

THE REACH

OCUUC'S MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

ORANGE COAST
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
CHURCH



Sunday Services in Jan. 2021

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.

January 3 | Imagine a World
Rev. Sian Wiltshire

January 10 | Imagine a Difference God
Rev. San Wiltshire

January 17 | Class, not what you think.
Rev. Sian Wiltshire

January 24 | Finding Your True North
Rev. Amanda Aikman

January 31 | OCUUC 2.0
Rev. Sian Wiltshire

THE PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

From Debra Quam, President, Board of Trustees

"There are only two days in which nothing can be done. One is called yesterday and the other is called tomorrow, so today is the right day to love, believe, do and mostly live."

The Dalai Lama

Happy New Year to you all! Despite the hardships we experienced in 2020 due to the pandemic and likely more hardships to come for at least part of 2021, I believe we all have much to look forward to in this coming year. Because of the brilliant work of many scientists around the world, we are already seeing the most vulnerable among us and the most essential medical personnel receive the Covid 19 vaccine. Thank you to our Unitarian ancestors who recognized that science is essential to humankind's well-being, a truth which has been born out once again by the science and scientists who are literally rescuing humankind with the Covid 19 vaccine.

Saturday, January 23rd the board will hold its quarterly three-hour morning meeting and that same afternoon our beloved recent intern, Rica Kaufel will be ordained as a UU Minister. Congratulations, Rica! Please

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
occuuc.org

watch the Blast for further information on Rica's ordination service.

This month will be a busy one for members of the Board and Property Use Group who will be preparing for and conducting a Town Hall on Sunday, January 31st to review and discuss progress to date on the new Sanctuary building. The Town Hall will be held immediately after the Sunday morning church service so please mark your calendars to attend this important meeting.

Despite not being able to meet in person since mid-March of 2020, we will be welcoming new members to OCUUC during a new member ceremony as part of the January 31st church service. Thank you to Karen Kennedy and Rev. Sian for their resourceful outreach to visitors during this difficult time to help them find a spiritual home at OCUUC.

I wish all of you, my dear friends, a happy, safe and healthy New Year.

Debra Quam
President@ocuuc.org



SIAN'S SHENANIGANS

From Our Minister: Rev. Sian Wiltshire

As many of you know, I've been learning how to paint and draw these last three years. And one thing I've learned is that there are skills...and then there is imagination. And the two don't always go together. Which is frustrating as an artist. You can have a great imagination and think of wonderful ideas, but if you don't have the skills, you cannot execute your vision. And vice versa. You can have great skills, but if you lack imagination, your art won't draw people in (though your skills may impress). At least that's what I've found as a budding artist.



And isn't that true for most things we do? We need both skills and imagination to make life interesting and fulfilling. And imagination or creativity, doesn't have to be about art. It can be about leadership, parenting, relationships, work—you name it. We need both skills and creativity/imagination.

And here's the good news: both imagination and skills can be learned! We tend to think about imagination as somehow innate. But it's not. We learn how to be imaginative.

This new year, I invite you to consider: In what ways can you grow your imagination?

Me, I'm imagining what it will be like to be with you all together again. I can't wait!

With love,

Rev. Sian



Worship in January 2021

Worship Theme: Imagination

January 3 | Imagine a World... 2020 is over. How do we now design a post-pandemic world? What would you like to imagine our world to be like?

Rev. Sian

January 10 | Imagine a different God. What if God was what we call "justice" and "love"? How might you worship that kind of god? Rev. Sian

January 17 | Class, not what you think. We talk a lot about racism, sexism and all kinds of other isms and phobias. But we haven't talked much about Classism. How might our world be different if we were in a different class? Rev. Sian

January 24 | Finding Your True North How well does your inner GPS guide you to make decisions, large and small? Do you believe in a divinely ordained path for your life, or do you believe we each figure it all out on our own? Let's look at discernment, and how we come to figure out what our true path is -- and not just personally, but as a people, a community, a nation.

Rev. Amanda Aikman, Guest Minister

January 31 | OCUUC 3.0 We have a chance, when we all get back together again, to re-imagine church. What might our church look like in 2021 and beyond? We will also be inviting new members into the life of the congregation on this Sunday. Town Hall Meeting after the service to update everyone on the new sanctuary.

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. 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

"Imagination is more important than knowledge. For knowledge is limited to all we now know and understand, while imagination embraces the entire world, and all there ever will be to know and understand." –

Albert Einstein

Happy New Year! Imagination is our Soul Matters theme for January. Here we are with

365 brand new days. We get to envision all that a new year could hold. We can feel in our bodies all the hope and love we can put into it. All the energy and action we can muster to bring our vision into being. What a gift!

We will put our imaginations to work in RE with lessons on:

- Jan. 3: Imagine a New You
- Jan. 10: Imagine a World Without Covid19—I'm already doing that.
- Jan. 17: Imagine a Better World—Yup
- Jan. 24: Think Outside the Box
- Jan. 31 Visit Other Worlds

Mid-month we will set up pen-pal connections between the RE children and youth. Please let me know if you would like to sign up. We will do this for the 30 days leading up to Valentine's Day (Sunday, February 14) when we will have a virtual Pen-Pal gathering and get to meet each other.

We will offer some great questions to spark imagination: What do you think makes a good friend? What helps you when you feel worried? What was your last birthday like? What do you imagine life will be like 100 years from now?

May this new year bring rebirth to our lives, rejuvenate our democracy and grow justice throughout the land. You are a blessing!

Happy New Year
Rev. Judy, DRE



After our busy holiday schedule, the musicians are back at it in January. We are looking forward to singing together again when it's safe to do so, but until then, we will continue making video recordings for services and special events. Make sure to subscribe to the church's YouTube channel if you haven't already. There's a Music Playlist there that you can play anytime. You can even shuffle the songs so each time you listen is a different experience. I am regularly adding more songs to the playlist. Go to www.youtube.com/OrangeCoastUU to find our YouTube channel.

We are preparing a fun show for you on January 30. Keep your eyes and ears open for more announcements about Music Under the Stars that night at 7pm on Zoom (of course). This time around we're going to perform comedies and parodies to lighten everyone's mood. This is an auction item, but anyone can opt in even if you didn't purchase it at the fall auction.

I want to give a BIG thank you to all who helped create the music and readings for our Winter Solstice Singing Ritual and Christmas Eve service, and to those of you who made the slideshows and ran the Zoom events those evenings. Both events were memorable and meaningful, thanks to your contributions. We really made lemonade out of the lemons that 2020 handed us! I know December is a busy time of year, so I appreciate you all taking the time to give to the church in this way. Special thanks to Steve and Barbara Morihiro, who helped me edit both events. They help in so many other

ways, too—singing, ushering, Zoom MCing, Worship Associate-ing, creating music on my days off, and editing their own projects.

May your day be full of music and light.

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.

Friday, January 1

Social Hour, 5:00 pm

Saturday, January 2

StitchWits, 10:00 am

Sunday, January 3

RE Class, 9:30 am

Meditation Group, 9:45 am

Worship Service, 10:30 am

Youth Group, 11:30 am

AHA Group, 12:15 pm

Monday, January 4

OCUUC Fiction Book Group 7:30pm

Thursday, January 7

Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 pm

Friday, January 8

Social Hour, 5:00 pm

Saturday, January 9

StitchWits, 10:00 am

Exploring OCUUC 10:00 am

Sunday, January 10

RE Class, 9:30 am

Worship Service, 10:30 am

Youth Group, 11:30 am

LGBT Action Group, 12:15 pm

Thursday, January 14

Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 pm

Friday, January 15

Social Hour, 5:00 pm

Saturday, January 16

StitchWits, 10:00 am

Sunday, January 17

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, January 19

Caring Circle, 12:00 pm

Wednesday, January 20

Finance Council Meeting 2:00pm

Thursday, January 21

Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 pm

Friday, January 22

Social Hour, 5:00 pm

Saturday, January 23

Board of Trustees Meeting 9:00 am

StitchWits 10:00 am

Rica Kaufel Ordination 2:30 pm

Sunday, January 24

RE Class, 9:30 am

Worship Service, 10:30 am

Youth Group, 11:30 am

Women's Circle, 12:00 pm

Thursday, January 28

Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 pm

Friday, January 29

Social Hour, 5:00 pm

Saturday, January 30

StitchWits, 10:00 am

Music Under the Stars 7:00 pm

Sunday, January 31

RE Class, 9:30 am

Worship Service, 10:30 am

Youth Group, 11:30 am

Town Hall Meeting, 11:45 am



EXPLORING OCUUC

Visitors and Friends: You are cordially invited to attend an **"Exploring OCUUC"** class held once a month on a Saturday morning at 10:00 via Zoom. Our next one will be on Saturday, January 9th at 10:00 am. We would like to get to know you and introduce ourselves to you, in a small group setting. We will discuss Programs that OCUUC offers, ways you can volunteer to get involved (if you want), a brief history of Unitarian-Universalism, how to become a member (absolutely no obligation!), and answer any questions you may have. Contact Karen Kennedy at Membership@ocuuc.org or call her at 949-215-3748 for info. She'll send you the link.

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.



LGBTQ Action Group

We meet on the 2nd Sunday of every month at 12:15pm on Zoom. This month's meeting is on January 10, and we will have a guest speaker sharing their personal story. Let us know if you (or someone you know) are LGBTQ and would like to be our guest one month, and we'll put you on the schedule!

Our final installment of our Transgender Inclusion in Congregations course will be on January 24 at 12:15pm. We will view our 6th of 6 videos: *Creating Culture Shift*. In this session we'll learn tools and practices for congregational culture shift, brainstorm next steps for creating trans-affirming culture shift at OCUUC and find out about additional resources that can support us in our next steps.

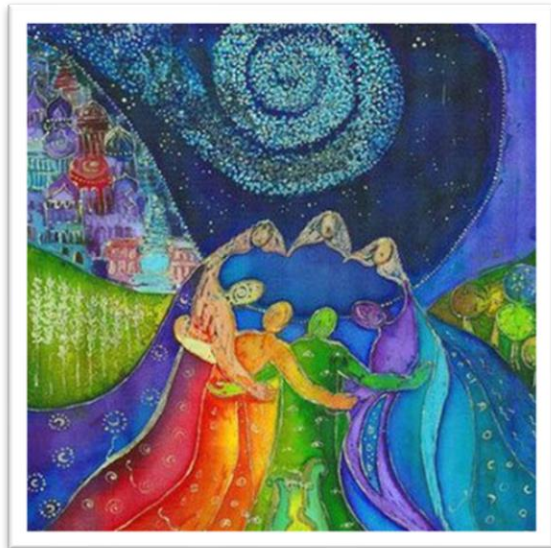
Beth Syverson and Jan Mabie, coordinators
LGBTQ Action Group
Janselectrical@gmail.com



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. It meets on Zoom on the fourth Sunday of the month at 12 noon. Find the meeting ID on the OCUUC website calendar or contact [Peggy P.](#)



Capital Campaign Update for New Sanctuary

By
Linda Spery, Capital Campaign Chair

This past year our congregation pulled together in a big way to continue support of the new sanctuary project. Your generosity in pledges and gifts was outstanding and brought us closer to where we need to be to move forward in 2021. Here are the most recent numbers for the end of December:

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATED TOTALS:

Relaunch	277,414
Grant	250,000
First round pledges	594,820
2020 Film Festival Donation	3,446
Beth's 20 th Anniversary Gifts	<u>13,693</u>
TOTAL	1,139,373

Pledge/Gift Participation

Current Member Pledgers/Gift Givers	96*
Friends, Former Members, Staff	
Emeritus Member Pledgers/Gift Givers	<u>17</u>
TOTAL PLEDGERS/GIFT GIVERS TO NEW SANCTUARY	113

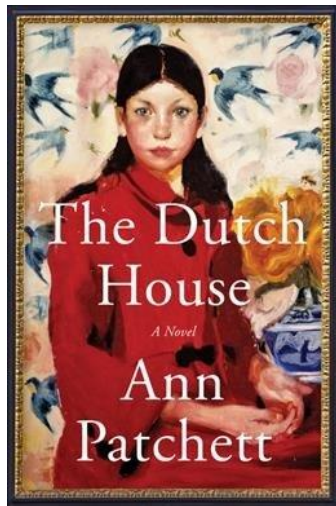
*This includes 100% participation by the current OCUUC Board.

In December we launched a campaign-within-a-campaign to honor Beth Syverson on her 20th anniversary with OCUUC, which is in 2021. A mailing was sent out on December 1 and as of this report, we have received

\$13,693 in gifts from 19 congregant families in appreciation of Beth. Gifts in Beth's honor can still be sent in throughout 2021 to help fund the new sanctuary audio-visual components.

To find out more about contributions to the new sanctuary campaign, please feel free to contact me at 562-212-5317 or lin-daspery@gmail.com. Thank you for your generosity and your belief in the vision for OCUUC's future.

HONORING OUR PAST..
BUILDING OUR FUTURE



FICTION BOOK GROUP

The Fiction Book Group will start off the new year on Monday, January 4, 2021, discussing *The Dutch House* by Ann Patchett.

Please join us on Zoom at 7:30 pm. All are welcome. Contact Eva Goodwin-Noriega for the link or find it on the OCUUC website, on the calendar page.

Marcia Hackett, co-chair

JANUARY 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

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

- Words by Dan Berggren