

UniFire

June 2020

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

How to 'ZOOM' to UUCY Sunday Services!

Anyone with a computer, tablet, smart phone or regular phone can join for free (except with regular phone you won't see everyone, but you can hear and speak.) You need to download the Zoom app first for either PC or phone at <http://www.zoom.us>, or however you download your apps.

PLEASE NOTE OUR NEW ZOOM LINK POLICY: In order to maintain the security and sanctity of our online meetings, the specific 'Zoom' links will only be available via our Weekly Update email. If you are not already on our email list, please contact Genevieve at admin@uucyakima.org and she will be happy to help.

Sunday, June 7th

Sunday Services on Zoom: Compassion

Compassion may begin with thoughts of sympathy and feelings of empathy. But real compassion takes us deeper into community and justice with the call to respond with actions to address the pain and suffering we see and feel. Susan Kaphammer offers thoughts on compassion toward ourselves as well as others.

Sunday, June 14th

Sunday Services on Zoom: Flower Communion

Join Rev. Ken Jones as he leads us in a virtual Unitarian Universalist flower ceremony. You can participate by either sending a picture of a flower that is meaningful to you to Rev. Jones (minister@uucyakima.org) on or before Friday June 12th (better still if you are in the picture with the flower!) or by showing us a picture of your flower through your computer's camera.

Sunday, June 21st

Sunday Services on Zoom: Fare Thee Well

Join us online for Rev. Ken Jones' final service with UUCY, in which he'll bid good-bye.

Sunday, June 28th

Sunday Services on Zoom

(Tentative plans to stream General Assembly, watch your Weekly Update for info!)

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

Last January, I wrote in this column, among others, these words:

“... the recent UUCY Board retreat at which I informed the board that I’m not planning to renew my contract again when it expires at the end of June, making this my last year as your half-time Minister. I’ve thought long and hard about this decision, and it is not an easy one to make, yet I feel it is the right decision.”

That, of course, was last January, which seems to many of us now like a whole different era. I had no idea then that in the coming weeks we’d wind up cancelling church services and all events in our building, or that many of us would find our only contact with others in our church community through the screens of our electronic devices, or that many of our lives would be put on hold for several months or even a year while we tried to protect ourselves and our community from a new and vicious virus.

I also wrote this: *“I’m completing my tenth year here at UUCY, which is a good tenure for a part-time Minister... That is, I think, something to celebrate!”* Unfortunately, whatever celebrations we may have had these last few months or in this final one have taken a back seat to the necessity of us re-imagining how we do church during a pandemic. That doesn’t bother me much personally, because I admit to being the kind of person who tends to sneak out of parties via the back door when no one is looking, just because I don’t usually enjoy saying “good-bye.” So it looks like that is what will happen here – rather than going out with a bang, I’ll be taking my leave in the quiet of night, as it were.

As I said back in January, I still plan to continue living in Yakima for the time being, so these words from my previous column are still relevant: *“I have professional obligations that stipulate that as a departing Minister I will not be involved in any way in the congregation for some time, and will not have any ‘pastoral’ contact with people at UUCY. So when I inevitably bump into some of you around town, I won’t engage in any conversation about the church or engage with anything that may fall into the realm of a Ministerial role. But I’ll sure enjoy saying ‘hi’ and hearing and sharing how things are going!”* I wanted to repeat those words in this column for emphasis. I’ll also add that my professional obligations also stipulate that I disengage with all congregation members on social media. As I will remain in the community, I don’t intend to “unfriend” you all en masse, but I will take care to not engage in too much or inappropriate exchanges with you on social media. I will also be leaving the UUCY Private Discussion Group on Facebook.

There is a lot of uncertainty in our world and our community these days, and it is perhaps unfortunate that the added uncertainty for UUCY about your Minister adds to that mix. It is understandable this might add to some people’s fears. For that, I’ll close with these favorite words from one of my Minister colleagues, Rev. Sara York:

*We receive fragments of holiness, glimpses of eternity, brief moments of insight.
Let us gather them up for the precious gifts they are and, renewed by their grace,
Move boldly into the unknown.*

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 until June 30th, 2020.

UUCY NEWS AND EVENTS

UUCY ANNUAL MEETING:

Sunday, June 14th, 2020, 11:15 a.m. on Zoom

Dear Members of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Yakima:

As the coronavirus pandemic continues, your UUCY Board of Trustees is prioritizing the health and safety of not only our members, but our community at large. In order to maintain social distancing guidelines, our Annual Meeting for this year will be held virtually on Zoom. Members are able to participate either by computer or by phone, and will be sent specific instructions as the date approaches.

Since the meeting will be virtual, the Board has decided *not* to allow any votes to be cast by proxy this year, so we hope that you will plan to attend.

The meeting will be held on Sunday, June 14th, at 11:20 am.

This has been a very challenging year for us: We continue to debate whether we should move out of our church building; our minister has resigned; and, of course, nearly all of our activities have been affected by the pandemic. The Board has been grappling with all these issues, and will have some recommendations for the membership, so we hope all of you will attend the meeting. There will be plenty of opportunity for you to give us feedback.

We hope to “see” all of you at the meeting.

Sincerely,

Your UUCY Board of Trustees for 2019-2020

Mike Gempler, President

Bill Jacobs, Vice-President

Merrill Thomsen, Ray Yates, Phil Dindia, Carole Sahlstrand, and Jack Lambert, Trustees

PLEASE NOTE: MEMBERS WILL ALSO RECEIVE A COPY OF THIS LETTER IN THEIR EMAIL, ALONG WITH SEVERAL ATTACHMENTS.

Adopt-A-Highway Message from Denise Edwards

UUCY has participated in this program since 2006. Signs on Highway 12 acknowledge our work from the “Y” for about a 2.5 mile stretch of road. Normally we would have kicked off the year in April in honor of Earth Day. At this writing, the program is suspended until further notice as a safety precaution during the COVID-19 pandemic.

When the suspension is lifted, I will contact those who have volunteered over the past year and see where we stand. Many folks in our congregation may be considered in a high-risk category by age or medical condition. I intend to be cautious and I advise the same. That said, I feel safer in uncrowded, wide-open outdoor spaces than anywhere else.

Many thanks to those who have contributed their time to UUCY Adopt-A-Highway volunteer activities. I have enjoyed your company and sharing the views. I hope for more.

UUCY NEWS AND EVENTS

ZOOM Into UUCY Book Club

Begin reading now to join fellow readers and talkers on **Tuesday, July 14 at 6:00 PM** for our next Book Club discussion. Watch for the Weekly Update email, sent the prior Thursday from UUCY, for instructions to connect to the discussion.

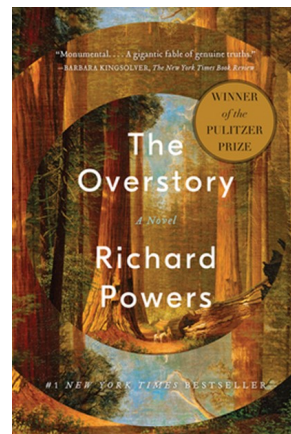
This summer selection, on many “Best Books of 2018” lists, provides “a monumental novel about trees and people.” A little longer than many of our selections, pick up a copy by audio book or by arrangements with Inklings (mention our book club and get a discount). Then settle in with an iced tea in the shade, perhaps under a tree, and get carried away to the overstory!

The Overstory by Richard Powers

An Air Force loadmaster in the Vietnam War, an artist who inherits a hundred years of photographic portraits, a hard-partying undergraduate in the late 1980, a hearing- and speech-impaired scientist studying trees, and five other strangers are summoned to save the continent's few remaining acres of virgin forest.

In his twelfth novel, National Book Award winner Richard Powers delivers a sweeping, impassioned novel of activism and resistance that is also a stunning evocation and paean to the natural world. From the roots to the crown and back to the seeds, *The Overstory* unfolds in concentric rings of interlocking fables that range from antebellum New York to the late twentieth-century Timber Wars of the Pacific Northwest and beyond, exploring the vast, slow, interconnected, resourceful, and magnificently inventive world beside ours that is almost invisible to us.

This is the story of a handful of people who learn how to see that world and who are drawn up into its unfolding catastrophe. *The Overstory* is a book for all readers who despair of humanity's self-imposed separation from the rest of creation and who hope for the transformative, regenerating possibility of a homecoming.



(Book description adapted from web page for Yakima Valley Libraries.)

Join the UU Quilting and Crafting Group for Virtual Show & Tell!

Virtual UUQG was a hit, and has been set as a recurring event for the fourth Saturday of the month. The Zoom information will be the same for future meetings, please see the front of the UniFire for our new policy regarding Zoom links.

Next Meeting: Saturday, June 28th

'ZOOM' To UUCY Wednesday Coffee!

During this time of crisis, it is still possible to connect to your UUCY community! Debra Kroon is coordinating our (successful and universally enjoyed) online coffee visits, every Wednesday (of course!) at 9 a.m. They take place via Zoom, an online meeting platform widely used by UU congregations. You will need to have Zoom installed on your computer, phone, or tablet prior to the meeting time, which you can get at or the App Store or Google Play. See front of UniFire for our policy on Zoom links.

UUCY TEAMS AND LEADERSHIP

<p>SUNDAY SERVICES</p> <p>Chair: Merrill Thomsen</p> <p>Linda King</p> <p>Susan Kaphammer</p> <p>Mike Gempler</p> <p>Debra Kroon</p> <p>Susan Gallegos</p>	<p>FINANCE</p> <p>Chair: Janis Luvaas</p> <p>Bill Jacobs</p> <p>Merrill Thomsen</p>	<p>PERSONNEL</p> <p>Linda King</p> <p>Jack Lambert</p> <p>Mike Gempler</p>
<p>FAITH FORMATION</p> <p>Jean Gonzales</p> <p>Susan Kaphammer</p>	<p>COSM: Committee on Shared Ministry</p> <p>Chuck Forster</p> <p>Emilee Solomon</p> <p>Nancy Born</p> <p>Ken Jones</p>	<p>SOCIAL JUSTICE</p> <p>Phil Dindia</p> <p>Carole Sahlstrand</p> <p>CIRCLE SUPPERS</p> <p>Jean Gonzales</p>

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 Manager– Genevieve Gonzales, 509-453-8448, admin@uucyakima.org
Office Hours: Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 10:30 to 3:00