

UniFire

January 2021

*Monthly Newsletter of the
Unitarian Universalist Church of Yakima*

*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 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, January 3rd:
No Sunday Services

Sunday, January 10th, 10:00 am:
Sunday Services on Zoom:
People of Imagination

Our search for a better world begins by imagining the world we want with more justice, more peace, more love. What we imagine moves us forward and makes us better. In our personal lives, imagination can connect us to the sacred by helping us see and understand and know more than what is simply in front of us. Through the lens of imagination, we perceive the common as precious, even miraculous, and our "everyday" lives can be understood as amazing adventures.

Susan Kaphammer shares this message drawn from resources from the Soul Matters Series.

Sunday, January 17th 10:00 am:
Tune-In Together:

"New Year, New You", presented by Rev. Carlton D. Pearson

All are invited to watch a [previously recorded service on YouTube at this link](#), then join fellow UUCYers for virtual coffee hour on Zoom, immediately following the service.

Sunday, January 24th, 10:00 am:
Sunday Services on Zoom:
Our Democratic Principle
Presented by Mike Gempler

Sunday, January 31st, 10:00 am:
Sunday Services on Zoom:
Am I Racist?
Presented by Chuck Forster

UUCY President's Report

2020

I hope everyone has had the chance to read [Tammy Ayer's excellent article about UUCY in the Dec. 13 edition of the Herald](#). The article is ostensibly about the church building, and the fact that it is for sale, but Susan Kaphammer and I had a lot to say to Tammy about the church's mission, too. I was pleased that Tammy chose to feature this quote from Susan: "We don't exist to keep a building."

2020 has been a challenging year for all of us, and now that it's ending I'd like to review the progress we as a church have made in furthering our mission – the actual reason we exist. That's right – we've actually done a lot this year that we can build on in the future.

The most obvious accomplishment was coming to agreement on the need to sell our building. The vote wasn't quite unanimous, but it was close to it, and hopefully the concerns that were articulated by the members who voted "no" can be addressed when we sell the building and begin the search for a new home. Although there is no "for sale" sign on the building, our agent (Coldwell Banker) has included it in the commercial multiple-listings for Yakima. There have already been many inquiries and building tours, although no actual offers as of yet. We need to be patient – the commercial real estate market is pretty slow right now in Yakima, but perhaps it will pick up when the pandemic loosens its grip on the economy.

Also, speaking of the pandemic, I believe we have adjusted rather well to the limitations imposed on us by Covid-19. Many of our regular activities are routinely conducted via Zoom. So, although we're all looking forward to when we can visit in the flesh (will it be 3 months from now? 6 months? Who knows...), Zoom is keeping things going in the meantime.

Finally, we've made some important decisions regarding a new minister. The membership survey last spring indicated that most people support the hiring of a new halftime minister. (Many people, of course, would prefer a full time minister, but they recognize that our membership size and financial resources don't allow for that option.) Because of constraints imposed by the pandemic, such as the need to minimize travel and avoid face-to-face meetings, the Board of Trustees has chosen to proceed slowly with search activities. I hope we can begin moving more aggressively by springtime -- and perhaps have a new minister in place when we return from summer hiatus in September!

Bill
Dec. 29, 2020

January 2021 Children's Faith Formation-Holy Troublemakers

This month we'll explore the way our imaginations can lead us to be better troublemakers in creating a more just world. Join us as we Imagine a World Without COVID-19 and learn how Jonas Salk's unstoppable imagination led to the polio vaccine, Imagine a World without Racism and make signs for Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Imagine a World of Connection and learn about Bayard Rustin, and Imagine a World Within while we make Dream Boxes.

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- ◆ January 3: Create art at home that reflects yourself in the future after overcoming this pandemic period; no Zoom meeting
- ◆ January 10: Imagine a World Without COVID-19 and learn how Jonas Salk's unstoppable imagination led to the polio vaccine
- ◆ January 17: Imagine a World without Racism and make signs for Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- ◆ January 24: Imagine a World of Connection and learn about Bayard Rustin
- ◆ January 31: Imagine a World Within while we make Dream Boxes.

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.

Visit (or Re-Visit) UUCY Sunday Services Online

Your Sunday Services Committee has begun making files of past services available on our UUCY Website. Just visit the [Past Worship Services](#) page under the "Worship" menu. You will be able to download then read online or print out the text of the service, listen to the message portion of the service, or use a link on the page to view the Zoom video of the message portion of the service. NOTE: Some of the services are not available in all three formats. Call the office, or contact Susan Kaphammer if you have any questions or comments.

Reaching Out: Looking for Friends of Don J and Mary Jane McKinley

Longtime UUCYers, do you remember Don J and Mary Jane McKinley, who may or may not have attended the church, but were supporters? If so, please reach out to Board President Bill Jacobs, as we have received a donation from their estate and would love to send a card to their family from someone who 'knew them when.' Thank you!

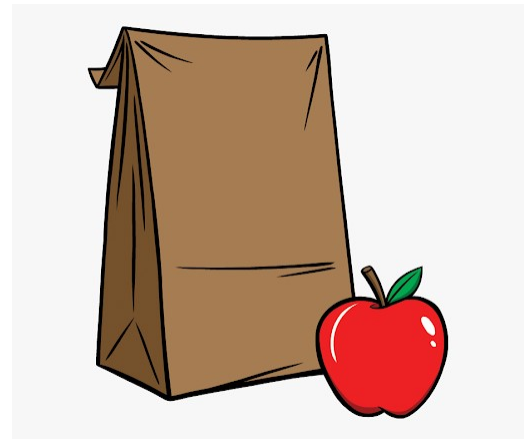
Call for Volunteers: Lunches for Rod's House

Rod's House provides bagged lunches for their clients, and is looking for churches or other organizations to donate them. They have asked if UUCY could provide them 25 lunches on Mondays. Lunches typically include a sandwich, chips, fruit or other dessert item. Nothing fancy required, although Maggie at Rod's House says that creativity is encouraged!

I envision a number of volunteers to make lunches (for example, 5 volunteers making 5 lunches each) which would be collected at a convenient location on Monday mornings, then delivered to Rod's House by me, or other volunteer. (They need them delivered between 10 am and noon.)

Please let me know if you would like to be a volunteer lunch maker! (Or, if you can't make lunches...but are willing to donate money to defray the cost of the lunches...we will be happy to accommodate you.)

Bill



'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, January 23rd

FIND A GOOD BOOK AND LET IT SNOW!

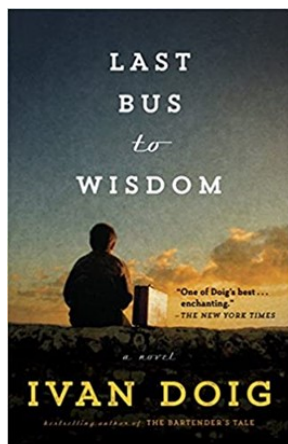
Nothing goes better with swirling snow out the window than an intriguing book in the hand. Compound your enjoyment by sharing your thoughts about our Book Club selection at our Zoom discussion. Scheduled for 6 PM the second Tuesday of every other month, we will meet on January 12. As always, everyone 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*, provides relief from the grim reality of our more recent choices. 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

Young Donal Cameron is sent off from Montana to his great-Aunt in Wisconsin. He is in for a rude surprise as his free-roaming habits are challenged by Aunt Kate’s bossy, opinionated, argumentative, and tyrannical expectations. 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.

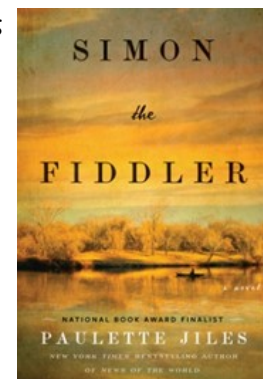


“‘Last Bus to Wisdom’ is a deeply humane coming-of-age tale set in the early 1950s...Forever the master of colorful characters and landscapes reflecting the vastness and vulnerability of the human heart, Doig has left us with a rollicking road trip filled with both.” -*Seattle Times*

March 9, 2021: *Simon the Fiddler* by Paulette Jiles

Set at the end of the Civil War, this novel follows Simon, an itinerant fiddle player trying to make a living, and Doris, the charming young Irish lass who steals his heart. Simon and Doris go their separate ways as he travels around Texas seeking fame and fortune as a musician, and Doris must finish her three years of service. But Simon cannot forget the fair Irish maiden, and vows that someday he will find her again.

"The reader is treated to a kind of alchemy on the page when character, setting and song converge at all the right notes, generating an authentic humanity that is worth remembering and celebrating." — *New York Times*



(Book information adapted from web pages for Inklings Bookshop and Yakima Valley Libraries.)



Fabulous photo of our Sanctuary from the Yakima Herald Republic article about UUCY– see the full article (and more photos) via the link in Bill’s column!
Photo by Amanda Ray

UUCY TEAMS AND LEADERSHIP

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

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
<i>Trustee</i>	Carole Sahlstrand	cjsahl@q.com
<i>Trustee</i>	Mary Brunelle	brufam@q.com
<i>Trustee</i>	Nancy Born	nancyjborn@gmail.com

UUCY OFFICE: 225 N. 2nd St, Yakima, WA 98901 • uucyakima.org
Congregational Administrator– Genevieve Gonzales
509-453-8448, admin@uucyakima.org