

UNIFIRE

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF YAKIMA

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

June 2023

IMPORTANT NOTE:

Due to renovations at our physical location we will plan to meet in the small chapel of Central Lutheran Church (1604 W. Yakima Ave.) at 11 a.m. for the month of June. If this changes, it will be announced via email, the website and Facebook.

June 4: Kindness Matters with Susan Kaphammer

Who doesn't need a little kindness these days? Susan will lead us in a discussion surrounding kindness. Please come prepared to share a kindness that you have received or have given.

June 11: "Connecting Polar Regions with Global Climate: Ice Cores, Albedo Feedback, and the Polar Front" with Miles McPhee

Miles will talk about connections between the Arctic and mid-latitude climate, both in terms of what is happening now in a "1 degree world" (the change since preindustrial times), and what ice cores from Greenland and Antarctica suggest about what is in store for the future.

Here is bit about our speaker: "I grew up near Naches, graduated from Stanford in engineering, then obtained a Ph.D. in Geophysics from the University of Washington, with a thesis on the ocean boundary layer under sea ice. I spent the next four decades doing polar air-ice-ocean research, which included participating in roughly two dozen field projects on ice in the Arctic and Antarctic. Much of that research was directly relevant to understanding climate change at high latitudes and elsewhere."

June 18: Father's Day: A Nothing Burger with Bill Jacobs

A popular and engaging speaker, Bill will share thoughts on Father's Day. Join us and share your thoughts as well.

June 25: The Path of Delight with Susan Kaphammer

Because the road turns long and lonely sometimes,

I built this box of delight.

I pick up the lid

and into it I put... (from *Soul Matters*)

Let's consider what from our present lives and memories from our pasts we might each put into our own "box of delights" for the times our road turns long and lonely. Join Susan Kaphammer for this service with resources from Soul Matters Series..

Annual Meeting is a Time to Take Stock

by Mike Gempler

“Count your blessings.” I’m not one for religious sayings, but this one has been helpful many times, and not just helpful, it brought me up short, to realize that I had options, and that any pessimism wasn’t justified. I’m counting my blessings at our annual meeting on June 11.

We have been upended with this fire at our leased church building. Most of our office and church supplies are packed into 8-foot tall wooden crates in storage at The Bekins Moving warehouse on North 1st Street. Even our lovely church plants are in the Bekins office, temporarily being enjoyed by the staff. Much of our other church belongings are downstairs in the basement at our 407 North First location. Hannah Born, our Congregational Administrator, is working from home without all of the office equipment. She still manages to be helping out with every project and decision. She has a lot to handle now and is keeping us together and informed. We have the Central Lutheran location through June (at least). We are waiting to hear from our landlord about repairs and remodel and a move-in date for Unit 3 at 407 North First Street.

Our congregation has come together at a variety of locations for Sunday services and other events. Even though we are a bunch of vagabonds right now, we are still a community. And our feeling of community has not diminished. The Board is communicating regularly about business and discussion on thoughts. It feels like we are nimble as an organization; ready to take on whatever. Our Board members are really talented, as are the many other members working on various committees and projects.

So I hope to see everyone at the Annual Meeting on Sunday June 11. It will be our annual moment to “take stock”, appreciate what we have, review, and look ahead.

Mike Gempler is the President of the UUCY Board of Trustees for 2022-2024, and can be reached for discussion and comments at any time. Reach out to the office for his contact information.

UUCY Meetings in June

ANNUAL MEETING: In person Sunday, June 11th, 12:15 p.m. after the Sunday service at Central Lutheran's small chapel. If you're a member and can't attend, please arrange for a proxy; contact the administrator if you need help.

Board Meeting: Monday, June 12th, 1:00 p.m. Contact the office if interested in attending (via Zoom).

Auction News!

UUCY Auction will be back next spring!! In the meantime, let's warm up to the idea by reinstating a monthly Mini Mercado! If you have something to offer, your auction team is happy to include it in the June flyer. We're scrambling for the right combination of items/events and would love to have more to choose from.

Send your ideas to uucyauction@gmail.com or leave a message at 509-453-8448 and we'll get back to you. Thank you!

Thanks for the suggestion,

Nancy.

Next Dates for Highway Pickup: June 3rd and (Tentatively) July 8th

Thank you to April's on-site volunteers Scott, Ken, Chuck, and Hannah for a job well done. The second outing of the season will be this Saturday, June 3, with good weather expected. Emails have been sent to registered participants with details. If you are not a registered participant and wish to volunteer, email Denise at 11denisis@gmail.com.

July 8 is tentatively set as the date for the third outing. As always, check the weekly updates and the UniFire.

General Assembly in Pittsburgh & Online

Every year, Unitarian Universalists from all over meet at General Assembly. This year's meeting will take place in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and online from June 21 to 25.

Go [here](#) for more information and register [here](#).



UUCY Wednesday Coffee

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. These gatherings are in-person and indoors at North Town Coffeehouse (32 N. Front Street).

Both the quilting group (usually the fourth Saturday of the month) and Tuesday knit nights will be **postponed until June** unless & until we are moved into our new space.

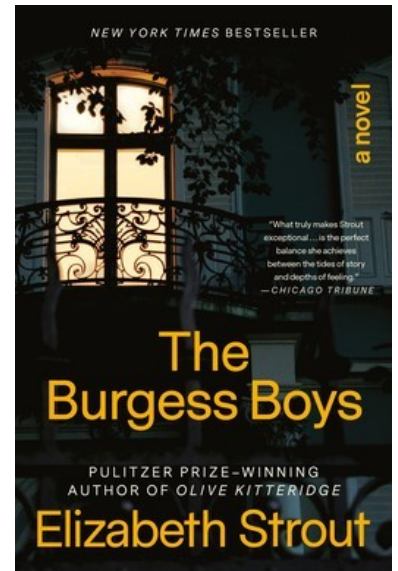
BOOK CLUB MEETS AGAIN ON JULY 13

A small but enthusiastic group of readers met in May at Susan Kaphammer's home for a long discussion of *Bold Spirit* by Linda Hunt. We were glad to make the acquaintance of the brave Helga Estby and her daughter, while we regretted the aftermath of their trek. Beyond the researched events, we shared responses to the addendum on "family secrets." It was a companionable and enjoyable evening.

The next meeting of our UUCY Book Club (Everyone Welcome!) will be at **6:00 PM on Thursday, July 13**. We will gather at a place to be determined, based on where we land for a more permanent church home. Bring a snack if you wish, and be prepared to share your observations and questions about *The Burgess Boys*. Named one of the Best Books of the Year by *The Washington Post*, and NPR, this novel explores shifting adult sibling relationships, ties to childhood homes, and the impact of undeserved guilt. The book is available in hard copy and electronic format from Yakima Libraries, and from Inklings Bookshop at book club discount.

***The Burgess Boys* by Elizabeth Strout 2014. 320 pages.**

Haunted by the freak accident that killed their father when they were children, Jim and Bob Burgess escaped from their Maine hometown of Shirley Falls for New York City as soon as they possibly could. Jim, a sleek, successful corporate lawyer, has belittled his bighearted brother their whole lives, and Bob, a Legal Aid attorney who idolizes Jim, has always taken it in stride. But their long-standing dynamic is upended when their sister, Susan—the Burgess sibling who stayed behind—urgently calls them home when her lonely teenage son, Zach, has gotten himself into a world of trouble. When the Burgess brothers return to the landscape of their childhood, the long-buried tensions that have shaped and shadowed their relationship begin to surface in unexpected ways that will change them forever.



"At times [*The Burgess Boys* is] almost effortlessly fluid, with superbly rendered dialogue, sudden and unexpected bolts of humor and . . . startling riffs of gripping emotion."—**Associated Press**

"No one should be surprised by the poignancy and emotional vigor of Elizabeth Strout's new novel. But the broad social and political range of *The Burgess Boys* shows just how impressively this extraordinary writer continues to develop."—*The Washington Post*

"Strout deftly exposes the tensions that fester among families. But she also takes a broader view, probing cultural divides. . . . Illustrating the power of roots, Strout assures us we can go home again—though we may not want to."—*O: The Oprah Magazine*

UUCY TEAMS AND LEADERSHIP

SUNDAY SERVICES

Chair: Debra Kroon

Denise Edwards

Bill Jacobs

Susan Kaphammer

Linda King

Sunny Sonker

AUCTION

Nancy Born

FAITH FORMATION

Susan Kaphammer

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Phil Dindia

Carole Sahlstrand

FINANCE

Chair: Janis Luvaas

Bill Jacobs

Your 2022 to 2023 UUCY Board of Trustees is:

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