



ORINDA Community Church

Seeking God, Loving Others,
Caring for the World

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Much gratitude is extended to everyone who contributed an item/s, or purchased an item/s, at the **2017 O.C.C. Auction**. Thanks to everyone's generosity, we raised just over \$19,000 dollars!!



The Neighbor

Merry Christmas



December 2017

NEWSLETTER OF THE ORINDA COMMUNITY CHURCH

Jim's Reflection

"Advent means there is something on the horizon the likes of which we have never seen before....What is possible is to not see it, to miss it, to turn just as it brushes past you. And you begin to grasp what it was you missed, like Moses in the cleft of the rock, watching God's [back] fade in the distance. So stay. Sit. Linger. Tarry. Ponder. Wait. Behold. Wonder. There will be time enough for running. For rushing. For worrying. For pushing. For now, stay. Wait. Something is on the horizon."

Jan L. Richardson, [Night Visions: Searching the Shadows of Advent and Christmas](#)

The Advent Season is upon us, and we have many wonderful activities planned during our approach to Christmas. We kick off the Advent Season with our Annual Advent Celebration this Sunday night, and wrap up the season with our Christmas Eve Service and Pageant.

This month's Neighbor lists the many events, activities, and gatherings that will take place during Advent, and we hope you will be able to take advantage of some of these in the weeks ahead.

As the days grow darker, Advent is a time of looking toward the light that appears in small and big ways. It is a time when we celebrate the ways that Peace, Hope, Joy, and Love make our God known and manifest in the world. It is a time of waiting, yet moving forward with expectation.

The approach to Christmas can also become chaotic, as we get busy with shopping and preparing, trying to make time to get the Christmas cards out and the lights on the house. As we journey through the next few weeks together, may we make space to pray, worship, be together, and look for

ADULT SUPPORT GROUP

The newly-organized Support Group meets **this Saturday, Dec. 2, at 10am** in the Fireside Room. We are a group who reach out to each other confidentially. We are not alone as we journey through our challenges. God's grace is revealed through our stories. Lee Cruise is facilitating. Adults of all ages welcome.

Seniors Luncheon Monday, December 4, noon

Please bring \$ 5 for the lunch. We will continue our discussion of what Jim learned at his recent conference.

RSVP to jim jim@
orindachurch.org



OCC Men's Group Meeting

Thursday, Dec. 7, 6:30 p.m.
at the home of Dixon Grier.

Let Jim jim@orindachurch.org know if you can make it, and what you plan to bring - appetizer, fruit, salad, wine, dessert, beer. We'll make sure we have enough to round out the menu.

Our discussion will kick off with a look at Rob Bell's book How to Be Here. If you haven't read it, I'll have some questions and background material. (It's also great to listen to on Audible). I'm sure we will go down several paths during the night. Hope to see you next week! And feel free to invite a friend.

Poinsettia Order Forms

the many ways that God is in our midst.

Wishing you many blessings this season,
Jim

"One of the essential paradoxes of Advent: that while we wait for God, we are with God all along, that while we need to be reassured of God's arrival, or the arrival of our homecoming, we are already at home. While we wait, we have to trust, to have faith, but it is God's grace that gives us that faith. As with all spiritual knowledge, two things are true, and equally true, at once. The mind can't grasp paradox; it is the knowledge of the soul." Michelle Blake, The Tentmaker

2017 UCC Advent Devotionals

We invite you to pick up the new UCC Daily Devotional "Watch" in the Narthex or church office. Filled with great reflections for each day, these writings will be a wonderful addition to this blessed Advent Season.



ADVENT CELEBRATION

Sunday, December 3 from 4-7pm

We hope you can join us for a fun night of crafting, carols, and dinner this Sunday! Suggested donation is \$5 per person (not to exceed \$20 for families of 5 or more). You can even have your picture taken with Santa!

Interested in volunteering? We need your help!

- Dinner crew (help heat up lasagnas, prep the salad, and put out garlic bread)**
- Clean-up crew (cleaning, putting away chairs and tables, etc.)**
- Bring a dessert to share!**

Please contact Kelsey kelseyhpeterson@gmail.com



2nd Hour Forum - Sunday, Dec. 10

Join us in the sanctuary for a presentation, and time of Q & A, with the artist George Wahbeh. George grew up in Jerusalem, and for the course of



If you would like to purchase in celebration, honor, or memory of a loved one, click [here](#) for the order form.



Ushers

Ushers and Greeters Needed:
About six additional enthusiastic volunteers are needed to join our usher teams for the 2018 calendar year. Two additional greeters are also needed to focus on welcoming first-time visitors to our worship services. The commitment for both ushers and greeters is for just one Sunday a month. These service opportunities are a great way to meet and serve all who attend our worship services. If interested, contact Mike Kersten, the usher and greeter coordinator, at mikejkersten@aol.com

Winter Nights Family Shelter at OCC
January 29 to February 12, 2018

We will be hosting our guests in partnership with Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church, St. Perpetua, and Santa Maria Church.

Support Holden High School!

ZUMBA THON
GET A GREAT WORKOUT! SUPPORT A GREAT SCHOOL.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 13, 2018
2 PM - 5 PM
10 IRWIN WAY, ORINDA

POW!

COME DRESSED LIKE YOUR FAVORITE SUPERHERO OR JUST DANCE LIKE ONE.
NO DANCE EXPERIENCE NECESSARY!

BECOME A HOLDEN **SUPERHERO**

Join the Contra Costa

his life has created paintings of various scenes from the region. His art will be hanging on the Doug Adams Sanctuary Art Gallery for the next two months, and there will be a brief reception during Fellowship Hour to thank him for sharing his work with us.

YOUTH GROUP



Youth Group (& Alum) Christmas Party - December 10th from 6-8pm

Join us at the Thomas' home for a night of White Elephant gift exchange, cookies, and hot cocoa!

Christmas Eve Eve Lock-In - December 30th at 7pm - December 31 at 9am

Bring your friends and come to church for a night of games, pizza, and movies, then wake up to a delicious breakfast before church.

Winter Solstice Supper and Worship Service



Thursday, December 21, 6:30 - 7:30 PM
We meet in Fellowship Hall for a light supper, and a time of reflection and music.



December 24

**10 a.m. Service:
Christmas Carols and Storytelling**

5 p.m. Christmas Eve Service:

**Interfaith Housing's gala
auction:
February 3, 2018 6:00 -
11:00pm
Blackhawk Auto Museum**

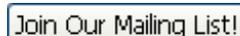
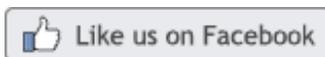
All proceeds benefit homeless and at-risk families and individuals in Contra Costa County.

For more information, early bird tickets, or if you have any questions, please call 925-944-2247 or email elba@ccinterfaithhousing.org.

AMAZON SMILE

When you shop 'with a Smile', Amazon donates 0.5% of the purchase price to Orinda Community Church. Bookmark the link <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/94-1322187> and support us every time you shop.

Stay Connected



Pageant and Worship

A service for all ages.

**Fun and carols pave the way for reflection,
sacred music and candlelight.**

Volunteers needed

**Help wrap Christmas gifts for Shelter Inc.
Saturday December 9th from 10am to noon.**

We are asked to bring boxes appropriate for clothing and any nice ribbon we might want to use on the boxes we wrap. Shelter Inc. can use up to 10 people for this event.

We will meet at the church at 9:15am to organize carpooling and head out to Shelter Inc. for our 10 am appointment. Anyone interested in going can call or email Dagmar at church so we know how many people are going. Jan Rosefield is the point person for this project.

Adopt a Family from St. Vincent's Day Home

This Christmas, adopt a family from St. Vincent's Day Home in West Oakland and help buy their Christmas presents! We have 20 families that need to be adopted, with gifts purchased and dropped off at the church prior to Wednesday, December 15th, and gifts can be as simple as a gift card. Most families are only 2-3 people, with the exception of a few larger families. Please email Kelsey if you would like to adopt a family and she will provide you with their information and a Christmas list!

Stewardship Reminder

**We have had a great response so far!
Thanks to everyone who has pledged for 2018.** If you have not yet done so, please turn in your 2018 pledge card.



**Church Council
November minutes [here](#)**

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