

UniFire

May 2022

*Monthly Newsletter of the
Unitarian Universalist Church of Yakima*

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

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Unless otherwise noted, UUCY services will be held **in person** at 407 N. 1st St. on Sundays at 10 a.m. Proof of COVID vaccination will be required for entry to in person services. Masks are optional.

In-person services are also **livestreamed**! Watch your weekly update for the link; it is also in the reminder email sent on Sunday morning.

May 1 – Climate Change: How Can We Make a Difference?

What actions can we take? Colleen Anderson will speak about options at local, state, and/or federal levels.

May 8 – Tune In Together: Re-Imagining Religion

the Rev. Michael Dowd at All Souls Unitarian in Tulsa

(This service will be on Zoom; watch your weekly update or contact the office for the link.)

Join in this thoughtful presentation examining what is real, what is important, what's wise and how we are to live in "right relationship to reality." Andrew Whitmont will moderate discussion following the service.

May 15 – Nurturing Beauty

Beauty – in nature, in art, in everyday things, in each other – enriches our lives. Perhaps beauty is also a part of our world to teach us. Today's service suggests that we might approach beauty not by asking, "Do I like it or not?" but by asking, "What is it trying to get me to hear, to feel, to see, to understand?" Join Susan Kaphammer as she shares materials from the *Soul Matters* series to explore whether beauty might be here to make us wise; beauty might be the way the sacred speaks.

May 22 – After the Plague: Now What?

(This service will be on Zoom; watch your weekly update or contact the office for the link.)

Art Busch will examine what happens during plagues, what comes after, and how it's changed our lives and us.

May 29 – 5th Sunday Conversation: Sharing Our Lives with Animals

(This service will be on Zoom; watch your weekly update or contact the office for the link.)

What do your animal friends mean to you? Do humans have a spiritual connection with other members of the animal kingdom? Do they help you? Play with you? Teach you? Plan to share your animals and your insights in this service of connection to our broader world.

Adopt-A-Highway Update

by Denise Edwards

June 4 will be the first Highway pick up date for this season! The long range weather forecast looks good for that day. Many people returned the WSDOT required volunteer registration and proof of vaccination. Thank you!

Anyone interested in volunteering for this program can still do so by emailing 11denisis@gmail.com. It is not required that you make it to all of the pick-up dates. Be part of the solution, not the pollution!

UUA General Assembly

General Assembly is the annual gathering of the Unitarian Universalist Association; it features a variety of programming to learn, worship, and connect with other UUs. [Click here](#) for more information. This year the in-person location will be Portland, Oregon; there is also an option for virtual attendance. [Register here](#) for General Assembly!

UUCY May Mini Mercado Coming Soon

Thank you to all the people who have been generous with items donated, and to everyone who has been buying them! We have some donations planned for the May edition, which will be coming out soon, but are always looking for more! As the season moves toward summer, it will be possible to offer something food or drink-based held outside; this kind of event is always popular. Tapas party? Wine tasting? The possibilities are many!

If you have an idea of something you'd like to offer for the Mini Mercado, please email uucyauction@gmail.com.

UUCY Wednesday Coffee On Zoom Until May 11

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 a.m. at a local coffee shop to drink coffee liberally. They are meeting **on Zoom** (check the weekly update or reach out to the office for a link) until **May 11**, when they will move to **in-person** at Caffeine Connection Café (5621 Summitview Ave., by Inklings Bookshop).



Photo by [A R](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Knit Night at UUCY

The Eweknits group meets in person weekly to knit at UUCY on Tuesday nights from 5-7 p.m. Proof of vaccination is required. All are welcome! Contact Nancy Born for more information.

UU Quilting & Crafting Group

The quilting group gathers in person at the church on the fourth Saturday of every month at 9 a.m. Proof of vaccination is required. All crafty types are welcome! Contact Rosemary Saul for more information.

The next meeting will be May 28.

WHEN IT'S GRAY OUTSIDE, CURL UP INSIDE WITH A BOOK

Join our random – and very nice! – group of book readers at 6:00 PM on the second Thursday of every other month. Check your Thursday update for the Zoom link.

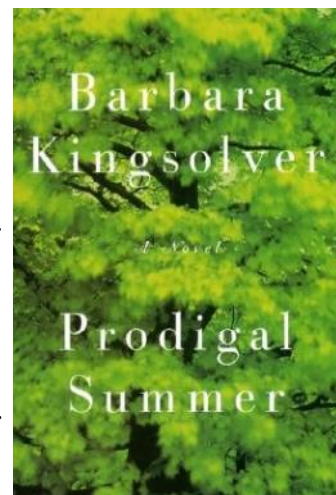
As our season moves through spring, preview summer in Southern Appalachia, meeting the resilient neighbors living close to the land. Meet with us on May 12 to share comments and questions. Then immerse yourself in another time and various places with our July selection.

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.

May 12, 2022: *Prodigal Summer* by Barbara Kingsolver

I was digging deep into one of my stacks of books and came upon a worn copy of *Prodigal Summer*. I don't even remember where or when I obtained it, likely at a yard sale or thrift store as it was a used copy still unread by me. From the first page I was enthralled and am eager to share the experience with my Book Club friends. I highly recommend reading, or re-reading this 20 year-old story that so engagingly celebrates nature and human nature.

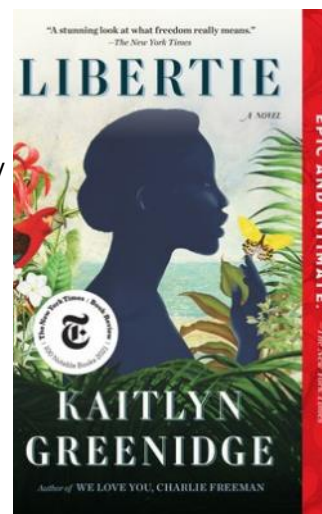
Deanna Wolfe's reclusive life as a wildlife biologist on a Southern Appalachian mountain is thrown a-kilter when Eddie Bondo, a young hunter wanders into her home and her habits. In the valley, Lusa who left city life for her new husband's farm is forced upon her husband's death to discover her place and her relationship with the people and land. Down the road, Garnett and Nannie exchange cranky complaints about how each tends their neighboring farms. The author weaves these stories into a mosaic of living and loving, the connections to one another within the context of our connections to land and nature.



July 14, 2022: *Libertie: A Novel* by Kaitlyn Greenidge

Coming of age in a free Black community in Reconstruction-era Brooklyn, Libertie Sampson is all too aware that her purposeful mother, a practicing physician, expects Libertie to go to medical school and practice alongside her. But Libertie, drawn more to music than science, feels stifled by her mother's choices and wonders, is there really only one way to have an autonomous life? And, she is constantly reminded that, unlike her light-skinned mother, Libertie will not be able to pass for white. She accepts marriage proposal from a young man from Haiti who promises she will be his equal on the island, only to discover that she is still subordinate to him and all men. As she tries to parse what freedom actually means for a Black woman, Libertie struggles with where she might find it.

Inspired by the life of one of the first Black female doctors in the United States and rich with historical detail, Kaitlyn Greenidge's novel offers “a profound meditation on what it means to be truly free — whether born free or formerly enslaved, whether in America, Haiti, or Liberia — while struggling against grief, sexism, racism, colorism, or classism.” *A New York Times 100 Notable Books of 2021 and Best Historical Fiction.*



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

UUCY TEAMS AND LEADERSHIP

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Sunny Sonker
Susan Kaphammer

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Nancy Born

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