

# 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 50 / December 16, 2022

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

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

## Upcoming Services

### Winter Solstice

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

**Rev Zackrie Vinczen**  
**Gregory Cook, Worship Associate**

The winter solstice represents the point in the year when our side of the planet begins to turn back to the light, bringing with it longer days and signs of new life.

Join us for this service as we commemorate the returning of the light to the world.

### Lessons and Carols

**Christmas Eve**  
**Saturday December 24th**

**4:00 p.m. at the Austin-Kvelstad Pavilion on Poulsbo's waterfront.**

**Rev Zackrie Vinczen**  
**Johanna Munson, Worship Associate**

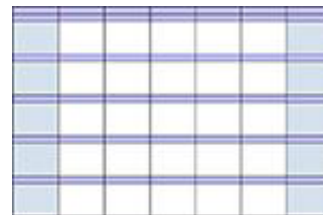
This year, Cedars will gather for a Lessons and Carols Christmas Eve service

This will be a time for reflection, singing, and fellowship as we consider the wisdom of the Christmas narrative.

**Christmas Day**  
**Sunday December 25th**

**2:00 p.m. Gathering at Cedars Center**

### 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 December 17th**  
**5:30 – 8:30 p.m.**  
**Family Movie Night (starting with pizza)**

**Sunday December 18th**  
**10:00 a.m.**  
**In-Person Service in Webster Hall**  
**[Live-Stream Service Link](#)**  
**Coffee hour immediately following**

**Tuesday December 20th**  
**7:00 p.m. Board Meeting at Cedars Center**



## News and Announcements

**Holiday Season is Here.**  
**Be safe and kind.**

We are well into the Holiday Season, with

**Our Congregational Mission**

*Worship with open hearts*

Hanukkah, Solstice, Christmas, Kwanzaa and New Year just around the corner. I wish you and those around you blessings as the days get shorter, and time together becomes more special.

For some, this time of year brings people together from far and near to celebrate and enjoy good food. For others, it is a time spent alone. For most of us, we will see many people bustling about in stores and on sidewalks. And with that comes a higher chance of exposure to flu or COVID viruses. Kitsap County Health Officials have issued a notice to take extra precautions to protect yourselves and others by masking, washing your hands and maintaining distancing. I am thankful for our public servants who are watching the trends and encouraging safe gatherings.

At Cedars, we are asking that people mask up indoors. While not a requirement, we hope you will consider how you can protect yourself and others. And, maybe even make a phone call or send a card to someone and remind them how important they are. Spread a little light and joy this holiday season.

**Jeff Philip, Board President**

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### Christmas Eve Service Donation

At our Christmas Eve Service gathering, Cedars will collect donations of **new** socks, underwear and pajamas (all sizes) for women and children. These will be donated to the **YWCA Alive Shelter** which is dedicated to ensuring the personal safety, rights, welfare, and dignity of those who experience domestic abuse while building partnerships and increasing community awareness to create positive social change. For more information, [visit their website](#).

If you are unable to attend the Christmas Eve gathering but would like to donate, there will be a donation box at the Cedars office where items can be dropped off during the month of December between the hours of 10-5 Tuesday through Friday. For more information, contact [Carol Ann Davidson](#).

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### Safe Gatherings at Cedars

#### Advising Extra Caution to Prevent Viral Flu Spread

Health officials are urging caution ahead of the winter holidays, with respiratory illnesses spreading widely throughout the region.

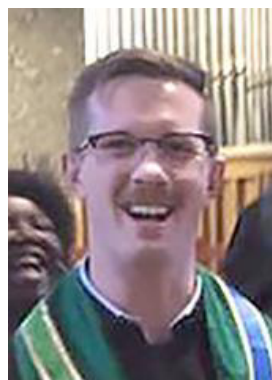
In Kitsap County, **data indicate influenza (flu)** activity has increased rapidly in recent weeks. **RSV (respiratory syncytial virus)** activity remains high, but could be leveling off. COVID-19 **continues to circulate**, with 181 new positive tests reported last week. In light of this advice, Cedars encourages people to wear masks for indoor, in person gatherings. And remember to get your annual

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



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

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**Rev. Zackrie Vinczen**

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### Thank You Archer Philip

Nine months ago, Cedars embarked upon an experiment and merged two staff positions into one. This experiment brought us Archer Philip as our Faith Formation Lead/Music Coordinator. Since Archer joined our staff team we have benefited from his presence with us. He has created moments of fun and reverence and helped foster a sense of community here at Cedars.

In recent conversations, Archer and I spent time reflecting on how things are going in his role. From these conversations we learned that the scope of job responsibilities is perhaps too broad for one person to hold successfully.

This was a hard realization to come to. All of us wanted this arrangement to work out, but after further conversation we reached the conclusion that the experiment has run its course. Below is a note from Archer to the congregation as well as details about what comes next for Cedars.

– Rev. Zackrie Vinczen

*I have found tremendous joy working for Cedars, and I am happy that I have grown closer to the wonderful people in this congregation. The positions I was hired for carry many responsibilities that I have had trouble balancing in my time with you all. I am grateful for the opportunity to work in this field,*

flu vaccine and COVID booster. A shot in the arm is better than a week in bed.

**Stay safe, everyone!**

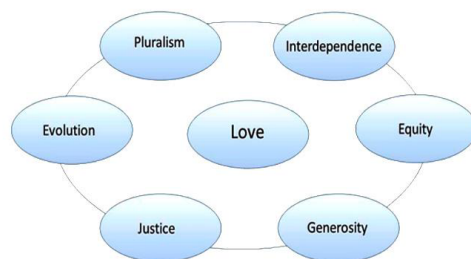
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## UUA Reviewing Principles and Purposes

For decades, the Unitarian Universalist Association has focused our efforts around the seven principles and six sources, as described in the UUA Bylaws Article II. Last updated in 1987, they are periodically reviewed to see if they continue to reflect who we are and encourage us to strive for a better world.

In 2017, discussions around adding an 8th principle focused on anti-racism began at General Assembly. This year a special commission is reviewing article 2, and have prepared a draft revision. This new revision does not use the seven or eight principle approach, but a different method of reflecting our values. You can learn more at this website:

**Article II Study Commission | UUA.org**



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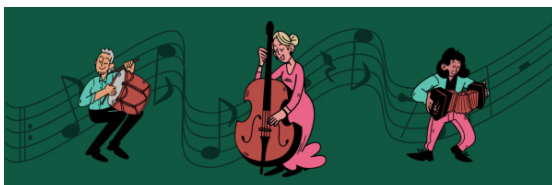
## Community Loaves

We are partnering with Community Loaves, an organization that strives to nurture strong communities through the connection, training, and empowerment of home-based bakers to reduce hunger and promote wellness.



We will be collecting loaves on Sunday December 18th as well as baking cookies after the service. Dough and cookie cutters will be provided. Stay after to help cut out dough with the congregation!

If you are interested or have questions, please contact **Mike Cox** at [toxman57@gmail.com](mailto:toxman57@gmail.com) or 206-799-3725.



*but now I will be stepping down to reinvest in myself and find my new path moving forward.*

*The future may hold returning to school and finding my grounding in a new field. This experience has taught me many valuable lessons that I will carry with me wherever it is that I decide to go. The future is bright for Cedars with so many committed and talented folks working for a better world. Even though I am leaving, this does not change the love I hold for this community. Thank you for everything Cedars!*

– Archer Philip

## What's next?

The board and I recognize that having staff to support our Music and Faith Formation efforts is important to revitalizing Cedars. In the coming weeks we will be in conversation about how to move forward filling these roles.

Beyond that, I hope that each of you will take time in the coming weeks to thank Archer for all he has done at Cedars, as we prepare to send him off to his next adventure.

Archer's last day will be January 10th, 2023, plans for a community celebration for Archer are underway. Be on the lookout for those details in the coming days.

– Rev. Zackrie Vinczen

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## 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:

[A Firemist and a Planet \(#343\)](#)

[Winter Solstice Chant \(#1063\)](#)

[The Fire of Commitment \(#1028\)](#)

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## Chalice Saplings

**When:** Dec. 18th

Chalice Saplings is a space for any children attending Sunday Service. Facilitated by Faith Formation Lead Archer Philip and volunteers, this time and space is where children can experience their own form of worship through activity-based learning. There will be a chalice lighting, check ins, and a different activity every session.

All facilitators of Chalice Saplings are vetted with a background check. If you are interested in having your child/children participate, there will be a form to fill out when you arrive on Sunday at the door. You may also contact **Archer Philip** at

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

## 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.

## 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](mailto: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](http://uuworld.org) in an expanded presentation.

## Cedars Creativity Fair 2022

### See What Others Have Been Doing

Our identity as a congregational community is strengthened by the activities and gatherings

information and a copy of the form.



## Family Movie Night

### You are invited!

Come and enjoy a great opportunity to engage with other families in your Cedars community! Faith Formation lead Archer Philip is hosting a family movie night!

**When:** Saturday, December 17th 5:30pm-8:30pm

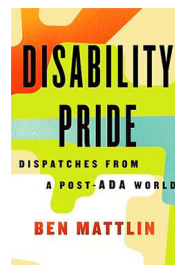
**Where:** The Stokes Home (4255 Sorrel Way NE, Bainbridge Island)  
For holiday season fun, we will gather for an evening viewing of the 1993 film "**Groundhog Day**" starring Bill Murray. This classic movie is sure to bring a smile to your family's faces and we will explore and analyze themes from the film in a group discussion afterwards.

Pizza will be provided before the viewing, paired with some light game activity. If you have dietary restrictions, we suggest bringing an appropriate meal and drink for yourself.

If you are interested please RSVP with Archer Philip at [faith.formation@cedarsuuchurch.org](mailto:faith.formation@cedarsuuchurch.org).



**InSpirit, our UU Book and Gift Shop** is currently highlighting new social justice books, including titles on disability justice, abortion access, and critical race theory, among others. Free standard shipping on orders of \$50 or more within the U.S. is available through December 4th!



In **Disability Pride**, disabled journalist Ben Mattlin weaves together interviews and reportage to introduce a cavalcade of individuals, ideas, and events in engaging, fast-paced prose. He traces the generation that came of age after the ADA reshaped America, and how it is influencing the future.

A landmark literary anthology of poems, stories, and essays, **Choice Words** collects essential voices, from Amy Tan to Margaret Atwood and Ntozake

we enjoy together, as well as by the ways we can find to know each other better.

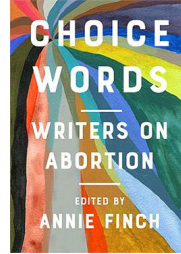
In past years we organized occasional Creativity Fairs to share individual interests and capabilities following Webster Hall services, and in response to the more recent pandemic we have shifted to on-line or virtual versions of those fairs.

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.

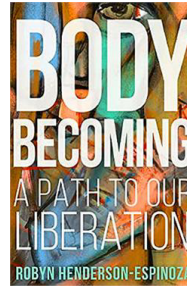
Continuing that sharing of individual interests and creativity, please join the fun and enjoy the growing show using the link below! If you have something to share, send a photo and description to [office@cedarsuuchurch.org](mailto:office@cedarsuuchurch.org).

### Cedars Creativity Fair 2022

**Nancy Philip** says "I'm making **Lefse** with Carolyn and Rod Kempkes, Erin and Alexandra. Thank-you Rod for the excellent guidance!"



Shange that renew our courage in the struggle to defend reproductive rights.



The ***Body Becoming*** that Robyn Henderson-Espinoza inhabits is a nonbinary body, a trans body, a body in two races—and a body continually in discovery. There is also a body on sojourn invested in experience, body understanding, and engagement in and for

human thriving. Mixing memoir and faith, somatics theory and body practice, Henderson-Espinoza steers us through territory both familiar and difficult, as we discover embodiment as a place of wisdom.

See [bookstore@uua.org](mailto:bookstore@uua.org) for more information.

### 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](#).

This month's Super Supper is scheduled for **December 27th**. 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](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. Zackie 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)

Would you like to subscribe to The Beacon? Email: [beacon@cedarsuuchurch.org](mailto: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](#).

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Cedars UU Church (website)

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