

# THE REACH

OCUUC'S MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

ORANGE COAST  
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST  
CHURCH



## Sunday Services in Oct 2020

*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.*

**October 4** | Liberal Religion  
*Rev. Rick Hoyt*

**October 11** | Come Out, Come Out,  
Wherever You Are!  
*Rev. Sian Wiltshire*

**October 18** | The Earth is Calling  
*Rev. Sian Wiltshire*

**October 25** | Betwixt and Between  
*Rev. Sian Wiltshire*

## THE PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

From Debra Quam, President, Board of Trustees

*"I like not only to be loved, but also to be told that I am loved. I am not sure that you are of the same mind. But the realm of silence is large enough beyond the grave. This is the world of light and speech, and I shall take leave to tell you that you are very dear."*

*George Eliot/Mary Ann Evans Cross, 1819-1880*

This quote really resonated with me. I received it as one of the First Light Meditations sent daily by *Rev. Galen Guengerich*, lead pastor of the Unitarian Church of All Souls in New York City. If you would like to receive the daily meditation from *Rev. Guengerich*, please click <https://www.allsouls-nyc.org/connection/a-common-meditation-and-wheel-of-life/>

Mary Ann Evans Cross was a Victorian age writer who published her works under the pen name of *George Eliot*. She did this in order to be taken more seriously by those who may have dismissed her writings because of her gender. Thankfully, our society has progressed over time to increase the equal and fair treatment of all individuals. We can be proud that as Unitarian Universalists we have played an important part in this process.

One of the most important things we can all do to continue to advance progress and our Unitarian Universalist principles is to vote in the upcoming election Tuesday, November 3, 2020. Now, more than ever, we must exercise this precious right and make our voices heard with our votes.

# 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  
ocuuuc.org

There are many activities and projects under way at OCUUC despite not being able to gather together in person for some time. Many of us have become familiar with using Zoom which is key to staying connected. If you do not know how or are having difficulties using Zoom, please contact our church Zoom Geek Squad at [geeksquad@ocuuc.org](mailto:geeksquad@ocuuc.org).

As always, there is much going on at OCUUC. A complete list of all church meetings and activities can be found on our website [www.OCUUC.org](http://www.OCUUC.org) under the Events tab.

Some of the activities coming up soon are:

- Drive thru free flu shot clinic at OCUUC Saturday, October 3, 2020 from 9:30 am to 12 pm.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Wild and Scenic Environmental Family Film Festival, Saturday, October 17, 2020, 6:30 pm. To buy tickets to this virtual event: <https://www.wildandscenicfilmfestival.org/events/orange-coast-unitarian-universalist-2-2/>.
- Pandemic Pandemonium Virtual Fall Auction, November 7-21, 2020. The Fall Auction is open and ready. You can log in and register at [www.auctria.com/auction/OCUUCAuction](http://www.auctria.com/auction/OCUUCAuction)

Keep busy, keep going, and above all, please vote November 3rd.

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



The theme in worship this October is “*Deep Listening.*” It’s a good thing, then, that I spent a lot of time listening to myself this last summer. I listened to what my mind needed, what my body needed, and my spirit needed. Unfortunately, what they needed is not always what they want! It’s often hard to tell the difference. And sometimes they are often in conflict. My body might *need* to move, but my mind *wants* to just sit on the couch and watch Netflix! My mind might *want* to read the news obsessively, but what my spirit *needs* is to listen to some soothing music or read an inspiring book.

Learning to listen to your body, mind, and spirit, is not just about listening to what they want, but also listening to what they *need*. It’s a bit like taking care of a 5-year-old. The 5-year-old might *want* sugary cereal for breakfast, but you know that is not what they *need*.

So, this Fall, I invite you to listen to what your mind, body and spirit need, not just what they want. They’ll thank you later.

With love,

Rev. Sian





## Worship in October 2020

**October 4th | Liberal Religion.** Unitarian Universalism is a liberal religion, not because of our progressive politics, but because of our commitment to the ideals of liberalism. Liberalism in the classic sense is not an ideology, but a method for resolving conflict, gaining knowledge, and advancing toward truth. Our liberal approach to religion and to all that concerns us as religious people is a precious inheritance.

Rev. Rick Hoyt, Guest Preacher

**October 11<sup>th</sup> | Come Out, Come Out, Wherever You Are!** Learning to listen deeply to who you are called to be in this world is a difficult thing. We have so many voices tugging at our attention—society, family, colleagues. How can we drown out all those voices and listen to the most important voice of all?

Rev. Sian

**October 18<sup>th</sup> The Earth is Calling** We often take the earth and all the resources it offers for granted. What does the earth really mean to us? How can we build a healthy relationship with the Earth?

Rev. Sian

**October 25<sup>th</sup> | Betwixt and Between** As we come up on the pagan holiday of *Samhain*, it seems as if the world kind of stands still for a moment. What does it mean to stand in the liminal space and time? What can it teach us?

Rev. Sian



## 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

*"There is guidance for each of us, and by lowly listening we shall hear the right word. Place yourself in the middle of the stream of power and wisdom which flows into your life. Then without effort, you are impelled to truth and perfect contentment"*

Ralph Waldo Emerson

October is *Deep Listening* month. Let's consider becoming, "A people of Deep Listening." The Emerson quote is one of my favorites. Emerson was a Unitarian and leader of the Transcendentalist movement, the idea that all of nature and all of us are infused, inseparable from, the divine. Wow! Today we might say that there is a spark of divinity in us all. A good reason to love our neighbors as ourselves. And to do unto others as we would have them do unto us. A good reason to dismantle racism and all other forms of oppression.

Our weekly Religious Education themes revolve around *Deep Listening: Listen to Your Heart* (Principle #2—Justice, equity and compassion in human relations); Listen to black, indigenous, people of color (BIPOC) voices and the proposed 8<sup>th</sup> UU Principle<sup>i</sup>; Listen to Nature (Our 7<sup>th</sup> Principle—Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.); and Listen to Our Ancestors (UU Source #2—Words and deeds of prophetic people which challenge us to confront power and structures of evil with justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love).

While some folks, especially parents and essential workers, are finding themselves more stressed than ever, for others, COVID-19 has given us the opportunity to listen lowly. To find a still small voice, to take stock of our lives. I hope this month, as our worship services and Religious Education programs focus on paying attention to the voices within and wise voices of others, that you find some guidance, the power and courage to act upon it and the satisfaction and contentment that comes as a result.

With a listening heart,  
Rev. Judy



I would like to share some interesting connections that the Music Ministries have made through our new paradigm of recording collaborative videos remotely.

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<sup>i</sup> Did you know that an 8<sup>th</sup> UU Principle has been proposed? "We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote:

First, our own Steve Morihoro and friends recorded "*I Am the Very Model of a Modern Unitarian*" back in June, and it now has over 3,000 YouTube views! I think it's gone through the UU grapevine. That's by far our church's most widely viewed video of all time.

And I have had many lovely conversations with composers. Since I now have to ask permission to stream their works, I am in much closer dialogue with composers than usual. One of the composers said, "*You make me glad to be alive*" after watching the video we made of her song. Composers' careers are seriously impacted by the lack of choir singing due to the quarantine, so they are very happy that we are using their music and creating new works of art with them.

I'm also working with the creators of the *Winter Solstice Singing Ritual*, which we are hoping to present on Zoom this year, since it's such a well-loved annual tradition. While asking permission from each song's copyright holder, I am creating collaborations with some of the composers as well.

And a few weeks ago, our choir did our first double-choir virtual choir on the song "*The River*." We collaborated with my colleague Sara Jo Brandt at the UU church in Syracuse, doubling the size of both of our choirs.

I would never have dreamed I would be editing audio and video as much as I am, or that we'd be creating musical projects with singers from across the country. Or that we'd be creating viral videos on YouTube. This most unusual time in our lives is really terrible for the most part, but there are some bright moments and new opportunities that we never would have been presented with otherwise. I'm enjoying the good parts as much as possible!

*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."*

You can access the church's playlist of our music at <https://www.youtube.com/user/OrangeCoastUU/playlists>. I hope the music we've recorded brings you peace, joy, and an opportunity for spiritual and emotional growth!

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



All events are Online  
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 to find the Zoom meeting ID.*

**Thursday, October 1**

Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 pm

**Friday, October 2**

Social Hour, 5:00 pm

**Saturday, October 3**

Drive Thru Flu Shots, 9:30 am  
StitchWits, 10:00 am

**Sunday, October 4**

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, October 5**

OCUUC Fiction Book Group, 7:30 pm

**Thursday, October 8**

Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 pm

**Friday, October 9**

Artists UUnite, 2:00 pm  
Social Hour, 5:00 pm

**Saturday, October 10**

StitchWits, 10:00 am

**Sunday, October 11**

RE Class, 9:30 am  
Worship Service, 10:30 am  
Youth Group, 11:30 am  
LGBT Action Group, 12:00 pm

**Thursday, October 15**

Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 pm

**Friday, October 16**

Social Hour, 5:00 pm

**Saturday, October 17**

StitchWits, 10:00 am  
Environmental Film Festival, 6:30 pm

**Sunday, October 18**

RE Class, 9:30 am  
Meditation Group, 9:45 am  
Worship Service, 10:30 am  
Youth Group, 11:30 am  
Nonfiction Book Club, 12:30 pm

**Tuesday, October 20**

Caring Circle, 12:00 pm

**Wednesday, October 21**

Finance Council, 2:00 pm

**Thursday, October 22**

Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 pm

**Friday, October 23**

Social Hour, 5:00 pm

**Saturday, October 24**

Board of Trustees Meeting, 9:00 am  
StitchWits, 10:00 am

**Sunday, October 25**

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

**Thursday, October 29**

Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 pm

**Friday, October 30**

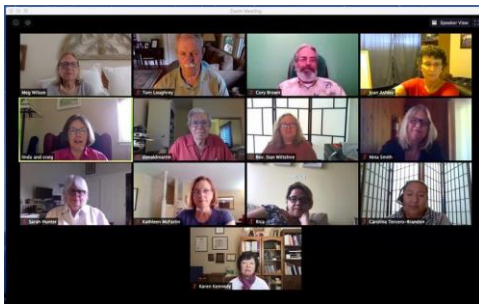
Social Hour, 5:00 pm

**Saturday, October 31**

StitchWits, 10:00 am



The team that creates the Sunday morning Zoom slides is looking for a few more videos of our Members/Friends ringing the singing bowl or lighting a chalice. We love to see all ages participating! You may send your videos to Beth Syverson at [musicdirector@ocuuc.org](mailto:musicdirector@ocuuc.org)



### 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.



### Non-Fiction Book Club

This book club meets on the third Sunday of October, via Zoom at 12:30 pm. Participants share their ideas on non-fiction books they have been reading.



### LGBTQ Action Group

LGBTQ Action Group is open to everyone in our community—LGBTQ+ and allies. Our regular meeting is on the 2nd Sunday of every month at 12:15pm on Zoom. Our next meeting will be October 11th. We'll have a speaker sharing their personal story, plus we'll discuss upcoming outreach and educational events that we're planning.

We are also sponsoring a video course called *Transforming Hearts Collective: Transgender Inclusion in Congregations*. We watch the video course together on the 4th Sunday of each month at 12:15pm on Zoom as well. We'll be watching session 4 of 6 on October 25. You're welcome to come even if you haven't seen the first 3 videos.

We are planning our 3rd annual *Transgender Day of Resilience and Remembrance* on November 20, in conjunction with Resurrection Beach Metropolitan Community Church and The Center OC. This will be a Zoom service memorializing transgender people who have been murdered in hate crimes this past year and honoring the strength and resilience in the transgender community.

Go to the calendar at [OCUUC.org](http://OCUUC.org) for the Zoom links or ask to get on our email list. You can also join our Facebook Group for event reminders and community discussions. If you would like to be a speaker at one of our meetings, or if you have any other event ideas, please contact the group co-chairs, Beth Syverson or Jan Mabie at [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.

## Board of Trustees



Ever wonder what is discussed at the monthly Board of Trustees meeting? OCUUC is alive and well during the Covid-19 era. The minutes are full of details about OCUUC, not only what was discussed at the previous month's Board meeting, but also reports from Rev. Sian, Rev. Judy, Beth Syverson, our Music Minister, Sarah Jones, our Church Administrator, as well as reports from committees such as the New Sanctuary Campaign, Programs, Communications, Finance, Buildings & Grounds, Caring, Safety and others. The Recorder publishes the monthly minutes in the Members Area of the OCUUC website.

Reading the minutes is an easy way to go deeper into the "news" and "workings" of OCUUC; more so than what you might typically read in the BLAST, REACH or on the public portion of our website. Please find the monthly minutes here: <https://ocuu.org/memberarea/board-minutes/>

If you need assistance with a login and password to the Member Area of the website, email [webmaster@ocuu.org](mailto:webmaster@ocuu.org) for assistance.



HONORING OUR PAST..  
BUILDING OUR FUTURE



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### 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.

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



### ENVIRONMENTAL FILM FESTIVAL

The show must go on!  
Our 3rd Annual Wild and Scenic  
Environmental Family Film Festival will be on  
Saturday, October 17<sup>th</sup> 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.



## Fall Auction 2020 Pandemic Pandemonium



OCUUC brings back our annual Fall Auction in the time of Covid. Nothing stops us from staying safe and having some fun! Here is what you need to know:

This auction will be completely online. **Due to Covid-19 we are not accepting any items that would require or involve physically getting together.** Most offerings will be items (a chocolate cake) or services (Spanish Lessons, computer assistance, a virtual tour). We already have a number of items being offered so [take a look](#) and get your items in soon.

**There will be no auction dinner as we have had in recent auctions. The auction will occur over a two-week period starting November 7<sup>th</sup> through 9 pm on November 21<sup>st</sup>. All bidding will be online. Bids will be updated with new bids and bidders will be automatically notified if they have been outbid on an item.**

Here is what you need to do right now: First, go to the [auction website](#) and register yourself. Second, think about what you can offer and go to the [donations](#) part of the registration site and list your item. Third, peruse the [catalog](#) as it is coming together and think about what you want to bid on. Finally, watch **The Blast** each week for ideas on donations and other information.

Questions? Want to volunteer? We're waiting to hear from you at [auction@ocuuc.org](mailto:auction@ocuuc.org).



## OCTOBER PLATE SHARE



### Laura's House

The inception of Laura's House was inspired by a true story about a woman called Laura who was a victim of domestic violence.

Since 1994, Laura's House has continued to grow and offer a multitude of programs and services which provide vital support and education aimed at avoiding such tragic circumstances from ever occurring again.

Laura's House provides unduplicated domestic violence-related services to the 915,000 residents of Orange County, California and beyond. Over the past 26 years, Laura's House has provided shelter and supportive services to more than 5,000 abused women, men and children and counseling, life skills, education and legal advocacy to over 55,000 persons.

Today, Laura's House continues to be the only state-approved comprehensive domestic violence agency in South Orange County. Annually, Laura's House provides residential shelter services, transitional housing, counseling and workshops, and legal services to thousands of individuals. Over 2500 crisis calls come in each year on the 24/7 Crisis Hotline.

The target population is families experiencing the effects of domestic violence in need of emergency shelter, support, education and counseling. Laura's House operates on the philosophy that domestic violence is multi-dimensional and often cyclical in nature and must

be addressed through a range of interventions. The goal is to provide supportive service programs that will prepare clients and their children to live independent and violence free lives, with an emphasis on education and prevention for future generations.

Contact info: Phone: 949-361-3775  
Email: [cwishart@laurashouse.org](mailto:cwishart@laurashouse.org)

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## FROM THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION – PACIFIC WESTERN REGION

### Big Faith, No Borders

Dear Unitarian Universalists in the Pacific Western Region,

You all have been and continue to be held in the hearts and the prayers of your sibling UUs across our Association and by everyone at the UUA.

We are so grateful for the ministry, the care, and the dedication that you all across the West are bringing to one another and to those beyond your congregations. We witness the ways you are caring for each other in the midst of devastating climate fires, deadly smoke across the region, and oppressive violence at the hands of the state. All of these realities threaten so many people's lives, well-being and livelihoods. And you continue to offer leadership, ministry, and care even as you work to keep yourselves, your families, and your communities safe and well, as best you can.

We are also grateful for the tremendous skill and commitment of your Pacific Western Region staff. They are your primary contacts for support and resources from the UUA. In particular, they can help you connect with the UUA's Disaster Relief Fund which is made possible by the generosity of UUs and supports our congregations, their members and community partners in the aftermath of catastrophic events. In this time of increasing

natural disasters, your gifts are always needed and so appreciated. If your congregation or members have been directly impacted by the fires, please be in touch with regional staff, so that they can connect you to this relief fund.

The UUA is the embodiment of the covenant that all of our congregations make to each other. In other words, we only exist because of the promises of mutual care and support that congregations make to each other. We are here, both nationally and regionally, to do our best to support you in the vital, life-saving ministries you are offering in this time when our values are so needed and so much is on the line. Thank you for all the ways you are living our values every day in your communities.

In this time, when so much feels precarious, and when it is easy to feel isolated, we remember how much we need each other. This is no time to go it alone. We know you all know this in your congregations – the ways that your spiritual communities, your bonds of friendship, faith, and care are sources of courage and resilience. At the UUA, we want you to know we are together with you in a network of care, courage, resilience and faith.

As this year continues to bring unprecedented grief, fear and challenges, we know the ways you are responding and leading - often with urgency, and in the midst of unbelievable and even dangerous circumstances. We are moved by your witness and your faithfulness. Your commitment to the values of love, empathy, and interconnectedness give us all strength. We pray that you are able to set aside moments to rest, to be present to your loved ones, and to engage practices that nourish your spirit. Your well-being matters. Your presence matters.

We send you our love, care and deep gratitude.

Sincerely yours,

Susan Frederick-Gray, UUA President  
Jessica York, Director of Congregational Life