

April 2023 | [www.iucc.org](http://www.iucc.org) | Join us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#)!

OPEN AND AFFIRMING · JUST PEACE · GLOBAL MISSION · CREATION JUSTICE/GREEN FAITH

**There were lots of palm branches and hosannas  
as IUCC celebrated Palm Sunday on April 2!**



*Photos courtesy of Tricia Aynes & Lauren Louie*



## Two upcoming events will highlight IUCC's decades-long commitment to the LGBTQ+ community

Irvine United Congregational Church is celebrating our 32nd year as an Open and Affirming congregation. We've grown over the years as we've expanded our understanding and our welcome. As far back as 1991 and the years that led up to our vote to support the queer community, we were vocal in our support, beginning at the Irvine City Council. Since then we have publicly worked for equality fighting both Propositions 22 (in 2000) and 8 (in 2008) which sought to ban equal marriage. Our clergy have been outspoken leaders and our congregation has proudly marched for equality both in celebration at Pride parades and in protest whenever an injustice occurs. While we have seen many wins, we continue to see hate amplified.

Much of the hate we see today towards the LGBTQ+ community is focused on trans people. These attacks are often violent - sometimes physical in nature, even deadly. Others come in the form of bans, and nearly always manifest as hateful rhetoric. Much of that hate has been transferred towards drag queens, who have been miscategorized as transgender, demonstrating ignorance and insensitivity to the difference alongside a general disdain for anyone who doesn't fit a cisgender, heterosexual profile.

Fifteen state legislatures have or are considering bills that would - in one form or another - ban drag queen story times with children. With cries of "protecting children from sexualization," they are demonizing drag.

We want to affirm once again our unequivocal commitment to the LGBTQ+ community. We deplore the hatred and the fear behind it and stand together as siblings recognizing one another as children of God.

With drag queens under attack, we feel it is even more important to highlight the art form, lift up the joy and celebrate diversity. Therefore, our Diversity and Inclusion Ministry is putting forth two opportunities for us to affirm drag queens, and in doing so highlight once again our commitment to the queer community.

In partnership with the Orange County Equality Coalition we will be hosting "Read with Royalty" - a story time event with Queen Electra Young on April 22 at 10am here at IUCC. This event serves a multi-fold purpose. First of all, it promotes literacy and does so in a fun way. We'll be reading inclusive books with LGBTQ+ positive, gender affirming, multi-cultural stories. We seek to continue our bold affirmation of the LGBTQ+ community standing here in Orange County, California and beyond, sending a nationwide message that we affirm drag queens. We appreciate drag as an art form and are not falling for fear-inducing tactics claiming "the sexualization of children" from a storytime!



We are not fearful or ashamed of drag, or the queer community at large. Rather, we see this as an opportunity to promote diversity and inclusion, to offer parents a safe, positive and age appropriate environment where all families are welcome. And finally, we believe this is a wonderful opportunity to reach beyond our church and invite children of all ages to this family-friendly event!

Our second event is a church fundraiser that will undoubtedly also be a "fun-raiser" as we hold our first ever Drag Queen Bingo! Legally, bingo players must be 18 and older, but we

will offer childcare and children's bingo on site. Broadway Bingo will feature Queen Cucu Chanel as she regales your Broadway favorites with fabulous flair as Bingo competitors battle it out to win big!

We believe that both of these events will highlight our decades long commitment to the LGBTQ+ community in a fun-filled way, reaching out to those beyond our IUCC family, to share in the joy as we share in the love. Please consider attending one or both and share with your friends and family.

*Rev. Dr. Sarah Halverson-Cano*

**See flyers for both "Read with Royalty" and "Broadway Bingo" on next two pages!**



Read with Royalty at 10 a.m. on April 22!  
(Sponsored by IUCC in partnership with the Orange County Equality Coalition)

# Read with Royalty

Story Time  
with  
Queen  
Electra  
Young

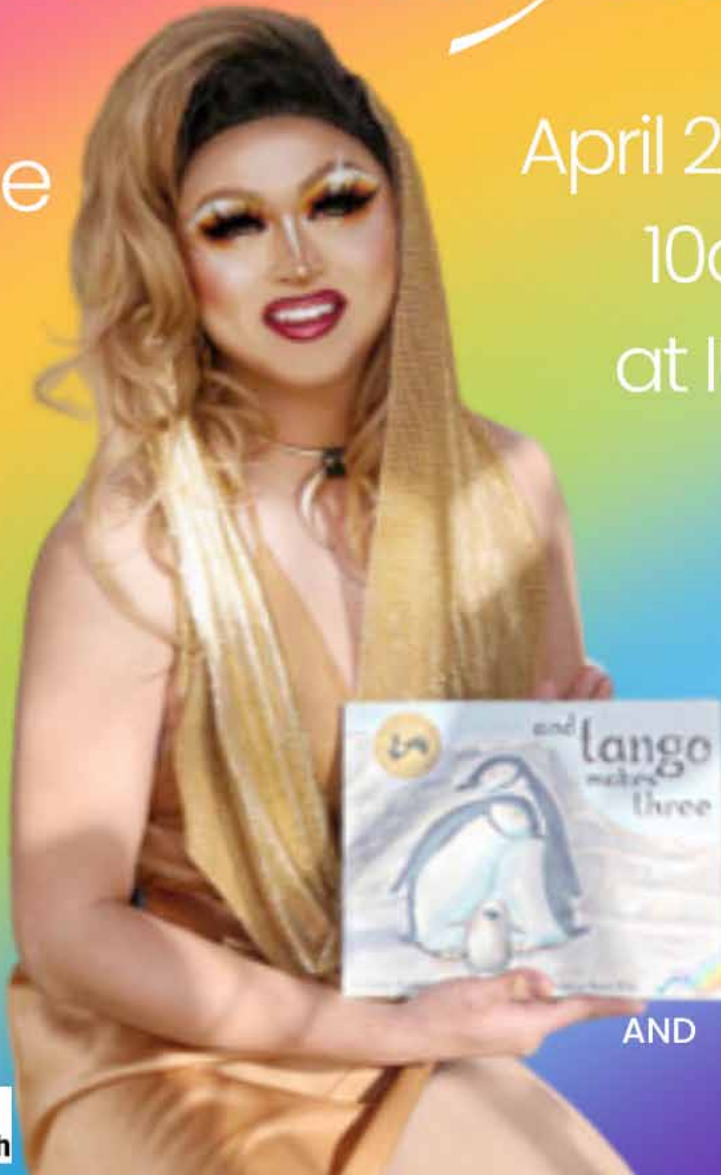
April 22, 2023  
10am  
at IUCC

for   
kids  
of all  
ages

SPONSORED BY

**iucc** Irvine United  
Congregational Church

AND



**IUCC is PROUD to Present: Broadway Bingo!**



## **BROADWAY BINGO!**

**Friday, April 28, 7:00pm**

**IUCC is proud to present Broadway Bingo hosted by Cucu Chanel and her Drag Queen Divas.**

**\$25 Entry Fee**

**GREAT PRIZES! GREAT PERFORMANCES! GREAT FOOD & DRINK!**

**The entry fee gains you access to the games and show. Dobbers, food, and beverages will be available for purchase.**

**Must be 18 years old or older to play.**

**Childcare provided!**

**Limited capacity!**

**Questions? Please email Pastor Craig at [iucc@iucc.org](mailto:iucc@iucc.org)**

**Tickets available on the patio between services or online!**

**BUY TICKETS HERE:**

**<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/broadway-bingo-tickets-574826440357?fbclid=IwAR2unawvm27l2wErxvFin9Xik5cY2GUcHU8pZvg84XKc1t6v74X8wJtSn48>**



## New IUCC website coming SOON!!

Hello All!

Technology willing, our 'new' website will be live very soon! When you view the new website you will notice many changes and many things that are still the same. The biggest change will be to the homepage. A website homepage is designed for a stranger's viewing pleasure. This means anything a newcomer wouldn't care about (i.e., the church calendar) will no longer be found on the homepage.

Please make sure you take some time to look at the new website layout and email [talktome@iucc.org](mailto:talktome@iucc.org) if you feel something is missing or should be changed. If you still see the old website by April 7th, this means there were complications repointing our domain from one platform to another and extra steps had to be followed. It could take up to two months after that for the website to be repointed, but everything looks to be in order. The website will initially be arranged like this:

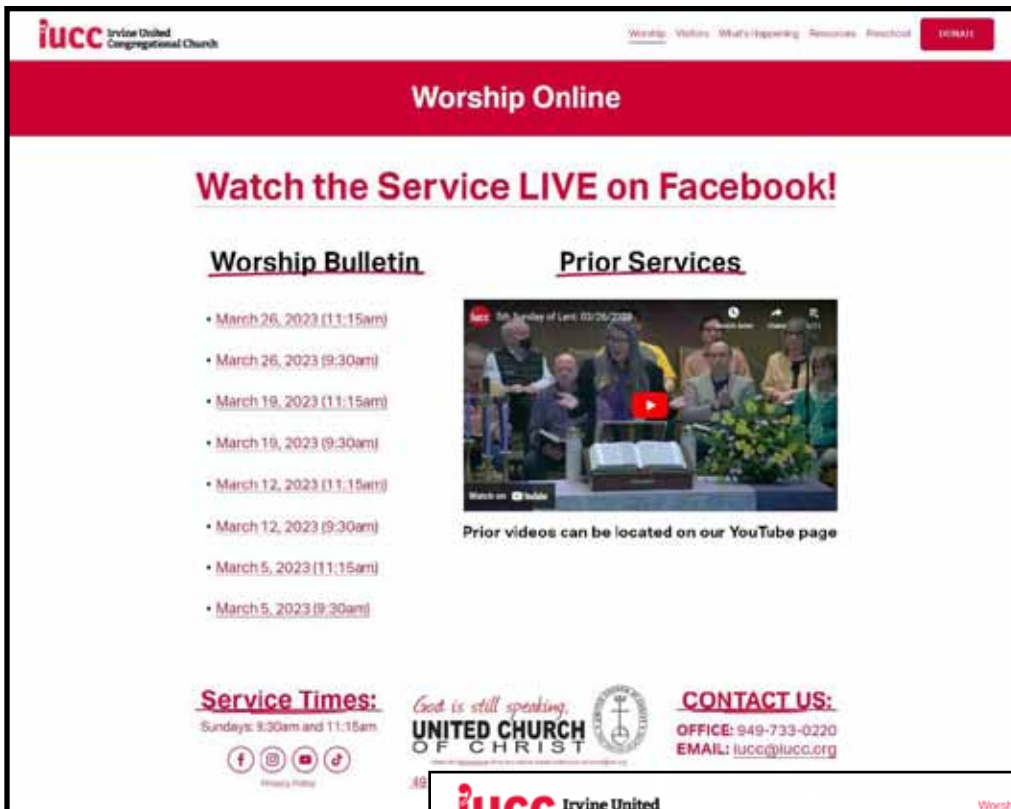
- **IUCC HOME PAGE**- This page will be basic, clean and focused solely on first time visitors.
- **Worship** - You will find prior sermons, current bulletins, and the Facebook link to worship online.
- **Visitors** - This section will focus on those who have never visited or recently visited IUCC.
  - Sunday: This will cover what to expect for in-person services.
  - Youth: This will be an MYP page centered around new people.
  - Leadership: The leadership will be represented here.
  - About Us: This will cover the history, and all other IUCC tidbits.
  - About You: This will be an extended questionnaire for new people.
- **What's Happening** - This section is for returning visitors/members.
  - Events: This will look similar to the prior homepage and will list what is happening.
  - Ministries & Groups: All parties represented in prior paperwork (i.e., congregation meeting booklet) will be found here with a blurb. Each will link to its own unique page. Multiple pages can be generated by request.
  - Newsletter & More: Will store only 4 newsletters and any activity resource that isn't an event (how to crochet hearts, how to purchase the right LED light bulbs, etc.).
  - Scouting: Talks about our scouts.
- **Resources** - Here you can find extra information:
  - Contact Us: This will have different methods to reach out as well as a basic form.
  - Useful Links: Scattered throughout the website and e-blast are 3rd party website information (i.e., UCC resources).
  - Documents: Downloadable documents available to the public will be here.
  - Leaders: This will be a password protected page that will hold non sensitive information for leadership, like Zoom links to admin/ministry board meetings.
- **Preschool** - This will be a basic page until the ECC's website ([irvinepreschool.com](http://irvinepreschool.com)) has been completed and then this will link there directly.
- **Donate** - Information for donations is provided here.

Please note that EVERYTHING stated above is subject to change and probably will change over the next 9 months as new ideas are shared and more time is poured into improvements. If you have suggestions, or material that would benefit the website, please share them with communications!

J. Alex Ingal (he/him/his)  
Communications Co-Chair

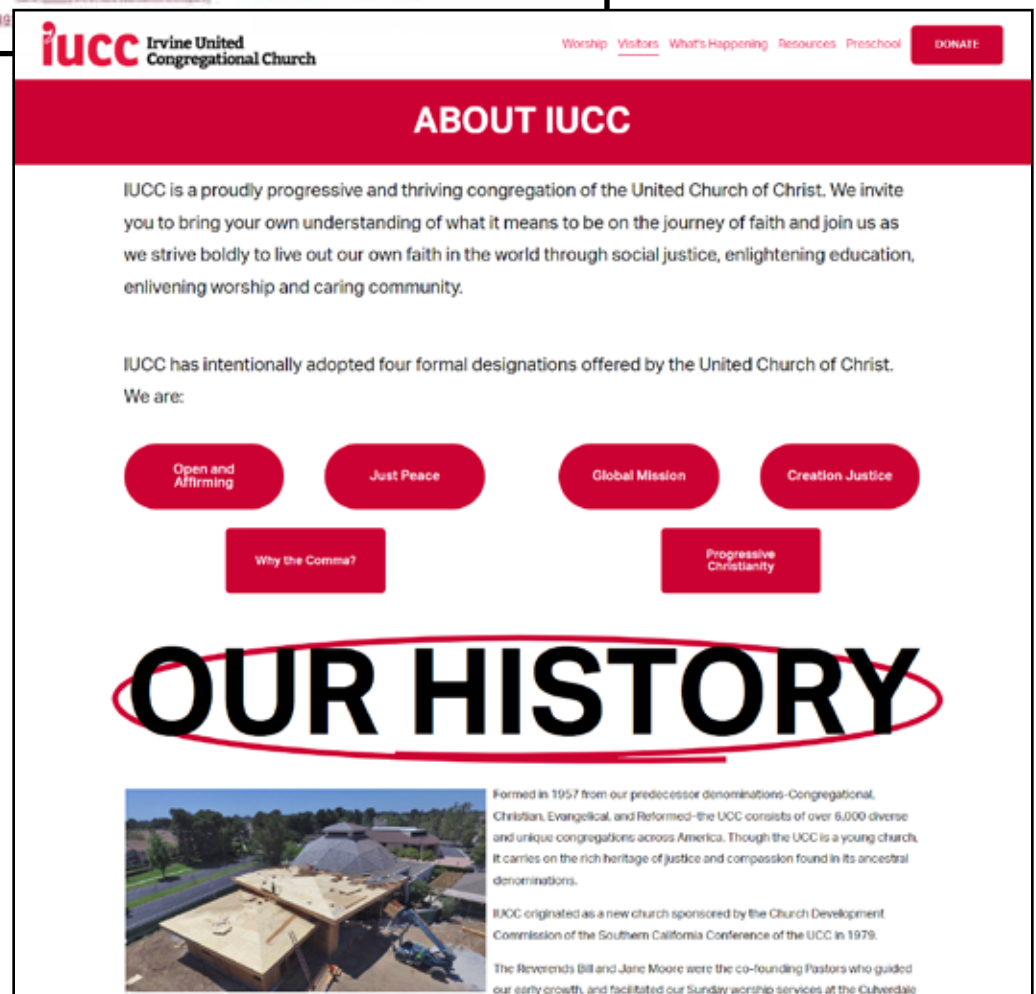


## A little preview of what's in store on our new website!



Thank you to the talented Alex Ingal for all his hard work on this project! The new website is clear, well organized, and easy to use.

Our website was outdated and very much in need of modernizing. We are very excited about this new version and can't wait to start using it!



## From the Senior Pastor

*by the Rev. Dr. Sarah Halverson-Cano, Senior Pastor*



April begins just as our Lenten journey comes to a close and we start Holy Week, the final leg of our journey towards Easter. With palms waving, we enter the week as Jesus enters Jerusalem. It comes every year of course, and perhaps some years we experience it more than others, but I have found this year's Lenten journey

to be a powerful one, so stepping into Holy Week opens me up to imagine Jesus' and his disciples' thoughts and feelings in a whole new light. This season, we have taken on the practice of living by Miguel Ruiz' Four Agreements as we've lived in relationship with others, ourselves, and even God. I've found this framework to be especially helpful in our community of faith, and I believe it will continue to impact the way we do church together just as it helps each of us individually in our lives.

As a reminder, or for any who may have missed the last 6 weeks, the Four Agreements are:

1. Be impeccable with your word
2. Don't take things personally
3. Don't make assumptions
4. Always do your best

As we journey through Holy Week and gather together on Maundy Thursday, I invite you to think about how Jesus and those who surrounded him may have lived into those agreements (or may not have done so) and any impact that may have had on how the last week went. If you've missed the series, you should be able to view them on YouTube or on our Facebook page. Many thanks to Pastor Craig who shared in this series with me and to Jerri Davenport who created the installation that encouraged us to reflect upon each agreement, inviting us to make it even more personal by writing it down. We look forward to the transformation that will take place by our Jenna McCarty as she turns our reflections into a piece of art!

After all, Easter is all about transformation! And it will be a joyous Easter celebration! I'm looking forward to our two services, both featuring our chancel choir even as we continue our two distinct services. We have decided to extend our trial period with the second service and are happy to see that it is consistently growing as new people find a home at our church. The format will continue to evolve, but we've begun to find a rhythm and are embracing the joy that comes with the new energy.

There will certainly be a lot of energy come Easter morning, with all of the music to welcome us! It will be a feast of the senses: with the sounds of angels and alleluias, our ears will delight! The fragrance of the Easter lilies will fill the sanctuary as we rejoice in the sweetness of the resurrection, and the cross that meets us on Maundy Thursday will be transformed as our flowers bring it to colorful life! Be sure to inhale deeply as the stench of death gives way to open us up to life again! And follow your nose to the crepe stand, where your taste buds will enjoy a delicious sweet crepe to break your Lenten fast. I hope we'll see lots of friends and welcome new ones into our midst to celebrate with us! If you haven't been back to church in a while, this is the perfect time to return. After three years of a pandemic, I will relish the embrace we share on Easter, remembering my first Easter with you, just two years ago where a small number of us gathered early in the morning outside to celebrate a distanced but joyous Easter! It seems like so long ago, now that many of us feel comfortable holding a hand during Alleluia or embracing at the door. There is so much to celebrate! So join us for our Easter feast of the senses - as we gather together in love, celebrating the miracle of resurrection among us!

There's definitely a lot to celebrate among us! The Preschool Refresh feels like a resurrection itself. Our dynamic duo Paul Feick and Mark Willcox have been hard at work, and each week they amaze me with all they've accomplished. We'll start to begin blessing boards as the cabinets are nearly complete and all that is left will be the flooring! I never imagined they could work at such a fast pace given their limitations of work time, but peek your head in sometime while they are working and see what they've done! Thank you so much to everyone who has donated to this project. It has been amazing to see the way our church has come together to make this happen!

Watch out for another transformation: thanks to our Communications Ministry our website will have a new look! Alex Ingal has been working hard behind the scenes to update our site! We've been working on our internet presence and this will help us engage new people as we share the good news about our church and preschool!

While coming back from the pandemic has certainly been a challenge for us, as we celebrate Easter this year, I am reminded that we are Easter people! We rose to meet the pandemic and were as safe as possible in every stage. It feels like we are rising again as we welcome so many new friends among us and invite dear friends back, I am grateful that the Body of Christ resurrects again and anew once more in us!

In Easter Anticipation,  
Pastor Sarah

# From the Moderator

by Tricia Aynes



I love Easter. I love the joyful church service, the Easter lilies, the festive dresses, the happy families, and the glorious music with the brass instruments. The music always makes me cry, but they are tears of joy.

I love Easter egg hunts. When I was little, my dad would help the Easter bunny by hiding eggs for me to find. He was an exceptionally clever hider, too. One year he stashed an egg in the opaque glass well of an old-style pole lamp, and it was years before we found it!

When I moved away from home and got married, my sweet husband would help the Easter bunny by taking a couple dozen eggs into work, preparing them in the work kitchen, and hiding them in the house and backyard for me to find. I never got tired of hunting for eggs!

When Jim and I had kids of our own, we carried on the tradition. There were many, many Easter egg hunts. When the girls grew up and needed inspiration to shed their dignity for a riotous, no-holds-barred hunt, we'd fill plastic eggs with cash. What a hoot watching them race around the house, climb on furniture, and elbow each other out of the way! We never had any injuries, but there may have been some close calls. Sooo worth it.

Now that there are grandchildren, the fun continues. In the run-up to Easter, my daughter Mira loves to film hilarious trash-talking training videos with the background music of "Eye of the Tiger" showing her eldest son (now 7) practicing to win the hunt while taunting his arch rival (usually me) about how he's going to win. Over time, he's done enough practicing and gotten so adept at finding eggs that the two of us tied last year (and this was with me going all out). I'm pretty sure he'll finally win this year - after all, he's younger, faster, and built lower to the ground than I am, so it's a forgone conclusion at this point! I am preparing myself to lose gracefully.

But I digress. Of course, Easter is about a lot more than finding colorful eggs. Our whole Christian religion is based on what's about to occur during Holy Week. By the time you receive this newsletter, we will have just celebrated Palm Sunday - Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, where he was welcomed by his followers waving palm branches and singing "Hosanna."

Palm Sunday is followed by Maundy Thursday, when we commemorate Jesus' last supper with the disciples and his washing of their feet as a sign to love one another. Then comes Good Friday, a time of reflection when we recall Jesus' suffering and crucifixion. Finally, there is glorious Easter morning, with its signs of hope and rebirth.



I am especially excited for IUCC this year because we've been following quite an incredible trajectory of build-up over the past three years. You may recall that **Easter 2020** wasn't much fun because we were stuck at home due to the pandemic. Still, we did our best to make a joyful noise of gratitude and praise. Led virtually by Interim Pastor Dave Pattee, we gathered around our computers at home, sang some of our favorite hymns, and rang bells.

Then came **Easter 2021**, which we held outside on the IUCC patio where a small choir and a few intrepid members gathered to celebrate the day and listen to an inspirational and hope-filled sermon from Pastor Sarah.

**Easter 2022** found us back in the sanctuary once again with spectacular music (as full choir with brass accompaniment), a great message from Pastor Sarah at the pulpit, a flower-filled cross, delicious crepes, children's egg hunt, and the debut of our new shade "sails." There was a balloon arch for photo-taking, a special youth scavenger hunt, and the kids decorated Easter bags for the ever-popular egg hunt.

Given this incredible trajectory, you won't want to miss **Easter 2023** to find out what new and improved events are in store! I heard a rumor that crepes will be back, and I've also heard that the choir is gearing up for a spectacular choral presentation. You won't want to miss it!



## Work on the Preschool Refresh Project Phase 2 Continues!

*Article and photos by Tricia Aynes*

The work on the Preschool Refresh Project Phase 2 continues! Here are loyal volunteers Mark Willcox (shown in three photos) and Tom Mason (top right) showing off the beautiful new upper cabinets that were recently installed. The cabinets are made of real wood that will last a long time and are “soft close.” The next step is to install the lower cabinets, then the new flooring.



It's not too late to donate to this project! There are several ways to help. You can make a general donation in support of the project by clicking here: <https://www.iucc.org/portal/donate-2/> (just be sure to complete the memo section to let us know that it's for the Refresh Project). You may also choose to memorialize your support in a different way by choosing to contribute to a countertop, cabinet, or section of flooring (you can even sign your donation of flooring before it gets installed so your name lives on in the actual new floor!). On Sunday mornings you can see the donation display board created by Pastor Sarah, choose a piece of the project to support, and drop off your check.

5 sq ft flooring (\$25)  
10 sq ft flooring (\$50)  
20 sq ft flooring (\$100)  
50 sq ft flooring (\$250)  
100 sq ft flooring (\$500)  
200 sq ft flooring (\$1000)  
Countertop (\$250)  
Half of Cabinet (\$1000)



However you choose to support Phase 2 of the Preschool Refresh Project, we thank you!

# Got Milk? Got Hot Lunches?

by Jim Aynes



IUCC's Early Childhood Center (ECC) has been here since 1986. The building was a used temporary bank building that was moved to its present location on our campus. Here are some archival photos of the building being moved and attached to our site:



The ECC was intended to symbolize IUCC's commitment to provide area children with a loving and consistent environment while they were away from their parents. It was open to infants and toddlers 6 months to two years old and for children over two years old. The center became known for a few things, such as outstanding care for children, hot lunches, milk, and potty training.



Yes, there is (and has been) a kitchen in the building, known as the Alice Atwood Building. The building was named for a retired teacher who donated the 3,800 square foot building to us (see photo from ECC archives at left).

The kitchen has a large stove, refrigerators, and storage cabinets. The kitchen made it possible to provide nourishing hot lunches for the children. Back in the 1980s and 90s, it was also used for coffee hour preparation.

Playground equipment was purchased for \$4000, and church members donated dozens of hours to assemble it.

Fred Plumer was our pastor when the preschool opened. Longtime IUCC member Ruby Fulton was the first ECC Director (see newspaper photo from ECC archive at right). She came with 17 years of experience in child care. At the time, Ruby headed a team of 10 employees trained in early childhood education.



In the 1990s we redid the Bylaws of IUCC. We established a Child Care Committee. Per our iucc.org website, "The Child Care Committee creates a dynamic connection between the IUCC Early Childhood Center and the church community, provides oversight to the center's operations, and assists the Early Childhood Center with special projects and quality improvement efforts."

Doreen Smith and I became the Child Care Committee (CCC). Doreen was a Clinical Laboratory Scientist at Huntington Beach Hospital. Doreen's daughter was one of the children at the ECC (she later worked at the ECC). I suppose I was there because I had been an attorney for the Orange County Department of Education and may have known more about the laws relating to child care facilities. So, we were happy to see that the Early Childcare Center was being well run and was respected in the area.

Subsequent Child Care Committee Chairs included Laura Long, Keith Boyum, and now Linda Heath. All have done a great job of helping nurture and guide the ECC.

We have been fortunate to have great supervisors and hard working staff at the ECC. We thank Director Irma Rosales and the teachers for their dedicated work.

I went on to become an executive attorney for the California Department of Food and Agriculture. We supervised the California Milk Advisory Board. That's the group that came up with the "Got Milk?" campaign. I was happy to see that since it started, the ECC has provided milk to the children.

Now we are updating the ECC with new paint, new sinks, new cabinets, new floors, and more. We thank everyone who pitched in to help with the renovation, especially Mark Willcox, Paul Feick, and Tom Mason.

**"Prayer, Epiphanies and Other Holy Surprises"**  
**Join us for the Annual Women's Retreat at Pilgrim Pines!**  
**Registration begins March 16 for the May 5-7 retreat**



Women from IUCC and their friends are invited to attend the annual May 5-7 retreat at Pilgrim Pines Camp and Conference Center near Yucaipa. IUCC member Jerri Davenport, who holds a Masters of Divinity with an emphasis on religion and creativity, will offer activities and conversation around "Prayer, Epiphanies and Other Holy Surprises."

Registration will be available online beginning March 16. Registration and more information will also be available on the church patio Sundays from March 19 to April 12.

Participants are encouraged to sign up for the full Friday evening through Sunday morning retreat to take advantage of the complete program, other activities and meals. Saturday only and Saturday-Sunday morning options are also available.

- **Friday-Sunday will cost \$175** and includes five meals, comfortable accommodations and the full program, including time for conversation and fun activities on Saturday night. Plan to arrive by 5 p.m. May 5 and leave about 11 a.m. May 7, following an outdoor service.
- **Saturday-Sunday will cost \$150.** Plan to arrive by 9 a.m. for check-in. The cost covers three meals, activities and accommodations.
- **Saturday only will cost \$140** and includes two meals and the program. Participants are welcome to stay for the evening social activities.

In addition to the program, there will be opportunities to visit the nearby Oak Glen Nature Preserve (<https://wildlandsconservancy.org/preserves/oakglen>), participate in small group workshops and yoga, or spend time reading, napping, talking or exploring Pilgrim Pines or the nearby apple pie shops.

The retreat needs at least 20 women to sign up. People are welcome to help underwrite the retreat financially, whether or not they can attend.

For more information, talk to a member of the organizing committee: Laura Long, Lorraine Fox, Pat Sauter, Marilyn Smith or Cindy O'Dell.

Pilgrim Pines Camp and Conference Center (<https://www.pilgrimpinescamp.org/>) is part of the Southern California-Nevada Conference of the United Church of Christ. Their mission is to provide an inclusive and safe environment for personal and spiritual growth and encourage care and concern for all of God's creation.

Click on the link below to register:  
<https://www.iucc.org/pilgrim-pines-womens-fellowship-retreat/>

Have questions or need a response? Contact Laura Long at [iuccwomen22@gmail.com](mailto:iuccwomen22@gmail.com)



**D & I invites you to attend our  
video discussion about issues facing  
transgender children and adults**

The Diversity & Inclusion Ministry (D&I) welcomes you to attend our video/discussion about raising and supporting children that are transgender and healthcare issues and barriers that transgender adults face in regards to pregnancy and general health. We look forward to learning together and sharing this space. D&I meetings are the 4th Sunday of each month from 1-2:30 p.m.

*Lesli, Maria, Myrna and Felicity*

Lesli Mitchell is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: My Meeting

Time: Apr 23, 2023 01:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)  
Every month on the Fourth Sun, 13 occurrence(s)

Apr 23, 2023 01:00 PM  
May 28, 2023 01:00 PM  
Jun 25, 2023 01:00 PM  
Jul 23, 2023 01:00 PM  
Aug 27, 2023 01:00 PM  
Sep 24, 2023 01:00 PM  
Oct 22, 2023 01:00 PM  
Nov 26, 2023 01:00 PM  
Dec 24, 2023 01:00 PM  
Jan 28, 2024 01:00 PM  
Feb 25, 2024 01:00 PM  
Mar 24, 2024 01:00 PM  
Apr 28, 2024 01:00 PM

Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.

Monthly: <https://us02web.zoom.us/join/85685283319>  
G93Nge1dPfLf\_C7L3QB6s8QN/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGtqDMvGNyWsxIORpwMBIqgZ-rxiHZeJfoOshjgUiRjZC\_wCcEVHu-FOMo7D

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85685283319>

Meeting ID: 856 8528 3319

One tap mobile

+16699009128,,85685283319# US (San Jose)

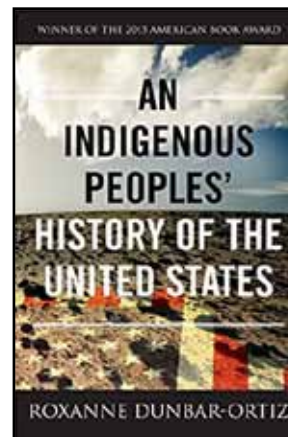
+16694449171,,85685283319# US

Meeting ID: 856 8528 3319

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85685283319>  
FIAHoBZz

**New D & I Book Study**

*by Lesli Mitchell, Co-Chair of D & I Ministry*



We are excited to begin a new book in our IUCC Book Study Tuesdays from 9-10:15 a.m. starting April 18th, and we'd love for you to join us! We'll be reading ***An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States*** by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz, which won the American Book Award in 2015.

Though our book group will meet March 21st to discuss the intro and Chapter 1 of this book, we will not read/discuss chapter 2 until April 18th due to the Spring break and Easter holiday. You do not need to have attended the March 21st discussion of the intro and chapter 1 meeting in order to participate in the discussion of chapter 2 at the April 18th zoom meeting.

We look forward to reading, learning and discussing together!

Here is the link to the book:

<https://www.amazon.com/Indigenous-Peoples-History-ReVisioning-American/dp/0807057835>

We'll share a Zoom link with all of you closer to the date.

## **New Beginnings: IUCC's Work with Afghan Refugees**

This vital ministry is working hard to support Afghan refugees who have found their way to America. Mission and Service is currently looking to find housing for an immigrant. If you have any leads on housing or rooms to rent, please contact Steve Goetz. He will inform you of the situation and exact needs.

Steve Goetz:  
sgoetz53@gmail.com  
949-436-1946

## **Families Forward Food Drive a success!**

*Story and Photos by Keith Boyum*



The generosity IUCC, members and friends resulted in 13 bags, boxes and cartons of food delivered to Families Forward in Irvine. The food is greatly needed. Food stamps or snap benefits have been sharply cut just as inflation drives grocery costs higher. Our food drive for the Families Forward pantry stopped at the end of March.

## **Looking Forward to Holy Week**

### **HOLY WEEK SERVICES**



**Maundy Thursday  
7 p.m. on April 6**



**Easter Sunday  
9:30 and 11:15 a.m.  
on April 9**

## **Installation for 4 Agreements**



## Mission & Service: Family Promise News



### ***Exciting New Developments! Emergency Shelter Program***

Since 2012 Family Promise has been providing shelter to unhoused families through their partnerships with area churches. As you know, we are one of the Host Congregations! Although the program has been working well with more than 25 supporting congregations, it is obviously difficult for the families to move to a different church each week.

Family Promise has been searching for several years for a “static site” for their Emergency Shelter Program where the families would be able to stay for several weeks or months. Now they have found a church in Santa Ana that would like to house families on an ongoing basis! We’ll let you know the exact location as soon as the contract is signed!!

The Emergency Shelter program is now on hold until the new site is ready. The families that were in the program were either moved to a Fullerton transitional house or graduated out of the program. The static site that **can house 8 families** will need some renovation although they already have showers and a large kitchen area. Doors should be open to families in June or July.

### ***House of Ruth Construction Update***



The House of Ruth will provide 7 low cost apartment-style one to three bedroom “transitional” units for families in need of permanent housing. A Resource Center on site will also provide services to unhoused families in the community who need access to showers & bathrooms, laundry machines, and computers. The House of Ruth will be completed sometime this summer.



### ***Household items are needed for the House of Ruth***

You can purchase household items for the apartments through IKEA. Scan the code on the area below, and you can choose from a variety of needed items. Thanks to all for your generous support of Family Promise!!

Example items that you can help gift to a family in need



*Gift Today!  
Scan Here*







Silverado High School  
25632 Peter A. Hartman Way, Mission Viejo, CA 92691

## TOILETRY ITEM DRIVE

**Sponsored by IUCC Mission & Service**

Serving Saddleback Valley students and their families

### ITEMS NEEDED:

Toothpaste – Toothbrush – Dental Floss  
Comb - Hair Brush – Shampoo – Conditioner  
Hand Soap – Hand Lotion – Face Cleanser – Body Wash  
Shaving Cream – Razors  
Paper Towel – Toilet Paper -Tissue Paper  
Deodorant – Sunscreen – Feminine Hygiene Products

Our goal is to provide support for food-insecure & at-risk students & their families.

**Donations will be accepted beginning  
Sunday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> until Thursday, April 27th**

**In-person donations can be dropped off in bins in front of the Church**

Monday - Thursday ~ 10 am - 4 pm

Sundays ~ Before, during and after services

## New Members - March 12

*Photos courtesy of Tricia Aynes*



*Katerina Beck*



*Philip Reames*

*Jonas Alejo (not pictured)*

## Welcome Luncheon on April 2

*Photo courtesy of Pastor Sarah*



4/01 Jim Carse  
4/29 Natasha Dahline  
4/17 David Deshler  
4/19 Janice Gately  
4/22 Rafael Gimarino  
4/29 Linda Hidy  
4/15 Janice Johnson

4/07 Lee KeslerWest  
4/21 Kyle Lutz  
4/15 Connor McDonald  
4/22 Steve O'Dell  
4/18 Jim Raver  
4/30 Mark Willcox

## Fund Development News

*by Duane Vajgrt, Co-Chair of Fund Development*



Dear fellow IUCC congregants,

As I hope you're all aware, we are in the process of building a Legacy Circle at IUCC, a program to help ensure the financial viability of IUCC and its multiple missions well into the future. The Legacy Circle would

be part of your estate planning. Consequently, the IUCC Fund Development Committee strongly encourages you to take advantage of a free six session seminar series provided by a not-for-profit called ***It's Your Money And Estate*** ([www.IYME.org](http://www.IYME.org)). This not-for-profit is endorsed by many charitable sponsors, including the American Heart Association, Chapman University, CHOC Hospital, the Pacific Symphony, Susan G. Komen, and others.

Already having IUCC named in our trust, I haven't personally attended this seminar series, but two different couple friends of mine have taken the seminar series and enthusiastically endorse it as being extremely valuable and helpful. In fact, they both engaged with recommended representatives from the seminar in assisting them to develop their wills, trust and estate planning.

The seminar is free and consists of six sessions beginning as early as April 20 or 21st in Zoom format, and as early as April 5 for the in-person seminar series. The earliest one begins in Irvine on April 5, but there are other sessions throughout Orange County so that you can find one convenient to you. The two different series offered are "It's Your Money!" and "It's Your Estate." "It's Your Estate" would be more pertinent to estate planning and the Legacy Circle, though both workshops are pertinent and informative.

This is the sort of thing that it is very easy to procrastinate about, especially with regard to establishing wills and trusts. For the sake of your family and loved ones, this is something we should all address much sooner than later.

Please take advantage of this opportunity to educate yourself and be proactive about your future plans. Go to the website [www.IYME.org](http://www.IYME.org) for all the details and to sign up. If you are willing, we would love to hear back when you sign up and your assessment of the value of the seminar once completed. You can contact Duane Vajgrt at [djvmd@icloud.com](mailto:djvmd@icloud.com). Thank you.

*Most sincerely,*

*The IUCC Fund Development Committee*

## Ministry with Young People

Info and photos provided by Lauren Louie



### Easter April 9th

Kids Easter Egg Hunt - 10:45am at the playground.  
Youth Scavenger Hunt - after Egg Hunt (approx 10:55am).  
Invite your friends and family!!

### Save the Date - Youth Sunday April 30th

The youth of IUCC help to lead the service! We have all sorts of roles and tasks. Contact Pastor Craig (iucc@iucc.org) to join in.



We learned about the stories of St. Patrick and then went to the playground to find snakes and clovers!



We learned about food insecurity and decorated bags to help Mission & Service's collection for Families Forward.

MYP learned how Welcome is practiced with Hospitality by hosting Coffee Hour - The triple chocolate cookies, spicy tiki snacks, gluten free brownies, mixed fruit, cheese platter, and more helped us share some of our faves and helped us learn about expanding welcome! Middle photo below is kids in the kitchen with Daniel.

Photos on left and right below show MYP hosting Coffee Hour.





# Oh No! She's Crying!

by Vivian Elaine Johnson



I was ten-years-old when my fifth-grade teacher shamed me for crying. She asked me to sing a particularly difficult musical scale for my classmates because she thought that I had a good singing voice. When I failed to sing it well, I was embarrassed and tears cascaded down my round cheeks. That would not do. Teacher Rose frowned and scolded me for crying. For

punishment she sent me to stand in the cloakroom, a large closet where we hung our coats. That was the ultimate shaming room, a place where only the worst classroom offenders were sent. After an hour of isolation, she let me out. I'll never forget avoiding the eyes of all the children, even my best friends. I was a naughty girl.

In retrospect, I believe that teacher Rose didn't know what to do with a crying child. I made her uncomfortable so she hid me away among the winter jackets and boots. Whether she knew it or not, she taught me that it is shameful to cry -- especially in front of others. I took the lesson to heart; for many years I found it important to hide my shameful tears. Actually, to this day I seldom cry in public. I am a bonafide closet crier.

This led to my interest in the findings about tears that a doctor from a medical center in Minneapolis discovered in his research. Dr. William Frey studied the composition of tears, and learned that tears caused by emotion contain stress hormones and other toxins which are excreted from the body through crying. Stress accumulates them in our bodies and crying releases them. Additional studies also suggest that crying stimulates the production of endorphins, our body's natural painkiller and feel-good hormones. Sounds pretty positive to me.

I've learned from that research and through personal experience that crying is normal, healthy, and even

healing. When I cried, all teacher Rose would have needed to say is, "I know that was a tough musical scale. You tried. Thank you." My tears would have dried rapidly due to an understanding adult. Come to think of it, maybe teacher Rose could have used a good cry. Even though she was named after a fragrant, beautiful flower, she most often showed her thorns. She didn't appear to be a happy person. Our class -- and she -- would have benefited from the release of her toxins through a cleansing cry before she tried to teach a roomful of vulnerable fifth graders.

That begs the question: Can you and I allow ourselves to be vulnerable and comfortable enough to cry? When we pretend to be fine during difficult experiences and events, we cut ourselves off from the compassion, support, and connectiveness we desire from others. In no way am I suggesting that we *have* to cry in front of others, but if we are swallowing the tears, not being our authentic selves, then we would benefit from allowing the release of tears.



I've come to understand that it can mean a lot when someone is willing to cry in our presence; it means that we have created a safe emotional space. When someone cries, we don't need to say anything, just be present to them. Maybe a touch on the arm, a hand on the shoulder. Give them time. You may ask if they'd be comfortable with a hug. If not, don't take it personally. Also, as tempting as it is to give advice, they don't need advice, just a supportive presence who acknowledges their pain.

Just in case you want to know, I'm no longer as fragile as my ten-year-old self, yet I continue to work on my own fear of vulnerability and discomfort. Most of the time I'm out of the crying closet.

My healthier mantra now is, *Let the tears flow and let the healing begin.*

The IUCC **Advocates for Peace and Justice** is a co-sponsor of an upcoming virtual roundtable: What Should We Do About the War in Ukraine? Please join the Advocates to hear expert opinions on the best path to peace in this embattled region. Register at: <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlvfuihrT8oGddn80Y5jyBxYonKT5H5A4Bp#/registration>

## WHAT SHOULD WE DO ABOUT THE WAR IN UKRAINE?

Join two notable peace activists for an in depth Q & A on Ukraine  
Get answers to your questions, what is the best path to lasting peace in Ukraine

Please text or email your questions directed to either Bill or Medea to :  
Pat at 562-833-8035 or [mfsooc@earthlink.net](mailto:mfsooc@earthlink.net)

Saturday April 8<sup>th</sup> 10am PST/1pm EST on Zoom

[REGISTER HERE](#)



Listen to Medea Benjamin and Bill Fletcher as they provide two very different perspectives on the war in Ukraine and answer your questions.

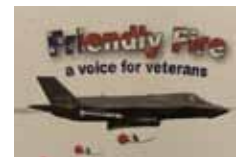


Medea Benjamin (Code Pink)



Bill Fletcher, Jr. (Ukraine Solidarity Network)

**Remember to text or email your questions directed to either Bill or Medea to:**  
**Pat at 562-833-8035 or [mfsooc@earthlink.net](mailto:mfsooc@earthlink.net)**  
**Endorsing this event does not mean endorsing the views of the speakers**



Save the Date for this year's **Great American Write-In**, a free event at which community members raise their voices by writing to legislators and other decision-makers to bring about positive change in health policies, the environment, peace, human and civil rights, and education! The IUCC Advocates will have a table there along with sixty other organizations and advocacy groups, so please join us to make your priorities heard! Saturday, May 6, from 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at the Delhi Center in Santa Ana. Register at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/great-american-write-in-tickets-599236150457>

CELEBRATE  
THE 35th ANNUAL  
**GREAT AMERICAN  
WRITE-IN**

Sponsored by  
**WOMEN FOR: ORANGE COUNTY**

**SATURDAY, MAY 6, 2023**  
9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

**DELHI COMMUNITY CENTER**  
505 E. Central Ave., Santa Ana 92707



**The Pen Is Mightier Than The Sword!**

**At the Write-In:**

- **MEET** representatives of local and national advocacy groups!
- **LEARN** about today's vital issues!
- **RAISE YOUR VOICE** by **WRITING** to the decision-makers who can make a difference in health, the environment, peace, human and civil rights, education!

[www.facebook.com/events/730007888591293/](https://www.facebook.com/events/730007888591293/)

For more information, please contact  
Felicity Figueroa 949-733-0850 or [felicitynf@aol.com](mailto:felicitynf@aol.com)

**FREE ADMISSION! FREE PARKING!**

**Participating Organizations**

Americans United for Separation of Church & State  
Amnesty International Irvine  
Brady Orange County  
California Coalition to End Child Marriage  
California Work & Family Coalition  
Childs-pace Foundation, Inc.  
Church of the Foothills UCC & DOC - Faith in Action  
Citizens' Climate Lobby  
Climate Reality Project-OC Chapter  
CLUE-Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice  
Community Action Fund of Planned Parenthood of OSBC  
Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR)  
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. OC Alumnae Chapter  
Fairview for Affordable Housing  
Friends Committee on National Legislation Advocacy Team  
Global Hope 365  
Habitat for Humanity of Orange County  
HB Huddle  
Heritage Museum of Orange County  
Holy Angels Church  
Housing is a Human Right OC  
Humanist Association of OC  
Iranian American Democrats of California  
IUCC Advocates for Peace and Justice  
League of Women Voters  
LGBTQ Center OC  
Los Amigos of Orange County  
LULAC - Orange County, District #1  
Military Families Speak Out  
Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America  
National Coalition of 100 Black Women, O.C. Chapter  
National Council of Jewish Women  
National Council of Negro Women, Orange County Section  
National Union of Healthcare Workers (NUHW)  
National Women's Political Caucus (NWPC)  
Newport Beach Women's Democratic Club  
OC Equality Coalition (OCEC)  
OC Human Relations  
OC Interfaith Committee to Aid Farmworkers  
OC Justice Fund  
OC May Day Collective  
OC National Organization for Women (NOW)  
OC Peace Coalition  
OC Rapid Response Network  
OC Rights Collective - Palestinian Youth Movement  
People's Budget OC  
Progressive Democrats of America - People Demanding Action  
Radiant Health Centers  
StandUp for Kids  
Transforming Justice OC  
United Nations Association - USA, O.C. Chapter  
Veterans for Peace - Orange County Chapter  
Women for American Values and Ethics (WAVE)  
Women's Rights Action Group of Tapestry, a UU Congregation  
Zonta Club of Newport Harbor

**FREE REFRESHMENTS! FREE POSTAGE!**