

# THE REACH

OCUUC'S MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

ORANGE COAST  
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST  
CHURCH



## Sunday Services in Sep 2020

**September 6** | Better Angels of Our Nature

*Rev. Tom Owen Towle*

**September 13** | Water Communion Sunday

*Rev. Sian Wiltshire*

**September 20** | To be announced

*Rev. Sian Wiltshire*

**September 27** | To be announced

*Rev. Sian Wiltshire*

## THE PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

*From Debra Quam, President, Board of Trustees*

*"How far you go in life depends on your being tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving, and tolerant of the weak and the strong. Because someday in your life you will have been all of these."*

*George Washington Carver, 1864-1943*

As a girl, I had access to a small library at my parochial school. One of my favorite books was a biography of George Washington Carver. Professor Carver was an African American who was born into slavery and rose to the position of chair of the Agricultural department of the Tuskegee Institute. I was enthralled with his biography because of his brilliance and achievements despite immense obstacles and the kindness he showed to all those he encountered.

It is important to have heroes, and George Washington Carver is one of mine.

I feel fortunate to be surrounded by the heroes I encounter every day at OCUUC. I am grateful and inspired by the number of people who work together to keep our church not only up and running but prospering. You are all my heroes, too.

This summer our Sanctuary Fundraising Committee members, led by Linda Spery, have been hard at work contacting members

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

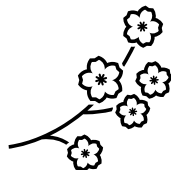
and friends of OCUUC to raise additional funds for our planned stunning new sanctuary. And if you have already pledged, please consider making a stretch pledge for the new sanctuary. It is going to take all of us to make the new sanctuary a reality. For information and inspiration, please visit [ocuud.org](http://ocuud.org) and review the section on the new sanctuary.

In last month's article, I reported that the Board approved going forward with some refurbishing of the RE/Admin building and listed many of the details in that article. The refurbishment is well under way thanks to the work of Craig Spery, Bob Loeschen, Mark Renshaw, Bob Gurski, and Sexton, David Nunez. It is going to look great! No more cranberry carpet on the walls and a much bigger Victoria Room meeting space are some of the improvements being made. I can't wait for you all to see and enjoy the improvements in the RE/Admin building when we are able to meet again in person.

Rev. Sian will be returning in September from her two-month sabbatical. Welcome back, Rev. Sian! Many thanks to all of those who so ably kept the Sunday services and pastoral care on track while she was away. Special thanks to Beth Syverson and the choir for the herculean work they are doing to provide us wonderful music for our virtual services.

With love and gratitude,

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



## 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 continue to handle 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.

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).



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## Worship in September 2020

### September 6th | Better Angels of Our Nature

On this particular Labor Day weekend, I want to pay homage to our foremost job as an American people: building a land of liberty and justice for all. As our 22-year-old granddaughter, teaching ESL in South Korea, puts it: "2020 will be the year that we woke up?" So might it be!

*Rev. Tom Owen Towle*

### September 13th | Water Communion

Traditionally, congregants bring a small amount of water from a special place. During the appointed time during the service, each person pours the water into a communal vessel and tells why this water is special to them. Due to the challenges of Covid-19, we will be guided through a virtual sharing and the symbolic blending of our faith coming from many different sources.

### September 20th | To be announced

### September 27th | To be announced



#### **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*

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



## 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.

## RANDOM KINDNESS

Religious Education News  
from RE Minister Rev. Judy Tomlinson

Many thanks to all our summer teachers who brought Chalice Camp: Identity, Race and Justice to our PreK-Middle schoolers. We were introduced to some difficult history, some complex concepts like racism, prejudice, discrimination and resistance. We learned that we can talk about these topics at our church and with our families. The good news is that we will have the opportunity,

with our Soul Matters lessons, to reinforce what we've learned in the coming program year.

As we transition to Soul Matters it is important to know that all age groups, PreK-Youth Group, will be engaging in the monthly theme, that all the lessons are designed for an online platform and, looked at by the Soul Matters staff team with an eye toward justice, diversity and inclusion. And, once a month, a whole lesson will be devoted to anti-racism.

Now it is up to the Religious Education Committee and me to make it uniquely our own. We will use our OCUUC affirmation and a UU Principle song, so our children learn our UU Principles.

This month our theme is Renewal. We are renewed by our church friends when we engage in rituals together, like our Water Ceremony. We want everyone to take part and are thinking creatively about how we can make that happen. Stay tuned. We are renewed by differences, by wonder, by acknowledging our mistakes and seeking forgiveness and by learning to love ourselves.

Please contact me if you need the Zoom link or would like to subscribe to the weekly RE newsletter: [revjudy@ocuuc.org](mailto:revjudy@ocuuc.org).

In faith,  
Rev. Judy



Thank you to all the musicians, slideshow creators, Zoom MCs, editors and designers, computer technicians, and slideshow operators who have helped create meaningful music experiences in our Zoom

worship these last few months. It takes a village.

Did you know that we have a YouTube channel with a playlist that includes many of the videos you've seen at church services lately? Here's how to access the videos:

- Go to YouTube.com
- Then type in "OrangeCoastUU" (all one word) in YouTube's search bar. Our channel will pop up at the top of the list.
- Click on the channel title "OrangeCoastUU" and it will take you to our channel's home page.
- Click on the Subscribe button so you will get notified of new material that's been uploaded (sermons and music).
- Then click on the 3<sup>rd</sup> tab over: "Playlists." There you will find the OCUUC Music Videos playlist.
- There are currently 29 music videos from our recent services on our Playlist. You can just begin playing the first one, and it will continue through all 29 videos. Or you can browse through to find what you'd like to hear. There's also a little arrow to LOOP the videos so it will continuously run, and an arrow to SHUFFLE the videos in case you want to mix it up a bit.

And lastly, everyone's invited to attend choir rehearsals on Thursday nights at 7:30 pm. No one can hear you sing, so it's a perfect time to try out choir, especially if you're nervous or inexperienced. Additionally, if you'd like to participate in the virtual choir pieces we're doing but are unable to attend the Thursday rehearsals, just let me know. I can keep you in the loop if you'd like to be involved. We are getting ready to "perform" for upcoming events such as Transgender Day of Remembrance, Newport Mesa/Irvine Interfaith Council's annual Thanksgiving

Celebration, and Winters Solstice Singing Rituals.

Thanks for all your support of the Music Ministries during this most unique time!

Beth Syverson  
Director of Music Ministries



All events are [Online](#)

[Sunday Services: 10:30 am 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*

**Thursday, September 3**  
Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 pm

**Friday, September 4**  
Social Hour, 5:00 pm

**Saturday, September 5**  
StitchWits, 10:00 am

**Sunday, September 6**  
RE Class, 9:30 am  
Meditation Group, 9:45 am  
Worship Service, 10:30 am  
Youth Group, 11:30 am  
AHA Group, 12:00 pm

**Monday, September 7**  
OCUUC Fiction Book Group, 7:30 pm

**Thursday, September 10**  
Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 pm

**Friday, September 11**  
Artists UUnite, 2:00 pm  
Social Hour, 5:00 pm

**Saturday, September 12**  
StitchWits, 10:00 am

**Sunday, September 13**  
RE Class, 9:30 am  
Worship Service, 10:30 am  
Youth Group, 11:30 am  
LGBTQ Action Group, 12:15 pm  
Nonfiction Book Club, 12:30 pm

**Wednesday, September 16**  
Finance Council, 2:00 pm

**Thursday, September 17**  
Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 pm

**Friday, September 18**  
Social Hour, 5:00 pm

**Saturday, September 19**  
StitchWits, 10:00 am

**Sunday, September 20**  
RE Class, 9:30 am  
Meditation Group, 9:45 am  
Worship Service, 10:30 am  
Youth Group, 11:30 am

**Wednesday, September 23**  
Board of Trustees Meeting, 7:00 pm

**Thursday, September 24**  
Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 pm

**Friday, September 25**  
Social Hour, 5:00 pm

**Saturday, September 26**  
StitchWits, 10:00 am

**Sunday, September 27**  
RE Class, 9:30 am  
Worship Service, 10:30 am  
Youth Group, 11:30 am  
Women's Circle, 12:00 pm  
Transgender Inclusion, 12:15 pm



## Groups at OCUUC

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

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 BOOK CLUBS

### NON-FICTION

Will meet via Zoom on Sunday, Sept 13th, at 12:30 pm. Participants share their ideas on non-fiction books they have been reading.

### FICTION

Will meet via Zoom on Monday, Sept. 7th (Labor Day) at 7:30 pm. We'll be discussing [Exit West by Mohsin Hamid](#), a story of emigration and refugee problems. Please join us online to share your thoughts on this timely subject. Co-chairs: Eva Goodwin-Noriega & Marcia Hackett.



## LGBTQ 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 2nd 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. For our next session on September 13th, Nina S. will be sharing her story.

2. At 12:15 pm on the 4th 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. Our fourth course session will be on September 27th. You're welcome to come even if you missed the first three sessions.

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.

In addition to these monthly events, the LGBTQ Action Group is also working on our annual Transgender Day of Remembrance event on November 20th, co-hosted with The Center OC and Resurrection Beach Metropolitan Community Church.

Contact Beth Syverson or Jan Mabie for more information about the LGBTQ Action Group:

[musicdirector@ocuuc.org](mailto:musicdirector@ocuuc.org) or [janselectrical@gmail.com](mailto:janselectrical@gmail.com).

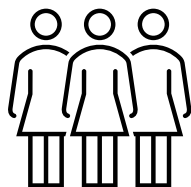
### StitchWits



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 has also moved into cyberspace for the present. They meet on the fourth Sunday of the month at 12 noon. Find the meeting ID on the OCUUC website calendar.



HONORING OUR PAST..  
BUILDING OUR FUTURE



## New Sanctuary Capital Campaign Reaches \$1.1 Million

by Linda Spery

The relaunch of the capital campaign has proceeded according to plan during the month of August, with significant progress made toward our fundraising goal. As of August 25th, here is a summary of the participation:

Pledge Total for Launch	\$594,820
<i>(2018-2019 83% pledges paid)</i>	
Grant (Spirit Level)	\$250,000
Pledge Total for Relaunch	\$265,116
<i>(July-Aug 2020)</i>	

**TOTAL: \$1,109,936**

Pledge Participation	
Current Members	74
Friends	4
Former Members	8
Employees	3
Member Emeritus	1

**TOTAL: 90**

Outreach by the Campaign leaders over the past two months has been a major factor in the success of the fundraising campaign. This group has spent countless hours contacting their assigned lists of congregants and have

taken time to gather feedback on the proposed project. Kudos to Campaign Leaders: Sunny Harper, Nancy Loughrey, Tom Loughrey, Craig Spery, Meg Wilson, Marcia Hackett, Sarah Hunter, Don Martin, Karen Kennedy and Nina Smith.

This has truly been a team effort and continues into the fall! To anyone who has not made a pledge, our Campaign Leaders hope that you will do so after careful consideration. Pledges of all amounts are welcomed, large or small.

THANK YOU to everyone who has contributed to the future of OCUUC! For more information about the new sanctuary, go to <https://ocuuc.org/who-we-are/sanctuary/>. To make a pledge payment online, go to <https://ocuuc.org/support/>. To discuss a first time pledge or "stretch" pledge, contact your Campaign Leader or Campaign Chair, Linda Spery, at [lindaspery@gmail.com](mailto:lindaspery@gmail.com) or 562-212-5317.

## A UU STORY

*Greetings to all! My name is Bob Melville.*

*Sunday, 9/6/2020, is my 93rd birthday.*

*73 years ago, 1947, I became a Unitarian.*

*59 years ago, in 1961, after merger, I was a Unitarian Universalist.*

*41 years ago, in 1979, when I moved to Costa Mesa, I joined OCUUC.*

*At 93 I am alive and well because of the care I get from my delightful wife of 35 years, Dini, so I believe being a pledge-paying member as a UU has been very worth it and it has had a great, positive effect on my life!!*

## September Plateshare



One life at a time.

## STAND UP FOR KIDS—ORANGE

**COUNTY** was established in 1990 and serves homeless and at-risk youth and young adults 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 contact them directly at 714 356-5437. [www.StandUpForKids.org](http://www.StandUpForKids.org)

## FALL FLU CLINIC 2020

Fall flu season will be here shortly and it is recommended by CDC and health care providers that all persons 6 months and older receive flu vaccine for this season.

OCUUC will conduct a Free Flu Clinic on Saturday, October 3rd from 9:30am to 12 noon. This will be a drive through clinic and will be open to the community. You will not



have to leave your car, but you need to wear a face covering.

We will be able to vaccinate any person 9 years and older. The regular vaccine for this year will be given. If you have been recommended to receive the stronger dose (for seniors and those with underlying conditions), contact your health care provider.

Church office is closed at this time, but you can leave a message with church administrator at (714) 556-2882, ext. 301 with any questions. Message will be relayed to Faith Community Nurse: Marilyn Giss, RN.



## ENVIRONMENTAL FILM FESTIVAL

**The show must go on!  
Our 3rd Annual Wild and Scenic  
Environmental Family Film Festival will be on  
Saturday, October 17th at 6:30 pm.**

Because of COVID-19 restrictions, it will be VIRTUAL this year. Fire up your Apple TV or Google Chromecast and project it onto your big screen TV. Pick up food from a local restaurant and enjoy a fun Film Festival evening with your family, from the safety and comfort of your homes. You can invite friends and relatives who don't live nearby to join in and connect with each other via the Chat feature.

We will have the same high caliber films with themes of environmental activism and social

justice, offered by Wild and Scenic On Tour, and selected by the OCUUC Film Festival Committee. Sarah Hunter will be our "live" emcee.

It will be a great event, and proceeds will go to the new Sanctuary.

*Thank you to sponsors: Eastside Mini-Mart and the Costa Mesa Arts Commission.*

Participating establishments where you can pick up food to enjoy with the films: Vitaly Caffe at The CAMP, Eastside Mini-Mart (both in Costa Mesa) and Zero Zero Pizzeria in Huntington Beach.

BUY TICKETS AND PREVIEW FILMS HERE:

<https://www.wildandscenicfilmfestival.org/events/orange-coast-unitarian-universalist-2-2/>

SEND THIS LINK TO ALL YOUR FRIENDS,  
NEAR AND FAR! LET'S MAKE MONEY FOR  
THE NEW SANCTUARY!

Contact Film Festival Chair, Karen Kennedy:  
949-215-3748, with any questions.

## NEW BOARD OF STEWARDS UPDATE

The new Board of Stewards—Craig Spery, Marilyn Frenz and Don Martin—met on August 24th via Zoom for their first quarterly meeting. The group was assisted by outgoing steward David Carlson in reviewing guidelines and procedures moving forward.

The Stewards encourage those in the church community interested in making bequests to OCUUC to contact chair, Craig Spery, at [craigspery@aol.com](mailto:craigspery@aol.com) or 562-858-3214 to discuss memorializing their wishes. Bequests can be earmarked for the new sanctuary, the endowment or for unrestricted uses.

The Stewards' next quarterly meeting will be in October.



**Virtual UUMF Renewal Weekend  
September 25th and 26th  
"Who Am I, Who Are We, Our Inward  
Journey"**

*This no cost virtual renewal weekend will be held on September 25th and 26th. Your participation is encouraged, including any man who has not participated in a renewal weekend usually held at Camp deBenneville Pines, as well as those who have been to the Camp. This weekend hopes to continue our work to know who we are as men. There will be three sessions (Friday evening from 7-9 pm, Saturday morning from 9-11 am, and a Saturday evening ritual from 7-9 pm). You do not have to attend all three, but it is certainly encouraged. On Saturday afternoon, we are planning an optional workshop/discussion on racism led by Anthony Johnson, a Black UU Minister from Sedona, AZ. As we are not able to duplicate our usual mountain experience, we will still come together in the hope that by so gathering we may remember that we are still one in spirit. Please let Mike Dorfi ([mdorfi@cox.net](mailto:mdorfi@cox.net)) know ASAP if you plan to attend so the organization of kinship groups can be initiated. For any additional information, please contact Cory Brown at [kg6ep@aol.com](mailto:kg6ep@aol.com).*



**UU FELLOWSHIP OF LAGUNA BEACH  
SOCIAL JUSTICE MOVIE NIGHT**

We've been invited to participate in a film series on Wednesday nights at 6:30 pm, with the theme of Racial Justice. It's a well-received film series called "Social Justice Movie Night" being offered via Zoom by the UU Fellowship of Laguna Beach and will include live discussions.

Zoom Meeting ID: 898 9589 8119

Password: 663 450

*Link to Syllabus:*

<https://uulagunabeach.org/blog/uufib-social-justice-movie-night-diy-follow-along-syllabus>

**CAMP DE BENNEVILLE  
PINES**

**CLOSED UNTIL JAN. 1,  
2021**



Camp maintenance and improvement activities continue with limited staff. Anyone may attend small, properly distanced, onsite workgroups: contact Janet James at [director@uucamp.org](mailto:director@uucamp.org).

Camp activities will resume when it is generally accepted that it is safe to do so. Providing a safe and healthy environment for our camp family is first and foremost in making that decision.

The camp board continues to fundraise to cover fixed costs and reduced payroll during this time of closure.

***If you can, please DONATE NOW at***  
[www.uucamp.org](http://www.uucamp.org)