



ORINDA

Community Church

Seeking God, Loving Others,
Caring for the World

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Join the Choir!
All are welcome

No experience necessary!

Rehearsals Sunday mornings 8:45
in the Music Room.



September 2018

NEWSLETTER OF THE ORINDA COMMUNITY CHURCH

Jim's Reflection

Here we are, about to enter a new program year at Orinda Community Church. Plans are being made in anticipation of the 2018-2019 year, and there is much to be excited about.

New initiatives will be started, old ones will be brought back, and existing ones will be enhanced. We will continue to worship together every Sunday, using traditions, music, liturgy, and songs that we love; and seeking new forms and expressions to further enhance our worship experience.

We will keep trying to care for one another, those in the East Bay, and those around the world. Together we will learn, laugh, serve, pray, grow, support, eat, play, and be community.

In the course of the next many months, we will call a new Associate Minister to serve and minister with us. This is an exciting step for our church - where we ask a minister to come alongside us and help us grow in our faith, ask the big questions with us, find ways to be the kind of church that we long to be, and help us each grow into our gifts and passions. This is also a bold step that we are taking, as we commit to the growth and the future of Orinda Community Church.

We will keep exploring housing opportunities with the Orinda Senior Housing Foundation, to dream of ways we can provide needed housing in Orinda, while also providing further income for OCC. This will be an important long-term step, so we can keep dreaming of how to further extend our church's ministry.

We will keep seeking to care for the different age groups and demographics of our church. The importance of enhancing our ministry to Youth and Families has been named again and again by our congregation, and this is an important focal point for our church. As well, we will be taking a long look at how we can better offer congregational care for our current membership, meeting the varying needs of people in different stages of life.



Women of Spirit

Fri., Sept 7, noon-2pm, Board Room

Please join us for our first fall gathering! In honor of 9/11, whose anniversary falls shortly after our meeting, we'll think about how we respond personally and in a mindful way to global tragedies and other events. Gathering with other women of faith committed to inclusiveness, connection, and commonality was one commendable reaction to the 9/11 tragedy. We look forward to a fruitful and uplifting discussion. Please invite globally minded friends who would love this topic!



Seniors Lunch

**Monday, September 17, noon
in the Board Room.**

Please bring \$5 for the lunch.



OCC Men's Group

Wednesday night, Sept. 19, @ 6:30

p.m. We will meet at the home of Rev. Jim Brommers Bergquist, and the entree and drinks will be provided (food will be brats and sausages from the grill). Our topic will be "Positive Psychology", and what Jim has learned by looking at the work of Martin Seligman. (Take a look at the book *Flourish* if you're interested)

RSVP to Jim (jim@orindachurch.org) and let him know what you'll be bringing to share - appetizer, fruit, salad, wine, dessert, beer. He'll make sure there is enough to round out the menu.

One other hope for the year ahead is to find alternative times and experiences of worship, aimed at those who aren't familiar with more traditional forms and expressions. What we offer for worship on Sunday mornings is really special. We are a warm, loving, and welcoming community. We have an incredibly talented Music Director, and many amazing voices and musicians. We sing the great hymns. Our worship is thoughtful. Our prayers, reflections, and times of sharing are meaningful.

This past Sunday night's God Experiment in Berkeley was an interfaith service/concert/event, sponsored by the Orinda Community Church and Congregation B'nai Tikvah. There were 120 people in attendance (all paying \$25 to attend) - indicating that there is also a hunger for spiritual expression that is "outside the box".

There is much good happening here at OCC, and much good work ahead of us... In a week, we will start worship by singing the hymn "Help Us Accept Each Other", with words by Fred Kaan. This hymn was chosen because it speaks to what each of us needs in our lives - and what we are called to be as a church.

2018-2019 looks to be a great year at Orinda Community Church. I look forward to being a part of it with you.

Jim

"Help Us Accept Each Other"

Help us accept each other as Christ accepted us;
teach us as sister, brother, each person to embrace.
Be present, God, among us and bring us to believe
we are ourselves accepted and meant to love and live.

Teach us, O God, your lessons, as in our daily life
we struggle to be human and search for hope and faith.
Teach us to care for people, for all not just for some,
to love them as we find them or as they may become.

Let your acceptance change us, so that we may be
moved

in living situations to do the truth in love;
to practice your acceptance until we know by heart
the table of forgiveness and laughter's healing art.

God, for today's encounters with all who are in need,
who hunger for acceptance, for righteousness and
bread,
we need new eyes for seeing, new hands for holding
on:
renew us with your Spirit; God, free us, make us one!

Homecoming Picnic

**Sunday, September 9, after worship
@ Kennedy Grove/East Bay Regional Park**



**Ladies Lunch Bunch
Wednesday, September 26**

We have reservations at 11:30 at Metro Lafayette, 3524 Mt. Diablo, Lafayette, 94549. RSVP by Monday Sept. 24 to Joy Elkinton-Walker by email or (925) 899-2286 so we can notify the restaurant. A reminder will be send closer to the date, but be sure to set it on your calendars now!



**Save the Date!
Rossmoor Lunch
Monday, October 1, noon**

At the house of Richard & Anne Long.
RSVP to Anne along1024@comcast.net
or Jim jim@orindachurch.org

**League of Women Voters, Tuesday,
October 9, 2018 7:30 PM, Sanctuary**



The Mercy and Justice Ministry is hosting a League of Women Voters of Diablo Valley "Pros and Cons" meeting in the church sanctuary. LWVDV members will present both sides of initiatives that will appear on the November ballot. All are welcome to attend this informative presentation.

**Crop Walk 2018
Walk. Give.
Change the world**



This year's Crop Hunger Walk will take place on **Sunday, October 14, 1:00 p.m., in Walnut Creek.** The Mercy and Justice Ministry is hoping our church might be able to participate, but we need a coordinator for our church's walkers. If you would be willing to be the point person



Food and beverages will be provided.

**RSVP by September 5 to
office@orindachurch.org**

so we'll have ample food.

Suggested donation: \$5 per person.



**Ministry Fair and Info Session in Fellowship
Hall**

Sunday, Sept. 16, 11:30 a.m.

Come to Fellowship Hall after worship and learn about the work of our many Committees and Ministry Teams.

Writers Group



We're' getting the band back together!

Grab your laptops and pens, and get ready for a chance to share your writing, and be inspired by your friends.

**Please join us at 11:00 on
Wed., Sept. 19, 11:00 a.m. -**

12:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room. (Next meetings will be Wed. Oct. 17, and Wed. Nov. 14)

We invite you to bring a reflection on any of the following prompts. This will give us a chance to learn from one another, and think about the ways that God is known through Wisdom and Growth.

Albert Einstein, 20th century

"Any fool can know. The point is to understand."

"It is not that I'm so smart. But I stay with the questions much longer."

Jimi Hendrix, 20th century

"Knowledge speaks, but wisdom listens."

for Orinda Community Church, please talk to Rev. Jim or Karen Sanford.

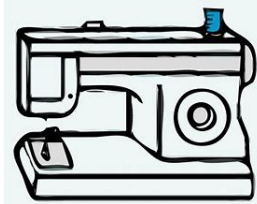
Winter Nights Rotating Family Shelter will receive 25% of the funds raised.

There will be a water station at the half way point with a doggy water bowl. Pets are welcome.

Together, we can help end hunger in our community and around the world!

For more information you can visit <https://www.crophungerwalk.org/walnutcreekca/>

Sewing Machine Give-Away



We have a Monarch Zig-Zag Sewing Machine Model 6A. in a brown wooden cabinet. 34.5 inches wide; 18 inches deep; 31 inches high. There are three drawers with attachments and Instruction Book. We are willing to give it away free to some deserving family! Please call Joy Elkinton-Walker (925) 254-8754 if you are interested.

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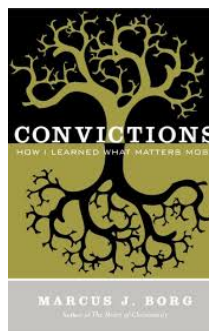


Rumi, 13th century
"Yesterday I was clever, so I wanted to change the world.
Today I am wise, so I am changing myself."

"Day of Discovery" led by Rev. Davena Jones - Assoc. Conference Minister Northern California Nevada Conference Sunday, Sept. 23, 11:30 a.m., Fellowship Hall

Day of Discovery invites all members and friends of our congregation to come together and discuss our love of the church, the values and practices that have sustained our congregation, and hopes and dreams for the future that all can share. By identifying a future direction based on past successes and common values, our leadership and search committee will have needed information to find the best pastoral leadership to take us where we want to go.

Day of Discovery includes a congregational meeting of approximately three hours in length. Ideas will be suggested to get input from church members who are unable to attend and maximize participation of those who cannot be present for the entire event.



Orinda Community Church Book Group Sunday, Sept. 30, 11:30 a.m.

The O.C.C. book group was off to a great start last spring, and we look forward to carrying that energy into 2018-2019.

Books for the remainder of the year have yet to be chosen, but we will start our programming year with *Convictions* by Marcus Borg.

On the occasion of his seventieth birthday, the renowned scholar Marcus J. Borg shares how he formed his bedrock religious beliefs, contending that Christians in America are at their best when they focus on hope and transformation and so shows how we can return to what really matters most. The result is a manifesto for all progressive Christians who seek the best path for following Jesus today.

With each chapter embodying a distinct conviction, Borg writes provocatively and compellingly on the beliefs that can deeply ground us and guide us, such as: God is real and a mystery; salvation is more about this life than an afterlife; the Bible can be true without being literally true; Jesus's death on the cross matters-but not because he paid for our sins; God is passionate about justice and the poor; and to love God is to love like God.

Borg calls all American Christians to reject divisiveness and exclusivity and create communities that celebrate

joy, possibility, and renewal. Throughout, he reflects on what matters most, bringing to earth the kingdom of God Jesus talked about and transforming our relationships with one another. Rich in wisdom and insight, *Convictions* is sure to become a classic of contemporary Christianity. (amazon.com)



**Mark Your Calendars!
Oktoberfest Fundraiser
October 28, after worship**

Some items in the past included

- Third Floor Beachfront Condo at Pajaro Dunes on the Monterey Coast
- Sea Ranch Weekend (2 days and 2 nights)
- Wine/Dinner/Cello Concert
- Wine tasting and dinner

For further donation ideas and form, check out [this flier](#).

**Children and Youth Families
Mark Your Calendars!!!**



Below are some of the highlighted events. Middle schoolers will gather most Sundays from 10:30 to 11:30 am, and the fall will include senior high gatherings around the topic of Faith Exploration. Also, be on the lookout for a senior high retreat weekend in the fall.

**Sept. 9
Family Picnic**

**Sept 16
Senior Highers to Cheesecake Factory
after Church**

**Sept 16, 5:00 pm
Junior Highers for S'mores at
O'Brien's home**

Oct 21, 5:00 pm
Pumpkin Carving and games
for Jr. and Sr. High youth at church

Oct 28
Oktoberfest

Nov 3, 5:00 pm
Dia De Los Muertes (Day of the Dead)
with showing of Coco

Nov 4
Service Opportunity for Jr. & Sr. High

Dec 2, 4:00-7:00
Advent Celebration

Dec 9
Christmas Caroling

NEW!!!
YOUTH HANDCHIME CHOIR FORMING!



Attention Young people and their parents!! We would love to start a chime choir for youth and schedule the choir to play at Christmas time. No experience is necessary. The only requirement is to commit to attending rehearsal. Leslie O'Brien, Allison Skidgel and myself have talked about rehearsal time and think that every other Sunday before church, say at 9 AM, would be the best time. However, this is open for discussion by those who are interested.

We need at least eight volunteers to form the choir to play two octaves. Eleven ringers are required for three octaves. If your child or young person is interested in playing in the chime choir, please contact Nancy Thursby, at: nlthursby@comcast.net

CHANCEL HANDBELL CHOIR



The Handbell Choir has lost a few members and has positions open for the fall. We need at least eleven people to play three octaves. If you have enjoyed listening to the bells and want the choir to continue, please consider joining.

September is the perfect time to join. Being able to read music helps, but no handbell experience is necessary. All that is needed is a commitment to attend rehearsals, which are held every Tuesday evening from 6:00 - 8:30 PM starting September 11. For more information and to join, please contact Nancy Thursby, Director at: nlthursby@comcast.net

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Orinda Community Church | | office@orindachurch.org <http://orindachurch.org>
10 Irwin Way
Orinda, CA 94563
925.254-4906