

UniFire

July 2018

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

UUCY · 225 N. 2nd St, Yakima, WA 98901
509-453-8448 · uucyakima.org
admin@uucyakima.org

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

Sunday, July 1st

First Sunday Pancake Breakfast: "Thoughts on Forgiveness"

Led by UUCY Member Debra Kroon, followed by pancakes for all!

Greeter: Liz Angland

Sunday, July 8th

**In the Monastery: Reflections After Hanging with the
Benedictines at Belmont Abbey**

Presented by UUCY member Dr. Chuck Forster

Greeter: Volunteer Needed Host: Liz Angland

Sunday, July 15th

Fear and Loathing in Old Mesopotamia: The Book of Job

Many people say that the Book of Job answers the question "If there is a God, why does he allow the innocent to suffer?" I finally got around to reading it this year, and I can tell you that it definitely does not answer that question -- but it is a great story, starring Job, his 3 best friends, God, Satan and some guy named Elihu. And unlike many books in the Bible, it even contains some spiritual

wisdom! Presented by UUCY Member Bill Jacobs

Greeter: Volunteer Needed

Host: Rosemary Saul

Service Descriptions Continue Inside!

Also, information on Summer Religious Education!

Sunday, July 22nd

On the Spirit and Spirituality

Presented by UUCY Member Dr. Andrew Whitmont
Greeter: Volunteer Needed Host: Volunteer Needed

Sunday, July 29th

Five Wishes

A presentation on the 'Five Wishes' living will worksheet, which addresses personal, emotional and spiritual issues as well as medical wishes in the event of a serious health issue. After a brief presentation, there will be time for questions and answers and a workshop activity. Presented by Julie Cicero, Memorial Hospital Palliative Care Manager
Greeter: Phil Dindia Host: Gean Dindia

Q: So, what are the kids doing during Summer Services?

A: Thanks to Kathy Lambert, Jean Gonzales, and other volunteers (one of which could be YOU!) we are having an all-ages activity during our services this summer. They are not a part of an ongoing curriculum like our "regular" church year classes, but will be designed to engage kids of all ages in fun and cooperative activities.

Join us in the Garden Room during services (all except First Sunday Pancake Breakfasts) for crafts and other fun activities! *(p.s. there's also a rumor about a possible RE swimming party at Kathy's house later in July, stay tuned!)*

And speaking of Religious Education...

Join Us at an RE 'Work' Party on Saturday, August 4th!

Many hands make for light tasks. Bring your cleaning gloves, favorite sponge, and organizational skills to the Religious Education wing Saturday morning August 4th to get the room and storage closet ready for fall classes. The preschool toys need to be sanitized and the walls and shelves cleared of old projects. The children can come into a fresh, welcoming space when they return for fall classes. The storeroom boxes and shelves need to be sorted so that RE teachers can see what is available easily find supplies for their classes. Come on the 4th, find a task you enjoy, stay as long as you are able. Have a good time working with the other helpers, enjoying some snacks.

Questions? Contact Jean Gonzales at hurlburt@aol.com!

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

As I write this, I was reminiscing just two days prior about the incredible moment just three years ago when the US Supreme Court decided, in the case *Obergefell v. Hodges*, that marriage equality was the law of the land. I was attending the UUA’s General Assembly in Portland when that was announced, and I joined in the euphoric celebration that day, along with thousands of others, including many who had found ways to build families with the ones they love in spite of our heretofore discriminatory marriage laws. It was an incredible moment, but not only a moment – it was a turning point in how our nation views marriage and family and the dignity of people who are Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered, or Questioning. No change happens overnight, of course, which is as true in these regards as anywhere, yet I recalled how only a few years prior to that court case the very idea of people legally marrying others of the same gender was seen as preposterous by the vast majority of Americans. And looking back on it now, we can clearly see the truth of Martin Luther King’s famous dictum, that the moral arc of the universe is long, but does indeed bend toward justice. The cultural changes that *Obergefell* either initiated, facilitated, reflected, or forced (depending on your point of view) are real and lasting, and represent an historic bend toward justice for this country.

I was glad to keep all this in mind as I heard this week about a string of new Supreme Court decisions that decidedly did not reflect this bending toward justice, most notoriously in the case *Trump v. Hawaii* – which upheld an unjustifiable ban on travel from several Muslim majority nations that was clearly motivated by bias against that religion and culture. I’m reminded, in contemplating this, that even though this moral arc does bend toward justice, it also, when looked at closely, is uneven and squiggly. In the short term, it goes up and down, following the unstable drifting political winds of the day. Indeed, I believe that when major steps forward are taken – as with *Obergefell* – there often is a backlash that shows up as a temporary reversal. This knowledge is helpful, but it doesn’t change the fact that we are in a time of grave crisis in this country, a crisis facilitated by deep-seated racism, misogyny, and fear on the part of great numbers of citizens.

And that is where we, Unitarian Universalists and others of open-minded and accepting faith in humanity, come in. We come in to keep our eyes on the long-term and deep-seated cultural changes that we commit to facilitate. Through the ups and downs, the great leaps forward and the disappointing backlashes, we steadily and with faith engage ourselves and our communities with the immense power of love and acceptance. The power of fear is strong too, but a more distant glance at this moral arc reveals that we’ve come a long way from the days when slaves and women were treated as property.

So let us take courage and, reminded of this “big picture” of our moral arc, renew our commitment to celebrate together and continue working toward a world in which the inherent worth and dignity of every person is not questioned.

In faith

Ken

Rev. Ken Jones is a graduate of Starr King, and can be reached at 509-453-8448, or at minister@uucyakima.org. His office hours are Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 am to 12 noon, and he is also available by appointment.

UUCY TEAMS AND LEADERSHIP

SUNDAY SERVICES

Chair: Merrill Thomsen

Linda King

Susan Kaphammer

Mike Gempler

Debra Kroon

Ken Jones

and Mary Brunelle on Host Sign-ups

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Phil Dindia

Carole Sahlstrand

LRE: Lifetime Religious Education

Kathy Lambert

Jean Gonzales

MEMBERSHIP

Retiring Chair: Lucy Stevens

New Chair: Emilee Solomon
and Jean Gonzales on Circle Suppers

FINANCE

Chair: Janis Luvaas

Bill Jacobs

Merrill Thomsen

COSM: Committee on Shared Ministry

Chuck Forster

Emilee Solomon

Susan Kaphammer

Your 2018 to 2019 UUCY Board of Trustees is:

Board President Mike Gempler mikegempler@msn.com

Board Vice Pres. Bill Jacobs wsjacobs99@aol.com

Trustee Phil Dindia gpdindia@msn.com

Trustee Jean Gonzales hurlburt@aol.com

Trustee Carole Sahlstrand cjsahl@q.com

Trustee Merrill Thomsen methomsen1945@me.com

Trustee Ray Yates raycyates@gmail.com