

# UNIFIRE

## MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF YAKIMA

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



**DECEMBER 2023**



### **December 3: Faith, Hope, and Love for Social Justice**

"Between the Ridges Coalition for the Common Good" is an organization being formed in Yakima. Many small nonprofits are providing stop-gap help for people in our community, but the impact is often temporary. The Coalition hopes that combined efforts may lead to deeper, more comprehensive changes. Phil Dindia has been deeply involved in the organizing, and he will speak about how this coalition aims to put faith, hope and love into action.

### **December 10: Being the Calm in the Storm**

*Tune In Together with Michael Dowd*

This "post-doom, no gloom" sermon by Rev. Michael Dowd was his last. It was delivered at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Flint, Michigan on August 13, 2023. Connie Barlow, Michael Dowd's wife, mission partner, and video editor, thinks it is one of his best. Michael passed on October 7 after a fall at a friend's home. You may recall that we previously enjoyed a Tune in Together with Michael Dowd last year, in October. His talk that day was **The Big Picture: What Every Young Person & Grandparent Should Know**. UU Flint, MI. [Here](#) is a link to more information about Michael Dowd's life and death.

### **December 17: Festive Holiday Singalong**

Plan to tune up your holiday voices and sing with gusto in this Festive Holiday Singalong led by Jeff Main of the MainStrings, well-known local bluegrass musicians. A fun service for all ages.

### **December 24: Christmas Eve Morning Service**

Christmas Eve morning service at 10 a.m.! Join Sunny Sonker, Linda King and others in this celebration of the season with a UU twist! Stories, songs and recognition of December holidays will be featured. All ages welcome.

### **December 31: The Gift of Mystery**

Our culture celebrates the conquering of mysteries. Through science and reason and intellect we expect what is currently unexplained can be and will be figured out. But consider that our faith tradition has always included "transcending mystery and wonder, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces that create and hold life." As part of our *Soul Matters* series, Susan Kaphammer will help us consider staying open to the spiritual teachings of mystery.



## **UUCY COFFEE GATHERINGS**

Join us every Wednesday at 9 a.m. at  
**Catalyst Coffee (221 E. Martin  
Luther King, Jr. Blvd.)** for coffee,  
companionship and conversation!

### **Circle Suppers A Success!**

November's Circle Suppers were enjoyed by all attendees. Good food and good company added up to a good time! Thank you to Phil & Gean Dindia and Lucy Ann Valderhaug for hosting. In a bow to the busy holiday season, there won't be any circle suppers offered in December, but look for another opportunity in January. Maybe even a Circle Brunch!

### **Holiday Game Night** *Friday, December 29th, 6:30-8:30 p.m.*

Game night is back for December! The last Friday night of the month, join the fun at UUCY. Bring your favorite game or try something new! The same goes for treats. Host may provide something special and festive, including decorations!

### **Wanted: Memories of Greta Crosby's UUCY Ministry from 1988 -1996**

Greta Crosby's daughter is seeking people who were present at UUCY to reflect on her ministry in that era. A few paragraphs is perfectly fine, unless drawn to further reflection. Any submissions will be greatly appreciated and can be sent to  
[larapollock@hotmail.com](mailto:larapollock@hotmail.com).

**For now, the quilting group is on an indefinite hiatus.**

*Knitters, crocheters, spinners, fiber artists of all stripes are welcome to join other makers Tuesday nights 5:00-7:00 p.m. at UUCY, 407 N. First St., Unit 3. Bring a project to work on or if you need help or inspiration, that will be available, too!*

# BOOK CLUB MEETING SET FOR

**3:00 to 5:00 PM, THURSDAY, JANUARY 11, 2024**

Curling up on the couch with a good book – no better way to spend the grey days that winter brings to Yakima. Try our next Book Club Selection, *The Bees* by Laline Paull. Reviews praise this novel as, “Fascinating... engrossing... Thrilling, suspenseful and spectacularly imaginative ...”

As always, everyone is welcome to our lively conversation, thoughtful reactions, and, of course, laughter. If you haven't read the book, you are still welcome to join us at our church home at 407 N 1st Street, Suite 3. Optional: bring a snack to share.

## **The Bees by Laline Paull. 2015. 340 pages.**

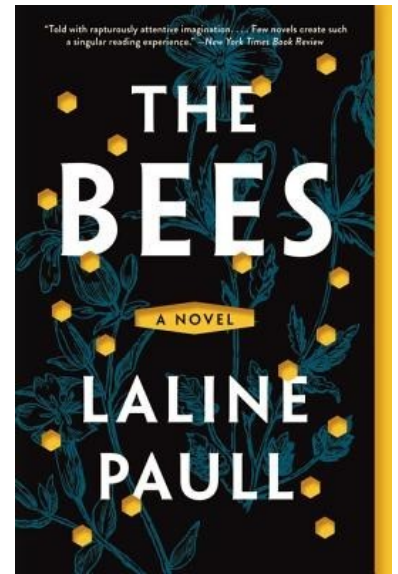
Flora 717 is a sanitation worker, a member of the lowest caste in her orchard hive, where work and sacrifice are the highest virtues and worship of the beloved Queen the only religion. But Flora is not like other bees. With circumstances threatening the hive's survival, her curiosity is regarded as a dangerous flaw, but her courage and strength are assets. She is allowed to feed the newborns in the royal nursery and then to become a forager, flying alone and free to collect nectar and pollen. A feat of bravery grants her access to the Queen's inner sanctum, where she discovers mysteries about the hive that are both profound and ominous. But when Flora breaks the most sacred law of all - daring to challenge the Queen's preeminence - enemies abound.



“Well-crafted and filled with intrigue and action, this is a brilliant, thought-provoking, and completely original debut...” — *Indie Next List*

“It quickly became clear that in its basic facts, the novel sticks closely to real-world apian biology and behavior. That is fascinating enough, but Paull deftly wields this information to create an even more elaborately layered culture of beeness... Beautiful.” — *Washington Post*

“It's rare to come across a book as mind-blowingly imaginative as Laline Paull's *The Bees*. It's even more rare for such works to be successful, well-written, gripping stories... *The Bees* is an utterly memorable wonder of a novel.” — *Kirkus Reviews*



## **Want to read this book? Borrow it!**

Eight copies of *The Bees* will be available at Sunday Services and Wednesday Coffee beginning December 3. Contact Susan if you want her to set aside one for you.

Also available at Yakima Valley Library  
and at Inklings Bookshop (ask for Book Club Discount!)

*Book description and reviews excerpted from [inklingsbookshop.com](http://inklingsbookshop.com).*

# CLIMATE ACTION WE ALL CAN DO TO BEAT THE UNBEATABLE FOE

*by Phil Dindia*

## Action - stop funding the gas, coal and oil industries.

Take all of your saving and investments from banks that support those industries and put them in banks that do not. Major banks such as CitiBank, Bank of America, and Wells Fargo profit from such investments. Credit unions do not - WESCU, HAPO, Gesa, Solarity and others. They take the investments they receive and loan them to the community for purchase of homes, cars and equipment. With new influx of money they can lend at a lower rate of interest, a win for all of us. It starts with me. It could end up at the United Nations and Washington DC.

**What if** I put all of my savings/investments a credit union and convinced one other person to do the same and that person did the same and so on?

**What if** we proposed our church board to do the same with all pledges and money?

**What if** UUCY wrote an article for the UUA magazine recommending it to all member churches?

**What if** at General Assembly we proposed this for all UU congregations?

**What if** we contact other churches that are aligned with our values and they do the same?

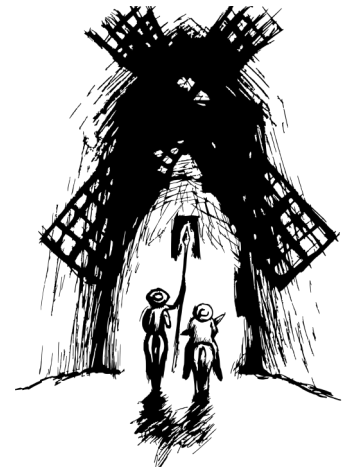
**What if** the churches go to city, county and state leaders asking them to do the same with the taxes they collect from the people and put the money in credit unions and each of these entities approach others at their yearly gatherings to get others to join in?

**What if** all these groups and memberships agree to meet in Washington DC to ask out federal government to take all of our tax money and put it in banks and credit unions that do not invest in fossil fuel industries? With a yes from our government, we would go to the United Nations with a similar petition with young climate activist Greta Thunberg leading us.

Would banks and investment firms be hurting enough to change their investment policies? The planet is hurting a lot with climate changes augmented by the fossil fuel industry. We want them to be on the side of the wind, the sun and the sea so we can save our beautiful blue marble planet Earth.

**What if?** An impossible dream? An unbeatable foe? No, we, the people, have to do it.

*Illustration by Felixedmundo,  
cleaned up by Gato Preto  
([Wikimedia Commons](#))*



# 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 2023 to 2024 UUCY Board of Trustees is:

<i>Board President</i>	Mike Gempler	<a href="mailto:mikegempler@msn.com">mikegempler@msn.com</a>
<i>Board Vice Pres.</i>	Carole Sahlstrand	<a href="mailto:cjsahls39@gmail.com">cjsahls39@gmail.com</a>
<i>Trustee</i>	Nancy Born	<a href="mailto:nancyjborn@gmail.com">nancyjborn@gmail.com</a>
<i>Trustee</i>	Mary Brunelle	<a href="mailto:almybrufam@gmail.com">almybrufam@gmail.com</a>
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**UUCY Administrator – Hannah Born (hours: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Tues., Thurs., & Fri.)**