

# 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 36 / September 9, 2022

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

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

## Upcoming Services

### Water Ceremony

**Sunday September 11th**  
**10:00 a.m.**  
**In-Person Service in Webster Hall**

**Rev Zackrie Vinczen**  
**Nancy Philip, Worship Associate**

Each year the Cedars Community gathers together to reflect on our connection to water and each other.

We hope that you will join us for this annual tradition by bringing a small sample of water from your home to pour into our common vessel.

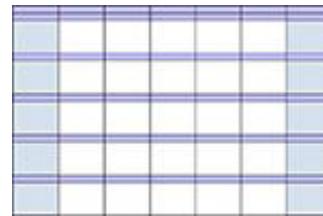
### Nuclear Disarmament

**Sunday September 18th**  
**10:00 a.m.**  
**In-Person Service in Webster Hall**

**Rev Senji Kenaeda & Rev Gilberto Z. Perez**

During this service, representatives from the Nipposan Myohoji Buddhist Temple will be sharing their commitment to nuclear disarmament and how this stand is rooted in their Buddhist faith.

### 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 September 10th**  
**5:30 p.m. Cedars Monthly Potluck**

**Sunday September 11th**  
**10:00 a.m.**  
**In-Person Service in Webster Hall**  
**[Live-Stream Service Link](#)**  
**Social Hour Immediately following**

**7:00 p.m.**  
**Parent Chalice Circle**

**Tuesday September 13th**  
**1:30 p.m. Evans Reading Group**  
**[Zoom Participation Link](#)**

## News and Announcements



### Cedars Board News

#### Looking Into The New Church Year

On July 30th, the new Board of Trustees joined last year's Trustees and

Rev. Zackrie to look at the coming year in a brainstorming session facilitated by Jill

### Our Congregational Mission

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

Bamburg. Examining our current Strengths, Weaknesses, Threats, and Opportunities, we were able to identify some of the challenges we have faced as well as many ways we can thrive in the year ahead.

Reverend Sarah Schurr from the UUA's Congregational Life Staff joined us by conference call to share the status of other UU congregations. The bottom line was that most are struggling as we emerge from COVID Pandemic restrictions, financially as well as in membership. We learned that those who are doing better than most have remained nimble, mission focused, and have embraced an attitude of radical hospitality. The time with Rev. Schurr had a noticeable effect on everyone, because we now know that we are not alone, and that there are things we can do to revitalize our congregation.

Jill facilitated a discussion of priorities we could highlight in the coming year, with a Year of Social Justice emerging as an energizing effort that could bring us together to make a difference in our community, provide opportunities for intergenerational activities, and attract new people to our congregation.

Focusing on Social Justice is a core component of our congregational mission statement: *"Worship with open hearts, Nurture a learning spirit, **Serve Justice with Compassion, and Love without judgment**".* There is clearly a desire in our broader community to also serve justice with compassion, and highlighting Social Justice could be a means of drawing in those people to join our good works.

After lunch, the new Board of Trustees met for an official meeting. We elected officers: **Jeff Philip (President), Dean Sampson (Vice President), Herb Hethcote (Treasurer), Andrea Barnes (Secretary), and Rod Kempkes (Member at Large)**. We also identified an immediate need to address our financial status in the coming year, acknowledging that we are currently relying on our reserve fund, which will only get us through this year and part of next year at the current pledge rate.

We came away from the retreat recognizing that we have challenges ahead, but also that Cedars Unitarian Church has a long history of enduring hard times and coming out on the other side filled with purpose and hope and love.

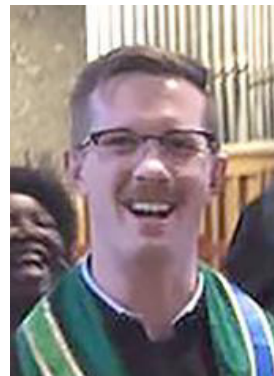
### **Seeking Member Feedback on Church Finances**

In June, the Cedars congregation approved a budget for the 2022-23 Church Year. With a pandemic impacted and smaller congregation, we recognized that maintaining the same level of service to ourselves and the broader community would be challenging. To pull us through the coming year, the members of Cedars approved a budget that relies on use of Operating Reserves to make up the difference between our recorded pledges and the approved budget. The Board of Trustees



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

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**Rev. Zackrie Vinczen**

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### **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.

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### **Cedars Monthly Potluck**

**Our monthly potlucks are family friendly events!**

**September's potluck will be on Saturday, September 10th at the Cedars Center** located at 284 Madrona Way NE, #128, Bainbridge Island, WA 98110-2870 from 5:30pm to 8:30pm. The potluck will be held in the large outdoor area behind the Center as weather permits. Please bring a dish to share (main dish, dessert, salad, appetizer, ...). Bring your own beverage and consider carpooling and bringing your own plates/utensils. For parking information please see our Parking Guide.

For more information or if you are also interested in hosting a potluck contact **Carolyn or Rod Kempkes**

asked people to step up with additional gifts to help us through the coming year.

Operating Reserves estimated to be \$81.4K ended up being \$71.7K at the end of June. Several people stepped forward with additional pledges of \$3,000, a very generous act for each of them. With the current budget shortfall of \$48K, we would significantly reduce our reserves by the end of the year.

The Board of Trustees is interested in feedback from Cedars members on how to proceed with the coming year. There are steps we can take to reduce our overall expenses, and the Board would like the input of the membership to guide decisions that affect our finances and how we operate. An option in consideration is to change our staff expenses.

Each member household has received an email with an online survey asking for your thoughts on how to proceed. Each member in a household is encouraged to respond to the survey. The survey will close on September 17. We truly appreciate your thoughts on ensuring Cedars UU Church fulfills our Mission while continuing to operate in a fiscally responsible manner.

### Your Cedars Board of Trustees

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### Safe Gatherings at Cedars

Our congregation values using sound science and following advice of health agencies to adapt our safety guidelines to the changing status of the COVID-19 virus. You may find our current **COVID Safety Guidelines on the Cedars Website**. It now includes the current Community Risk Level and a table describing what precautions we are implementing for indoor gatherings. We are currently at GREEN, meaning Masking is optional, but Masks are required when singing.

The Cedars Board of Trustees has also decided to no longer require vaccinations at gatherings, though we do ask that all unvaccinated individuals wear masks and maintain appropriate physical distancing at all times. Community vaccination rates in Kitsap County are now at 80% and we know that a few people at Cedars have not been able to obtain vaccines. Our gathering precautions include social and physical distancing and increased ventilation at the current Community Risk Level.

The people at Cedars UU Church care deeply about each other and the community we have built together. We trust that each person will act responsibly to protect themselves and others using masks, distancing, and other precautions. Following these guidelines will allow more people to gather and join in experiences safely.

We are all in this together, and as we say in unison on Sundays: let's "treat all people kindly because we are one family."

at eckempkes@icloud.com.

### Special Collection for September

Cedars holds a monthly Special Collection 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.

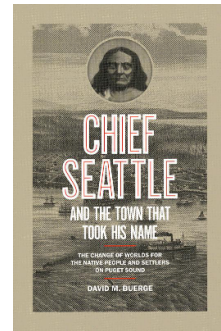
Church World Service (CWS) is a faith-based organization transforming communities around the globe through just and sustainable responses to fight poverty and hunger. On Sunday the 18th of September we will be collecting donations in support of their **CROP Hunger Walk**.

Our donations will mean a lot in communities that CWS is assisting. For example, it only takes \$100 to fund a community farming workshop, \$50 will provide enough chickens for two families, and \$18 will provide seeds for a community garden. Please consider donating what you can to this cause.

### Evans Reading Group

We invite you to join us

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 current selection, proposed by Richard Wilson, is **Chief Seattle and the Town that took his name** by David Buerge.

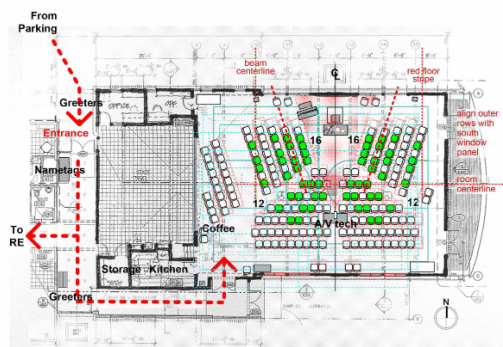
Historian Buerge has assembled disparate accounts of the time from the 1780's to the 1860s—including native oral histories, Hudson's Bay Company records, pioneer diaries, and historic newspaper reporting to tell the story of an era of tremendous flux, turmoil, and violence during which a Native American war leader became an advocate for peace and strove to create a successful racial hybrid community.

We will discuss the book (via Zoom) at 1:30 pm on September 13th. For more information contact **Alan Miller** or **Mary Romeo**.

### Elder Spiritual Study Group

Calling all Crones, Sages, Elders, and Seniors. Are you interested in a study group on the subject of

Current Webster Hall arrangement (in green)



## 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

Emily Mockett appreciates our seasonal gifts in a poem she notes is "poetryasprayer":

#### BLACKBERRIES

Blackberries are the bittersweet  
Ending to every summer here  
Looming large with their sugar  
Swollen thimble offering  
Is the quickening of Fall's arrival

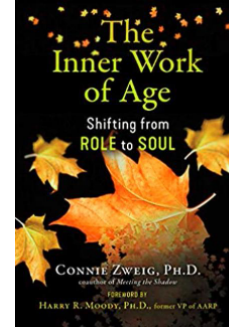
The unusual humidity today  
Fools my body into slowness  
Yet the turning of time persists—  
Twirling in the thickness of Summer's  
crescendo

We have enough berries  
To make pie now with scratched skin  
And stained fingers,  
Yet it is my mama heart that aches  
With purpling plumps of bittersweetness

My curious boy who climbs, cooks,  
creates, and connects anything  
Will be going back to school without  
Sleeping at home anymore

The protective thicket of our home

Spiritual Aging? Donna Moore and Johanna Munson are starting such a group in the fall. Using The Inner Work of Age: Shifting from Role to Soul by Connie Zweig, Ph. D. as a guide, we will explore the inner obstacles and embrace the hidden spiritual gifts of aging.



Psychotherapist and bestselling author Connie Zweig uses inner work to uncover and explore our unconscious denial and resistance to aging. "Reclaim your creativity and allow mortality to be a teacher." Woven throughout with wisdom from such prominent elders as Ken Wilber, and Rabbi Rami Shapiro, the text shows ways to embrace a fulfilling late life.

You've filled out your Advance Directive forms, posted your POLST and written your Will, now what do you do? (If you haven't done these vital tasks, contact Johanna at [johanna@johannamunson.com](mailto:johanna@johannamunson.com)!) Sit and wait for the Grim Reaper? Not very UU of you. Obviously, we have to have one last discussion group.

#### Details:

4 sessions, every other week, held on Zoom—no charge

**Time/Dates:** Wednesdays 1-2:30pm,  
September 28, October 12, October 26,  
November 9

- The book can be purchased at Eagle Harbor Book Company for 20% off, or online
- Participants are encouraged to actively engage in reflection and discussion, and will need a journal to respond to practices offered in the book.

Contact **Carolyn Kerns** in the Cedars office at [office@cedarsuuchurch.com](mailto:office@cedarsuuchurch.com) to register.

**The previous email address was incorrect. If you have already registered, please do so again. We apologize for the mix up.**

## 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 team know how we can be of support.



Yields now to the fruit of the world  
It is for him to climb out to the ends  
Of thorny branches;  
To grow mightily under a Sun of his choosing!

I will make One more summer pie  
Knowing he can enjoy my recipe  
Without needing me  
To nourish him any longer  
To Savor without needing to be Saved!

Blessed be.  
reverent emilyjane



For more information about this effort please  
contact Rev. Zackrie at  
[minister@cedarsuuchurch.org](mailto:minister@cedarsuuchurch.org)

## Public Waste Collection

Don't store those unused and unwanted chemicals any longer. Before you pack things away for fall, look for any unused insecticide, herbicides or other chemicals.

Fortunately, for our safety, Kitsap County will collect select household and lawn/garden chemicals for safe disposal at a household chemical collection event on Saturday, September 17th from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 7305 NE Hidden Cove Road on Bainbridge Island. Details are available [here](#).

Bring any accepted items to our North Kitsap event and enjoy the extra space on your shelves!

Additionally, styrofoam seems to effortlessly gather in our garages and similarly unsupervised domestic spaces as a byproduct of product packaging and package deliveries. The consequent challenge we face is how to dispose of it without littering our environment or wastefully overfilling our landfills.

Fortunately, Kitsap County is also planning a free styrofoam collection event for Fall 2022. Full event details are still being arranged, but will be posted at the same website given above.

## Print the Beacon Newsletter

The Beacon is available to download and print each week. Go to [www.cedarsuuchurch.org](http://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](mailto:minister@cedarsuuchurch.org)  
For an urgent matter, call (360) 930-9339 (Pastoral Care)

### Archer Philip

#### Faith Formation Lead

[faith.formation@cedarsuuchurch.org](mailto: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](mailto:office@cedarsuuchurch.org)

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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](#).

