

UniFire

December 2020

*Monthly Newsletter of the
Unitarian Universalist Church of Yakima*

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

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How to 'ZOOM' to UUCY Sunday Services and Activities!

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.)

In order to maintain the security and sanctity of our online meetings, the '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, December 6th, 10:00 am

Tune-In Together:

Divided We Stand, with Rev. Dr. Marlin Lavanhar

All are invited to watch the [YouTube video of the talk by Rev. Dr. Lavanhar](#) at 10:00 am on Sunday, then join fellow UUCYers on Zoom for discussion, followed by our usual virtual coffee hour. Celebrant: Carole Sahlstrand; Tech: Bill Jacobs.

Sunday, December 13th, 10:00 am:

Sunday Services on Zoom:

**Across the Universe — A Story
Presented by Bill Jacobs**

Sunday, December 20th 10:00 am:

Sunday Services on Zoom:

**A Season of Wonder: Meditations and Music
Presented by Joy Clark**

Join us for a time to reflect on the wonder and the many meanings of the season. Please bring a candle if at all possible as we celebrate a time of renewal and the return of the light.

Sunday, December 27th, 10:00 am:

Sunday Services on Zoom:

What Does It Mean To Be A People of STILLNESS?

At the end of this difficult year, you are invited to share time this Sunday morning exploring a stillness that not only slows breath and energy, but that also restores and renews our breath and energy. Stillness can help us perceive what is truly precious and enable us to re-gather strength to feel at home in ourselves and in our world. Susan Kaphammer shares this message drawn from resources from the Soul Matters Series.

UUCY President's Report

Essential Workers

The November 30 issue of The New Yorker includes a portfolio of photographic portraits that is breathtakingly beautiful. The subjects are fast food workers around the country, and the photographer, Richard Renaldi, captures something valuable, even sacred, about the people in the pictures – their inherent worth and dignity as human beings shines through despite the ill-fitting uniforms they must wear at their jobs. The photos (and Margaret Talbot's accompanying introduction) are definitely worth a look. For those of you who don't subscribe, you can view the NYer in the open branches of the Yakima library system. (Open branches include the one in the affluent West Valley, but unfortunately not the main branch downtown. So it goes...)

I've been thinking a lot lately about "essential workers" and who they are. (Full disclosure: I have a granddaughter who works the drive-through window of the local outlet of a fast food chain.) These days, when the talk is of essential workers, what we usually think of first are doctors, nurses, and other highly skilled (and relatively highly paid) workers. But the vast majority of essential workers earn in the neighborhood of minimum wage and work in agriculture, restaurants, and nursing homes.

One of the silver linings of the pandemic (there's always a silver lining to everything!) is that these people are starting to receive the respect they deserve. Just the term "essential" is a big improvement over previous descriptions of these jobs ("unskilled", "entry level", etc.) And Florida voters have approved an initiative to establish a \$15 minimum wage (which will make Washington the state with only the second highest statewide minimum.)

Could it be that we're actually moving towards an economy which values every person more or less equally?

In faith,

Bill

Dec. 1, 2020

Holy Troublemakers– New time, and newcomers always welcome!

Join the Holy Troublemakers at their new time as they celebrate the holidays of the winter season. We'll have time for stories, songs, sharing, and crafts. **All Children and Youth are invited to attend on Sundays at 5:00 p.m.** See the Weekly Update for the Zoom link or send an email to the church for a personal invitation.

Sunday the 6th we'll begin the month with a craft using white paper and scissors while talking about art and science being important and following your heart even if other people don't understand. We'll end with a song about stillness. We're taking the week off on **December 13th** so anyone interested can drive through the "reverse" Union Gap Lighted Parade. Recalling the stillness song may be helpful if the lines are long.

On December 20th we'll make jar lanterns to share. Everyone will need a jar, school glue watered down 1:1, paintbrush, tissue paper, and tealights. If you need any of these supplies, please contact the church and they can be dropped off or you can pick them up at the door. We'll finish the year **on December 27th** learning about Watch Night and making a freedom art piece.

Remember– all children and youth are welcome to join the fun, even if they've never attended UUCY before, so please feel free to share this information with liberal friends with children at home! Questions? Yalisha will be happy to answer any questions you (or your friends!) might have, via email or an advance Zoom meeting, reach out to the office or to her directly at any time.

Children's Faith Formation on Zoom– Every Sunday at 5:00 pm

Join the Holy Troublemakers in the spirit of John Lewis' "good trouble." Weaving Unitarian Universalist values with social justice traditions of many lands, times, and religious traditions.

Watch the Weekly Update for your Zoom invitation.

'ZOOM' To UUCY Wednesday Coffee!

YES, Wednesday morning coffee is still on, you'll just have to provide your own beverage and chair! Join via Zoom– the link is in every Weekly Update, and all are welcome to join.

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

Virtual UUQG carries on, and you are invited to join them for their next 'Show and Tell'! Contact Rosemary Saul for the Zoom link if needed, all are welcome, and they look forward to seeing you there.

Next Meeting: Saturday, December 26th

December 2020: A UU Social Justice Advent Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30 Black Lives Matter	1 Planned Parenthood	2 Farm Workers Union	3 Wearing a mask	4 Protecting essential workers and teachers	5 Health Care for All
6 Justice Housing Project	7 Veteran's Homeless Center	8 Support closed businesses	9 Plant a tree!	10 Support YWCA and victims of domestic violence	11 Join a local climate group	12 Re-fund police-- add social workers
13 Support LGBTQ members	14 Support Native Americans vs. oil pipelines	15 Support a new policy on immigration	16 Support \$15 minimum wage in USA	17 Honor and equality for women	18 Support food for needy families	19 Support the ACLU
20 Stand against all discrimination	21 Buy local and organic farm products	22 Support inter-faith actions	23 Act against child and sexual abuse	24 Free and universal vaccination for virus	25 Act and Hope for Peace	26 *
27	28	29	30	31	1	2

Your UUCY Social Justice Team invites you to use this UU Social Justice Advent Calendar to inspire you to take action, or think about a particular issue, or just as a reminder to be mindful.

*Please fill in the rest of the days with actions that YOU would like to take! Happy holidays from UUCY.

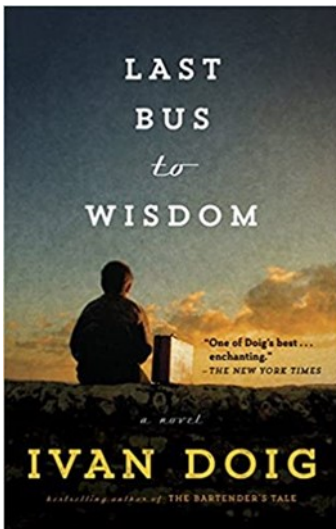
SETTLE INDOORS WITH A GOOD BOOK!

Reading is always in season. But when the wind blows, the leaves fall, days grow shorter, and the temperature dips, settling into an easy chair with a compelling novel is particularly satisfying. Scheduled for 6 PM the second Tuesday of every-other month, our next discussion will be January 12. As always, everyone is invited to tune in to the Zoom Book Club and offer thoughts, or just listen even if you have not read the current title.

Books selected are available from Yakima Valley Libraries, often in hardcopy and electronic versions. They are also out in paperback and available through Inklings Bookshop at a “Book Club Member” discount. For instructions to connect to our Zoom gathering, watch your email for the UUCY Weekly Update sent the Thursday prior to our discussion.

Our January selection, *Last Bus to Wisdom*, will provide relief from the grim reality of our most recent choice, *Killers of the Flower Moon*. Set in the rural west of the 1950s, *Last Bus to Wisdom* offers a “charming, wise, and slyly funny” view of a young man trying to find a place. This final book of honored Montana author, Ivan Doig, was named a Best Book of the Year by the *Seattle Times* and *Kirkus Review*. Enjoy!

January 12, 2021: *Last Bus to Wisdom* by Ivan Doig



Donal Cameron is being raised by his grandmother, the cook at the legendary Double W ranch in Ivan Doig’s beloved Two Medicine Country of the Montana Rockies, a landscape that gives full rein to an eleven-year-old’s imagination. But when Gram has to have surgery for “female trouble” in the summer of 1951, all she can think to do is to ship Donal off to her sister in faraway Manitowoc, Wisconsin. There Donal is in for a rude surprise: Aunt Kate—bossy, opinionated, argumentative, and tyrannical—is nothing like her sister. She henpecks her good-natured husband, Herman the German, and Donal can’t seem to get on her good side. After one contretemps too many, Kate packs him back to the authorities in Montana on the next Greyhound. But as it turns out, Donal isn’t traveling solo: Herman the German has decided to fly the coop with him. In the immortal American tradition, the pair light out for the territory together, meeting a classic Doigian ensemble of characters and having rollicking misadventures along the way.

“With his final novel Doig aptly crowns a luminous literary legacy...‘Last Bus to Wisdom’ is a deeply humane coming-of-age tale set in the early 1950s...Forever the master of colorful characters and landscapes reflecting the vastness and vulnerability of the human heart, Doig has left us with a rollicking road trip filled with both.” -*Seattle Times*

(Book information adapted from web pages for Inklings Bookshop.)

Henry Beauchamp Help- A UUCY Holiday Tradition Lives On

For many, many years, we here at UUCY have taken up a collection at our Thanksgiving/fall celebration in support of the wonderful holiday event put on every year by the tireless volunteers and staff at the Henry Beauchamp Community Center (nee the SECC). The 'event' looks much different this year, but their needs have actually increased, as other local options for holiday help have had to close their doors due to the pandemic. At least 500 families will be served, and for many, this will be the only holiday they have. Donations can be made directly to the organization by mailing a check to them at 1211 S. 7th St, Yakima, WA 98901, please write 'Holiday Dinner- from UUCY' on the memo line. They are also in great need of gift wrap and other items, please contact Janis Luvaas (or Genevieve in the UUCY Office) for a complete list and more information. Thank you for your continued support.

UUCY TEAMS AND LEADERSHIP

SUNDAY SERVICES	FINANCE	SOCIAL JUSTICE
Chair: Merrill Thomsen Linda King Susan Kaphammer Debra Kroon Susan Gallegos	Chair: Janis Luvaas Bill Jacobs	Phil Dindia Carole Sahlstrand
	FAITH FORMATION	AUCTION
	Jean Gonzales Susan Kaphammer	Nancy Born

Your 2020 to 2021 UUCY Board of Trustees is:

<i>Board President</i>	Bill Jacobs	wsjacobs99@aol.com
<i>Board Vice Pres.</i>	Ray Yates	raycyates@gmail.com
<i>Trustee</i>	Phil Dindia	gpdindia@yahoo.com
<i>Trustee</i>	Jack Lambert	johnmlam@msn.com
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