group, 9:45am

Worship Service, 10:30am

Youth Group, 11:30am

**Wednesday, August 19**

Finance Council, 2pm

**Thursday, August 20**

Orange Coast Choir Rehearsal, 7:30pm

**Friday, August 21**

Social Hour, 5pm

**Saturday, August 22**

Stitchwits, 10am

**Sunday, August 23**

RE Class, 9:30am

Worship Service, 10:30am

Youth Group, 11:30am

Transgender Inclusion, 12:15pm

**Wednesday, August 26**

Board of Trustees Meeting, 7pm

**Thursday, August 27**

White Fragility, 9:30am

Orange Coast Choir Rehearsal, 7:30pm

**Friday, August 28**

Social Hour, 5pm

**Saturday, August 29**

Stitchwits, 10am

**Sunday, August 30**

RE Class, 9:30am

Worship Service, 10:30am

Youth Group, 11:30am

Women's Circle, 12pm



## Groups at OCUUC

Due to COVID-19 outbreak, in person meetings are temporarily suspended.

Stay in touch (electronically) and stay safe. We need to physically distance, but in these uncertain times, we need social connection more than ever.

## OCUUC Fiction Book Group

The OCUUC Fiction Book Group will be meeting on Monday, August 3rd, via Zoom at 7:30 pm.

The book to be discussed is *Flight Behavior* by Barbara Kingsolver. Participants will be sent a link to Zoom. All are invited. Questions? Contact co-chairs [Marcia Hackett](#) or [Eva Goodwin-Noriega](#).

## LGBT Action Group

LGBTQ Action Group is all members and friends of the congregation. We currently have two monthly activities (on Zoom) that are open to everyone:

1. At 12:15 pm on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of every month, we have our group meeting,

which includes discussion about upcoming events plus an LGBTQ+ speaker who tells us about their personal story, followed by a Q&A session.



2. At 12:15 pm on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month, we host a video course for the congregation entitled "Transgender Inclusion in Congregations." This 6-session course is taught by two transmen from the UUA. It was created for individuals and groups who want to take their knowledge and skills to the next level in terms of trans identity and how to create congregations that are fully inclusive and affirming of the full breadth of gender diversity. We will have a discussion on Zoom after each video lecture.

Both events occur on Zoom. See [ocuuc.org](http://ocuuc.org) for Zoom link, or find us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/LGBTactiongroup> and the events will show up there.

Contact Beth Syverson or Jan Mabie for more information:  
[musicdirector@ocuuc.org](mailto:musicdirector@ocuuc.org) or  
[janselectrical@gmail.com](mailto:janselectrical@gmail.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 is currently meeting weekly on Saturdays at 10am on Zoom! Find the meeting ID on the OCUUC website calendar or contact [Barbara Schilling](#).

## Women's Circle

The Women's Circle usually meets on the fourth Sunday of the month at 12 noon, but will be meeting on the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in August. Find the zoom meeting ID on the OCUUC website calendar or contact [Peggy Priver](#).



**SAVE THE DATE!!! Join us for a Facebook Live event on Sunday, August 9<sup>th</sup> from 1-2 pm** as we travel virtually to Gloria Dei Lutheran in Dana Point. Our new sanctuary architect, David Keitel, of domus studio will take us on a guided tour of Gloria Dei's new sanctuary and point out the features that are similar to those being proposed for OCUUC. The tour will be recorded and will be available for viewing on the OCUUC Facebook page in case you have to miss the live event.

## New Sanctuary Capital Campaign Relaunch

by Linda Spery

The summer "relaunch" of the capital campaign to build a new sanctuary at OCUUC is off to a strong start. Our Campaign Leaders have been active since mid-July contacting members and friends by phone, email, mail, Zoom and/or Facetime for either first-time campaign pledges or "stretch" pledges to augment original pledges from 2018-19.

Thank you to Karen Kennedy, Craig Spery, Don Martin, Meg Wilson, Tom Loughrey, Nancy Loughrey, Sunny Harper, Nina Smith, Sarah Hunter and Marcia Hackett for taking on this important outreach assignment!

As of July 25<sup>th</sup>, there have been financial commitments totaling \$70,631 in response to the relaunch campaign appeal. Our goal is \$500,000. If you would like to make a commitment and need more information, contact Linda Spery at (562) 212-5317 or [lindaspery@gmail.com](mailto:lindaspery@gmail.com).

## August Plateshare

Since 1965, Community Action Partnership of Orange County has worked to enhance the quality of life in Orange County by eliminating and preventing the causes and effects of poverty. The staff of Community Action Partnership of Orange County are committed to serving the communities where they work and live. They come from all walks of life rallying to support those in need, ending poverty and building stronger communities. Their agency is celebrating more than 50 years of helping people and changing lives. For more information see <https://www.capoc.org/about/index.html>.