

The Beacon

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



CEDARS CHURCH
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

Volume 12 Issue 6 / February 11, 2022

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

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

Upcoming Services

"New Bones"

Sunday February 13th
10:00 a.m.
In-Person Service in Webster Hall

Rev. Zackrie Vinczen
Grace, Worship Associate

In her poem "New Bones", Lucille Clifton reflects on the struggle for liberation experienced by past generations of Black Women and articulates her connection to these past generations. Join us for this service as we consider the poem "New Bones" and the power of reflecting on the generational struggle for liberation.

Side With Love

Sunday February 20th
10:00 a.m.
Virtual Worship Service

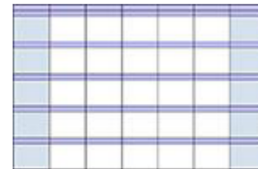
Johanna Munson, Facilitator

Last year, four themes from **Widening the Circle of Concern**, a report recommending transformational change in the practices of white supremacy and other oppressions in the UUA, were highlighted in the annual **30 Days of Love** celebration of the UUA and its 1,000+ congregations and covenanted communities.

This UUA-shared service recalls those themes: **Living our Values, Hospitality and Inclusion, Educating for Liberation, and Restoration and Reparations.**

What if to "side with love" meant making bold, faith-full choices? What if it were even a little bit scary? This service brings together worship leaders and musicians from across the country to offer hopeful, moving, and challenging reminders about what we, as Unitarian Universalists, are called to do and BE in the world.

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.

Saturday February 12th
2:00 p.m. Sources of Our Faith
[Spiritual Reflection Group Link](#)

Sunday February 13th
10:00 a.m. In-Person Service
[Live-Stream Service Link](#)

Immediately After Service Social Hour
After the service, during a social hour in the play area just outside Webster Hall, the stewardship team will be taking photos of Cedars members and friends for this year's brochure. This is also a great opportunity to get your directory photo in Breeze updated, so please look out for our photographers!

7:00 p.m. Parent Chalice Circle
[Zoom Meeting Link](#)

Thursday February 17th
10:00 a.m. Sources of Our Faith
[Spiritual Reflection Group Link](#)

Saturday February 19th
10:00 a.m. Japanese Exclusion Work Party

2:00 p.m. Faithful Practices Reading Group
[Virtual Meeting Link](#)

News and Announcements



The Belonging Initiative

At the congregational meeting on January 30th, the Board of Trustees presented the findings and recommendations of its year-long Belonging Initiative. Over the course of the past year, the Board had been inviting and listening to many stories of connection as well as disconnection in a variety of discussion settings and gatherings.

In response, at the congregational meeting in June, members and friends were asked to brainstorm ideas for moving forward and deepening a sense of belonging in four suggestively titled areas of focus:

- **Come, Come Whoever You Are**
- **Beyond Pastoral Care**
- **Living Our Values**
- **Cedars of the Future**

The first area was discussed in last week's Beacon and this week we consider the second area: **Beyond Pastoral Care**, which poses the question, How do we use the whole web of Cedars relationships to care for each other?

A number of ideas and approaches were offered in response, including these:

Reach out to check in

- Ask the Pastoral Care Team to identify those who might need support.
- Ask for support when needed. There are others who would love to connect and lend a hand.
- Contact **Julie Hill** for ways to help or for needs you might have.

Member Directory

- Check your personal information in Breeze to make sure it is current and accurate.
- Attend training on using Breeze, our online directory. Look for dates in the coming month.
- Ask our office administrator, **Carolyn Kerns**, for a printed directory if you are uncomfortable with the online version.

To view the Board's slideshow presentation summarizing the Belonging Initiative's overall findings, click [here](#).

Safe Gatherings at Cedars

We look forward to seeing you at The Island School this Sunday!

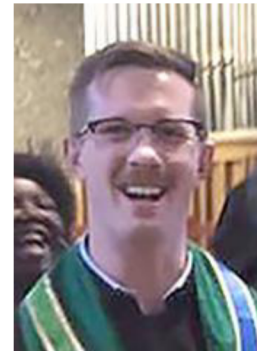
After two months, it will be a joy to be together again. For the safety of everyone, we will be

Our Congregational Mission

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



Cedars UU Church is a Welcoming Congregation and Green Sanctuary



Rev. Zackrie Vinczen



Sad News

It is with sadness that I write to inform you of the death of **Diana Peters**. Diana was a long time Unitarian Universalist when she joined our congregation in 2000. Her life was one

following our **COVID Safety Protocols** as we gather:

- Mask at all times.
- Fully vaccinated and boosted (unless medically exempt).
- Physically distanced from people outside of your household.
- Stay away from others if you don't feel well or have been exposed to COVID.

When you arrive, you will be asked to confirm the following:

- You have no symptoms of COVID.
- You have not been exposed to COVID in the past two weeks.
- You are fully vaccinated and boosted.
- You will wear an N95, KN95 or KN94 mask (Complementary masks will be available at the door).
- You acknowledge that there is a risk attending an in-person gathering and you are attending voluntarily.

Your first in-person service?

- Bring proof of vaccination with you.
- Save time and send a copy of your vax info to office@cedarsuuchurch.org before Friday at 3:00, including all family/household members too.

Services will continue to be live-streamed for those preferring virtual services.

Smile behind the mask. Be respectful and patient with volunteers. We are trying to achieve the safest environment for you and all guests.

More detailed information about the Cedars Safety Protocols is available on our website and is linked [here](#).

Monday Mingle!

Drop by Cedars Center between **4:00 and 6:00 pm on the first and third Mondays of the month** and visit with Board member **Kassia Sing** for an in-person conversation. Come on your way home from work, on your way to dinner or while on your daily walk. Laid-out and open to all!

Parent Chalice Circle

**Sunday,
February 13th
7:00 pm on Zoom**

Parents, Grandparents, and caregivers! You are warmly welcome to join this monthly circle where we share in the questions and experiences of nurturing faith formation in our children and in our own lives.

We meet on the second Sunday of the month



marked with incredible adventures and deep lasting relationships.

In her time at Cedars, Diana forged many close bonds, weaving herself into the very fabric and identity of this congregation.

At this time, I ask the entire Cedars Community to hold Diana's family in your thoughts and prayers. Service details are yet unknown, but I will work to communicate them as they become known.

If you find yourself needing someone to talk to during this emotional time, please don't hesitate to reach out to me or a member of the pastoral care team.

Rev Zackrie



Reunited with Alan

Be a part of Worship at Cedars

As we prepare to enter the fall and gear back up for the program year, we are looking for individuals ready to help with the creation of weekly worship. There are a few important roles that we are hoping to fill and find people willing to join the rest of the team in meaning making work we do.

Preaching: Once a month Rev. Zackrie is away from Cedars, and we need people willing to preach and lead services on these dates. This is your chance to share your thoughts on a topic with the rest of the community. Preaching can also provide you with a chance to deepen your own understanding on a topic as you research, write, and reflect in preparation.

Worship Tech Team: As we continue to navigate the presence of COVID-19 and begin conceptualizing what comes next with our online presence, we need people to assist with the technology side of things. Currently we hope to find a few individuals to help with recording and video editing. We also need help running the sound system at in-person services. No prior experience is necessary, but it does help to have a familiarity with technology and a willingness to learn.

Worship Associates: In this role you get a chance to work with Rev. Zackrie and other service leaders to reflect on a topic and share

and utilize the UU Principles as touchstones and reference points for exploration.

Please join us! Our next meeting will be Sunday, February 13 at 7:00 p.m. using this [Zoom link](#) with Rev. Zackrie and Cory Munson co-leading.

Contact **Cory Munson** for more information.

Social Justice Committee News



Join us in beautifying the **Japanese American Exclusion Memorial** at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday February 19th in preparation for the upcoming "**80 Years of Healing**" event. This is a wonderful opportunity to connect with our wider community, both past and present, while also connecting as a congregation through the joy of helpful industry.

Please bring masks, proof of vaccination, favorite gardening tools (e.g. pruners and clipping bags), as well as a personal lunch bag and water bottle for a picnic with Cedars friends afterwards.

Map Link: [Japanese American Exclusion Memorial, Pritchard Park, 4192 Eagle Harbor Drive NE](#)

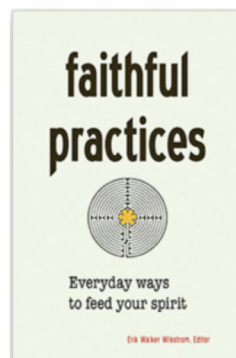
Registration is required!
BI Parks Volunteer Registration Link: [BIJAEM Volunteer Day Registration](#) (no cost)

For more information contact **Alison Stokes**.

Faithful Practices Reading Group

How's your prayer life? What spiritual practices ground you? Where do you find meaning throughout your week?

If you find yourself struggling to answer these questions, you're not alone. Many people struggle to talk about the spiritual dimensions of their life. If this describes you or you're simply interested in learning more about spiritual practices from a UU perspective, consider joining Rev. Zackrie for a group



your voice with others. This is a great opportunity for people to develop as a public speaker or experiment with creative ways of conveying ideas. In addition, being a worship associate is a great way to become more widely known within the Cedars community.

If you are interested in joining the worship team in any of these roles or have questions, please email **Rev. Zackrie** at minister@cedarsuuchurch.org

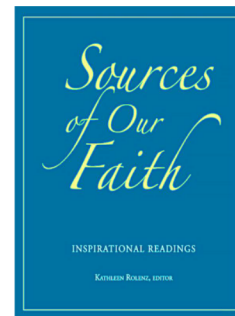
Recording of 1/23 Service Now Available!

The 1/23 service, "The Minimum Wage Machine," is now available on YouTube. It can be accessed by clicking [here](#).



The Minimum Wage Machine

Sunday Service
1.23.2022



Sources of Our Faith: Spiritual Reflection Group

Starting in February through May, the Cedars Community is invited to join Rev. Zackrie for a regular time of reflection on the sources of our

Unitarian Universalist faith. This gathering will take place twice a week on zoom and is a time for participants to engage in thoughtful reflection on a variety of readings found in the book "[Sources of Our Faith: Inspirational Readings](#)," written by Kathleen Rolenz.

Folks should feel free to attend one or all the sessions as your schedule permits. A complete schedule for both sessions of this reflection group can be found below.

Thursdays @ 10am and Saturdays @ 2pm on the following dates:

3/3 & 3/5
3/10 & 3/12
3/24 & 3/26
4/7 & 4/9
4/14 & 4/16
4/21 & 4/23
5/5 & 5/7
5/12 & 5/14
5/26 & 5/28

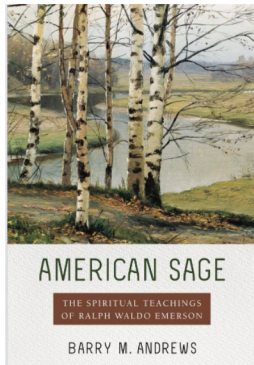
For more information (or if you need help purchasing a copy of the book), please contact

This group is meeting on zoom from 2-3:30
p.m. on the following date:
February 19th

Evans Reading Group

We invite you to
join us on Tuesday
March 8th at 1:30
p.m.

Seeking "Salvation
by Bibliography" as
our late friend
Marvin Evans used
to say, we meet to
discuss books that can intrigue and might
enlighten us.



Our March selection is *American Sage - The
Spiritual Teachings of Ralph Waldo
Emerson*, the latest title by Cedars member
Barry Andrews (who can also provide copies
for sale).

A review summary: "Even during his lifetime,
Ralph Waldo Emerson was called the Sage of
Concord, a fitting title for this leader of the
American Transcendentalist movement.
Everything that he said and wrote directly
addressed the conduct of life, and
unsurprisingly, he sought to rescue spirituality
from decay, eschewing dry preaching and rote
rituals."

Barry has spent years studying Emerson,
finding wisdom and guidance in his teachings
and practices, and witnessing how the spiritual
lives of others are enriched when they grasp
the many meanings in his work. Based on
scholarship grounded in historical detail, this
enlightening book considers the nineteenth-
century religious and intellectual crosscurrents
that shaped Emerson's worldview to reveal
how his spiritual teachings remain timeless
and modern, universal and uniquely American.

We will discuss the book (via Zoom) on March
8th. For more information contact **Alan
Miller** or **Mary Romeo**.

March Month of Stewardship Gatherings: Hosts Needed

March is Stewardship Month, and we are
focusing on building community. Rather than
our traditional cottage meetings with a
stewardship presentation, we want to
encourage rebuilding community connections
that are the foundation of our congregation.
This year, we are asking for people to host a
gathering, whether in person or online, so that
we can spend some time together and feel the
warmth of community. The only Stewardship
Month commitment of the host is to thank them
for joining the event and remind people to turn

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](#).

Thank you so much for continuing to help our
neighbors in need!

Please contact **Penny Brewer** or **Emily
Mockett** for more information.

Social Action News

**Kitsap Immigration and Assistance Center
has released the following:**

**We are paying close attention to the events
unfolding in Afghanistan.** Like all of you, we
are heartbroken for the human beings caught
in this humanitarian crisis, especially women,
girls and LGBTQ+ Afghans.

**The Puget Sound region will be receiving
an influx of refugees** There are numerous
ways you can help with their resettlement.
Both temporary and long-term housing is an
urgent priority. Additionally, volunteers are
needed to provide host homes, transport
people from the airport, help settle people into
apartments or assist with English language
classes. Donations of household and other
necessities, as well as cash donations are also
needed.

**Here are some committed organizations
that are providing assistance, and all need
volunteers and financial support.**

The International Rescue Committee: This
agency has a webpage with updated on-the-
ground information, wish lists of items to
purchase for "Welcome Kits" ([linked here](#)),
and volunteer opportunities.

World Relief, Seattle: This agency is calling
for volunteers and donations ([linked here](#)) and
has information for the Afghan community as
well as volunteers and partners.

**The Lutheran Immigration and Refugee
Service:** This organization is seeking
volunteers for airport pickups, mentoring,
tutoring, and meal deliveries. They also need
financial donations ([linked here](#)).

Jewish Family Services, Seattle: They have
created an Amazon wish list for household
items and other necessities ([linked here](#)).
other necessities. They are also looking for car

in their pledge forms.

Community events could take any form. Backyard gathering, lunch or dinner, game night, book reading, hike or a myriad of other ideas. These events are the same as many of us have hosted in the past for auctions and fundraisers, but this time there is no upfront donation. Just a reminder to make your annual pledge. All events should follow the [Cedars COVID Safety Protocols](#).

To sign up and host an event, simply fill out this [Online Event Form](#). Your event will be listed among other events where people can sign up to attend. Gather with old friends, make some new ones, and help your congregation regain what makes us so special - our interconnectedness.

For more information, contact Stewardship Chair, **Jeff Philip** philip.jeff@gmail.com

You can be a Climate Changemaker!



Changemakers are energetic, ardent advocates for environmental values making a world-changing difference, especially addressing the challenges of climate change.

Join them in taking an hour per week to call or write friends, utilities, newspapers, and representatives with a bunch of other awesome people. They are present at <https://www.climatechangemakers.org/> and will welcome your joining with them.

For more information contact **Sandy Spears** at Sandy.Spears@att.net

Cedars Creativity Fair 2022

See What Others Have Been Doing To Cope with Social Isolation

Our identity as a congregational community has been weakened by the COVID-19 pandemic, and one response has been to re-imagine virtual versions of the several after-service **Creativity Fairs** that were held in Webster Hall in recent years.

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.

Please join the fun by sharing what you have been doing and enjoy the growing show using the link below!

Cedars Creativity Fair 2022

Thea Peterson says "The Abstract series was started to free myself from representational

seats and are accepting financial donations ([linked here](#)).

Afghan Health Initiative: This group provides access and support for physical/mental health services, as well as direct financial assistance to newly arrived refugees ([linked here](#))

Afghan American Community of Washington: This group provides religious, cultural and social support to the Afghan community while they are adapting to American society ([linked here](#)).

Miles4Migrants accepts donated airline frequent flyer miles, credit card points and cash to help people reunite with loved ones or resettle in a new country after fleeing their own country imperiled by war, persecution or disaster ([linked here](#)).

Contact **Penny Brewer** for more information.

Car Magnet Fundraiser

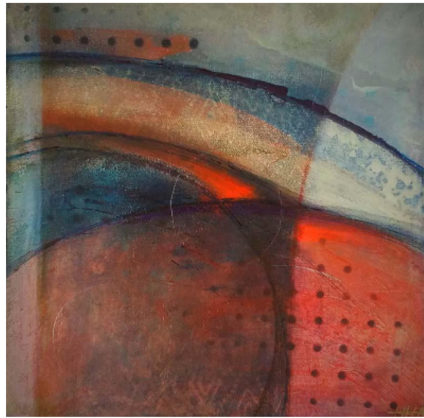


Make a special donation to Cedars and receive a Cedars UU Church car magnet. Donate \$25 or more via cash, check or PayPal – one magnet may be yours for every \$25. Display your magnet(s) to help people know about our welcoming spiritual community, and to help Cedars grow.

To donate in person by cash or check and pick up your car magnet(s) at the same time, visit Jane Martin at Cedars Center on Mondays 2-4 pm. If donating by a mailed-in check, write the number of magnets you want in the "Memo" line at the bottom left of your check. If you decide to donate \$100, but want only one car magnet, just write "one magnet" on the Memo line. If using PayPal through the Donate button on Cedars' website, select the "Car Magnet Event" donation option. Every \$25 donation transaction you make will appear on our PayPal report so we know how many magnets to set aside for you.

If you cannot pick up your pre-ordered magnet(s), email **Jane** at janemartin4569@gmail.com and she will mail it/them to you. Thank you for your continued support of our beloved Cedars community.

painting. In the process I found I very much enjoyed the way people view and feel about abstract art. I like not having to tell a story, but having a story told to me."



Join us Tomorrow for a Cedars Hike!

Come join Rod Kempkes and Mike Cox for a hike up Green Mountain on Saturday February 12th. The hike is around 6 miles roundtrip with a 1000 foot elevation gain.

See the link below for a description of the hike (<https://www.wta.org/go-hiking/hikes/green-mountain-1>).

If you are interested please contact **Mike Cox** at toxman57@gmail.com or call 206-799-3725 to discuss.



Join the Pastoral Care Team

Caring for one another is a core Unitarian practice, and the Cedars Pastoral Care Team is central to this ministry. We can offer a listening presence, connection, and hope to members of our Cedars community in times of need. We send cards, make phone calls, provide information resources and support family and friends who are caregivers.

The Team meets just once a month with our minister. We are now expanding the Team, and we would love to have you join us.

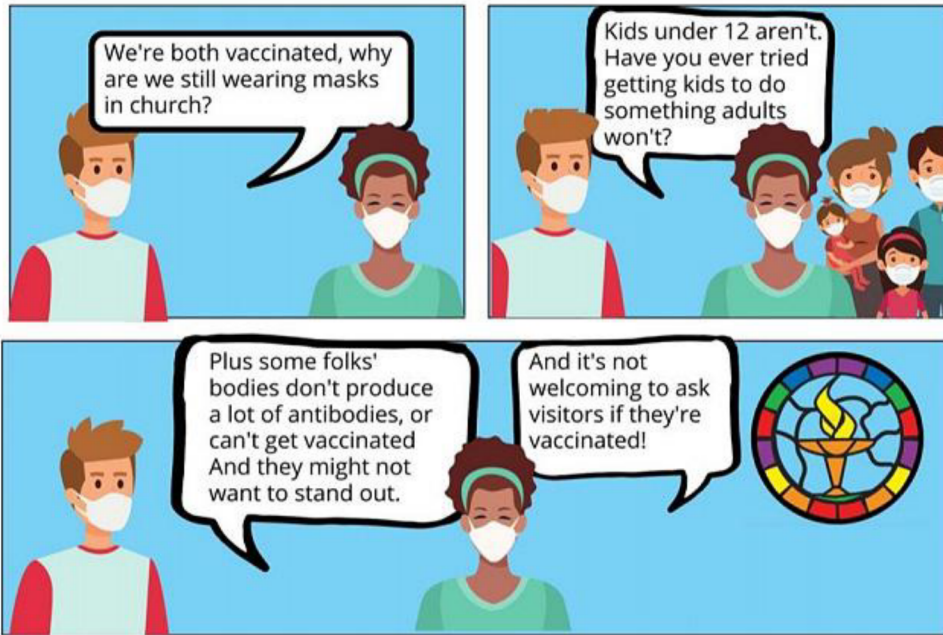
For more information about the Pastoral Care Team, please contact our office administrator, Carolyn Kerns at office@cedarsuuchurch.org.

Pastoral Care Concerns

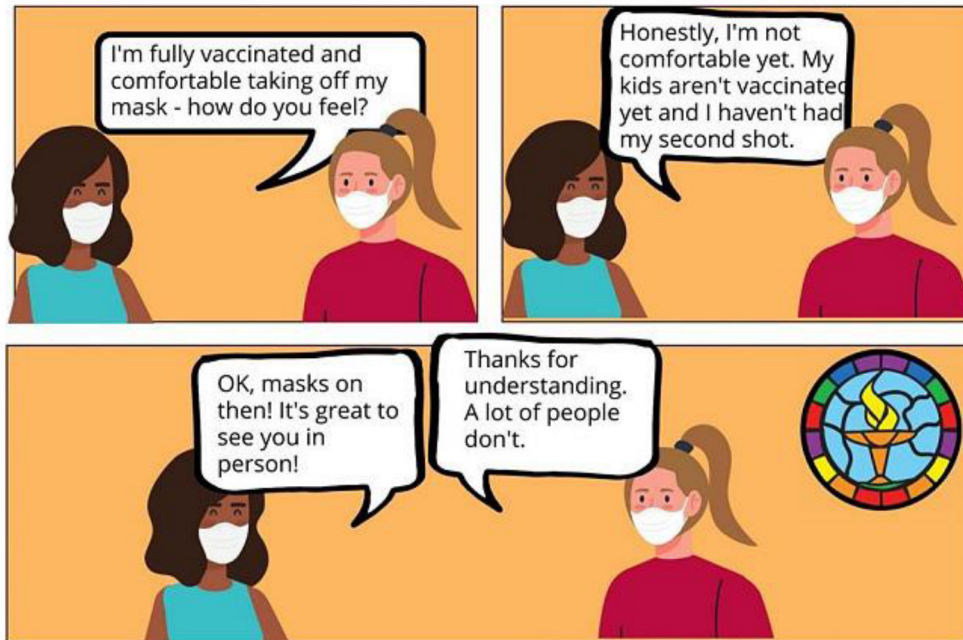
In discussion with the Pastoral Care Team, **Rev. Zackrie** confirmed that he would appreciate being informed if anyone in the Cedars community tests positive for Covid-19.

The information will remain confidential if the person so wishes, but Rev. Zackrie's awareness could help with contact tracing as well as determining what support and possible services could be offered by Pastoral Care Team members and perhaps the larger Cedars UU community as well.

MASKS IN CHURCH?



CONSENT: MASK EDITION!



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

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

Rev. Zackrie Vinczen, Minister

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

Faith Formation Lead (Position Vacant)
faith.formation@cedarsuuchurch.org

Bainbridge Island WA 98110
(206) 780-0373

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 \(website\)](#)

