

UNIFIRE

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF YAKIMA

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

🌿 **JULY 2024** 🌿

July 7: Asylum in the U.S.

Join long-time member and recent Board President Mike Gempler as he leads us in a discussion about asylum in the U.S. Come and enjoy engaging conversations, ideas and thoughtful discussion.

July 14: Memorable Books

Readers may find it difficult to identify their favorite book— so many to choose from! But we all probably have encountered a book or two or three that stick with us for often personal reasons— you learn something, you are emotionally moved, you are bothered or angered. Join this Coffee and Conversation as we share our Memorable Book(s) and what they have meant to us.

July 21: Embracing the Web of Life

Coffee and Conversation led by Irene Goetz. We'll explore how this profound concept fosters personal growth and spiritual enlightenment. Engage with thought-provoking questions that challenge you to reflect on your place in the universe and the bonds that tie us all together. This is an opportunity to deepen your understanding of self, spirit, and society, and to embrace the unity that underlies our diverse experiences.

July 28: Coffee and Conversation with Bill Jacobs

On this day we will enjoy a topic that is sure to engage and encourage a rich discussion. Please join us for these less formal Sunday services.

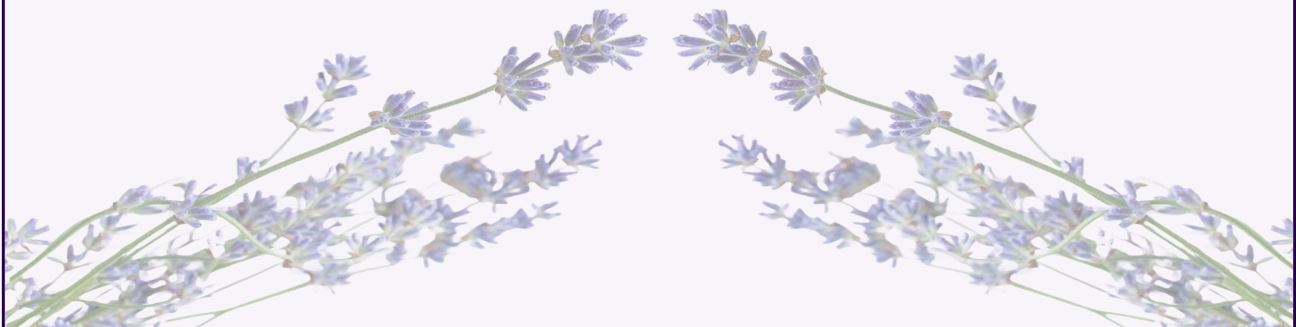


Photo by [Olga Tutunaru](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Perspectives from UUCY President...

UUCY READY TO DO MORE AND BE MORE

I am pleased, humbled and challenged to accept the position of Board President for our Unitarian Universalist Church of Yakima. Through this UniFire column I intend to highlight our congregation's successes, plans and concerns. I particularly want to let our members in on the considerations of your Board. I'm sure I'll also divert from time to time to musings that are on my mind.

First, I want to acknowledge the dedication and contributions of time and thoughtful leadership from outgoing Board President Mike Gempler, Vice President Carole Sahlstrand, and member Rosemary Saul. During their term, we have grown in numbers and vitality! Thank you, thank you.

Your current Board includes President Susan Kaphammer, Vice President Ray Yates, continuing members Nancy Born and Mary Brunelle and new member Chuck Forster. Also essential to the Board is our Office Administrator, Hannah Born. We have set our monthly meeting to the second Thursday of each month at 1:00 PM at UUCY. Meetings are open to all. We truly are "YOUR" Board, and we can better serve you if you let us know what you are thinking for UUCY.

I plan to work with Hannah Born to develop a draft agenda the Friday prior to the Board meeting so Board members can receive the agenda, minutes of the previous meeting and monthly financial reports in advance of our meeting. Members who have items to bring up to the Board should, if possible, contact Susan Kaphammer prior to the Friday before the Board meeting so it can be included in the agenda. But feel encouraged to contact me anytime.

Now, as promised for this column, I want to highlight a congregational success -- the re-energization of planning for Lifespan Learning programs for all ages! We have been through tough times of moving from our decades-long home space to downsized quarters, displacement by smoke damage to our rented building, and settling into our current quarters. But with the energy and interest of long-time and newer members we are looking at ways to DO MORE and BE MORE! Look for upcoming information on programs for children and adults.

Thank you again for your trust in the Board chosen to serve our congregation as we move forward to "celebrate community and promote spirituality, justice, responsibility, and compassion!"

Susan Kaphammer

DATES TO NOTE: Friday, July 5 – Board Agenda drafted
Thursday, July 11 – 1:00 PM Board Meeting

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.



NEXT ADOPT A HIGHWAY SET FOR JULY 13TH

The next highway pick-up date is July 13th. This is the third of four planned outings. Volunteers make this program possible. We walk

outside, help beautify the roadside, and are much appreciated by WSDOT, passing travelers, and UUCY. Whether you can do it once, or more, it makes a difference. Registered participants get an email with details a few days prior to the outing date. If you are interested in joining and not yet registered please email Denise at 11denisis@gmail.com More information as well as a training video are available on the [WSDOT website](#).

CHALICE CIRCLES STARTING LATE SUMMER

The Dindias will be hosting the next round of Chalice Circles starting September 10, then weekly through October 15, from 5-7 p.m. A light meal will be provided. It is important that participants attend each session. Please contact Gean Dindia if interested!



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!

No Game Night in July!

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!

PLANNING CONTINUES FOR LIFESPAN LEARNING ACTIVITIES

The June 2 meeting of the Lifespan Learning Committee drew 14 interested and active members who suggested, discussed and developed plans for events and activities for children and adults. Below is the thorough report of the meeting. Remember that meetings are open to all, with the next meeting scheduled for July 7, 2024, following the Sunday Service.

And please, if you have any questions, suggestions or concerns, Susan Kaphammer would be glad to hear from you!

KIDS' ROOM:

Susan Kaphammer began the meeting asking for what is going well. Parents who have brought their children reported they, "Love the room for kids." Their kids like it, toys and materials have been good, and the parents like being able to see through the window.

Suggestions for the kids' room include possibly switching it with one of the two rooms further back because of concern with the noise and disturbance with the room nearer to the front of our meeting area. Susan explained that the other two rooms are slightly smaller, which is the main reason the current room was chosen. Also mentioned was using reflective material on the window that allowed adults to see in but kids not to see out. No action was taken on these suggestions.

Additional input included: interruptions from children are part of community; it must bother some people as it keeps coming up; and some people have difficulty hearing. Reserving seating by the window to the room was suggested and will be tried.

We discussed having adult supervision in the room. The parents talked about rotating to provide this supervision. This will be up to them.

RELIGIOUS PROGRAMMING FOR CHILDREN:

Parents are very interested religious programming for kids. Irene Goetz, Jessica Blair and Aurora Walker are willing to work together to develop kids' programming.

One suggestion is holding a regularly scheduled family night for kids and parents, perhaps with time for parents together while kids are involved in class/activities.

Discussion led to the decision to plan a week long, half day program in the summer for children. Play, activities and lessons on UU concepts may be included. Denise Edwards and Jen Berry will work together on a program to run from July 29 - August 2

TECHNICAL ACCESS AND PR:

The desire for providing zoom access and better tech in general was discussed. Jen Berry indicated willingness to work on streaming via zoom.

Several people spoke to the need to reach out so the larger community is aware of what we are doing. Rosemary mentioned that the church has wanted but so far not been able to identify someone to be point person for PR. Irene Goetz volunteered to be a social media public relations person. Efforts would need to be coordinated with our office administrator, Hannah Born, who has some responsibilities for this in her job description. Since this goes beyond the scope of just the Lifespan Learning Committee, the Board will be involved. Rosemary plans to contact Irene and if possible, Irene will attend next board meeting - Monday, June 10, 2024, 4 p.m. at UUCY. Follow-up Note: Rosemary brought the issue to the Board; Irene was unable to attend. The first step will be to identify Hannah's responsibilities then see how our online presence can be enhanced. It will come up again at the July Board Meeting.

ADULT LEARNING AND ACTIVITIES:

Susan Kaphammer reported that results from the interest survey taken at our May meeting indicated a high level of interest in, "What is Unitarian Universalism?" perhaps incorporating history, definitions and organizations. Suki Smaglik and Linda King will work together on a UU curriculum for fall, 2024. Evening and weekends were identified as good meeting time.

A suggestion for an adult activity is scheduling of a Brewery Night – possibly once a month. This would provide an informal discussion opportunity in addition to the weekly Coffee Time that precludes most working adults since it is at 9 AM on Wednesdays.

ADDITIONAL SUGGESTIONS AND COMMENTS:

Listing Sunday Service songs in the Thursday updates would allow people to practice ahead of time. This will be referred to the Sunday Services Committee, but will be on-hold until full services resume in the Fall.

Schedule a general support group for all ages for discussion/sharing. Idea will be held for future consideration.

Participation and information about Social Justice – perhaps a discussion/support group. Carol Sahlstrand said the Social Justice Committee is beginning to meet again and will she will tell Phil Dindia, Chair of that committee, of the interest expressed in the Lifespan Learning meeting.

NEXT MEETING: SUNDAY, JULY 7, 2024, 11:20 A.M.

July 11 Book Club: Let's Talk About *The Sentence*

Everyone is welcome to join the friendly group at our Book Club meeting, **Thursday, July 11, 2024, at 5:00 PM at our church home at 407 N 1st Street, Suite 3.** NOTE the change of time to later in the day! Bring a snack to share if you wish.

We'll be talking about, "A bewitching novel...Strange, enchanting and funny..." by popular and award-winning novelist, Louise Erdrich. Copies are available in print, electronic and Large Print editions from the Yakima Valley Libraries, and from Inklings Bookshop with a book club discount.

The Sentence by Louise Erdrich. 2021. 400 pages.

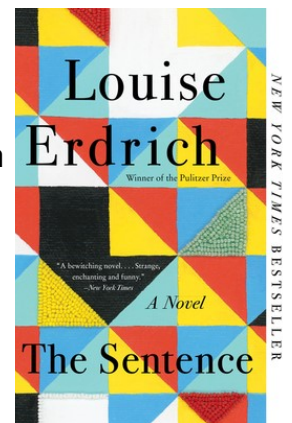
In this stunning and timely novel, Pulitzer Prize and National Book Award-winning author Louise Erdrich creates a wickedly funny ghost story, a tale of passion, of a complex marriage, and of a woman's relentless error. Louise Erdrich's latest novel, *The Sentence*, asks what we owe to the living, to the dead, to the reader and to the book.

A small independent bookstore in Minneapolis is haunted from November 2019 to November 2020 by the store's most annoying customer. Flora dies on All Soul's Day, but she simply won't leave the store. Tookie, who has landed a job selling books after years of incarceration that she survived by reading "with murderous attention," must solve the mystery of this haunting. Much impacts Minneapolis during this year, including COVID and the death of George Floyd bringing grief, astonishment, isolation, and furious reckoning.

The mystery and proliferating ghost stories propel a narrative as rich, emotional, and profound as anything Louise Erdrich has written.

"The irreverent and funny Tookie grapples with the ghost, then the pandemic, then the protests. Her journey, captured in Erdrich's expert prose, is a cathartic and comforting story that book lovers will gobble up." — ***Real Simple***

"Erdrich's playful wit and casual style belie a seriousness of purpose, which in the case of this winning novel, entails tackling the pandemic, the death of George Floyd, the trials of doing time in prison and not least, the power of books to change lives." — ***New York Times Book Review, Editor's Choice***



UUCY TEAMS AND LEADERSHIP

SUNDAY SERVICES

CHAIR: Debra Kroon

Denise Edwards

Bill Jacobs

Susan Kaphammer

Linda King

Sunny Sonker

AUCTION

CHAIR POSITION OPEN

LIFESPAN LEARNING

CHAIR POSITION OPEN

Susan Kaphammer

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Phil Dindia

Carole Sahlstrand

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



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