

The Beacon

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



CEDARS CHURCH
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

Volume 13 Issue 1 / January 6, 2023

[Website](#) [Faith Formation](#) [Calendar](#)

[Our Staff](#) [Contact Us](#) [Join Cedars](#)

Upcoming Services

Loving with a Broken Heart

Sunday January 8th
10:00 a.m.
In-Person Service in Webster Hall

Rev. Zackrie Vinczen

At times we are let down or even have our hearts broken, but even in these moments, we are still called to love.

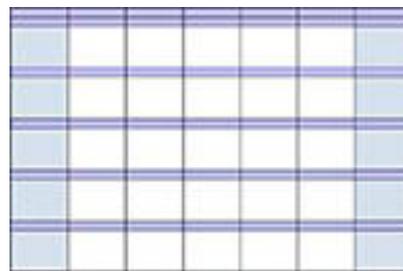
Learning Life's Lessons

Sunday January 15th
10:00 a.m.
In-Person service in Webster Hall

Johanna Munson, Speaker
Nancy Philip, Worship Associate

Life's twists and turns can take us in unexpected directions. How do we come to terms with the reality that change is inevitable? In this interactive service we'll engage with and answer some elemental questions about who we are and what our life means to us.

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 8th
10:00 a.m.
In-Person Service in Webster Hall
[Live-Stream Service Link](#)
Coffee hour immediately following

News and Announcements

The Work of Hope

Beloveds, we are called to communal care like never before—to serve one another, to organize for justice, to widen the circle of concern, to collectively imagine new ways forward in community, and to grow spiritually together.

Our nation and our denomination are experiencing immense ideological struggles. Our congregations worry for their future



Our Congregational Mission

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



existence, and our religious professionals and lay leaders are worn down to the bone. Yet ours is the work of hope in the world, where Unitarian Universalism commits itself to a liberal and liberating message for our time.

Rev. Dr. Sofia Betancourt
UUA Presidential Candidate

[Full Statement Here](#)

January is a time for reviewing and renewing priorities.

Many people take the opportunity at the start of a New Year to make resolutions. Eat healthier, exercise more, connect more often with friends, etc. This is a result of looking at the past year and reflecting on where we are as individuals. It is no surprise that we also reflect on our community during the January Congregational Meeting.

This month, on **January 22nd**, we will gather for an update on the status of Cedars Unitarian Universalist Church. So many things have changed since September, and more changes are on the horizon. The Board of Trustees will share updates on items such as:

- What is the impact of Reverend Zackrie reducing his time to 3/4?
- What is the future of Faith Formation and Music Coordination?
- What did the Space Task Force discover and recommend?
- What is the expected budget status at the end of the year?

I hope you will all come to join us on January 22nd.

Jeff Philip
President, Board of Trustees

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 week in bed.

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

Stay safe, everyone!

**Cedars UU Church is a
Welcoming Congregation
and Green Sanctuary**



Rev. Zackrie Vinczen

A New Year's Message

As we move into the new year, let us remember the strength and resilience of our community. In a world that can sometimes feel unpredictable or isolating, being part of a supportive, loving community is more important than ever.

In the coming year, I hope we can continue to come together and support one another. Whether it's through weekly services, small groups, committee meetings, or volunteering, there are many ways we can strengthen our bonds and create a sense of belonging.

In times of hardship or challenge, it's easy to feel alone or overwhelmed. But when we come together, we can find strength and comfort in one another. Whether we're facing personal struggles or working towards collective goals, being part of a community gives us the support and encouragement we need to keep going.

So, this year, let's make a commitment to be there for one another, and to create a sense of belonging and connection that sustains us throughout the year.

Wishing you all a happy and healthy new year,

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 a special thanks to **Audrey Blair** for leading music this coming Sunday.

Sunday Hymns:

[Gather the Spirit \(#347\)](#)

[Come, Sing a Song with Me \(#346\)](#)

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.

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

Mandy Maher
Cedars Bookkeeper

A Final Cleansing

Last week's New Year's Day Service concluded with the ceremonial cleansing of personal outlooks and realities in a ritualistic burning of aspects of the past year that we noted and didn't wish to carry forward.



Cedars Creativity Fair 2022

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

[When Our Heart is In a Holy Place \(#1008\)](#)



The Music Committee Needs Your Help

Do you sing or play an instrument? Here's an opportunity to share your talents and add special music at a Sunday service. We'd love to hear from you. And if you're part of a small instrumental or vocal group, we'd be delighted to have the group provide music. Students who are taking lessons will find this a great opportunity to get some performance experience.

In addition to special music, there are opportunities to play Gathering, Prelude, Offering, or Leaving music for a service. We also are looking for pianists to accompany hymns.

Ready to volunteer? Archer will be happy to discuss scheduling. If you are interested, intrigued, or tempted to participate, please contact **Archer Philip** or **Audrey Blair**, with any questions or comments you may have.

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.

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



Pastoral Care

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 2022

Jenny Weaver says "Christmas tree is down and Winter Tree is up! I started this tradition last year. I HATE taking down the Christmas tree, to the point of weeping while doing so. So last year I bought an artificial tree and put it up after my real Christmas tree was dry and crunchy. Last year my "January tree" stayed up until March, so it is now officially "Winter Tree"!



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.

Facing the Climate Crisis



The Fall/Winter issue of the **UU World** magazine presents a multi-faceted exploration of the very significant environmental challenge now threatening our future as the human race.

The issue is distributed directly to active members of our congregation, and is also publicly available online at uuworld.org in an expanded presentation.

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

Rev. Zackrie Vinczen, Minister

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

Archer Philip

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

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)

