

THE REACH

OCUUC'S MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

ORANGE COAST
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
CHURCH



Sunday Services in Nov. 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.

November 1 | Journey Together in Love
Liz Murphy, Intern Minister, Throop Church

November 8 | Healing a Broken World
Rev. Sian Wiltshire

November 15 | Where No One Has Gone Before!
Rev. Sian Wiltshire

November 22 | For All That Has Been Lost
Rev. Sian Wiltshire

November 29 | What is Breaking Your Heart and Other Good News
Rev. Arvid Straube

THE PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

From Debra Quam, President, Board of Trustees

*I am only one
But still I am one.
I cannot do everything,
But still I can do something.
And because I cannot do everything,
I will not refuse to do the something that I can do.*

Edward Everett Hale, 1822 – 1909

This quote made me think of all the people at OCUUC who, with all of our contributions and working together, can and do make a positive difference for ourselves and community.

One of the ways OCUUC made a positive difference this last month was by hosting the 3rd Annual Wild and Scenic Environmental Family Film Festival. The film festival was a great success due to the tireless and talented work of Chairperson, Karen Kennedy, and her committee members. Thank you, thank you, Karen and committee members!

Here's another way OCUUC recently made a positive difference in our community. Last month I was contacted by several people asking if OCUUC would write a letter of support for the Community Choice Energy (CCE) program to be considered at the October 20, 2020 Costa Mesa City Council meeting.

Community Choice Energy is a fiscally responsible and proven wide-scale action plan that cities can take to increase renewable energy options at

ORANGE COAST
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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

competitive rates for all its residents and businesses as an alternative to Southern California Edison. If you would like to learn more about CCE, please open this link. <https://www.climaterealityoc.com/learn>.

Two of those who contacted me requesting OCUUC's support of CCE were Linda Kraemer, a long-time member of OCUUC and Dr. Kathleen Treseder of the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at UCI. Dr. Treseder has visited our church services several times and she has been one of the leaders of CCE in Orange County.

The OCUUC board voted unanimously in favor of sending a [letter of support](#) for CCE.

On October 20, 2020, the Costa Mesa City Council voted 6 to 1 in favor to instruct staff to negotiate with Irvine to join Irvine's Community Choice Energy program.

From the feedback I received from Linda and Kathleen, OCUUC's letter of support was taken very seriously by the Mayor and City Council. We may be only one of many churches in Costa Mesa, but we can and do make a difference.

I wish you all a wonderful November and a safe and happy Thanksgiving.

Debra Quam
President@ocuc.org



SIAN'S SHENANIGANS

From Our Minister: Rev. Sian Wiltshire

Did you know that there is a difference between “healing” and “curing?” Curing implies that whatever was bothering you—an ache, a pain, an illness, or a heartache—is gone. But healing is different. Healing is about not allowing the ache, pain, illness or heartache to rule your life. It’s about strengthening your mind, body and spirit when a cure isn’t possible and it allows you to live in peace, despite the issue.

We’ve all seen it happen—or know stories. The person facing a terminal illness, becomes a happier, more grounded person, or the person facing a debilitating disease finds ways of being an inspiration for others. I’d like to think that I would be that way, but let’s face it, it isn’t easy. Here’s the thing, though: Healing doesn’t have to start with some horrible tragedy. We can begin healing (strengthening our mind, body and spirit) right now—every day. We do that by taking care of ourselves.

Here’s a challenge for you this month: spend time noticing where you find stress and where you find healing. Notice how you feel after you meet with various people or after doing an activity. What might you change that would reduce your stress, and what fills your soul? What brings you healing?

We are facing a challenging month ahead with elections that are on everyone’s minds. Let’s start the healing process now, so that no matter the outcome, we are all feeling healed.

With love,

Rev. Sian





Worship in November 2020

November 1 | Journey Together in Love. Our world seems in need of healing urgently as any time in history. Many of us access self-care activities to help nourish our spirits and energy. We heal, we learn, we grow—we replenish our well—in community, too. This Sunday we'll consider the ways community care manifests in church—how can we travel alongside one another toward wholeness?

Liz Murphy, Intern Minister at Throop Church,
Pasadena

November 8 | Healing a Broken World. So, it's after a very contentious election. What now? How do we continue the work of healing the pain that has divided our country?

Rev. Sian

November 15 | Where No One Has Gone Before! Star Trek is one of the most popular and profitable franchises in the history of television and movies. Why? What does the story of our future reveal about us in the present?

Rev. Sian

November 22 | For All That Has Been Lost. As we come upon the holiday season, still in the depths of COVID19, how do we do "holidays" now? And how do we both mourn what was, and embrace what is?

Rev. Sian

November 29 | What is Breaking Your Heart, and Other Good News. We think that if we let our hurt and grief at the state of the world and the planet in, we'll be overwhelmed. But that's where the healing and wisdom begin.

Rev. Arvid Straube

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. 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

Our church-wide theme this month is Healing. I can think of no better area of life to focus on post-election in our country, in the midst of a pandemic, and continuously for our Earth. Not to mention the personal work of healing from trauma, abuse or everyday bumps and bruises.

Contemplating healing in my own life, various spiritual practices like meditation and dream work have helped. I just learned with Youth Group a couple of Sundays ago that, not only being in nature, but simply watching nature videos, can heal. Being honest and listening deeply have curative powers and, every once in a while, miracles and grace enter unexpectedly.

What helps you heal? And how will you know when you are healed? How do we help our children heal and bounce back from adversity?

Over the course of the month at all levels of Religious Education/Exploration we will cover several topics: Don't run away from the hard work of healing; Let gratitude heal you; Heal by telling the truth of Thanksgiving; Find way to comfort yourself.

Here are some great Thanksgiving resources from our friends at *Soul Matters*:

- November 27, 2019 The Atlantic:
www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2019/11/thanksgiving-belongs-wampanoagtribe/602422/
- The Myths of the Thanksgiving Story and the Lasting Damage They Imbue:
www.smithsonianmag.com/history/thanksgiving-myth-and-what-we-should-be-teachingkids-180973655/
- Everyone's history matters: The Wampanoag Indian Thanksgiving story deserves to be known:
www.smithsonianmag.com/blogs/national-museum-american-indian/2017/11/23/everyones-history-matters-and-wampanoag-indian-thanksgiving-story-deserves-be-known/
- 6 Misconceptions About Native American People:
www.youtube.com/watch?v=GHDW_LVfn28

So, find out the true story of Thanksgiving, and leave the "Pilgrims and Indians" of the traditional version behind. All cultures celebrate a time of giving thanks, of gratitude expressed. Thanksgiving can also be a time of healing through the true story.

With love and gratitude,

Rev. Judy



OCUUC Music Ministries are preparing two big events for our community in November. Both annual events have been re-designed to work on Zoom this year.

Transgender Day of Remembrance is an annual event on November 20 that honors the memory of transgender people whose lives were lost in acts of anti-transgender violence. This is the third year that OCUUC has observed this day with a ceremony, and the second year that we have produced it in collaboration with Resurrection Beach Metropolitan Christian Church and The Center OC. This year, the name of the event has been changed to **Transgender Day of Resilience and Remembrance** to highlight the strength and hope in the transgender community.

This is a *virtual live event* on Zoom instead of an in-person event this year. A candlelight ritual will still be performed to memorialize the transgender people who were murdered in a hate crime this past year, including Daniela Hernandez, a transgender Latina who was brutally murdered on October 4, 2020 in Los Angeles. There will be three speakers who are transgender; poetry by our trans siblings; and music by Trans Chorus LA, singer-songwriter and trans activist Shea Diamond, classical vocalist transwoman Tana Brown, plus Orange Coast Choir. The event is free and open to the public.

The other big event this month is the Newport Mesa Irvine Interfaith Council's annual Thanksgiving Interfaith Music Celebration on November 22. I am producing the event as I did last year, with soloists and ensembles from 8-10 congregations in our area (including, of course, Orange Coast Choir), plus a mass finale with all the musicians gathered in one virtual choir piece.

Both of these events will be on Zoom, and the links will be on the church website and on our Facebook page as well. Please mark your calendars and invite your friends. These annual events are great ways to get OCUUC's messages out to the community: support for LGBTQ rights, peace and unity among different religions, and strength in our gathered community. And we are hoping that because the events are on Zoom, geography, commute time, and night driving are no longer obstacles.

Musically Yours,
Beth Syverson, Director of Music Ministries
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.

Sunday, November 1

RE Class, 9:30 am
Meditation Group, 9:45 am
Worship Service, 10:30 am
Youth Group, 11:30 am
A History of Living our UU Values: Do We Have an Impact? 12:00 pm

Monday, November 2

OCUUC Fiction Book Group, 7:30 pm

Tuesday, November 3

ELECTION DAY—PLEASE VOTE!

Wednesday, November 4

Mojo Class, 3:00 pm

Thursday, November 5

Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 pm

Friday, November 6

Social Hour, 5:00 pm

Saturday, November 7

StitchWits, 10:00 am

Sunday, November 8

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

Wednesday, November 11

Mojo Class, 3:00 pm

Thursday, November 12

Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 pm

Friday, November 13

Social Hour, 5:00 pm

Saturday, November 14

StitchWits, 10:00 am

Sunday, November 15

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, November 17

Caring Circle, 12:00 pm

Wednesday, November 18

Finance Council, 2:00 pm
Mojo Class, 3:00 pm

Thursday, November 19

Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 pm

Friday, November 20

Social Hour, 5:00 pm

Saturday, November 21

StitchWits, 10:00 am

Sunday, November 22

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

Wednesday, November 25

Board of Trustees Mtg., 7:00 pm

Thursday, November 26

Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 pm

Friday, November 27

Social Hour, 5:00 pm

Saturday, November 28

StitchWits, 10:00 am

Sunday, November 29

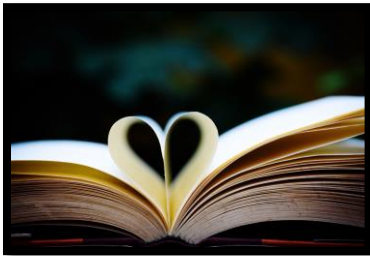
RE Class, 9:30 am
Worship Service, 10:30 am
Youth Group, 11:30 am



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 via Zoom on the third Sunday of the month, 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 12:15 pm on Zoom. Our next meeting will be November 8. 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 12:15 pm on Zoom as well. We'll be watching session 5 of 6 on November 22. You're welcome to come even if you haven't seen the first 4 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 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 bethuumusic@gmail.com or janselectrica@gmail.com.



StitchWits

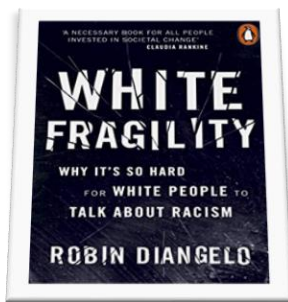
Do you knit, crochet, sew, or enjoy any other crafts? Do you believe in using your skills to help others? Then you might be a StitchWit!

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. It meets on the fourth Sunday of the month at 12 noon. Find the meeting ID on the OCUUC website calendar.



A nine-week book discussion on *White Fragility* by Robin DiAngelo led by Maureen McConaghy has just completed. The book is a best seller published by Beacon Press. It was a great class and discussion on racism.

Several people have indicated that they were not able to participate in the first group, so Nancy Loughrey will be leading another round on the same topic, starting November 10th. If you are interested in furthering your understanding, it will be meeting by Zoom on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at 2:00 pm. Please contact me at nloughrey@me.com with questions or to sign up for the group.



Capital Campaign Update for New Sanctuary

By
Linda Spery, Capital Campaign Chair

As you consider year-end contributions for tax planning purposes, please keep in mind the new OCUUC sanctuary. Contact Linda Spery at lindaspery@gmail.com. Here is where we stand for the capital campaign as of the end of October:

First round pledges 2018-2019	\$594,820
Relaunch	\$272,366
Grant	\$250,000
TOTAL PLEDGES & GRANTS*	\$1,117,186
Pledge Participation:	
Current Member Pledges**	91
Friends, Former Members, Staff and Emeritus Members Pledges	17
TOTAL PLEDGERS TO NEW SANCTUARY	108

*This total does not include 2020 Film Festival funds that are being earmarked for the campaign.

**This includes 100% participation by the current OCUUC board!

HONORING OUR PAST..
BUILDING OUR FUTURE





Scrip Program Reorganizing

For many years we have had a scrip program where we sell gift cards to members and friends. As a nonprofit, we are able to buy the cards at a discount, so we make money on selling them at face value. The program has been declining for several years as the mainstay of the program was traditional grocery stores.

Normally, we sell scrip cards on the patio after the service each Sunday. However, since we are not meeting on site, the program has been mostly inactive. We have made limited sales, but as scrip cards are like cash, no one wants to be responsible for sending them through the mail. We have made the difficult decision to move the program entirely online.

We are planning on phasing out our card inventory by the end of 2020. The current inventory of the scrip box is on the scrip web page at <https://ocuuc.org/support/scrip/>. Please order from this inventory first. In addition, orders placed by the tenth of each month (November and December) will be placed and hand delivered with inventory purchase by the 20th of the month. Please email scrip@ocuuc.org if you would like to reserve inventory or place an order for other cards.

You may also help OCUUC raise money through our scrip program by ordering directly through our vendor, ShopWithScrip. It involves setting up a family account that designates OCUUC as the nonprofit beneficiary. You may purchase your scrip directly through them, and they will deposit the profits directly in an OCUUC account. A complete list of their vendors is available here: <https://shop.shopwithscrip.com/Shop/Product/Browse>.

The advantages are that you have full access to more than 700 brands that they offer, and you

may be able to obtain your purchasing power more quickly than waiting for Sunday or a special order. The disadvantages are that there is some work with setting up an account, and you must give them your bank or credit card number for payment. They will charge a fee of \$.5 for debit transactions, and 2.6% for credit cards.

There are several ways to purchase scrip through ShopWithScrip:

- ScripNow E-cards: Scrip that you may print out at home.
- Reload and Reload Now: Once you have a physical card with a balance, it may be eligible for reload, which is a very easy way to purchase more scrip on favorite vendors. Not all vendors accept reloads.
- Physical cards: Starting in November, physical cards may be purchased directly on their site for delivery to your home.

All of these are available through your family account. There is also now a mobile phone app called RaiseRight, that will allow you to manage purchases on your phone. Reload is instantaneous, so you can literally reload once you are at a store and know the amount of your purchase.

Start by reading the Family User Guide on the web site and setting up a family account. We are here to help!

Questions: Contact scrip@ocuuc.org





ENVIRONMENTAL FILM FESTIVAL

The Environmental Film Festival Committee would like to thank everyone who bought a ticket and joined us virtually on October 17th. We sold more tickets this year than last year, so it was nice to keep the momentum going into our third year.

We look at this Festival as an outreach event, and 53% of our ticket buyers/attendees were not OCUUC members. They were friends or relatives of members, people who had attended in the past, those who read about it in the newspaper* members of environmental groups, or members of other UU churches. Because it was virtual, our audience was able to tune in from across the country. They all got a glimpse of OCUUC through recorded appearances from Rev. Sian and Sarah Hunter, as well as the *"Many Different Beliefs"* video. One respondent from Texas wrote, along with her enthusiastic praise for the films, "...and your church sounds interesting, too!"

Metrics tell us that we had 300 live bodies watching the films. The Wild and Scenic organizer said that it takes 10-20 times for someone to hear about something before they will actually buy a ticket. So, if we just keep doing what we're doing, eventually we will have many Standing Room Only crowds! The first year, we had 150 people present, and this third year, we have doubled the number. Next year, it may be Hybrid event, with some people in person, and some watching virtually.

We grossed over \$5,000, and net profits will go into our Sanctuary fund. Special thanks to the Eastside Mini-Mart and The Costa Mesa Cultural Arts Committee (Barbara Morihiro wrote the successful grant) who each gave \$500.

Thank you also to these "Film Festival Supporters" who generously paid \$100 for their ticket: Geoff

* Los Angeles Times article which you can read at <https://www.latimes.com/socal/daily->

and Yulis Ayton, Sharon Ball, Cory Brown and April Stilson, Franci Coleman, Ruby Hirst, Sarah and Rob Hunter, Robert and Vinita Karatsu, Karen Kennedy, Tom and Nancy Loughrey, Sandie and Don Martin, Hildy Meyers, Barbara and Steve Morihiro, Paula Petersen, Peggy Priver, Debra Quam and Audrey Prosser, Asrlis Reynolds, Nina Smith and Jeanine Scalero, Mary Smithberger, Linda and Craig Spery, Shastina Sutton, Stacy Lynn Taylor, and Carrie Topliffe.

The most important aspects of the Film Festival to me: 1. the number of new people who were introduced to OCUUC (>100) and 2. The impact that the films may have had on people who want to do something to help our environment.

Submitted by Karen Kennedy
Chair, Environmental Film Festival Committee



The Fall Auction is Almost Here! Bidding Starts November 7th!

Do you know that we have over 90 items now for the Fall Auction? It's true! Everything from books to jewelry to artwork and specialty foods and more. You can see everything at our [auction catalog](#).

So you can see what is available in the auction and you can even donate something to the auction at that site. However... you can only bid on something if you register for the auction. To register just go to the [registration page](#) of the auction. It's very easy to sign up today.

Bidding will start on November 7th. As you place your bid you will be notified by email if you have

[pilot/entertainment/sotry/2020-10-04/environmental-film-festival-in-o-c-goes-virtual](https://www.latimes.com/socal/daily-pilot/entertainment/sotry/2020-10-04/environmental-film-festival-in-o-c-goes-virtual)

been outbid for an item. You can just use the provided link in the email to go back and offer a new bid or you can look at your account (which was set up for you when you registered) to see where you stand at any time on all your bids including a summary of total dollars if you get everything you have open bids on.

Just to help you, we will have a demonstration of the bidding process on November 14th following the Sunday service. You can see how to register, how to bid and how to monitor everything you are bidding on. It's all easy and if you have any questions or problems with registration, donations or bidding, just contact auction@ocuuc.org and we can help you out.

So join the fun, offer something that you would want to buy yourself and then get ready for the bidding to begin!

NOVEMBER PLATE SHARE



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

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Election Night Together

The election this year feels extra stressful and we don't want anyone spending it alone. Regardless of how you voted, you are welcome to join Rev. Sian and Beth Syverson on November 3rd from 6 pm to 9 pm to breathe through, sing through, and generally support one another as the results come in. We may not know the outcome, but we can love one another through it. You are welcome to join us at any time throughout the evening. You can mute, turn off video, whatever you would like. It will be an informal time to be together. Zoom is the same as our worship service: <https://zoom.us/j/3931579606>.

Be safe, be well,
You mean the world to me.
Be safe, be well,
You mean the world to me.

- Words by Dan Berggren