

UniFire

August 2021

*Monthly Newsletter of the
Unitarian Universalist Church of Yakima*

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

407 N. 1st St, Ste 1, Yakima, WA 98901
(509) 453-8448 · uucyakima.org
admin@uucyakima.org

We are holding services in person at our new address (listed above and on our website).
Services start at 10 a.m.

IMPORTANT COVID-19 NOTE! In order to comply with the latest CDC recommendations,
UUCY's mask policy is being modified as follows:

Everyone who attends indoor events (Sunday services, meetings, etc.) is **required to wear a mask, regardless of vaccination status.** (We will continue to make available a supply of masks at the door for those who do not have one.)

August 1

No service.

August 8 – Coffee and Conversation

Join together for an informal coffee and conversation service. Connect in person with other UU friends, sharing your thoughts, your concerns, your epiphanies. A suggested topic for today is the origin of your ideas on community. Merrill Thomsen, host.

August 15 – Round Table Discussion - Who are we? Who do we want to be?

As we move into a time of transition at UUCY, join Board President Bill Jacobs and others in a Roundtable discussion focused on the idea of ministry (the work of the church)---that which we personally need and give, that which is meant for our members and friends, and that which moves outward into our greater Yakima community. Come ready to share your ideas.

August 22 – Coffee and Conversation

Join together for an informal coffee and conversation service. Connect in person with other UU friends, sharing your thoughts, your concerns, your epiphanies. Merrill Thomsen, host.

August 29 – What Does It Mean To Be a People of Expectation?

The topic of "Expectations" seems particularly appropriate as UUCY is poised at the beginning of a new church year, in a space new to us, with (perhaps) new social and health rules. In our liberal and humanist traditions, UUs tend to assume tremendous power of human beings to shape our world. But we can lose touch with the balance between taking hold of life and allowing life to take hold of us. How can we pursue our expectations, yet lean into the unexpected? Susan Kaphammer will share thoughts and readings prompted by resources from the Soul Matters series.

UUCY President's Report

This past June, I attended "GA" (the UUA's annual General Assembly.) I did it from the comfort of my living room, since it was held 100% online, due to COVID. Some of the presentations were of particular interest to us. One was "The Post-Pandemic Small Congregation", presented by 4 ministers from UUA's "Congregational Life" staff, including Sarah Schurr, who is our liaison to the PNWD.

Each of the 4 identified characteristics they had observed in small congregations that enabled them to survive, even thrive, during the time that in-person meetings did not occur. The number one characteristic was to "focus on mission" -- which prompted me to reacquaint myself with our mission statement. Here it is:

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

Notice that community comes first. I think we tried hard to keep our community together during the time we couldn't meet face to face, what with Zoom meetings and the efforts of our Caring and Concerns Committee, and that we did a pretty good job of ministering to the needs of our members, especially considering the other challenges we were facing (no professional minister; sale of old church home and move to a new one, just to name a few!)

However, we can always do better, and I think how we can improve our ministry should be one of the primary issues we examine, as we work during the coming church year to define our future.

By attending the August 15 service, all you members and friends can help us get started on that effort. I hope to see you there.

Bill

Bill Jacobs is the President of the UUCY Board of Trustees for 2020-2022, and can be reached for discussion and comments at any time. Reach out to the office for his contact information.

Children's Faith Formation is dormant for the time being as all children have graduated from the program; it will be revived if and when we have younger children to teach again.

UUCY Wednesday Coffee Moves Back To Zoom

What is the UUCY Coffee Chat? For some time, members of our UUCY community and friends have enjoyed getting together on Wednesday mornings at 9 AM at a local coffee shop to drink coffee liberally.

When the pandemic hit, the group moved to the Zoom online format and we have been enjoying Wednesday mornings together ever since. Briefly in July, gatherings were in person some weeks. However, due to ever-changing conditions they are moving back to Zoom for the month of August. Check the weekly update or reach out to the office for a link to the meeting.

Growing the Flame: Chalice Lighters

Being a Chalice Lighter brings you the joy of watching your modest \$20 contribution multiply to a grant of \$12,000 or more. Each grant supports a specific project enabling the growth of our liberal religion in the Pacific Northwest. By being a Chalice Lighter, you will also help your own congregation qualify for a Chalice Lighter grant. Find out more in the [brochure](#) or visit the page at pnwduua.org.

Join the UU Quilting and Crafting Group for In-Person Show & Tell!

The quilting group has returned to in-person gatherings. They meet on the fourth Saturday of every month at UUCY's new location, 407 N. 1st St. Bring your latest masterpiece and materials to make your next; all crafty types are welcome!

Next Meeting: August 28th

“BOOKS ARE A UNIQUELY PORTABLE MAGIC.” – Stephen King

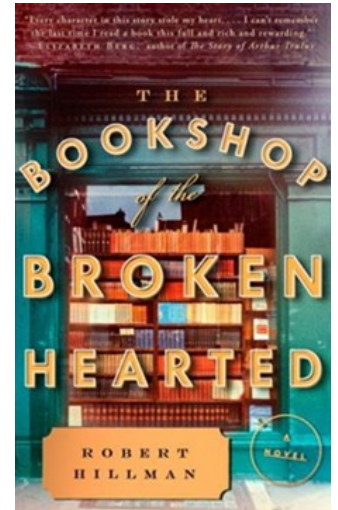
Drop in at 6:00 PM on the second Tuesday of every other month as the UUCY Book Club gathers members, friends and guests to celebrate and discuss books. We will meet at our UUCY space at 407 North 1st Street in Yakima. Snacks may be brought for yourself or to share as we talk and listen and enjoy the company of people who like books.

Titles 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.

September 14, 2021: The Bookshop of the Broken Hearted by Robert Hillman

It is 1968 in rural Australia and lonely Tom Hope can't make heads or tails of Hannah Babel. Newly arrived from Hungary, Hannah is unlike anyone he's ever met--she's passionate, brilliant, and fiercely determined to open sleepy Hometown's first bookshop. Despite the fact that Tom has only read only one book in his life, when Hannah hires him to install shelving for the shop, the two discover an astonishing spark. Recently abandoned by an unfaithful wife--and still missing her sweet son, Peter--Tom dares to believe that he might make Hannah happy. But Hannah is a haunted woman. Twenty-four years earlier, she had been marched to the gates of Auschwitz.

Their story cherishes the power of love, literature, and forgiveness to transform our lives, and if we dare allow them, to mend our broken hearts.



November 9, 2021: Hamnet by Maggie O'Farrell

England, 1580: The Black Death creeps across the land, and a young Latin tutor—penniless and bullied by a violent father—falls in love with an extraordinary, eccentric young woman. Agnes is a wild creature who walks her family's land with a falcon on her glove and is known throughout the countryside for her unusual gifts as a healer, understanding plants and potions better than she does people. Once she settles with her husband on in Stratford-upon-Avon she becomes a fiercely protective mother and a steadfast, centrifugal force in the life of her young husband, whose career on the London stage is taking off when his beloved young son succumbs to sudden fever.

A luminous portrait of a marriage, a shattering evocation of a family ravaged by grief and loss, and a tender and unforgettable re-imagining of a boy whose life has been all but forgotten.



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

UUCY TEAMS AND LEADERSHIP

SUNDAY SERVICES

Chair: Linda King
Susan Kaphammer
Debra Kroon
Susan Gallegos

AUCTION

Nancy Born

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Phil Dindia
Carole Sahlstrand

FAITH FORMATION

Susan Kaphammer

FINANCE

Chair: Janis Luvaas
Bill Jacobs

Your 2021 to 2022 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>	Rosemary Saul	rosemarian59@gmail.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
<i>Trustee</i>	Ulla Whitmont	ullawhi@gmail.com

**UUCY OFFICE: 407 N. 1st St, Ste 1, Yakima, WA 98901 • uucyakima.org
509-453-8448 • admin@uucyakima.org**

Interim Office Administrator – Hannah Born (hours: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Tues., Thurs., & Fri.)