

UNIFIRE

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF YAKIMA

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

 **OCTOBER 2024** 

October 6: Why Atheists Come to Church

Tune In Together with Sr. Minister Marlin Lavanhar, All Souls Unitarian, Tulsa, OK

We might think we know why believers go to church every week, but why do non-believers? The atheists, the agnostics, and others. Rev. Lavanhar posits as a way to interrupt our auto-pilot lives. Our regular routines that distract. We need to interrupt our routines regularly to learn to grow a backbone, to learn to speak-up when we are confronted with the many prejudices and injustices we encounter.

Many 'other' believers love to attend a Unitarian or Unitarian Universalist community to have their positions considered not to be cured. Join us this Sunday as we Tune in Together to listen to this pre-recorded service from August 4, 2024. A discussion will follow.

October 13: Why Religion (with Jen Berry)

An exploration of religion and why as humans we seem to gravitate to it. We will briefly discuss the history of the five major religions and discuss possible triggers & also glimmers. We ask all to come with open hearts as we turn to ourselves to share more about our UU journeys and what has brought each of us here!

October 20: UUs and Jesus (with Phil Dindia)

Join us today as Phil leads us in some discussions around Jesus. What are your thoughts about Jesus? Phil will nudge us with some considerations: Does Jesus need to be re-thought, re-imagined, re-engaged? Is there a way to talk about Jesus without minimizing him or his message? Is Jesus to be adored? Prayed to? Coming again? How important is Jesus to our history? What was your history with Jesus— and now, today?

October 27: Why We Light the Chalice (with Lucy Ann Valderhaug)

Did you know that UU's have a martyr? His name is Michael Servetus. Lucy will draw from her readings about the Reformation, Michael Servetus, Martin Luther, the printing press and John Calvin. It was a time of political back and forth; a revolution where Servetus was looking critically at the holy trinity and more – none of it making sense to him. Intrigue and treachery led to Servetus being burned alive at Champel.

All of Servetus' questioning, searching resonated with Lucy, and why questions and why UU's question. Join us today as we learn more about this early martyr, as we seek answers to all those questions inside us.

VALUES AND PRINCIPLES ANCHOR OUR DENOMINATION AND OUR CONGREGATION

Article II of the Unitarian Universalist Association constitution has been revised in a multi-year process, with the revised version adopted at this year's UUA General Assembly. Excerpts include: "Congregational Freedom and the individual's right of conscience are central to our Unitarian Universalist heritage... Congregations may establish statements of purpose, covenants, and bonds of union so long as they do not require that members adhere to a particular creed." These foundational principles of congregational freedom and individual rights allow for a wide variety of beliefs and practices by members and congregations, but not 'anything goes.'

What anchors and defines us as members and congregations are our Shared Values. From Article II: We draw from our heritages of freedom, reason, hope, and courage... Love is the power that hold us together and is at the center of our shared values." Shared Unitarian Universalist Values are inseparable and deeply interdependent as represented in this graphic.

The previous, and to most members the more familiar, version of Article II contains what is commonly known to as "The Seven Principles." As listed in the front of our hymnals:

Unitarian Universalist congregations affirm and promote:

The inherent worth and dignity of every person.

Justice, equity and compassion in human relations.

Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations.

A free and responsible search for truth and meaning.

The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large.

The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all,

Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.



As individuals and as a congregation we are free to notice, adopt or incorporate either statement of values and principles, or both, however they help our spiritual understandings, practices and growth. They are among the tools we have, as quoted on the home page at UUA.org, to "Live your values aloud, not alone. Our open-minded, open-hearted spiritual communities help people lead lives of justice, love, learning and hope."

Whew... That's my lesson for this newsletter. I hope the information enriches our understandings of our denomination. Now to local considerations....

UUCY benefits from the contributions of many "unsung heroes" - those people who quietly, competently and often without notice contribute their time and talents to help out where needed. I want this month to begin a series by highlighting one individual. Rick King is a most cheerful handyman and helper. It seems that he never says,

(continued on next page—keep reading!)

Perspectives from UUCY President...

"No." when asked to contribute his efforts. Just the past week he spent hours at Church helping move organize our downstairs storeroom then moving items, including many stacks of chairs, from upstairs to our storage. On Sunday he placed hymnals on the chairs just before service started. These are just two recent examples from many years of contributions of his efforts. Large jobs and small, Rick is dependable, helpful... basically invaluable!

Who do you recognize as an "unsung hero"? Call or email Susan Kaphammer with your nomination so she can highlight others in future issues of the UniFire.

We can be proud that our UUCY "home," as limited as it is, provided a valuable community connection. On Monday, September 23, we hosted a get-out-the-vote letter writing event for the organization, Vote Forward. Over 32 people gathered for two hours and wrote over 700 letters encouraging people to vote! At least one more such event may be held before the election. This, and our own UUCY effort, organized by our Social Justice Committee, to write postcards to voters in swing states are direct actions promoting "the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large." We realize that values and principles are only words until they are matched by our actions.

Discussions and actions by your Board of Trustees at our September meeting included identifying how to manage many of the tasks normally done by Scott Holman while he recovers from a serious hand injury. Board members are taking on some of the tasks including clean-up and vacuuming. We owe them our appreciation.

The board also gave their OK for volunteers to rearrange two of our small rooms, the kitchen and storeroom. Many thanks to those who worked -- Debra, Susan, Jen, Kia, Linda, Rick and Rosemary -- for several hours to clean up and organize our spaces. We now have a meditation/meeting room in addition to storage to make a space for our meditation group. New since our move here and open to all, the meditators meet after services most Sundays.

Finally, the board identified two additional efforts for which we need the participation of members and friends:

- 1. We are updating our Directory with contact information. If you wish to be included and have not already provided information, please reach out to our office through email at admin@uucyakima.org or phone at (509) 453-8448.**
- 2. We are seeking someone to be a go-to person for Membership. The expectations are flexible and could include contacts for visitors as well as members. Talk with Ray, Nancy or Susan for more information.**

Take care,

Susan Kaphammer

DATES TO NOTE:

Tuesday, October 7 – Board Agenda drafted

Thursday, October 10 – 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.

**FROM THE SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE:
UPDATE ON THE
POSTCARD PROJECT**

This project has been a resounding success! All 500 postcards that we received from the Progressive Turnout Project have been assigned to individuals; and, as of this writing, less than 100 remain to be completed. We expect all of these will be completed by October 1; at that point all that remains to be done is stamp them and mail them on October 26. Also, we are over halfway there on donations to cover the cost of the stamps, having received donations of more than \$150. We will leave a donation jar out on Sundays for those who would like to donate.

Thanks to all who have participated in this project!

UUCY Social Justice Committee

Phil Dindia
Lana Barnes
Joy McKinney
Chuck Forster
Bill Jacobs

2024 ADOPT A HIGHWAY REPORT

Our spring and early summer outings were very good, making a significant impact on the roadway each time. By mid-summer the tide turned. The heat increased significantly, fire and smoke closed White Pass for weeks, followed by crews working to repair guardrails and clean up debris. Life events impacted some of our volunteers.

In summary, events that were out of our control shortened the season. We showed up when we could and what we did made a difference. Thank you all. WSDOT welcomes our work and appreciates any impact we can make.

Look for notices in the UniFire next March/April in anticipation of starting up in late April near Earth Day. In the meantime, consider resting more as the dark of winter advances.

UUCY COFFEE GATHERINGS IS MOVING

... but where?



Since Catalyst Coffee is moving, the Wednesday coffee group is looking for a new gathering place. When one is found, it will be advertised in the weekly update so keep an eye out for that announcement!

For the month of October they will continue to meet at Catalyst (221 E. Martin Luther King Blvd.) on Wednesdays at 9 a.m.

UUCY CHILDREN'S PROGRAM STARTS OCTOBER 6!

We are starting a children's program at UU! It will be held on the first Sunday of every month. The children will begin with the main congregation and then go to the Kids Korner after the story for all ages. The first will be held October 6th, at 10 a.m.—11 a.m.

**No Game
Night
in October!**

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 LIGHTERS PROGRAM

The Chalice Lighters Program is a funding program for Pacific Northwest UU congregations that is funded by those congregations as well as individual donations. Congregations can apply for a grant towards a particular project they would like to accomplish. To be eligible for a grant, 30% of a congregation's members must be active Chalice Lighters—we are not currently eligible but if enough of us are interested, we could be; and if not, individual contributions are of course welcome too.

Find more information [HERE](#) on the Chalice Lighters website and sign up to donate [HERE](#).

Historical Fiction Selected for Next Book Club Discussion

The September gathering of our UUCY Book Club found a dozen members, friends and guests in lively discussion of the personal memoir of a cross-culture adoptee. The next book will shift us to historical fiction in a prize-winning novel by a celebrated author.

The first week of October, Susan Kaphammer will have eight copies of *March* from the Yakima Valley Libraries Book Club kit to distribute. Copies are also available in print, electronic and Large Print editions from the Yakima Valley Libraries, and from Inklings Bookshop; indicate it is a book club selection for a discount.

Then plan to meet on **Thursday, November 17, 2024, at 5:00 PM at our church home at 407 N 1st Street, Suite 3** to share your thoughts and reactions to the novel.

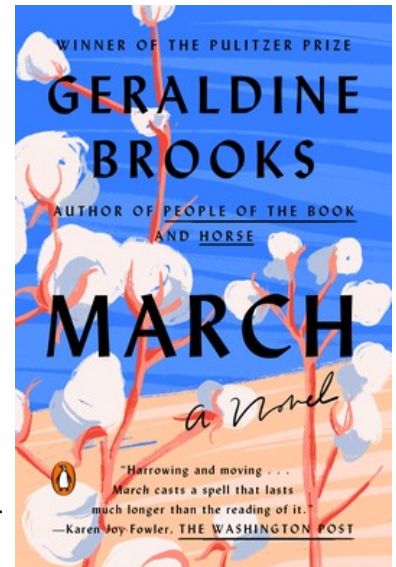
***March* by Geraldine Brooks. 2006. 320 pages.**

**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*

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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



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