

UNIFIRE

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF YAKIMA

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



NOVEMBER 2024



November 3: Celebrating Día de los Muertos / Day of the Dead

A brief exploration of the Day of the Dead holiday including customs and music. As we honor and connect to our beloved dead, please bring photos, mementos, candles, food and flowers to add to the ofrenda (alter) during the service. Activity of making papel picados. Discussion about departed loved ones and memories, invitation to share why they brought what they did to honor and remember their person/s.

November 10: Soul Matters — Repair

We gather this first Sunday following our elections, aware of the brokenness of local, state, and national governments, communities and relationships. We may also be aware of personal wounds on our own hearts and souls. We are all inevitably marked by the jagged edges of our human experience in this world. As part of the Soul Matters series, Susan Kaphammer will share reflections on healing from brokenness, with the practice of repair grounded in love and nurtured by community.

November 17: It All Started With a Candelabra

with Warren Ulmer

I've been called a mad scientist or MacGyver for my ability to make something useful or repair an item that just couldn't be fixed. We used to call this "Yankee Ingenuity" or "Invention is the Mother of Necessity."

In the last couple of decades as a nation we have become a disposable society that lacks the patience or basic skills to repair things; or the manufacturer says we don't have permission to get parts even though we own that item. Not all is lost. We have a Washington politician among others that is instigating right-to-repair laws. Our joint psyche concerning this matter was in the doldrums for some time but this topic has united Americans of all political persuasions. John Deere be damned.

November 24: Gratitude With Soup and Bread

On this Sunday, just prior to our Thanksgiving holiday, we gather for a short service on gratitude, led by our own Denise Edwards. This is a delicious soup and bread gathering. Anyone wanting to share a crockpot of soup, a loaf of delectable bread or a hand-held sweet treat, there is a sign-up sheet in the back of our gathering place. We only need about 5 or 6 soups. If you have questions, reach out to Denise, or anyone on the Sunday Services Committee.

Perspectives from UUCY President...

IN FURTHERANCE OF OUR UUCY MISSION

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

Our UUCY Mission Statement was developed nine years ago to articulate in brief form answers to who we are and what we do as members and the congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Yakima. This rich statement distinguishes UUCY from other organizations. Our Mission also serves as a benchmark by which we can measure our efforts among ourselves, such as Sunday Services and Lifespan Learning for children and adults, as well as our presence and work in our larger community, i.e. opening our space to groups consistent with our values, and our work in the community for social justice. I encourage each of us to keep our Mission Statement in mind to inspire and challenge us as UUCY members.

This month we have some special activities and opportunities that, I believe, measure up well as furtherance of our UUCY Mission to strengthen our community and promote our values.

The first two come up next week in the forms of Election Night Open House at UUCY, and a Zoom series offered by our national Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) titled Forward Together: Anchoring in Community Post Election.

I don't think any of us have escaped the worry and anxiety surrounding this election and its significance for ourselves and our country. UUA reminds us, "As we approach Election Day, it is critical that we come together to nourish our spirits and move in our collective power."

ELECTION NIGHT OPEN HOUSE AT UUCY

Nov. 5, 2024, 7:00 PM to ???



Stop By to Visit and Watch Returns with Friends

Coffee (decaf) and Teas Provided

Optional to Bring Finger-Food Snacks

FORWARD TOGETHER

Anchoring in Community Post Election

FROM THE UUA:

This is about more than one election; it is about grounding ourselves in the values and communities that drive our fight for justice. No matter your issue; climate justice, democracy, gender justice, or criminalization, we are in this work together. That's why we are excited to invite you to join us for **Forward Together: Anchoring in Community Post Election**, a virtual series designed to offer space for reflection, spiritual grounding, and practical organizing in response to the evolving political landscape.

REGISTER NOW (this link or at uua.org/community-resilience-hub)

(continued on next page—keep reading!)

Perspectives from UUCY President...

Registering here will register you for all three events; join if you are able! Please note: our second event in the series currently does not have a date; it will be scheduled for the day the election is called. We will send reminders and updates!

Forward Together: After Election Day

Date & Time: Wednesday, November 6, 5-6 PM PT

A time for spiritual tending, regional connections, and holding space for emotional responses.

Forward Together: Meaning Making & Immediate Action

Date & Time: TBD – The day after the election is called, 5-6 PM PT

A focus on immediate action steps, regional assessments, and spiritual nourishment.

Forward Together: The Way Forward

Date & Time: Tuesday, November 19, 5-6 PM PT

An opportunity to make political and organizing assessments and care for those navigating post-election challenges.

At our October meeting, the board noted progress toward our plans for “Hybrid Services,” offering simultaneous zooming of our Sunday services. In preparation, we have reinstated our UUCY Zoom account. A special thank you to Jake Tudor, who led the way in setting up the equipment.

But before we go steaming ahead (or should I say, “streaming ahead”), there are concerns to be addressed and decisions to be made. The board will consider many policy and procedure issues such as notification of attendees that they can be viewed on Zoom, viewing of children who may be in the service, enabling Zoom attendees to submit joys and concerns or possibly participate in discussions, recording services for later viewing, and so on.

Sunday, November 10, After Service Discussion About Zooming Services

Everyone interested is encouraged to stay for a while to provide input on issues about zooming our services. You don’t have to be knowledgeable about or involved with the technology for this meeting, and may attend just to learn what might be possible. The board needs and wants to hear what members and friends are thinking.

And finally, I encourage you to look through entire issues of our UniFire and to note the information in our weekly Thursday updates. See what is happening and find opportunities and activities for you. It is together that we are UUCY, celebrating community and promoting our values.

Take care,

Susan Kaphammer, president

DATES TO NOTE:

Friday, November 8 – board agenda drafted; committee reports due

Thursday, November 14 – 1:00 PM, board meeting—open to all members

Susan Kaphammer is the President of the UUCY Board of Trustees for 2024-2026, and can be reached for discussion and comments at any time. Reach out to the office for her contact information.

COFFEE MATTERS



Whether you like coffee, tea, or just a glass of water, join the Community Coffee group on Wednesday mornings at 9 for casual conversation.

For **November 6**, coffee will be at **UUCY** on a Bring Your Own Brew basis.

Starting **November 13** these gatherings will be moving with **Catalyst Coffee** to 102 N. Naches Ave. You may recognize this as Single Hill Brewing. There will be coffee in the morning provided by Catalyst and brews later in the day provided by Single Hill. They are going to share space.



GAME NIGHT TO RETURN IN DECEMBER!

With the advent of colder weather, we will be resuming a monthly game night. Exact date to be decided (so if you're interested, let us know!) but tentatively planned for sometime in early December. Look for an update soon!

Photo by [Jonathan Petersson](#) on [Unsplash](#)

CRAFTERNOONS

Tuesdays, 3-5 p.m.!

Every Tuesday afternoon from 3 to 5, crafters come together at UUCY to do handwork in good company. Some sew, some bead, some knit, some embroider, some crochet—all are welcome!

CHALICE CIRCLE A SUCCESS!

Seven of us participated in a six week chalice circle sharing at the Dindias'. Topics ranged from where you grew up to what's next. Sharing of snacks created interest each week. It was an excellent experience. Come spring we will offer Chalice Circle again, limit 8 people so everyone can participate fully.

BOOK CLUB LEADERSHIP TO CHANGE

Plan to meet on **Thursday, November 14, 2024, at 5:00 PM** at our church home, **407 N 1st Street, Suite 3**, to share your thoughts and reactions to the Pulitzer Prize-winning novel, *March*. Through the vivid writing of Geraldine Brooks, you will share the impact of war on a sensitive, articulate, intelligent and brave participant in the Civil War.

SPECIAL NOTE: After several years – I haven't paused to look up exactly how many – of facilitating our UUCY Book Club, I am passing on the responsibilities and pleasures to the dynamic and literate partnership of Rosemary Saul and Gean Dindia. Take it away!!!!

***March* by Geraldine Brooks. 2006. 320 pages.**

**Winner of the Pulitzer Prize — a powerful love story
set against the backdrop of the Civil War.**

An extraordinary novel woven out of the lore of American history... From Louisa May Alcott's beloved classic *Little Women*, Geraldine Brooks has animated the character of the absent father, March, and crafted a story "filled with the ache of love and marriage and with the power of war upon the mind and heart of one unforgettable man" (Sue Monk Kidd).

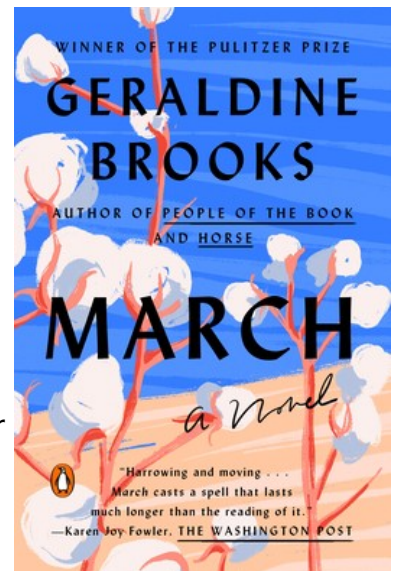
With "pitch-perfect writing" (*USA Today*), Brooks follows March as he leaves behind his family to aid the Union cause in the Civil War. His experiences will utterly change his marriage and challenge his most ardently held beliefs.

A lushly written, wholly original tale steeped in the details of another time, *March* secures Geraldine Brooks's place as a renowned author of historical fiction.

"A beautifully wrought story....Gripping....A taut plot, vivid characters and provocative issues."— Heller McAlpin, *Los Angeles Times Book Review*

"Inspired... A disturbing, supple, and deeply satisfying story, put together with craft and care and imagery worthy of a poet."—*The Cleveland Plain Dealer*

"Brooks's affecting, beautifully written novel drives home the intimate horrors and ironies of the Civil War and the difficulty of living honestly with the knowledge of human suffering.. " — *Publishers Weekly*



UUCY TEAMS AND LEADERSHIP

SUNDAY SERVICES

CHAIR: Debra Kroon

Denise Edwards

Bill Jacobs

Susan Kaphammer

Linda King

Sunny Sonker

AUCTION

CHAIR POSITION OPEN

Nancy Born

LIFESPAN LEARNING

CHAIR POSITION OPEN

Susan Kaphammer

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Phil Dindia

Lana Barnes

Bill Jacobs

Chuck Forster

Joy McKinney

FINANCE

TREASURER: Janis Luvaas

Bill Jacobs

Your 2024 to 2025 UUCY Board of Trustees is:

<i>Board President</i>	Susan Kaphammer	susanlkap@gmail.com
<i>Board Vice Pres.</i>	Ray Yates	raycyates@gmail.com
<i>Trustee</i>	Nancy Born	nancyjborn@gmail.com
<i>Trustee</i>	Mary Brunelle	almybrufam@gmail.com
<i>Trustee</i>	Chuck Forster	bddirtpile@gmail.com



UUCY OFFICE: 407 N. 1st St, Ste 3, Yakima, WA 98901 • uucyakima.org
509-453-8448 • admin@uucyakima.org

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