

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 25 / June 24, 2022

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Upcoming Services

The Deal on Those Days

Sunday June 26th

9:30 a.m.

Virtual UUA General Assembly Service

Rev. Gretchen Haley, with the assistance
of **Revs. Sean Neil-Barron** and **Shari
Halliday-Quan**

This Sunday, the Cedars community will be gathering on Zoom for our Sunday Service so that we can connect with those gathered at the General Assembly in Portland – **Please note the 9:30 a.m. start time**

Blessing of the Animals

Sunday July 3rd

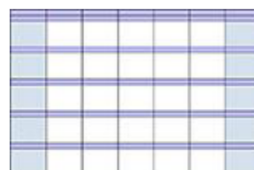
10:00 a.m.

In-Person Service behind Webster Hall

Rev. Zackjrie Vinczen
Nancy Philip, Worship Associate

Our annual ceremony will celebrate the non-humans in our lives. Especially, we will honor and bless our pets, those who share our days and homes, then we will include those other individual beings that share our neighborhoods and 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.

Sunday June 26th

9:30 a.m.

Virtual UUA General Assembly Service

[Sunday Service Link](#)

Virtual Coffee Hour Immediately following

[Zoom Participation Link](#)

Tuesday June 28th

7:00 p.m. Climate Smart Challenge

[Zoom Participation Link](#)

News and Announcements

UUA General Assembly

For our Sunday Service this week, we will gather on Zoom so that our Cedars community can join virtually with those gathered at the General



Our Congregational Mission

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

Assembly in Portland. The service promises to offer thoughtful and hopeful reflection on our currently challenging present.

The last few years have not been easy for our local congregations. Whole swaths of members have simply stopped coming; COVID is confusing and polarizing; many ministers have joined the great resignation; and PEW studies and friends alike have pronounced the end of the local church.

In this moment, when so many of us might be wondering if we should just give up and relent, now's the time instead to double down on our commitment to the local church -- this unique community that saves us and also breaks our hearts -- often much more of the latter than we'd like to admit. In the midst of our culture of death, the church is a place of life, as long as we are willing to bring our own lives to it.

Join us for a morning of celebration, witness, and future-visioning for the already and not yet power of the local Unitarian Universalist church.

There will be time for conversation following the service during our virtual coffee hour. To access this please use [this link](#).



2015 Portland GA Worship service.

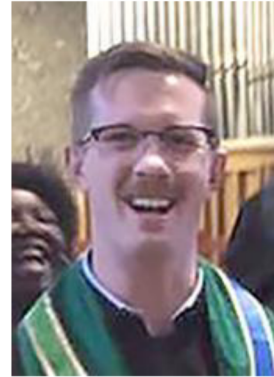
Safe Gatherings at Cedars

With care, but also some comfort in the recognition that covid-related constraints are being monitored for guidance in seating arrangement and separation, mask wearing, and room ventilation, we are continuing to seek the familiar accommodation and settings of our past presence in Webster Hall. Our seating arrangements have evolved from six feet of separation between seat pairs or family groups, to more flexible separation, and our service presence and participation will also now respond to safety guidelines released by COVIDactnow.org as follow: Kitsap County has seen an uptick in Covid spread and is now in the "Yellow" rating zone. This means we request that people mask when in groups and at Sunday Services. We know masking is one of the most effective protections for yourself and others nearby.

You can check the Kitsap County Health Department's tracking online at covidactnow.org or the CDC link at [this link](#) to track Kitsap County numbers.



Cedars UU Church is a Welcoming Congregation and Green Sanctuary



Rev. Zackrie Vinczen

Tribute to Brian Leekley

Brian James Scott

Leekley passed peacefully on Monday, June 13, 2022 at Bainbridge Island, WA. A teacher, life-long activist and gifted writer, Brian devoted his talents, heart and soul to social justice. Brian was born on May 30, 1942 in Minneapolis, Minnesota to Richard and Evelyn Kohanek Leekley.



Growing up in Chicago, he was endlessly curious with a boundless imagination which nurtured his lifelong passion for storytelling, writing and books. Always gracious, kind and giving, Brian is loved by so many.

He earned a Bachelors of Creative Writing and Literature from Knox College and Master of Library Science from Western Ontario University. In 1964 during the civil rights movement, he joined SNCC Students of Non-Violent Coordinating Committee and traveled to Greenville, Mississippi where he joined the historical efforts for voter registration during Freedom Summer. A Chicago public high school teacher, anti-war pacifist, environmentalist, and champion of equality and workers' rights, Brian devoted his life to helping those in need. His life's mantra was "Doing good well is best." After his father's death in 1976, Brian ran the Leekley Rare Bookshop in Winthrop Harbor in partnership with his mother, Evelyn. After she suffered a stroke, Brian was her loving companion and care-giver for 20 years.

A long-time member of the Unitarian

Vaccinations are also proven ways to both avoid getting sick or to severely lessen the virulence of the virus. Our hearts go out to our community members who cannot get vaccines or boosters due to medical issues—all the more reason for the rest of us to practice safe behaviors to protect them, such as getting vaccinated and boosted if medically possible.

Let's not only talk-the-talk, let's walk-the-walk by what we say in unison on Sundays: let's "treat all people kindly because we are one family." **Your Cedars Board of Trustees**



Enjoy New Cedars Center Activities

Game Night at Cedars Center is now being planned as a new opportunity for all-ages congregational fun by **Archer Philip**. The inaugural session is scheduled for Friday, July 1st, from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. Light snacks and refreshments will also be provided.

Song Circle, another Cedars Center activity, is being planned for Thursday, July 7th, from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.

If you enjoy singing, but have come across a UU hymn that you found challenging, then Archer invites you to join others for an hour of singing from our ***Singing the Living Tradition*** and ***Singing the Journey*** with both hymnals provided. Come and sing our living tradition!



UU Camp in the Pacific Northwest

The Eliot Institute holds four multi-day inter-generational camps each year for members and friends of Unitarian Universalist congregations at the Seabeck Conference Center in the Pacific Northwest.

For three of Eliot's camps, there is a morning program on topics that range from spiritual growth, social justice, environmental issues, and the arts. Programs for youth and children run concurrently with the adult morning program. Afternoons and evenings are filled with traditional camp activities. Our fourth camp, Creative Arts Eliot, features workshops

Universalist Church, Brian continued his journey of faith with Cedars Unitarian Universalist Church of Bainbridge Island in 2018. He is preceded by his brother Guy Leekley and survived by his sister Avon Leekley (Michael), brother John Leekley (Rebekah), niece Lura Bickford, nephew Mark Leekley (Julie) and many great nieces, nephews and friends.



Parent Chalice Circle

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 typically meet on the second Sunday of the month and utilize the UU Principles as touchstones and reference points for exploration.

Contact **Cory Munson** for more information.

Evans Reading Group

We invite you to join us on Tuesday July 12th (revised date) 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.

Writing by Transcendentalist Margaret Fuller was suggested as the group's next focus, and the collected work edited by Cedars' own Barry Andrews and published by the UUA's Skinner House as "***The Spirit Leads -- Margaret Fuller In Her Own Words***" was selected.

Presenting quotations from Margaret Fuller's letters, journals, and published writings preceded by a biographical introduction to Margaret Fuller's life and work, the quotations have been arranged in thematic sections inviting the reader to engage directly with the ideas of this nineteenth-century public intellectual, progressive social theorist, and pioneering feminist and to explore how her thoughts resonate today.

We will discuss the book via Zoom on July 12th. For more information contact **Alan Miller** or **Mary Romeo**.

Climate

led by artists instead of a speaker.

Visit our [website](#) to learn more and read about specific **camp descriptions and dates**. Seabeck Conference Center has a variety of **housing options**. Proof of vaccination is required by Eliot Institute and there are **scholarship funds** available. If you have questions, you can contact our administrator, Bev Hesterberg at eliotregistrar@gmail.com.

Come relax, grow and connect with others on the beautiful 90-acre campus in Seabeck, Washington, with sweeping views of Hood Canal and the Olympic Mountains. We would love to have you join us!



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](#)

A Significant Accomplishment

Cedars friend **Emily Mockett** has now begun to embrace a new identity as an interfaith/interspiritual minister, following training and ordination under auspices of the seminary program of the OneSpirit Learning Alliance.

Change: Time for Action



Bainbridge Island is working to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 25% by 2025, and to help achieve this goal, the City of Bainbridge Island has launched the **BI Climate Smart Challenge** and you can help too!

We have scheduled two opportunities to come together to discuss the Challenge and how we as a congregation can work individually and collectively to reduce our carbon footprint.

Tuesday June 28th and Wednesday July 6th 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm

[Zoom Link](#)

Meeting ID: 929 048 2386

Phone if Needed: 253-215-8782

Prior to the meetings we are asking that you click on the link below and sign up for the Challenge. After you sign up you will be asked to answer several questions that will help you to determine your carbon footprint. You can then look at specific actions you can take to reduce that footprint.

[Sign Up Link](#)

Come join us as we come together to do our part in addressing the climate emergency.

If you have questions, please contact **Mike Cox** (toxman57@gmail.com) or 206-799-3725.

Cedars Monthly Potluck

Our monthly potlucks are family friendly events held at members' homes.

July's potluck will be on Saturday, July 16th at Nancy and Jeff Philip's home located at **19891 Mosjon Circle NE, Poulsbo, WA 98370** from 5:30pm to 8:30pm. If weather permits, it will be held around their large outside fire pit space, otherwise on their covered outdoor deck area and indoors with ventilation. Please bring a dish to share (main dish, dessert, salad, appetizer, ...). Bring your own beverage and consider carpooling and bringing your own plates/utensils. Parking is available in their neighborhood.

For more information or if you are interested in hosting a potluck contact Carolyn Kempkes at eckempkes@icloud.com.

Order Your Social Justice T-Shirt

The Cedars Social Justice Committee is ordering t-shirts for us to wear when participating in work parties and local events. This will give us greater visibility as we strive to live our values in the greater community.



The Rev(erent) Emily Jane, as she now identifies herself, announced her transition in the sharing of this special poem:

Always and Never

I am always and never in Church—
I am not a Christian yet I am Love,
I am not a Buddhist yet I am impermanence,
I am not a Hindu yet I am a forest dweller,
I am not a Jew yet I am a spark of light,
I am not a Taoist yet I am water,
I am not a Muslim yet I am beauty;
There is a part of me inside all of those well worn paths,
each have stacked a cairn for me on the rocky cliff when my unique path has dissolved into the earth.
And I take one more surrendered step knowing I'm never alone
in the trees,
in the mountains,
in the river of Life.

Blessed be.

Rev(erent) Emily Jane
interfaith/interspiritual minister
Many paths...One Spirit

Join the Tech Team!

Do you have an interest in technology, sound systems and/or video live-streaming technology? The Tech Team will be in dire need of more help starting in July. We would love to have you join us! We will train you and you will be working with nice and enthusiastic people!

Contact **Carolyn Kempkes** (ecrkempkes@icloud.com) if you would like to volunteer or to learn more about what the Team does.

Shirts will be short sleeved, white, and made of cotton or cotton blend. Men's shirts are crewneck, sizes S-4XL. Women's are V-neck, sizes XS-4XL. We are also offering youth crewneck shirts, sizes XS-XL.

Please click on [this link](#) to place an order.

Orders will be taken until July 22nd and received 2-3 weeks after.

Serving Justice with Compassion,
The Cedars Social Justice Committee



Join the Snake River Savers!

Are you interested in protecting the Southern Resident orcas, the Chinook salmon they rely on, or stopping our government from spending billions of taxpayer money on destroying an ecosystem? Join our team of passionate, motivated, and initiative-taking volunteers - the Snake River Savers. We are part of a big group that is advocating for the removal of the 50 year old lower Snake River dams.



Fill out this brief form to let us know your interests and we'll be in contact shortly!

[Form Link](#)

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

Pastoral Care

The Pastoral Care team is looking for volunteers to help support our community through times of need by preparing meals, providing phone companionship, or offering rides. As such we are putting out a call to the Cedars community to solicit names of people who are willing to help with these efforts.

If this is something you would be willing to assist with, please take a moment to fill out our [Pastoral Care Volunteer Interest Form](#).

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

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** or **Emily Mockett** for more information.



team know how we can be of support.

For more information about this effort please contact Rev. Zackrie at minister@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.

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
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)

Archer Philip

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

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