UniFire

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF YAKIMA

We celebrate community and promote spirituality,

justice, responsibility, and compassion.

November 2026

November 1: UU Shared Values: Generosity

Evolving understandings of our faith lead to evolving language. In 2024, our Association adopted a set of deeply interconnected shared values centered around LOVE to describe Unitarian Universalism. Today's service focuses on: Generosity. We cultivate a spirit of gratitude and hope. Susan Kaphammer leads us in considering what generosity means in our lives and in the life of our congregation and beyond.

November 8: Tune in Together - A UU Minister Goes To A Trump Rally

A UU minister walks into a Trump rally. It sounds like the setup to a joke, but it isn't. Almost everyone believes every person matters. So why do so few of us act like it? Loving your own people was never the problem. The trouble starts when that love quietly becomes permission to care less about everyone else's kids, safety, and dignity. From the inside, it never feels like cruelty. It feels like loyalty. This message, "A UU Minister Goes To A Trump Rally," was delivered by Rev. Dr. Marlin Lavanhar at All Souls Unitarian Church in Tulsa, after he spent three hours outside a Trump rally in Durant, Oklahoma, talking to the people who showed up. He didn't go to protest, and he didn't go to cheer. He went to see for himself who was really there and came back with a harder question about how to hold people accountable without deciding they have stopped being human.

QUESTIONS TO SIT WITH: Who have you written off without ever really listening to them? Can you stay furious at someone's actions and still see them as human? When you take care of your own people, who ends up outside the circle? Do you think of yourself as one of the good ones, and what does that let you ignore?

November 15: Being UU in Today's World

"We Are Unitarian Universalists. We are brave, curious, and compassionate thinkers and doers." (https://www.uua.org/beliefs/who-we-are) What might this mean in our lives here and now? This service brings a panel of members who will share their responses to who they are as UUs, what they do, and why it matters in today's world.

November 22: The Wishes in Our Well

What do we wish for? What do we have? And what truly makes us each rich? Ponder these questions and share your thoughts in this brief Thanksgiving service for all ages. Celebrate with story, song and one another. Led by Erika Haukness and Linda King. The service will be followed by a soup and bread feast.

November 29: Conversation for All Ages – Holiday Hopes and Wishes

I think we would all agree that the holiday season is a mixed blessing indeed! Bill Jacobs facilitates this Sunday's Coffee and Conversation. Please come and share with us.

Perspectives from UUCY President...

A Question for Our Congregation

It has been over five years since we left the large church on North Second Street that had been home to UUCY for some twenty years. We put the proceeds from the sale into savings and leased first one then another space in a commercial building on North First Street. When we were temporarily displaced due to a fire in the building, we held services in community meeting rooms and in a chapel at Central Lutheran Church before returning to North First Street. All this time we conducted a serious search for a new church home. But details of property, location, and price failed to combine for a feasible option. Meanwhile, our congregation was growing, making our need to move more urgent.

Then last summer we found our current home at Englewood Christian Church, leasing the spacious Fellowship Hall for Sunday services and a room for exclusive use as our office. Our lease includes the opportunity to schedule other rooms for church meetings, activities and events. We have been assured that we can continue leasing these spaces beyond our current lease that extends through December 2027.

Here comes the question your UUCY Board is asking the congregation:

Do we, the UUCY congregation, want to engage in an active search for a church home to purchase?

The Board expects a range of opinions with many factors and questions. (We are, after all, UUs who often have more opinions than the number of people!) Some UUCY members may want to keep our current situation indefinitely while others may be anxious for us to purchase our own building. And some may prefer that we pause in our search to settle with our expanding programs before we consider moving again.

We know that searching does not guarantee finding, which could happen quickly or take months or longer. No decision about moving can be made without a viable option. But we don't want to actively search if most of the congregation is happy to stay where we are, at least for the time being. Nor do we want to stop looking for options if a preponderance of the congregation would prefer another place. Given all this, the Board wants to get a sense of what our congregation is thinking and feeling.

In the next few weeks, you will have opportunities to give feedback so the Board can better serve the congregation. Think about and talk about what you see for UUCY as we continue to grow in numbers, in spirit and in action.

Continued on the next page — keep reading!

Keep in mind that whatever space UUCY calls home, it is our members and friends, our work and play, our fellowship and commitment that make us a congregation. Where we are is important in how it enables us to fully practice who we are and what we do, as represented by our mission to celebrate community and promote spirituality, justice, responsibility, and compassion.

Take care,

Susan Kaphammer

UUCY board president

NOTE: Look every week for our Thursday update, sent by email, for Sunday service information, upcoming meetings, and scheduled activities! Contact the office to get on the email list.

Dates to Note:

Friday, November 13 – **items for board agenda and committee reports due**

Thursday, November 19 – Board meeting, 10 a.m. in the ECC library; everyone welcome.

(Board meetings are scheduled for the 3rd Thursday of the month.)

Land Acknowledgement

Why do we do this? A land acknowledgement is a step toward correcting stories and practices that erase indigenous people's history and culture, and it honors the truth.

This facility and our community rest on the ancestral lands of the fourteen confederated bands and tribes of the Yakama Nation. The Yakama people inhabited more than twelve million acres across much of central and eastern Washington. Today we honor the native peoples who are tied to this land through history, legend and culture. We thank these caretakers of the land who have lived here since time immemorial. Recognizing that an acknowledgement without action rings hollow, we vow to, as we are able, take action to support and restore this land and our diverse, interdependent community.



Welcoming new members with a recognition ceremony on Sunday, October 18, 2026. From left to right: David Edick, Vicki Grafton, Maura Utigard, Bill Bosch, Carol Guthrie.

DON'T FORGET TO VOTE!

*The deadline for voting is **Tuesday, November 3, 8 p.m.** Don't miss it!*

If you're already registered to vote and your registration is up to date, you should have received your ballot in the mail. Do your research to ensure you know who and what you're voting for, then fill out your ballot and follow the steps as instructed in the papers accompanying your ballot. Then either mail it or drop it at an official drop box (this is better, as it will get counted more quickly).

If you're not already registered or your registration is out of date, you can register or make changes to your registration in person at the Yakima County Elections Office, 128 N 2nd St Room 117, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Once this is done, you can obtain a ballot at the same location.

Lifespan Learning

Lifespan Learning Committee

Lifespan Learning Committee meets the first Sunday of each month at 11:20 a.m. in the UUCY office. That means **it's this coming Sunday!** Nov. 1, 2026, 11:20 a.m. in the UUCY office. If you are interested in working or helping with adult and/or children's religious education, just come to a meeting. Parents and interested others are always welcome.

Children's Programming

We provide our own Chalice Children program each Sunday plus one or two all ages services each month. Children are continuing to learn about our Unitarian Universalist values and principles in story, song, activities and games. This is a great way for adults to also learn our UU values and principles. Contact Mary Brunelle if you would like to volunteer to help in the children's religious education classes.

Adult Programming

It's time to sign up for our **Starting Point Retreat!**

Saturday, November 14, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. at the King House in the Nile.

Plan to:

- **Experience our faith** as a journey
- **Deepen understanding** of self and others
- **Share memorable moments** in your own spiritual journey
- **Look ahead** to your spiritual future
- **Enjoy a "surprise potluck!"** This means each participant brings a dish they would like to share and we'll see what we get!

Starting Point is for people new to Unitarian Universalism and for those who want a "refresher" on their spiritual journey. Jen Berry and Linda King will facilitate.

Use the signup sheet at church on Nov. 1 and Nov. 8 or contact Jen Berry or Linda King to reserve your place.

Upcoming Meetings

Lifespan Learning Committee: Sunday, Nov. 1st, 11:20 a.m. (UUCY Office)
Sunday Services Committee Meeting: Tuesday, Nov. 3rd, 10:30 a.m. (Fireside Room)
Finance Committee Meeting: Tuesday, Nov. 10th, 1:00 p.m. (ECC Library)
Board Meeting: Thursday, Nov. 19th, 10:00 a.m. (ECC Library)
Social Justice Team: Tuesday, Nov. 24th, 1:30 p.m. (Fireside Room)



COFFEE MATTERS

Whether you like coffee, tea, or just a glass of water, join the Community Coffee group on Wednesday mornings at 9 a.m. for casual conversation. We gather at **Catalyst Coffee** (102 N. Naches Ave.)

CRAFTERNOON

Tuesdays, 2-4 p.m.

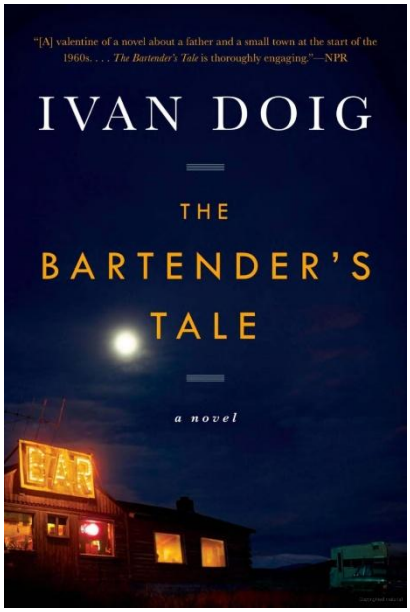
Makers of all crafts gather on Tuesdays, 2-4 p.m., at Odd Fellows Hall, at 206 West Walnut Street. All handcrafters are welcome — come join us!

UUCY Book Club

We are back to Montana once again with our next selection, *The Bartender's Tale* by Ivan Doig. Those familiar with Doig's *This House of Sky* will recognize similarities to episodes from the author's own life turned into historical fiction.

"Running a venerable bar in 1960 Montana while raising his 12-year-old son, Rusty, single father Tom Harry finds his world upended by the arrival of a woman from his past and her beatnik daughter, who claims Tom as her father and upends the town with her passionate and pretentious modern views." (*description from YVL.org*)

Discussion will be led by Gean Dindia and Rosemary Saul on Wed., Nov. 11, 2026 at 5 p.m. in the Fireside Room (or the sofa in the lobby). Hope to see you there!



UUCY TEAMS AND LEADERSHIP

SUNDAY SERVICES
Debra Kroon, Chair
Jen Berry
Bill Jacobs
Susan Kaphammer
Linda King
Craig Moore
Sunny Sonker

LIFESPAN LEARNING
Linda King, Facilitator
Jen Berry
Mike Gempler
Erika Haukness
Rosie Hill
Suki Smaglik

FINANCE
Janis Luvaas, Treasurer
Lana Barnes
Bill Bosch
Susan Kaphammer
Debra Kroon
Kia Tudor

MEMBERSHIP
Carol Guthrie, Chair
Suki Smaglik

AUCTION
Carole Sahlstrand, Chair
Nancy Born

ADOPT A HIGHWAY
Denise Edwards, Coordinator

MUSIC
Sunny Sonker, Pianist

ADMINISTRATOR
Hannah Born

BOOKKEEPER
Kia Tudor

Your 2026 to 2027 UUCY Board of Trustees is:

Board President	Susan Kaphammer	susanlkap@gmail.com
Board Vice Pres.	Debra Kroon	debrakroon@gmail.com
Trustee	Jen Berry	ourjeneration@yahoo.com
Trustee	Craig Moore	mr.22thousand@gmail.com
Trustee	Chuck Forster	piplyp@msn.com

UUCY OFFICE: 511 N. 44th Ave., Yakima, WA 98908 • uucyakima.org
509-453-8448 • admin@uucyakima.org
UUCY Administrator – Hannah Born (hours: 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Tues., Thurs., & Fri.)