

# UniFire

## September 2017

*We celebrate community and  
promote spirituality,  
justice, responsibility,  
and compassion.*

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### UUCY SUNDAY SERVICES ~ Join Us at 10:00 a.m.



*Sunday, September 3rd*

**First Sunday Pancake Breakfast**

*In-gathering led by Rev. Ken Jones*

*Sunday, September 10th*

**Annual Water Communion Ceremony**

**(Followed by Ice Cream Social)**

*Presented by UUCY Members Merrill Thomsen & Susan Kaphammer*

In this all-ages ritual, all are invited to bring water symbolizing the places and ways your spiritual well springs forth. We merge the waters and take blessings from the richness of spiritual community. Plan to also stay for our annual Ice Cream Social after the service!

*Sunday, September 17th*

**Covenant and Community**

*Presented by Rev. Ken Jones*

Join Rev. Jones as he calls us to re-boot our covenant for a new church year, and explores the first of four areas of vital interest identified in last year's visioning process: the value of community.

*Sunday, September 24th*

**Spirituality: Not A Spectator Sport**

*Presented by Rev. Ken Jones*

Join Rev. Jones for an exploration and engagement with the second key interest identified in our visioning process: Spirituality.

## Greetings from Rev. Ken Jones (a.k.a. “Ken’s Ken.”)

I’ve had a busier summer than most, and so as I write this I’m feeling full on the effect of “returning” as we begin another church year. It’s important, as we all know, to understand that church goes on year-round, including during the summer when so many of us – especially those who’ve had careers in education – tend to think of the summer as the time we take off. While I indeed have been away much of the time, I know many of you have been here all summer long, participating in interesting and inspiring services, showing up in our community, and being there for each other. Even though all these things are true, I know I’m not alone in thinking that September is our time of “homecoming” – when we observe our annual ritual of water communion the weekend after Labor Day, and celebrate afterwards with our Ice Cream Social, and begin our LRE classes the weekend after that.

As I’ve been experiencing this not-quite-rational feeling of returning, I’m also feeling strongly the need to re-covenant, or, to put it more bluntly, to re-boot my covenant with the Unitarian Universalist Church of Yakima. This is not a negative feeling at all, and does not reflect any sense of disconnection. I think it’s healthy, in any covenantal community, for everyone to periodically renew – or “re-boot” – their covenant. This means to review what our commitments are, what new efforts we’d like to pursue, and take time to express gratitude for what the community brings us. I like to encourage everyone to do this periodically, and September, with the aforementioned rituals as well as the oncoming change of the seasons and the re-booting of school for many, seems like a good time to do so.

One of the things on my mind as I do this is the “visioning” work we completed last fall, and what we learned from it. I’ve always thought of the work of a liberal church as being far too complex to cull down to a single sentence or bumper-sticker saying, but the four areas of interest that emerged (at least for me) from our cottage meetings and workshops were these: Community, Spirituality, Justice, and Learning. So right now I’m using these four words as a sort of mantra as I think about how to engage with the church and our wider community this fall, winter, and spring. Community. Spirituality. Justice. Learning. In fact, I’m planning to utilize my first four sermons this fall exploring each of these topics. But what’s really fascinating to me right now is not that any of these topics by themselves is particularly significant, but it is all four together that make up the mission of a religious community. It’s like the ingredients in a recipe – alone any one is rather plain, but together, they make something delicious.

See you in church,  
Ken

## *From the Desk of the President– Mike Gempler*

Our church is a center for social justice action in Yakima. So many of our members create, lead and participate in social justice activism. Dozens of UUCY members participated in the Women's March, the protest against racism, advocacy for the homeless, advocacy for immigration reform, and more.

It is time that we let the community know better just who we are.

We will be ordering amazingly attractive, and noticeable t-shirts that members can buy to wear to social justice events to show the proud stance of our church for social justice. A notice with an example of the t-shirt, prices, and sizes will come through a weekly update soon!

I am so proud to be associated with our church and to be identified with our fellow UUCY members as we stand up for what is right. I will be wearing our new UUCY t-shirt as I do. I hope you will order a shirt and be a part of it!

Our church is also a center for experiencing community with people of like values, and learning about wisdom traditions, spirituality and our relationship with the earth and other people. I was fortunate to experience a beautiful part of the Northwest this summer with my wife Jessica; the West Coast Trail on Vancouver Island. Part hiking and part obstacle course, the West Coast Trail was challenging, but it took me to the essence of nature and created a powerful sense of awe of our world. I am pleased to share a couple of photos with you of the area.



# UUCY News & Events

## UUCY Committee on Shared Ministry Organizing

Chuck Forster, Susan Kaphammer, and Emilee Solomon met in June and August with Rev. Ken Jones to organize the re-instated Committee on Ministry.

All agreed to adopt the name, “Committee on Shared Ministry” (COSM), to be inclusive of the many activities of our congregation. We articulated our committee charge: “To invite conversations and feedback on all aspects of congregational ministry in pursuit of our covenant and mission.” This emphasizes our intent to keep the UUCY Mission and Covenant at the forefront for our committee and for our congregation’s many aspects of ministry.

### UUCY Mission:

**We celebrate community and promote spirituality, justice, responsibility, and compassion.**

### UUCY Covenant:

**We promise to:**

- Treat each other with kindness
- Celebrate each other’s spiritual growth
  - Listen deeply to others
- Speak with courage and humility
- Share the ministry of this congregation

As we continue to develop our role with the congregation, we encourage face to face comments and conversations about how we are doing as a congregation. Or reach us by email with your concerns and ideas.

# ALL IN THE FAMILY!

*Happy Birthday to all of our September birthdays!*

- *Diana Hillis - September 10*
- *Ken Tolonen - September 10*
- *Jack Lambert - September 12*
- *Dan Baris - September 16*
- *Reese Lolley - September 19*
- *Dorre Wayenberg - September 23*
- *Sunny Sonker - September 25*
- *Monk Sonker - September 29*



## HELP SUSAN CELEBRATE HER BIRTHDAY!

Susan Kaphammer is reaching a “milestone” birthday the middle of September!

This is an open invitation to drop in and help her celebrate.

**Sunday, September 17th, between 1:30 and 4:30 p.m.**

**629 N. 50th Ave in Yakima, snacks will be provided**

**No gifts please; your presence rather than presents!**

## Get to Know a Member: Gabe McKean

Greetings UU members! This month we are starting our “Get to Know a Member” section of All in the Family. This section will highlight one member a month, asking them five quick questions to give a snapshot of their personality. This month, we interviewed Gabe McKean, a newcomer to UU. Gabe is a software developer and lives in Yakima with his wife Michelle, dog Penny, and cat Princess Kitty. He loves gaming, whether board, video, or role playing.

**What was your best memory this summer?**

“Going camping in Madras, Oregon to see the eclipse with my wife.”

**What is the last thing you read or watched that stood out to you?**

“My wife and I have been loving the new Twin Peaks reboot. I was also inspired by member Carole Sahlstrand’s presentation to reread *The Handmaid’s Tale* again.”

**Name three things you can’t live without.**

“Internet access, books, and my wife.” (Full disclosure, his wife is doing the interviewing!)

**If you weren’t a software developer, what would you do with your extra time?**

“I always wanted to be a writer.”

**If you could have any superpower, what would it be?**

“Super speed so I could get everything done and still have time to relax!”



# ALL IN THE FAMILY!

## Health Update: Liz Angland

UUCY Member Liz Angland discovered a lump in her breast that was later diagnosed as breast cancer, but the good news is that it is a highly treatable form. The type of cancer she has is hormone sensitive (it requires estrogen and progesterone to grow), so she will be taking pills for the next five years to starve the tumor. No chemotherapy will be needed, and she plans to start radiation soon in order to complete it before she leaves for Mexico on October 23.

Liz reports that she is feeling great, and would like to thank the Farmworkers Clinic, Ohana, Memorial Hospital, and North Star for their excellent treatment.



*Photo: Liz in Mexico last winter*

## Health Update: Randy Luvaas

As most of you know Randy was diagnosed with glioblastoma in February, and since then it has been a pretty intense few months of treatment, starting with the surgery in Seattle, followed up with daily chemo and radiation at North Star through early April. Since then he has gone through three rounds of monthly chemo, which has kept his tumor from growing, but leaves him extremely weak and tired for pretty much the rest of the month. So we'll be going back to Seattle in mid-September to decide if the current medication continues or if we try another treatment that might not affect him so adversely. He doesn't have much appetite so his weight is down, and he continues to have a lot of pain even with pain meds, so we're working on those issues on a daily basis. But he is still playing guitar, and the Fruit Tramps have been practicing at the Luvaas house to make it easier for him to join in. They play at Antolin's on Friday, September 15th, and barring any unforeseen events, Randy will be there so come if you can! And also, I know he misses a lot of you and would love to see you anytime you can make it out to visit. He's not getting out much except for doctor appointments (and of course, music gigs), but we may be able to make it to church sometimes starting this fall. If you do want to visit, give me a call on my cell phone, 509-494-2219 so we can set up a time. Thanks for your well wishes!



*Photo: Riley, Janis, and Randy Luvaas*

# UUCY CALENDAR for September 2017

Sunday, September 3rd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sunday Service, 10:00 a.m.—First Sunday Pancake Breakfast</li><li>• Greeter: <i>Volunteer Needed</i> Host: <i>Volunteer Needed</i></li></ul>
Sunday, September 10th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sunday Service, 10:00 a.m.— Annual Water Communion Ceremony, followed by Ice Cream Social, led by Merrill Thomsen and Susan Kaphammer</li><li>• Greeter: <i>Volunteer Needed</i> Host: Janet Kincaid</li></ul>
Tuesday, September 12th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• UUCY Book Club: “You Don’t Have To Say You Love Me”, by Sherman Alexie, meet 6:00 p.m. at Taj Palace Restaurant</li></ul>
Saturday, September 16th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• UUCY Quilting Group, 9 am to 12 noon, downstairs in the Fellowship Hall for summer</li></ul>
Sunday, September 17th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sunday Service, 10:00 a.m. – Covenant and Community, Presented by Rev. Ken Jones</li><li>• Greeter: <i>Volunteer Needed</i> Host: <i>Volunteer Needed</i></li><li>• Birthday Celebration for Susan Kaphammer— more info on p. 5</li></ul>
Sunday, September 24th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sunday Service, 10:00 a.m.- Spirituality: Not a Spectator Sport Presented by Rev, Ken Jones</li><li>• Greeter: <i>Volunteer Needed</i> Host: <i>Volunteer Needed</i></li></ul>

## TO VOLUNTEER AS A GREETER OR HOST: CONTACT GENEVIEVE!

### How to be a UUCY GREETER!

- Arrive between 9:30 and 9:45
- Hand out printed Order of Service to everyone as they arrive
  - Offer nametags to guests
- Help pass the collection basket during service
  - Take a headcount during Service
- Sit back, and bask in the good feeling of helping at UUCY!



### How to be a TREATER (aka Host!)

- Bring ready-to-eat snacks for 25-30 people
- Have snacks ready on table in Fellowship Hall by 10:45 (*Plates and napkins are provided!*)
- Take any leftovers home with you
- Enjoy the wonderful feeling of feeding your UUCY Family!





**Unitarian Universalist  
Church of Yakima**

225 N. 2nd Street  
Yakima, WA 98901-2332



ICE CREAM SOCIAL IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWS!

UCY'S ANNUAL WATER COMMUNION  
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10TH

DON'T FORGET YOUR WATER  
FOR WATER COMMUNION!