

UNIFIRE

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF YAKIMA

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



FEBRUARY 2024



February 4: Tune In Together — What Makes You Special?

Rev. Jon Luopa of the UU Church of Seattle; Andrew Whitmont, discussion leader
Tune in Together as Rev. Luopa shares his sermon, which focuses on death
as a teacher and how we spend our time. It is about getting to know
yourself and what is important to you and taking action to live in those
moments in the present.

February 11: What's Love Got To Do With It?

Facilitated by Linda King and Sunny Sonker

Everything. From our own likes and dislikes to our experiences to beloved
stories to our faith; love is the ground we walk on. Join in this service of
connection, exploration and assurance.

February 18: The Gift of Heritage

Heritage is about the values we choose to carry forth from those to whom
we are related and/or those who we choose as our spiritual ancestors. Our
heritage bestows a legacy, calls us to carry stories forward, and lives in the
whispers of our hearts. Opening to our heritage helps us understand why
we are here and reminds us of our responsibilities to continue living our
values and to pass these on. Susan Kaphammer offers this message as part
of our Soul Matters series.

February 25: Membership Matters

Today we welcome new members into our Unitarian Universalist Church of
Yakima family. We are all members of something, whether a church, a
community, a nation. This will be an opportunity to take a look at what
membership means while celebrating the new additions in our midst.

Membership Ceremony Welcomes New Members Into Our Community

by Mike Gempler

I love being a member of our church. For the last 28 years our church has exposed me to new and wonderful ideas and supported my growth as a human being. It was through becoming a part of this community as a member that I was able to develop rewarding relationships with people who shared my values. In addition to attending Sunday services; participation in small study groups and dinners, teaching classes for children and adults, and contributing to Sunday services from time to time added a richness to my life.

Being a member also means that you stand for something. By being a member of UUCY you are saying that you support the values of the church: social justice, the free exploration of thought, respect for reason, respect for the natural world, and respect for other cultures and ways of life.

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Yakima will hold a New Member service and ceremony on Sunday, February 25th. In this ceremony we will welcome our new members into our community.

Anyone may become a member by signing the membership book, and agreeing to support the church financially with a pledge. If you want to do this before the 25th, you can be part of this new membership ceremony!

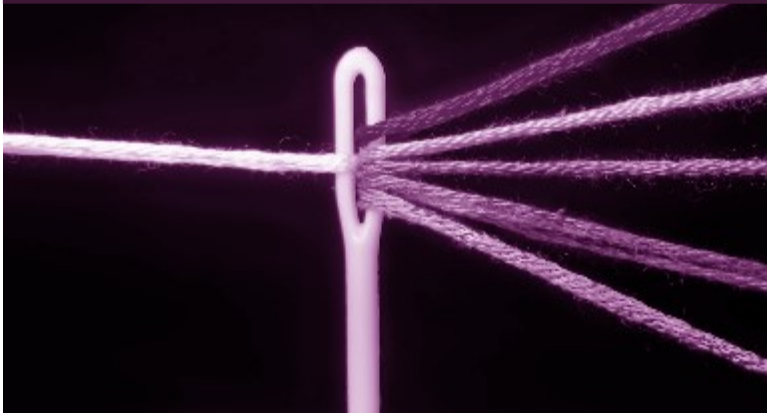
For those of you who have misgivings about joining a group, much less a church, I can relate. I remember when I first came to UUCY after many years of being "independent". I was concerned about reverting to old patterns of belief and behavior, about being pressured to believe things with which I did not agree. But instead, I found an open-minded, intelligent community of people who enriched my life. I found an institution that I could support because it represented my values in a world where reason and liberal values need representation. I invite everyone to join us, and to be a part of a group that learns and enjoys together, and supports each other's journey.

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.

THE AUCTION RETURNS!

You are welcome to join in the fun of putting on UUCY's biggest fun(d)raiser and celebration. Sign up in person at Sunday service, call the UUCY office, or email Nancy Born at uucyauction@gmail.com!

Knit Night Revision?



A change to the time/day for our weekly fiber craft meetup is being discussed. Come Tuesday, February 6 at 5 p.m. and add your suggestions to the pot!



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!

UUCY Game Night

Friday, February 23rd, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

The last Friday night of the month, join the fun (and the games!) at UUCY. Bring your favorite game or try something new! The same goes for treats.



THE COLOR PURPLE

Selected for March Book Club Discussion

Maybe you read the book when it came out in 1982 or after it won the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award. Maybe you saw the 1985 movie, directed by Stephen Spielberg with Whoopi Goldberg, Danny Glover and Oprah Winfrey in the cast. Or you might have caught the new musical version at the theater, although it came and went quickly at the Yakima theaters. Or maybe you have just heard about the book that hit “most challenged books” lists several years.

The Color Purple by Alice Walker has been part of our popular culture meets race relations milieu for 40 years. So, let’s read or re-read this powerful story. We will share our reactions at our Book Club meeting, **Thursday, March 14, 2024, 3:00 PM at our church home at 407 N 1st Street, Suite 3**. Eight copies will be available, first come, first serve, at Wednesday coffee and Sunday Service the first week of February. If you want one saved for you, call Susan at.

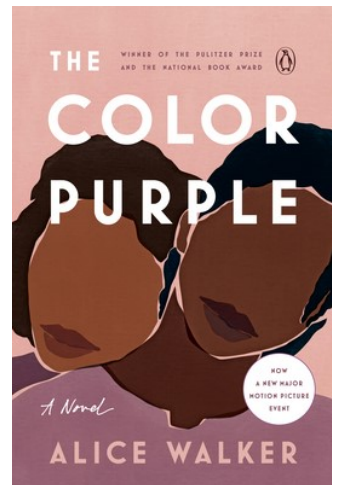
As always, everyone is welcome to our gathering; if you haven’t read the book, you are still invited to sit in with us. Optional: bring a snack to share.

The Color Purple by Alice Walker. 1982. 304 pages.

Celebrating its fortieth anniversary, *The Color Purple* writes a message of healing, forgiveness, self-discovery, and sisterhood to a new generation of readers.

A powerful cultural touchstone of modern American literature, this novel depicts the lives of African American women in early-twentieth-century rural Georgia. Separated as girls, sisters Celie and Nettie sustain their loyalty to and hope in each other across time, distance, and silence. Through a series of letters spanning nearly thirty years, first from Celie to God, then from the sisters to each other, the novel draws readers into a rich and memorable portrayal of Black women—their pain and struggle, companionship and growth, resilience and bravery.

Deeply compassionate and beautifully imagined, *The Color Purple* breaks the silence around domestic and sexual abuse, and carries readers on an epic and spirit-affirming journey toward transformation, redemption, and love.



“My go-to comfort novel is *The Color Purple*, by Alice Walker. Even though it touches on difficult subject matter like child abuse and forced marriage, this story believes that human kindness, courage and love can defeat any challenge. Its big, beautiful happy ending is heartfelt and hard-won. Every single time I read this book, I walk away as a slightly better person than I was when I picked it up.” **Tayari Jones, *The New York Times*.**

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