

The Beacon

A weekly email newsletter from
Cedars Unitarian Universalist Church
Serving Bainbridge Island and Northern Kitsap County



Volume 13 Issue 3 / January 20, 2023

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Upcoming Services

The Clergy Consultation Network

Sunday January 22nd
10:00 a.m.
In-Person service in Webster Hall

Rev. Zackrie Vinczen
Johanna Munson, Worship Associate

Recent challenges to Roe Vs Wade have sparked many religious communities to reflect on their stance on matters of abortion and reproductive care. However, this is not the first time such conversations have taken place in houses of worship.

Please plan to remain in Webster Hall after the service for a mid-year congregational meeting.

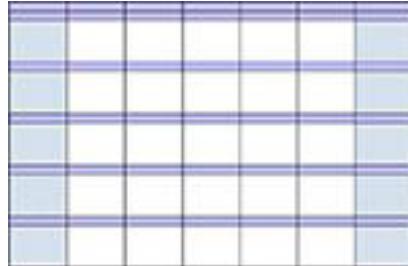
Building a Better Phone Booth

Sunday January 29th
10:00 a.m.
In-Person service in Webster Hall

Rev Zackrie Vinczen
Gregory Cook, Worship Associate

Have you noticed the stark lack of phone booths in our world today? Why is that? Join us as we consider if it's time to build a better phone booth

Current Week Calendar and Links



Your Cedars community invites you to participate in services and activities, get information, enjoy fellowship, and pause for reflection.

To view our detailed calendar [click here](#). Then click on the event titles for more information.

Sunday January 22nd
10:00 a.m.
In-Person Service in Webster Hall
[Live-Stream Service Link](#)

Congregational meeting immediately following

News and Announcements

Congregational Meeting Sunday

This has been a year filled with changes, not the least of which is we are gathering together in person more often. This Sunday, the Board of Trustees will hold a



Our Congregational Mission

*Worship with open hearts
Nurture a learning spirit
Serve justice with compassion
Love without judgment*

Congregational meeting to update you on the most pressing issues facing our congregation. Please stay after church for about an hour to learn about:

- Financial status updates: Changes to our staff expenses and rental of The Island School are projected to make a big difference by the end of the fiscal year.
- Space Task Force Findings: A small group reviewed the availability of alternate spaces to meet in the area, focusing on setup effort, experience and cost.
- Stewardship Campaign: We are again planning a events to build community and establish financial stability in the coming year.
- Faith Formation: Cedars continues to be dedicated to children, families and adults as they explore Unitarian Universalism.

See you on Sunday!

Jeff Philip
President, Board of Trustees

Social Action as a Cedars Priority

Documenting past-year accomplishments, Cedars' Social Action Committee has shared a summary of 2022 activities in a year-end report ([Link](#)).

Reorganizing itself as a single comprehensive justice/action entity, the committee collected almost \$6000 in monthly special collections, participated with Congregation Kol Shalom in the preparation and offering of monthly Super Supper meals, and guided Cedars' engagement in another dozen significant programs and activities, as well as in sponsoring social action-oriented Sunday sermons or associated activities.

Additionally, the committee has achieved board recognition and approval of social action as a top Cedars priority for the coming 2023 year.

Safe Gatherings at Cedars

Continued Caution to Prevent Viral Flu Spread

Spread of viruses (COVID, Respiratory Syncytial virus and the flu) surged late in 2022, but didn't grow to the levels some health professionals predicted. Those rates appear to be coming back down in January. As we watch the health data, Cedars UU Church will continue to urge caution in the weeks ahead.

Cedars encourages people to wear masks for indoor, in person gatherings. And remember to get your annual flu vaccine and COVID booster. A shot in the arm is better than a



Cedars UU Church is a Welcoming Congregation and Green Sanctuary



Rev. Zackrie Vinczen

Musical Notes

Much hard work and dedication goes into providing music for our Sunday services. And each week we are grateful for those willing to make music and lead us all in song. This week, we offer special thanks to **Audrey Blair** for music accompaniment.

Sunday Hymns:

1. [My Life Flows on in Endless Song \(#108\)](#)
 2. [Spirit of Life \(#123\)](#)
 3. [Wake, Now, My Senses \(#298\)](#)
-

Learning Life's Lessons

In last Sunday's morning service, Johanna Munson led those of us in attendance through a process of self-discovery and sharing of significant or meaningful events shaping our personal identities. We learned more about each other as well as ourselves in the relatively brief conversations that the process encouraged, and our shared sense of congregational community was almost certainly deepened or strengthened.

For those not present, and others who might wish to know more about the process, the following questions were used to guide the conversations:

1. When in your life have you felt most like yourself? What message does this make you think about for others?
2. What life events, be they personal, community-wide, or socio-political, were pivotal in you becoming who you

week in bed.

Current COVID Safety - Cedars Unitarian Universalist Church (cedarsuuchurch.org)

Stay safe, everyone!

January Special Collection

Cedars organizes and gathers a monthly

Special Collection for community outreach

as a way to educate our congregation about the work of various non-profit organizations that reflect our values, and to channel our generosity in support of them.



On January 22nd, the Social Action Committee has chosen to collect money for the **Kitsap Racial Equity and Empowerment Fund** (KREEF). All money donated in the Sunday offering on January 22nd will benefit the Kitsap Racial Equity and Empowerment Fund, a program through the Kitsap Community Foundation that addresses systemic inequities which disproportionately impact Black and other communities of color and that are amplified by COVID-19.

In 2021, KREEF awarded \$117,500 to more than 20 Black, Indigenous, and people of color-led or serving nonprofits and fiscally sponsored projects whose leadership or boards are reflective of and accountable to communities of color, in particular the Black community throughout Kitsap County. For more information about this program, visit Kitsap Racial Equity and Empowerment Fund.

If you would like to receive a tax deduction for your donation, please write a check payable to Kitsap Racial Equity and Empowerment Fund to place in the offering basket or send it to the Cedars Church Office by January 31st.

From the Bookkeeper's Desk

This year, since we know most taxpayers no longer itemize deductions, we will not be sending out 2022 tax letters to all church members. If you do itemize your IRS deductions and need a letter detailing all of your 2022 contributions, please send an email request to bookkeeper@cedarsuuchurch.org. A letter will be sent to you showing all January - December 2022 payments received by Cedars for pledges, non-pledged gifts, and special collections.

In early January, pledge statements will be sent out. These statements will reflect all pledge payments received from July through December 2022. That time frame encompasses the first half of the Cedars fiscal year, which ends in June 2023.

are?

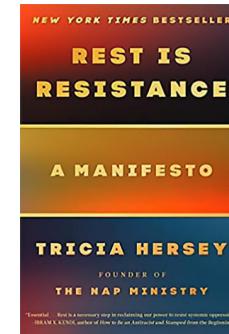
3. What ideas or beliefs do you hold about your connection to something bigger than yourself? How has this made a difference in your life?
4. Describe the circumstances that enabled you to be who you are and accomplish what you have. Who in your life has made a big difference, and what was their gift?

(These questions are from a Willow End of Life Planning workshop that Johanna leads called "Writing Your Heart Will(tm) as a Manifesto for Living.)

Rest is Resistance

Please join us after service on January 29th when Rev. Zackrie will facilitate a discussion on rest as a form of resistance.

Based on the work of **Tricia Hersey** who leads a movement called the Nap Ministry, we will consider rest as a form of social justice and reparation.



Tricia, a theologian, artist, and community organizer, is author of **Rest is Resistance: A Manifesto** and curates spaces and forums for communities to rest. She says, "The Nap Ministry is not a religious movement but a spiritual antidote to the very earthly problems that are plaguing communities: exhaustion, chronic diseases and mental health crises - issues she sees as arising from systems of capitalism and white supremacism."

To learn more about her work, here are some links to articles, an audio interview, and her book:

[NPR](#)
[New York Times](#)
[YES Magazine](#)
[The Nap Ministry](#)

Trusting Change -- Finding Our Way Through Personal and Global Transformation



Sharing wisdom found in the body, in nature, and in metaphors, these reflections by minister and award-winning author Karen Hering invite readers on the cusp of great change—which is all of us today—to explore the new possibilities emerging in our times.

If you have any questions, please feel free to email me at the address above.

Mandy Maher
Cedars Bookkeeper

Cedars Creativity Fair 2023

See What Others Have Been Doing

Our identity as a congregational community is strengthened by the activities and gatherings we enjoy together, as well as by the ways we can find to know each other better.

In past years we organized occasional Creativity Fairs to share individual interests and capabilities following Webster Hall services, and in response to the more recent pandemic we have shifted to on-line or virtual versions of those fairs.

Organized to provide opportunities to see and enjoy artful products and demonstrations of the creativity present in our talented and capable congregation, those fairs helped us get to know and appreciate each other.

Continuing that sharing of individual interests and creativity, please join the fun and enjoy the growing show using the link below! If you have something to share, send a photo and description to office@cedarsuuchurch.org.

Cedars Creativity Fair 2023

Thea Peterson says "Woke up in a cloud this morning."



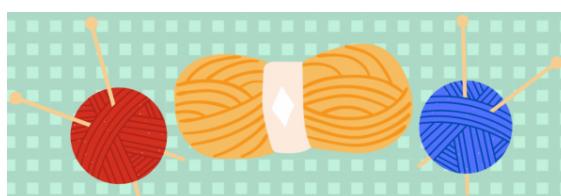
This book is from **Skinner House Books**, an imprint of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) and is available from the **inSpirit Bookstore**.

Pastoral Care

The Pastoral Care team is looking for people who can help with meals or rides for people needing an extra boost. Please take time to fill out the **Pastoral Care Volunteer Interest Form**. We are thankful to the many who have stepped up in the past few months to help.

In addition, if you find yourself in need of additional support or assistance we encourage you to take a moment to fill out the **Pastoral Care Request Form** to let our Pastoral Care team know how we can be of support.

For more information about this effort please contact **Rev. Zackrie** or send an email to pastoralcare@cedarsuuchurch.org.



Got Yarn? We Can Use It!

If you have yarn sitting around that you probably will never get around to using, how about contributing it to the LGBTQ+ group at Kingston Middle School?

Cedars UU provided them with knitting supplies at the start of the school year, and they have been very popular with students who are enjoying teaching each other how to knit.

Yarn that is **soft** and **easy to use** are their only requirements. We'll have a box at church on Sunday for donations and will bring it to the office after church for the rest of the week.

Thanks!
Patricia Erdmann

Super Supper Sign-Ups

Cedars, in partnership with Kol Shalom, offers Super Supper dinners on the last Tuesday of each month. Super suppers are a free meal for those in need provided by members of the Bainbridge Island Interfaith Council.

We now have a regular sign-up for you to use each month so that all in our congregation have a chance to participate. Please consider signing up for one or more slots [here](#).

Please contact **Penny Brewer** for more information.

Print the Beacon Newsletter

The Beacon is available to download and print each week. Go to www.cedarsuuchurch.org. The newest issue is available on the Cedars website under News after 12:00 p.m. on Fridays. Copies will also be available at Sunday Worship Services when they resume.

Member Directory

Members and Friends can easily search our online Church Directory for contact information. The link is located under the Connection Tab of the Cedars website and [here](#).

Services and Faith Formation

Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

The Island School
8553 NE Day Road
Bainbridge Island

Cedars Center

284 Madrona Way, NE #128
Bainbridge Island WA 98110
(206) 780-0373

Rev. Zackrie Vinczen, Minister

For an appointment, e-mail
minister@cedarsuuchurch.org
For an urgent matter, call (360) 930-9339 (Pastoral Care)

Position open

Faith Formation Lead
faith.formation@cedarsuuchurch.org

Carolyn Kerns, Office Administrator

Hours: 10:40 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Tuesday & Friday
Available remotely 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Thursday
office@cedarsuuchurch.org

Would you like to subscribe to The Beacon? Email: beacon@cedarsuuchurch.org

Do you have an article, event, or announcement?

Send it to The Beacon **by Friday at 11:00 a.m. ONE WEEK BEFORE** the next Friday's newsletter (7 days in advance). See our [submission guidelines](#).

Cedars UU Church ([website](#))

