

UNIFIRE

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF YAKIMA

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



MARCH 2024



March 3: The Three Questions

What if we could have the answers to only three questions and it would take away the uncertainty in life? What would your three questions be? In this service we will be exploring ideas originally authored by Leo Tolstoy and adapted in our story for all ages by Jon J Muth. Sunny Sonker, Andrew Whitmont and Linda King presenting.

March 10: Secular Faith and Spiritual Freedom

Many UUs are non-theistic -- they don't believe in a supernatural being who chooses to intervene in human lives. However, they still live according to a faith, which is manifested by dedication to persons and/or projects. Bill will explore how this "secular faith" can lead to a spiritual freedom that will improve human lives, and is therefore more rewarding than what can be achieved through traditional religious faith.

March 17: Yakima Morelia Sister City Association

Noë Gutierrez, one of the founders of the Yakima Morelia Sister City Association (YMSCA) and Andrew Whitmont, a member of our church and long time sponsor, will show pictures and share information about the Sister City Association and the recent delegation from Yakima to Morelia in January. Anticipating the group's 25th anniversary this April, future directions and current activities will be shared.

March 24: Music of Dan Maher

Join us for an uplifting musical service with Dan Maher. Dan is a seasoned performer, collector of songs, and master of sing-a-longs. He hosted Northwest Public Broadcasting's Inland Folk radio show for 38 years.

March 31: Thoughts of Spring

Please join Sunny Sonker, Susan Kaphammer and Linda King in this all ages, sharing service celebrating Easter and timeless messages of spring. Plan to share your own ideas and reflections. There will be an egg hunt for those 13 and under immediately following the service.

THE AUCTION IS BACK!

Sunday, May 19 • 12–3 p.m. • Geet's Indian Restaurant

Mark your calendars for Sunday, May 19, from noon to three p.m., at Geet's Indian Restaurant on North First Street (a neighbor!) for the first UUCY auction FUNdraiser in 5 years! This is always a fun time! Invite friends, too!

Geet will provide a delicious brunch buffet (tickets available for purchase soon), and, as always, there will be enticing shopping available!

Speaking of that, it's time to be thinking of what fun activity you would like to offer—share your passion, be it cooking, crafting, gardening, wine tasting, local history, hiking, birding, home brewing...or providing a service like tech help, weeding, organizing, cleaning... The possibilities are numerous!

AND, volunteers to help with the planning are still wanted! Email uucyauction@gmail.com to sign up!

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY COMING UP IN APRIL

The UUCY Adopt a Highway program through the Washington state department of Transportation will continue this year kicking off in late April. UUCY has participated in the program since 2006.

Success is dependent on volunteers. Our contributions are acknowledged by permanent signs at the beginning and end of our stretch of road. We get to walk outside where the air and the view is good while we support keeping our environment clean. At the same time, we bring attention to the existence of our church and its principles. Please contact Denise if you will participate this year at email 11denisis@gmail.com. General information as well as a training video are available on the [WSDOT website](#).

New Time for Stitchcrafting



Tuesdays, now 3-5 p.m.!

Photo by [Liana S](#) on Unsplash.

Knit Night has morphed into Stitchcraft Afternoon. Come down to UUCY any Tuesday afternoon from 3-5 to craft in camaraderie.



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!

Photo by [Hassan Pasha](#) on Unsplash.

UUCY Game Night

Friday, March 29th

6:30-8:30 p.m.

The last Friday of the month means it's time to learn a new game or enjoy a long-time favorite!

Pinochle, Spoons, Hearts, Upwords, Scrabble, Wizard, Ticket to Ride, Farkle, Cribbage, SkipBo, Racko, Rummikub, Splendour, Euchre, Hand & Foot...



Bring your own or take a chance with the many choices that will be on offer. Treats, too!

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. Whatever your previous experience with *The Color Purple* by Alice Walker has been, a fresh reading brings new insights and reactions.

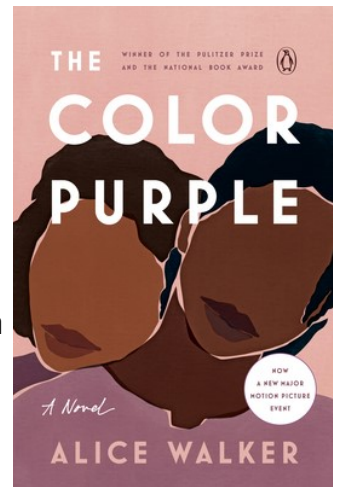
Join the friendly group at our Book Club meeting, **Thursday, March 14, 2024, 3:00 PM at our church home at 407 N 1st Street, Suite 3**. Everyone is welcome, even if you haven’t recently read the book. Optional: bring a snack to share.

***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.



“Remarkable expressiveness, color, and poignancy . . . not only a memorable and infinitely touching character but a whole submerged world is vividly called into being.”

—*The New York Review of Books*

“A saga filled with joy and pain, humor and bitterness, and an array of characters who live, breathe, and illuminate the world.”

—*Publishers Weekly*

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:

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