

UniFire

September 2019

Services Every Sunday at 10:00 a.m.

*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

Sunday, September 1st

First Sunday Breakfast: My Church

Presented by GramCat

Hosted by David and Diana Weyeneth, Roger Smith, and Scott Holman

Sunday, September 8th

Fall Ingathering and Water Communion

Our annual ritual that marks the start of our new church year. You are invited to bring some water - or share some provided - that symbolizes your spiritual well.

Presented by Rev. Ken Jones with Mike Gempler

Greeter: Volunteer Needed Host: Volunteer Needed

Sunday, September 15th

The Power of We: Memories from GA

Presented by UUCY Members

Greeter: Volunteer Needed Host: Volunteer Needed

Sunday, September 22nd

Whose “We?” Notes from GA

Presented by Rev. Ken Jones

Greeter: Volunteer Needed Host: Janet Kincaid

Sunday, September 29th

What Do You Need For This Church To Be Your Own?

All are invited to a roundtable discussion on the role of this church community in your life. Join us downstairs in the Fellowship Hall to listen and share.

Greeter: Volunteer Needed Host: Volunteer Needed

*All services are followed by coffee and community,
downstairs in the Fellowship Hall*

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

A friend recently asked me to download a song onto my phone. Sounds pretty simple, right? But to this semi-Luddite techno-skeptic, it turned out to be a gargantuan task. I have downloaded music before, but the last time was several years ago, and much has changed since then, even though that era was well within our one of smart phones and downloadable music. Even when the technology doesn’t change all that much, the methods used to access information continue to change, largely for economic reasons.

Anyway, somewhere during the fits of frustration I was having about this or that web service, I replied to my friend “Can’t I just go out and buy the 45?” It was a telling observation about how much the world has changed – and continues to change – in my lifetime.

And yet some things have remained largely unchanged. Like church, for example. That’s part of the function of religious communities in our culture – to retain certain rituals and traditions in the midst of a changing world. But even most religious communities change, too, even if at a slower pace than the rest of society.

As we’ve had conversations about the pros and cons of our building as a place for this community to meet and call home, I thought about how religious communities are changing and not changing at the same time. When we gather on Sunday morning in our beautiful, historic sanctuary, there is an element of our gathering that harkens back to days long gone, even if we don’t come dressed in our “Sunday Best” and carry our family Bibles, like the people for whom our sanctuary was designed probably did.

I’ve been reading a book this summer called ["Holy Places: Matching Sacred Space with Mission and Message."](#) It’s got me thinking about why our sanctuary – or any of the other rooms in our building – was designed the way it was. How did it match the mission and message of a Congregational church in Yakima a hundred years ago? How does it match our mission and message today?

I’ve been on an email notification list for some time, because of our conversations about our building, that alerts me to commercial properties for sale or lease in Yakima that fall under certain criteria. I look at these with interest, not because I’m looking for something in particular, but just to get ideas about what’s out there. Recently I saw a notice about the place that most recently was the “Beer Shoppe” on Yakima Avenue. I looked at the pictures of it and tried to imagine what it would be like to have church meet in a place that is designed to be a friendly gathering place where people buy and drink beer and stuff. It’s an interesting prospect.

But change is not only about buildings. In fact, buildings are probably most often the last things that change in religious communities. What changes far more readily are what we actually do when we gather. One of the bedrock things that UUCY has done over the years is to provide a spectrum of “Religious Education” classes on Sundays and other times in order to give young people a grounding in our liberal faith. But as many of you know, the last few years have seen diminishing attendance at these classes. We are not alone in this – many UU and other congregations have been adjusting or sometimes rethinking the entire idea of “Sunday School” as a way to engage families. The Unitarian Universalist Association itself has set aside the term “Religious Education” for the more inclusive and flexible “Faith Formation” as a way to describe our ministries to young people. Is it time for us at UUCY to re-envision how we minister to young people and their families?

If you have an interest in this, I invite you to attend, along with our Religious Educators Kathy Lambert and Jean Gonzales, a conversation on the future of “Faith Formation” at UUCY. It will be on Sunday, September 8 at 4:00 p.m. More information can be found [here](#).

In faith,

Ken

Rev. Ken Jones (he/his/him) 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 NEWS AND EVENTS



Memorial and Celebration of the Life of Charlotte Johnson

All are invited to a Memorial and Celebration of the Life of Charlotte Johnson, who with her husband Dale joined the UUCY community in 1957. Although Charlotte moved to Seattle to live with her daughter after Dale died in 2011, she is remembered and loved fondly. I invite those who knew her as well as those who didn't to join her surviving family and honor her place in this community. The service will be on Saturday, September 28 at 1:00 p.m. in the UUCY Sanctuary. If you are willing to assist with refreshments, greeting, or any other tasks please let me know at minister@uucyakima.org.

Future of Faith Formation Planning Meeting: Sunday, September 8th, 4 pm

Join Kathy, Jean, and Ken to review ideas that are working for other congregations with just a few kids, such as multi-age service projects, multi-generational worship, family worship, full faith week, and multi-age curricula. Check the August UniFire or the UUCY Website Learning tab for complete information and website links. Contact Jean Gonzales or Kathy Lambert before the meeting if you have any questions or comments.

Hosts and Greeters— Share in Commitment to Community

One of the easiest ways to help out in our UUCY community is to sign up as a volunteer Host or Greeter, and there are lots of slots available for both in September! Don't feel comfortable greeting? Sign up as a Host— taking a turn is easy, fun, and important. And thank you to everyone who volunteered in Summer, including those who stepped up at the last minute, whose names might not be on the list— you are appreciated!

Thank you to our volunteer Hosts and Greeters:

David and Diana Weyeneth, Merrill Thomsen, Roger Allen Smith, Scott Holman, Gean Dindia, Jean and Ray Gonzales, Carole Sahlstrand, Bill Jacobs, Emilee Solomon, Liz Angland, Susan Kaphammer, Phil Dindia, and Janet Kincaid.



UUCY NEWS AND EVENTS

Picnic at Bumping Lake: You're Invited!

It's almost fall - a great time to gather for a no-host potluck picnic at Bumping Lake. If you are free on the weekday, join up at the Bumping Lake Marina picnic area at about 12 noon on Thursday, September 12. Bring table service for yourself, food and/or drinks to share, and maybe a chair. It's pure potluck; we'll eat what shows up! There's a large parking area, and picnic tables are easily accessible along short paved paths. We'll visit and enjoy the shade of pine trees and the soft slap of lake water on the shore.

If you haven't been there before, head west out of Yakima on Highway 12 through Naches.



Stay straight at the "Y" on State Route 410 and go about 28 miles. Look for the Bumping Lake directional sign and turn left. It's about another 12 miles to the Marina area. Stay left on Bumping River Road, not turning into camping areas.

Turn right on Bumping Lake Road for the last mile. Or... use your GPS! From Yakima to Bumping Lake Marina area takes about 1 hour 20 minutes or so. Questions? Call Susan Kaphammer, 509-4five3-891 9.

On the Calendar: Looking Ahead

Highway Pick-Up: Saturday, October 5th.

Meet at the Park n Ride just past the 'Y' (where 12 and 410 split), 8:15 a.m.

Faith Action Network (FAN) Fall Cluster Gathering, Sunday, October 27, right here at UUCY. (Stay tuned for more details!)



Auction in Action!

Friends gathered in Nancy Born's beautiful garden on a recent sunny Saturday, enjoying a fabulous brunch prepared by Nancy and Hannah.

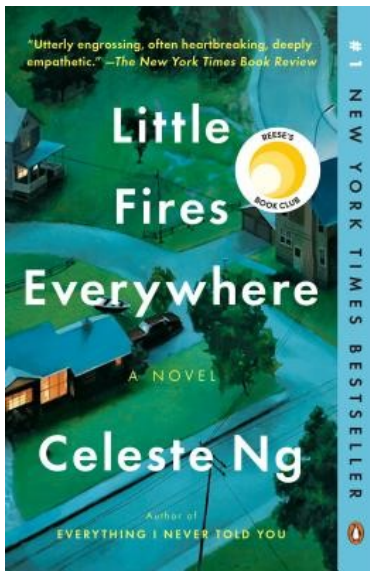
Seats at this brunch were an item in the 2019 UUCY Auction!

UUCY BOOK CLUBS

The UUCY Book Club meets the second Tuesday of alternate months at 6 PM at Taj Palace, 2710 West Nob Hill in Yakima. Everyone is invited to our no-host dinner and good company, and to share thoughts on the current selection. If you haven't finished or even started the book, you are welcome to join us anyway and listen in.

Both of these books have been named one of the Best Books of the Year by NPR and others. They are available from the Yakima Valley Libraries in print and electronic versions, and at a discount from Inklings Bookshop by mentioning our book club.

September 10, 2019: *Little Fires Everywhere* by Celeste Ng



Tracing the intertwined fates of the picture-perfect Richardson family and the enigmatic mother and daughter who upend their lives, *Little Fires Everywhere* explores the weight of secrets, the nature of art and identity, the ferocious pull of motherhood, and the danger of believing that following the rules can avert disaster.

Elena Richardson, with her guiding principle of playing by the rules, is at home with her family in Shaker Heights, a placid, progressive, planned suburb of Cleveland. Then Mia Warren, artist and single mother, arrives in this idyllic bubble with her teenaged daughter Pearl. Soon all four Richardson children are drawn to the mother-daughter pair, each for their own reasons. Mia's mysterious past and disregard for the status quo upsets Elena, who is determined to uncover secrets to discredit Mia. But at what cost to the lives involved?

Little Fires Everywhere is scheduled to become a Hulu limited series with Reese Witherspoon and Kerry Washington.

November 12, 2019: *Manhattan Beach*: A Novel by Jennifer Egan

(Book descriptions quoted or adapted from web pages for Yakima Valley Libraries and Inklings Bookshop.)



Swashbuckling Heroine and Heroes Book Club

Member Tony Long is leading the 'Swashbuckling Heroine and Heroes Book Club', with meetings scheduled once per month. If you would like more information or to join the group, reach out to Tony directly at anthonyLong4111@gmail.com, all are welcome! Discussions every 10 chapters. Members can also communicate online via Goodreads. Meetings are one and a half hours with a brown bag lunch.

Participants must come prepared to participate, having read the text.

FOR SEPTEMBER: The Count of Monte Cristo

UUCY TEAMS AND LEADERSHIP

SUNDAY SERVICES

Chair: Merrill Thomsen
Linda King
Susan Kaphammer
Mike Gempler
Debra Kroon
Susan Gallegos

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Phil Dindia
Carole Sahlstrand

FINANCE

Chair: Janis Luvaas
Bill Jacobs
Merrill Thomsen

CIRCLE SUPPERS

Jean Gonzales

FAITH FORMATION

Jean Gonzales
Kathy Lambert

COSM: Committee on Shared Ministry

Chuck Forster
Emilee Solomon
Susan Kaphammer
Ken Jones

Your 2019 to 2020 UUCY Board of Trustees is:

<i>Board President</i>	Mike Gempler	mikegempler@msn.com
<i>Board Vice Pres.</i>	Bill Jacobs	wsjacobs99@aol.com
<i>Trustee</i>	Phil Dindia	gpdindia@msn.com
<i>Trustee</i>	Jack Lambert	johnmlam@msn.com
<i>Trustee</i>	Carole Sahlstrand	cjsahl@q.com
<i>Trustee</i>	Merrill Thomsen	methomsen1945@me.com
<i>Trustee</i>	Ray Yates	raycyates@gmail.com

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Office Hours: Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 10:30 to 3:00