

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
CHURCH OF SPOKANE

ANNUAL REPORT

Create Community • Find
Meaning • Work for Justice

2025
2026



Presented to

UUCS Congregation
June 14, 2026

OPERATIONS REPORT

This year has been a productive one for UUCS. The Operations Team has addressed a variety of building needs, including plumbing and electrical repairs, while also completing numerous maintenance and improvement projects throughout the facility. We are especially grateful for Julieann Morse's dedication and skill in leading many of these efforts.

One of the most visible accomplishments has been the foyer revitalization project, which transformed the space into a cleaner, more modern, and welcoming environment. The addition of a comfortable reading area has created a place for conversation, reflection, and community connection while showcasing selections from our book-sharing program. The response from members and visitors has been overwhelmingly positive. In addition, book sales and donations have increased to more than three times the levels seen in previous years.

In February, our bookkeeper, Lynn, departed to focus on serving additional clients through her private business. We are grateful for her contributions and wish her success in her future endeavors. We welcomed Renee as our new bookkeeper and independent contractor. As a certified ProAdvisor for our accounting software, she brings valuable expertise to the role. Together, we are working to streamline and strengthen our financial and accounting processes, improving efficiency, accuracy, and financial oversight through the effective use of technology.



FUNdraising Efforts

Our new FUNdraising team knocked the ball out of the park with record fundraising efforts. Although we fell short of our very ambitious goal, the results speak for themselves, over \$25,000 raised this year! Most events brought our community together in parties, dances, concerts and art shows. Rachae and Jackie from our music department brought in over \$3,000 between concerts, dances and the Sponsor a Song program.

\$25K+

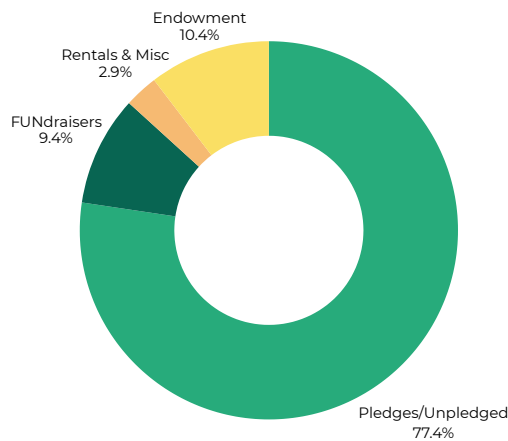
FUNdraising

82%

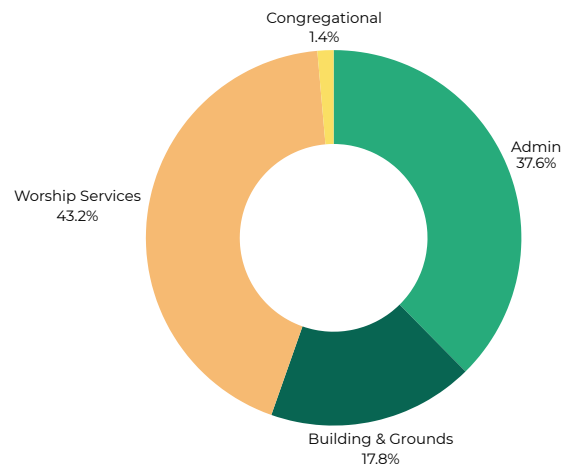
of our fundraising
goal achieved

FINANCE REPORT & BUDGET OVERVIEW

Prepared by Rebecca Adams,
Operations Manager



2025/26 Revenues



2025/26 Expenses

The financial information presented here reflects our most recently completed quarter and provides a year-to-date overview through the third quarter of the 2025–2026 fiscal year. Our fiscal year runs from July through June.

Overall, we remain close to budget projections. Year-to-date revenues are currently at 96.5% of anticipated budget, while expenses are tracking at approximately 97% of budgeted expectations.

Most departments are operating at or below budget projections. Our major program areas have remained closely aligned with their annual budgets, while many smaller departments are currently underspending. The primary exception is Religious Education (RE), which exceeded its projected budget due to an increased need for childcare services during the year. Several events and activities scheduled after the third quarter are expected to bring additional departments more closely in line with their annual budget projections. Final year-end figures will be available following the close of the fiscal year in June.

While expenses remain slightly under budget, revenues are also below projections. At this time, we are operating with an approximate \$5,300 deficit. If this trend continues through year-end, the remaining balance of our Budgetary Shortfall Reserve (our contingency fund) will likely be used to cover the shortfall. Doing so, however, would fully deplete this reserve by the end of the fiscal year.

A significant factor contributing to lower-than-anticipated revenue is that our fundraising efforts, while very successful and encouraging overall, did not fully reach our ambitious goals. In addition, pledge collections are currently below projected levels. During the pledge campaign last year, all pledges were verified; however, not all pledged contributions have yet been fulfilled for this fiscal year.

If you currently have an outstanding pledge balance, we encourage you to complete your pledge before the end of June. Doing so will help strengthen the congregation’s financial position as we close out the fiscal year.

Projected Revenues



Projected Expenses



MINISTER'S REPORT

Prepared by Rev. Dr. Todd F. Eklof

Helpless. That may be the single best word to describe what many of us have felt this past year. We have watched, largely powerless, as a political trainwreck has unfolded across our country. Helpless to stop the erosion of democracy and the collapse of America's standing in the world. Helpless against inflation and its real impacts on our household budgets. Helpless to prevent the cruelties and injustices being perpetrated against immigrants, and the extrajudicial killing of innocents abroad. Helpless as Trump weaponizes the Department of Justice to exact revenge on his political and personal enemies. Helpless as our government not only denies the climate crisis that's unfolding in plain sight, but is actively working to accelerate its worst consequences. Helpless as federal forces invade American cities and terrorize and kill U.S. citizens in their own streets.

As liberals — members of a liberal religious tradition — watching all of this happen in real time carries a particular weight. We know what's right. We know what's at stake. And we know, painfully, that there is very little we can do to stop it.

But feeling helpless isn't entirely bad, especially when it enables us to honestly distinguish between what is and isn't within our power to change. Knowing the difference is a sign of wisdom, not powerlessness. It empowers us to do what we can rather than lament what we can't. Instead of hopelessness, such knowledge opens us to new possibilities.

When I arrived at UUCS fifteen years ago, for example, our annual operating budgets regularly exceeded \$400,000. This year, we fell short of our \$300,000 goal. That decline is the result of three identifiable factors. In 2020, roughly ten percent of our congregation withdrew their financial support in the wake of my book, *The Gadfly Papers* — an annual loss of approximately \$100,000. More recently, we have lost several beloved long-time members. I miss them. I feel their absence personally, every day. Their passing has also meant the loss of another \$100,000 or so in annual giving.

Which makes this all the more remarkable: our congregation of approximately 300 people — down from roughly 400 just a few years ago — raised nearly \$280,000 this year. That is extraordinary generosity! It is not what we were once accustomed to, but it is what we have to work with. And we are not helpless in the face of it.

This again, is where Stoic wisdom has something useful to offer us. In Stoic philosophy, wisdom begins with knowing the difference between what we can and cannot change — and having the discipline not to confuse the two. Too often we exhaust ourselves agonizing over what lies beyond our control, while neglecting what actually lies within our reach.

So: what is within our reach? Three years ago, I took a voluntary pay cut of \$25,000. This year, recognizing that the new financial reality is permanent, I renegotiated my position to three-quarter time. I've traded income for time and a little less stress. It doesn't close the entire gap, but it's a meaningful and concrete response to a real problem.

Going forward, the task for all of us is learning to live well within our current means — not the means we once had, but the ones we actually have now. That is not a counsel of despair. It is a counsel of wisdom.

There is also a longer-term path worth naming. Our endowment fund has already done significant work in recent years to offset the decline in pledges. If we could grow it from \$1.1 million to \$2.2 million, we would generate close to \$100,000 annually — without ever touching the principal. That is a goal worth holding, and worth working toward together. It's within our power.

We are not helpless. Not here, not at our historic 139-year-old church that, in the early 1900's, went from a weekly attendance of over 1,000 people to suddenly and barely surviving from "pillar to post," as they put it. We know what we can do, and we're doing it. I'm looking forward to all the great things we'll accomplish together during the year ahead.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORT

The Board began its year on July 1, 2025, with the following officers: Cindy Fine, Board President; and Nancy Avery, Vice-President. Nancy and Cindy worked together as a co-leadership team. Luba Johnston served as Secretary, and Dick Burkhart as Treasurer. Tom Mosher, Doug Deaton, and Justin Bell were Trustees.

The Board was ably served by Marilyn Johnson as Recording Secretary, for whom we are immensely grateful.

New Board members were welcomed at a retreat that offered an introduction to the policy governance model that the Board follows.

Finances have been a top priority of the board this year. We began our year on shaky ground and are looking ahead to a budget that cuts deep to the bone. In response, we focused our attention on increasing fundraising and reducing spending.

Nancy Avery led “FUNd”raising with a myriad of fun fundraising activities: a Halloween party concert, A winter concert, Valentine dance, book and t-shirt sales, the auction, the Makers’ Market, a Real Change collection, a honey raffle, Sponsor-a-Song, a Poetry reading with book signing and sales, and an art show and sale.

We appreciate everyone who helped make these events successful either by organizing, working and planning or by participating and supporting.

An emergency procedures manual was updated with Board Trustee Justin Bell taking the lead. In the spring we regretfully accepted Justin’s resignation as he deals with health concerns. A year remains on his 3-year term.

Usher training is important to making our church a welcoming place for members, friends, and visitors. Tom Mosher took the lead in organizing a training session for ushers.

We approved a Ministerial agreement with Todd that reduced his time to three- quarters in response to a reduced salary.

Darl Vander Linden was appointed as an ex-officio, non-voting, Board-Appointed Trustee/Treasurer.

We continue work on updating our strategic plan with input from a Congregational Survey, which will be sent out in late June.

Finally, we resolved to refocus our attention on policies with ends statements guiding our work rather than getting caught up in the operations of the church which rightfully belong to the operations team.

Submitted by: Cindy Fine, President, UUCS Board of Trustees

MUSIC DIRECTOR'S REPORT

This year was one of growth, experimentation, and community-building within the Music Ministry. Our amazing choir remained active and engaged for the first two quarters of the year. We are currently on pause as we take time to reflect on what the choir wants to become and how best to serve the members who are currently participating. As we look ahead, we are exploring new models of creative expression, including the possibility of transforming original poetry from members of our congregation into songs and spoken-word performances. We believe this could be a meaningful way to deepen participation and celebrate the many artistic voices within our community.

Sunday music continues to remain strong. Jackie Sandberg serves as our dedicated pianist, while I continue in my role curating music for services and serving as vocalist. Together, we have focused on creating meaningful musical experiences that support worship and foster connection.

A major focus this year was fundraising and community engagement. Jackie and I led two successful holiday events featuring Jackie and myself alongside guest artists, creating opportunities for fellowship, celebration, and connection. These gatherings were well attended and reinforced an important lesson: our community is hungry for meaningful connection. Their success highlighted the importance of creating spaces where people can gather, celebrate, and build relationships with one another. We plan to continue expanding these opportunities in the coming fiscal year.

Cosmic Advent was another successful creative endeavor, offering a unique and meaningful worship experience. We have also begun exploring additional creative collaborations with Rev. Todd and Jackie, including the possibility of a Mr. Rogers-inspired service or event focused on kindness, belonging, and community.

Recognizing that traditional choir participation can be challenging for many people, I launched a Pop-Up Children's Choir that meets on the last Sunday of each month. While choir participation numbers remain a challenge overall, we are intentionally exploring lower-commitment opportunities for musical and artistic expression that may better fit the needs of our congregation.

We were fortunate to welcome several guest musicians this year, including Bob Marlowe, Scott Brownlee, Dan, and our incomparable Pam Larratt, whose generosity of spirit and musical contributions continue to enrich our community. Each brought new energy and perspectives to our musical offerings. Jackie also presented an outstanding recital, showcasing both artistry and dedication.

Behind the scenes, I have continued working toward digitizing our music library to improve accessibility and organization for current and future musicians.

Looking ahead, one of my goals for the coming fiscal year is to launch a "Concerts and Conversations" event, bringing musicians from various faith communities together for a day of music, collaboration, and connection. At a time when division often receives the most attention, we hope to create opportunities that remind us of what we share in common.

Most importantly, our musicians are beginning to create a true sense of home here. The music ministry is becoming a place where people feel welcomed, valued, and connected. That spirit of creativity, belonging, and community will continue to guide our work in the year ahead.

With Love, Rachae Thomas, Music Director, UUCS

music@uuspokane.org

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Prepared by Stephanie Gronholz

Sunday Morning Play Club and Children's Chapel

We began the church year with our fourth summer of Play Club during June, July, and August. Play Club, a program developed by the nonprofit Let Grow, is based on a simple but powerful idea: children learn best through multi-age, unstructured outdoor play with minimal adult interference. Let Grow has been very supportive of our implementation and has expressed interest in featuring UUCS as a partner on its blog.

In September, we returned to Children's Chapel. We continued our weekly rhythm of stocking and organizing the Little Free Pantry in the parking lot, lighting the chalice, sharing peaks and valleys, having snacks, listening to and discussing a story, and doing a craft or game related to the sermon topic or a relevant holiday. Attendance has ranged from 1 to 22 children, with 8–12 children present on a typical Sunday.

After a visit to the UU Church of Moscow in November, we moved from the Thoreau Room to the Channing Room, where children can play with toys and, just across the hall in the Potter Room, craft to their heart's content. Across UU churches nationwide, there is a growing trend toward child-centered free play and socialization, rather than traditional classroom-style learning.

Highlights from the year included role-playing judge and jury in a bullying case, decorating Christmas cookies, and participating in an Easter egg hunt. Some of our favorite books this year included Gracias, Omu!, Change Is Gonna Come, and The Invisible Web. Many of the books we read were purchased for us at Wishing Tree by church members and friends.

Katy Willard and Lynn Jinishian volunteer in Children's Chapel on a monthly basis, and we are grateful for their help. Katy also helped revive the children's bed in the community garden. On Mother's Day, children planted tomatoes, cucumber, parsley, calendula, and wildflower seeds. We are eager to see their progress throughout the summer.

Lynn continues to lead Reading Across the Lifespans (RAL). She emphasizes the importance of reading not for grades or points, but simply for the joy and enrichment it brings. She takes time to learn the preferences of our young readers and brings books that are thoughtfully matched to them.

Nursery

Since July 2021, our nursery has been staffed during the second service by childcare providers Emma and Bella Hernandez. This year, Gab DeCastro joined the nursery staff and has been tremendously helpful on Sunday mornings when a substitute or extra support is needed. Nursery attendance ranges from zero to five children, with two or three children present on most Sundays. Bella and Emma also provided childcare during Parents Night Out events in October and December.

Youth Ministry

As our children have grown older, we have recognized the need for additional opportunities for youth to connect with the church's mission. While it is not feasible to offer a separate youth group every Sunday, we held Next Level Nights for students in grades 5 and up in June, October, and January. Activities included epic outdoor games, a Halloween movie night, and a jam session, respectively.

With the help of parent Christina Amidon, we also offered Neighboring Faiths to our middle schoolers in November and December 2025. Students explored Judaism, Catholicism, and Protestantism through Sunday morning learning sessions and site visits to Temple Beth-Shalom, St. Aloysius, and First Presbyterian. Two youth participated regularly, and a third joined for some events.

Attendance at Sunday morning and special youth events has decreased, but we will resume offering special events and expand them as participation grows.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION REPORT CONT.

Prepared by Stephanie Gronholz

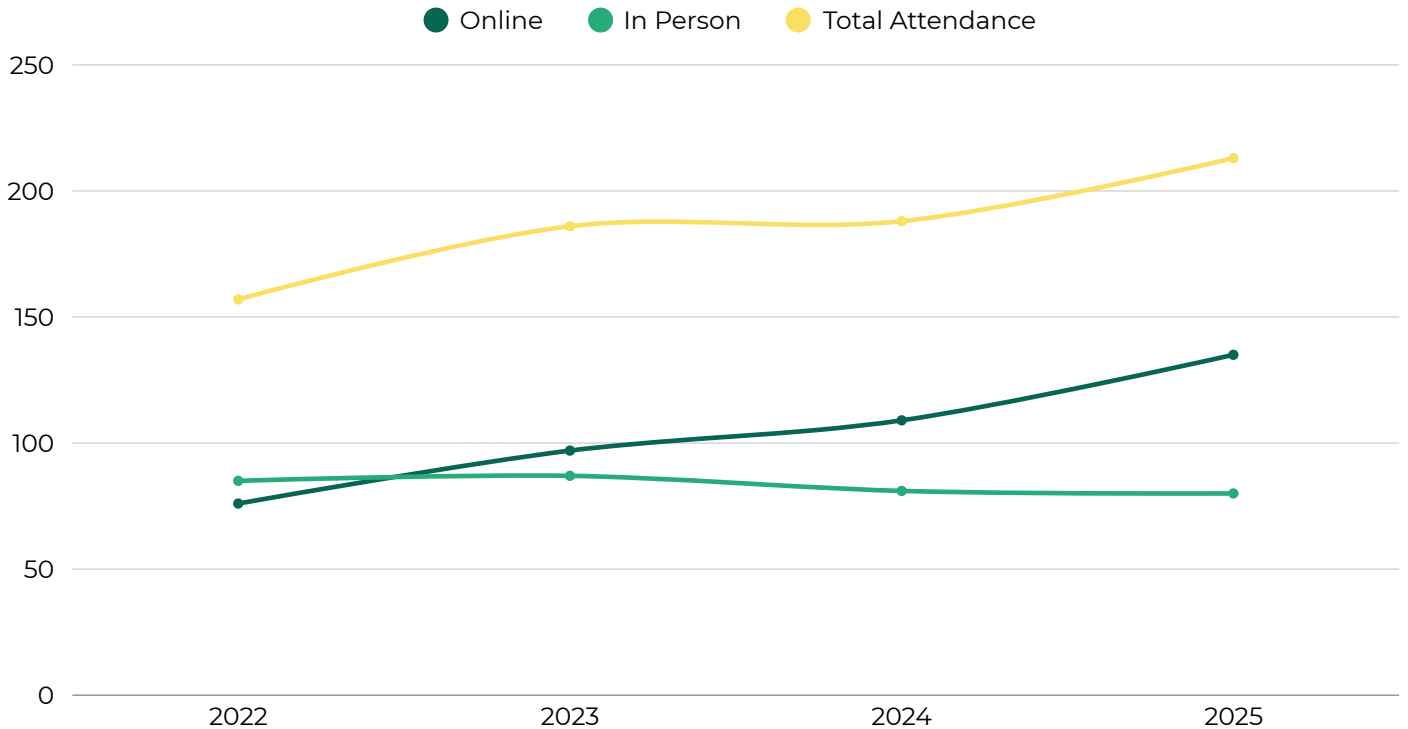
Our Whole Lives

We remain open to offering Our Whole Lives for 7th–9th graders or 10th–12th graders in partnership with INUUC and Westminster Congregational Church, provided trained facilitators can be found.

Family Volunteer Opportunities

Beginning in September, we offered families a monthly opportunity to serve for an hour at Teen & Kid Closet, a local nonprofit serving children and youth in foster care. Many months brought just two or three volunteers, but in December more than a dozen people helped sort winter coats. We will pause this opportunity during the summer and resume in the fall.

ATTENDANCE BY THE NUMBERS



SHARED MINISTRY REPORT

Prepared by Lynn Jinishian

This Annual Report is submitted on behalf of the Shared Ministry Team for the fiscal year 2025–2026. The Shared Ministry Team is charged with observing and evaluating the overall health and effectiveness of the church's ministry and shared leadership. We share our insights and recommendations with the Board of Trustees at least twice annually, and we offer ongoing counsel and support to the Senior Minister.

This year, the Shared Ministry Team has included Rev. Todd Eklof, Dick Gammon, Bob Bernstein, and Lynn Jinishian. We met monthly via Zoom, with each meeting lasting approximately 90 minutes. Our work this year focused on three primary issues:

1. Ministerial Agreement Review and Revision This year, the Shared Ministry Team worked extensively with both the Board of Trustees and Rev. Eklof to review and update the Ministerial Agreement. Particular attention was given to ensuring that the agreement more accurately reflected the realities and expectations of a three-quarter-time ministry position. Over time, the responsibilities and compensation associated with the Senior Minister role had become increasingly misaligned, particularly in light of changes that followed the financial constraints of the COVID era.

The revised agreement clarifies expectations regarding ministerial and administrative responsibilities, establishes more sustainable boundaries around workload and availability, and better aligns compensation with the scope of the position. Throughout this process, the Shared Ministry Team sought to encourage a collaborative and good-faith approach centered on the long-term health of both the congregation and its ministry. We believe the resulting agreement represents a fairer, clearer, and more sustainable framework moving forward.

2. Revision of the Covenant of Good Relations The Shared Ministry Team also undertook a revision of the congregation's Covenant of Good Relations. This document serves as an important expression of how we strive to communicate with one another, navigate disagreement, and live into the values we profess as a religious community.

The updated covenant language was developed with the goal of improving clarity, accessibility, and shared understanding while preserving the spirit and intent of the original document. Following its completion, the revised Covenant of Good Relations was shared with the congregation and published on the church website for ongoing reference and reflection.

3. Ongoing Attention to Policy Governance Education Throughout this year, the Shared Ministry Team continued to emphasize the importance of ongoing education and shared understanding regarding Policy Governance, which remains the congregation's adopted governance model. As new trustees join the Board and leadership transitions occur over time, we believe it is important that board members receive orientation to the principles and practices of Policy Governance and continue to deepen their understanding throughout their terms of service.

The Shared Ministry Team believes that continued learning and reflection in this area would strengthen consistency, clarity, and effectiveness in board practices and decision-making, while helping ensure alignment with the congregation's established governance structure.

SOCIAL JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL REPORT

Prepared by Susan Tyler-Babkirk

Council members: Nancy Avery, Karen Dorn Steele, Peggy Eklof, Maurina Ladich, Shelley McLallen, Barb Stuebing, Susan Tyler-Babkirk. New members are always welcome.

Our SJCC team helps us collectively make a meaningful difference in our community. We provide opportunities for church members to learn, connect and take action in local, state, national and international arenas. Below is a summary of some of our activities this past church year.

Special Collections: the team's goal is to touch as many critical local social justice topics as we can through collective charitable giving. This past year's organizations included Transitions, Salish School, Feast World Kitchen, NAMI, and Spokane River Keeper. The team provides an annual report of the funds raised at the end of the fiscal year. We work closely with the guest speaker team to choose and invite speakers from recipients of our special collection when possible. In addition, we coordinated the special collection for our Partner Church in Romania and a sheets and towel drive for families at Mujeres in Action.

One Parish One Prisoner: In January the SJCC officially joined this organization and formed a team of 8 to walk alongside our "releasing friend" Ashley. The team is on a two-year learning journey. Through weekly letters and other forms of communication we are forming the bonds of friendship and engaging in holistic planning and reentry support together.

Meaningful Movies: The movie team chose films covering a variety of topics. They were open to the public and shown at the church. Guest speakers joined in for Q & A and conversation after the movies. Examples of the 8 movies shown this year include, Fish Wars, Summer of Soul, The Librarians and Coexistence My Ass. Attendance ranged from 20 to 60.

UU Justice in the Middle East: After last year's congregational vote to become an Apartheid Free Community, the team provided information and action ideas at the Social Justice Table affirming our commitment to freedom, justice and equality for the people of Palestine and all people. This year, we participated in the PJALs annual conference with a presentation about the Apartheid Free Communities movement and our church's experience and commitment in making the pledge. We collaborate with other organizations to raise awareness of the continued apartheid and genocide in Palestine.

Little Free Pantry: Our Little Free Pantry is a neighborhood resource helping those dealing with food insecurity. It provides a safe place, free of judgement to come and get a little extra food when in need. UUCS has long committed to being a place that helps those less fortunate in our community, from participating in Bite to Go and fundraising for 2nd Harvest. Every Sunday our RE participants stock our own Little Free Pantry with non-perishable food items donated by church members to help our neighbors and people in our community. Additionally, the Meals on Wheels team continues to regularly provide meals to seniors in our community.

Social Justice Newsletter: The times we live in provide numerous opportunities to engage with a myriad of social justice causes--far too many to include in the SUUN. This year the team began a newsletter to highlight pathways for the congregation to connect with actions in our community. Suggestions and information are welcome! Related to communication and thanks to Tom Mosher, we now also provide one article per month in the SUUN specific to the topic of separation of church and state from the monthly publication from Americans United for the Separation of Church and State.

SPOKANE ALLIANCE REPORT

Prepared by Susan Tyler-Babkirk

Spokane Alliance: The UUCS is a dues-paying member of the Spokane Alliance, which helps leverage our church's work for social justice. This year church members participated in working groups and trainings hosted by the Alliance. In the past decade, the Alliance won the passage of Sick and Safe leave legislation that provides benefits to 40,000 workers in the city – ensuring that all workers can take time off when they are sick, to care for an ailing family member, or to seek assistance in a domestic violence situation. Other victories include work with the City Council to pass the Quality Jobs Ordinance requiring that all public works projects over \$350,000 include 15% of employees to be apprentices and prioritize the use of local materials. By maintaining our ties with the Spokane Alliance, our church continues to fulfill the pledge that we recite every Sunday: “Create community. Find Meaning. Work for justice.”

GUEST SPEAKER TEAM REPORT

Prepared by Maurina Ladich

The UUCS hosted a dynamic series of guest speakers last year on a broad range of topics. In June, UUCS member Luba Johnston, gave a presentation on her first-hand experience living under a totalitarian regime in the USSR. As she watched Russia revert to authoritarianism over the years, Luba wanted to share the history of three generations of her family living in a society she described as one comparable to George Orwell's “1984”.

With collaboration from the SJCC, we also heard from a number of guest speakers on social justice issues. Some of the highlights included: Judge Mary Logan, head of Spokane's Community Court, who spoke about the use of therapeutic courts to help navigate people out of the criminal legal system; Ami Manning who shared her personal story experiencing homelessness, and her work with the Spokane Regional Land Bank; Ross Carper and Robin Pringle from Feast World Kitchen gave a presentation called “Hospitality at the Table: How to Help our Immigrant Neighbors Now”, in which they described the struggles of our refugee and immigrant neighbors and offered suggestions on how the congregation could help; LaRae Wiley and Christopher Parkin, founders of the Salish School of Spokane, shared information about their work to preserve the Salish language and their new SSOS campus project; and Candice Baughman of “One Parish, One Prisoner” (OPOP) shared her personal experience as a formerly incarcerated person and helped launch our OPOP team of eight! And we heard from Jacob Johns, another UUCS member, who led an indigenous delegation at the COP conference in Brazil.

In February, we had the honor of hosting Eddie Tabash, a constitutional lawyer and Board member of Americans United for Separation of Church and State (AU). Mr. Tabash traveled to Spokane and shared his expertise in demonstrating how the Constitution and the Bill of Rights were intentionally designed by the framers to require equal rights for atheists. During his weekend visit, Mr. Tabash met with church members and joined informal conversations, including two dinner gatherings that provided additional time for deeper dialogue on church-state separation, religious liberty, and the implications of Christian Nationalism on democratic institutions. Ahead of Mr. Tabash's visit, the Spokesman-Review interviewed Mr. Tabash and published a story highlighting his views on church-state separation. Longtime UUCS member, Tom Mosher, published an article in the AU monthly journal, Church and State, describing Mr. Tabash's visit and the collaboration between our congregation and AU.

Our church year concluded with a memorable Unitarian Flower Celebration led by Gordon Diddens, a UUCS member. In this special and meaningful service, Gordon provided a detailed history of the service, created in 1923 by Rev. Norbert Capek, who founded the Unitarian church in Czechoslovakia over a century ago. During this service, UUCS congregants brought flowers to the church and left with a different flower, symbolizing the unique gifts we each bring and the community we create together. Our congregation plans to make this an annual event.

DONATE TO UUCS TODAY

ANNUAL FUNDRAISERS AT UUCS

COMMUNITY AUCTION – OUR BIGGEST FUNDRAISER OF THE YEAR

Each fall, our congregation comes together for our annual Community Auction, the church's largest fundraiser of the year. The auction is made possible through the generosity and creativity of members and friends who donate items, experiences, services, and events for others to bid on and enjoy.

Popular donations include parties and social gatherings, concerts, cabin stays and weekend getaways, tickets and gift certificates, homemade baked goods and meals, handcrafted artwork and crafts, service offerings such as yard work, lessons, or fitness classes, and themed gift baskets. The possibilities are nearly endless, and some of our most popular auction items have been the most creative and unique.

Now is the perfect time to start thinking about what you might contribute. Donation submissions will open in August in preparation for the fall auction. We hope you will join us in making this year's Community Auction a success through your participation, creativity, and support.

MAKER'S MARKET

Join us every Sunday in between and after services for the new Maker's Market. From fresh baked breads to hand made crafts, come see what you might find at the Maker's Market!

GENEROSITY CAMPAIGN

Each April, UUCS conducts its Annual Generosity Campaign, inviting members and friends to make a financial commitment for the coming fiscal year. Completing a pledge form is one of the most important ways you can support the congregation, as it provides the information needed to plan programs, ministries, and operations for the year ahead.

Your pledge helps the church develop a responsible budget based on anticipated income and ensures that UUCS can continue to fulfill its mission and serve our community. Making—and fulfilling—a pledge is an important expression of commitment to our shared values and the future of our congregation. We are grateful for the generosity of all who participate in sustaining this community.

“FUN”DRAISING TEAM – NEW!

Our new FUNdraising team is currently forming and brainstorming creative ideas to promote our church through community wide fundraisers. Have some ideas or interested in helping out organize some fun events? Contact the church office for details.

BOOK SHARING BOOK CART – UUCS READING SPACE

Do you love books and reading? Donate your used books to the UUCS book sharing cart located in the foyer near the main entrance. Please bring your books into the church, and while you are there, check out the amazing selection of books available for only \$1 donation each. Relax in our comfortable seating in the reading area.

UUCS ART WALL

Visit the art wall in the back of the friendship hall near the Maker's Market table. Find your next work of art or gift from our rotating selection of donated artworks for sale. All artwork hanging on the wall is for sale. Follow the instructions posted near the artwork. Art donations accepted. Join us in January for our annual art show.

GET INVOLVED AT UUCS!

There are a number of teams and groups you can participate in to enhance connections and create community here at UUCS. Below you will find a list of some of these. For more information please visit our website at www.uuspokane.org.

OUTREACH - IMPLEMENT OUR VALUES IN OUR LARGER COMMUNITY

- **Spokane Alliance** - works with other churches and organizations to promote positive change in our community
- **Partner Church** - working with members of other local churches, coordinates support of communication and sharing with our partner church in Felsorokos, Romania
- **Social Justice Coordinating Council** - coordinates social justice efforts conducted by various teams within the Spokane community
- **Pride Team** - resource for our LGBTQ+ members, friends, allies at UUCS and in the larger community. Participation in PRIDE Spokane each year.
- **Meals on Wheels** - coordinates delivery of meals to seniors and others in need
- **UUJME** - UUs for Justice in the Middle East - working with UUs worldwide to promote a peaceful and just resolution to the Israel/Palestine conflict
- **Meaningful Movies** - coordinates screenings of films regarding social justice and environmental issues at local theater. Currently being held in-person in our Chapel.
- **Bite-2-Go** - encourages and coordinates donations to provide food to Balboa elementary students in need
- **Raised Beds** - adopt a garden bed in our community garden and grow fresh food for our local food banks, community kitchens, and our very own Little Free Pantry.
- **Buildings and Grounds** - join us the last Wednesday of the month at 10 a.m. to help keep our building and grounds looking beautiful and welcoming. New volunteers needed!

ADULT ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS

For more information on the groups below, please visit the "Programs" section of our website at www.uuspokane.org

- **UU Women's Group**
 - **Second Wednesday Lunch** - opportunities for UUCS women to socialize over lunch
 - **Third Thursday Book Club** - monthly book discussion group for women
- **UUCS Men's Breakfast**, Third Saturday - breakfast and discussion group for men
- **Problem Solvers** - weekly coffee and discussion on various topics
- **Buddhist Meditation** - weekly meditation sessions led by nuns from the Tibetan Buddhist Sravasti Abbey
- **Kerdcera Dojo** - The Kerdcera Dojo means, "The practice of heart and mind," meets weekly on ZOOM. Rev. Dr. Todd Eklof guides participants in the practice of logic and Emotional Intelligence techniques.
- **Senior LGBTQ+** - gatherings welcoming all, especially those identifying as senior LGBTQ+
- **Poetry Sharing Circle** - join us on the 2nd Sunday of the month in the chapel to listen to and/or share your own poetry.

THIRD SUNDAY POTLUCKS

Join together following second service every third Sunday of the month in friendship and food. See the weekly SUUN newsletter for details!

PARTICIPATE AT UUCS

UUCS TEAMS AND GROUPS

Operations, Facilities & Fundraising Teams

- Building and Grounds – responsible for general building maintenance and grounds upkeep
- Memorial Garden Team – maintenance of Memorial Garden
- Raised Beds Team – responsible for raised garden beds
- Security/Safety – determine safety and security needs for the facility, staff, congregation
- Art & Aesthetics Team – responsible for art wall displays, art sales, appearance of the facility

- Fundraising

- Community Auction Team – organizes and promotes Community Auction, held annually in October/November
- Generosity Team – organizes and manages annual stewardship drive
- Sunday Book Sales - organize and sell donated books on Sunday mornings
- FUNdraising Team – brainstorm, coordinate and conduct periodic fundraisers for the benefit of the church

Congregational Life Teams

- Social Media Team – moderates and administers UUCS's social media presence
- Membership Team – coordinates membership orientation with follow up and new member Sunday celebrations

v Greeters/Information/Welcome Table - provide a welcoming on Sunday mornings

- Pastoral Care – facilitates a caring response to members and friends in crisis or life transition.

Work with the Minister to provide emotional or personal support as requested.

- Memorial Services – organizes set up and refreshments for memorial services

-Children and Family Ministries

▪ Sunday Childcare Support - be available to help out with Sunday Play Group, Children's Chapel and Childcare when staff members are out or need extra help (requires a volunteer background check)

▪ OWL (Our Whole Lives) Task Force - supports OWL curriculum and facilitators for sexuality education for all ages

▪ Youth Programs – coordinates opportunities for community and programming for high school aged youth

- Parent Night Out – provides periodic evening child care to give parents an evening out

Worship Teams (Sunday morning support)

- Guest Speaker Team – coordination and selection of monthly guest speakers

▪ Worship (Lay) Leaders – assist the Minister, or guest speaker, with Sunday services preparation and delivery and story tellers.

▪ Ushers – provide a welcoming experience for Sunday service attendees, assist with seating, questions, general assistance

- Coffee – prepares coffee service on Sunday mornings, including kitchen clean up

- Choir – provides choral music presentations at intermittent Sunday services.

Interested in joining a team at UUCS? Volunteering is one of the best ways to build community and connect with others. Many of our programs, events, and ministries rely on volunteers to thrive.

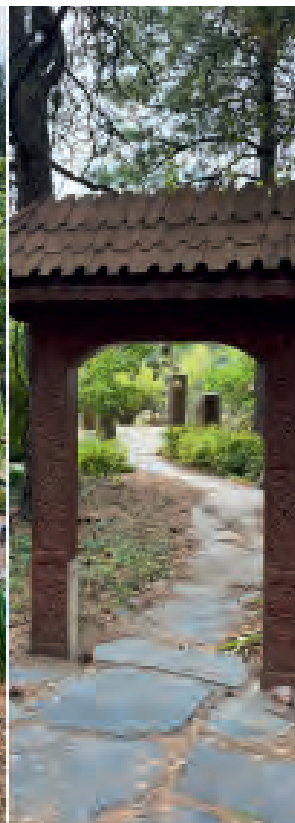
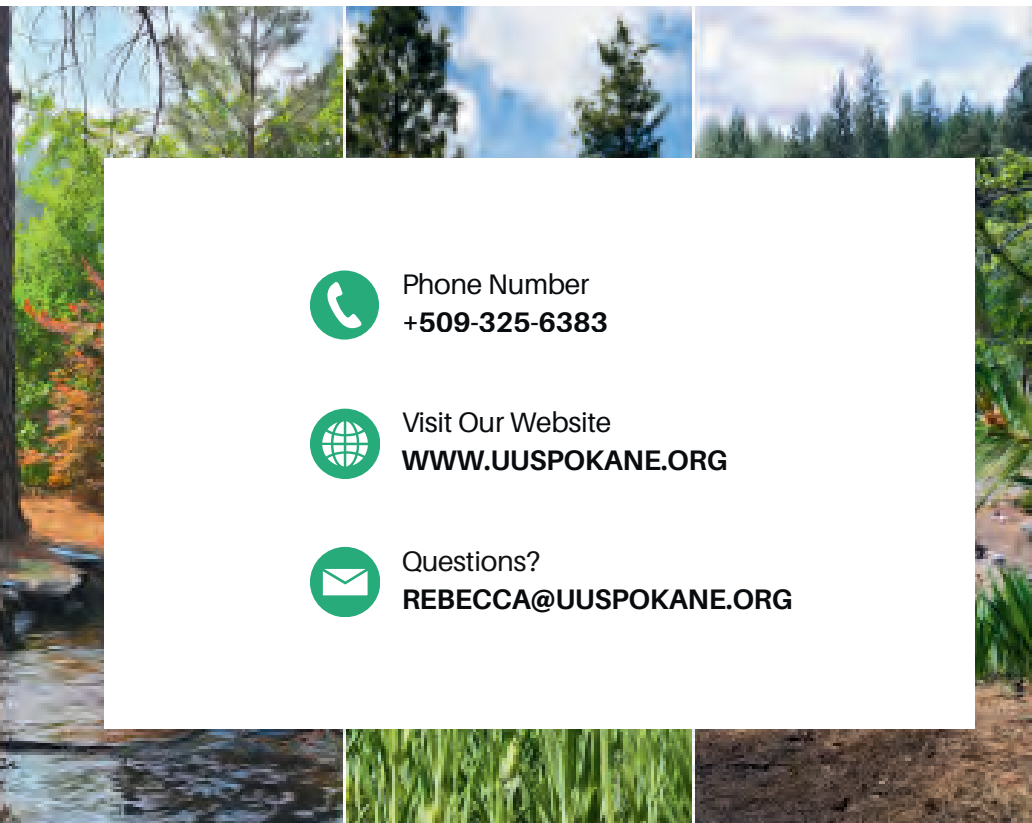
Do you have a talent, skill, or interest you'd like to share? There are many opportunities to get involved, whether you have a few hours to spare or are looking for a more ongoing role.

If you'd like to learn more about volunteer opportunities or join a team, please contact the church office. We'll be happy to connect you with the appropriate team leaders.

DONATE TO OUR LITTLE FREE PANTRY

Our Unitarian Universalist Church has joined hands with Growing Neighbors and now has a Little Free Pantry onsite. This neighborhood resource helps those dealing with food insecurity. It provides a safe place, free of judgement to come and get a little extra food when in need. UUCS has long committed to being a place that helps those less fortunate in our community. We now can stock our own Little Free Pantry with nonperishable food items to help our neighbors and people in our community.

This year we have provided hundreds of pounds of food to our community in need. We still have neighbors in need and supporting our Little Free Pantry provides an accessible option for resources. We are continually collecting food donations from those who are able to do so and restock the pantry with items listed below. You can leave items in the donation box in the foyer or place directly into the Little Free Pantry. Please try to donate unopened and unexpired nonperishable foods only.



Phone Number
+509-325-6383



Visit Our Website
WWW.UUSPOKANE.ORG



Questions?
REBECCA@UUSPOKANE.ORG

OFFICE HOURS: MONDAY - THURSDAY 10AM - 2PM

MINISTER: REV. DR. TODD EKLOF

OPERATIONS MANAGER: REBECCA ADAMS

OPERATIONS ASSISTANT: MICHELLE CALDWELL

MUSIC DIRECTOR: RACHAE THOMAS

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SPECIALIST: STEPHANIE GRONHOLZ