

The Beacon

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



Volume 12 Issue 51 / December 23, 2022

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Upcoming Services

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.

Cider, Music, Reflection and Fellowship

Christmas Day -- Sunday December 25th
2:00 p.m.

In-Person Gathering at Cedars Center with
Rev. Zackrie

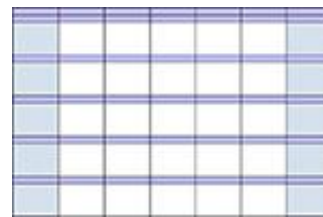
Circle 'Round the New Year

New Years Day -- Sunday January 1st
10:00 a.m.
In-Person Service in Webster Hall

Nancy Philip, Service Lead and Worship Associate

Join Nancy Philip in meditation and ritual as we gently step into the new year of 2023. We will do a simple Tabula Rasa (clean slate) ritual, set some intentions and possibly walk the labyrinth next door.

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 24th
4:00 p.m.
Outdoor Service in Austin-Kvelstad Pavilion on Poulsbo's waterfront

Sunday December 25th
2:00 p.m.
In-Person gathering at Cedars Center with cider, music, reflection and fellowship

Tuesday December 27th
4:45 p.m. Super Supper



News and Announcements

Wishing You Peace and Blessings this Holiday Season

The holidays are converging at this time of year. With Winter Solstice just past, we are at the darkest part of the year. Hanukkah is halfway through. And Christmas is just two days away. It is not surprising that many faith traditions set aside time to celebrate this time of year. To honor the darkness, illuminate it with light and hope, and reach out to each other with a reminder that we are in this together.

On Saturday, December 24th, our Church Community will gather under the Kvelstad Pavilion in Downtown Poulsbo for our annual Christmas Eve service. This is a new venue for us, to gather and sing together. We may even be joined by some random passersby, whom we can greet and join in song.

Regardless of how you celebrate this time of year, consider reaching out to someone with a phone call, zoom session or just a note to say "I wish you well". The darkness can weigh on people this time of year, and each of us has a light to share.

Happy Holidays!

Jeff Philip
President, Board of Trustees

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](#).

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)**

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

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

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

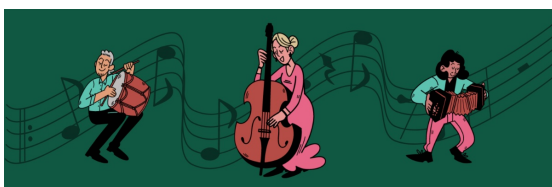
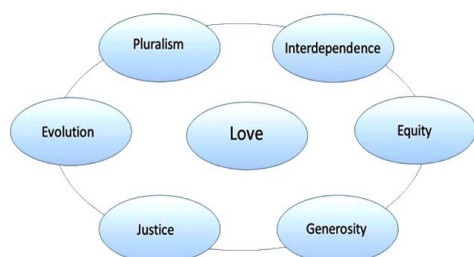
Stay safe, everyone!

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 has 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](https://www.uua.org/article-ii-study-commission)



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

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, 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.

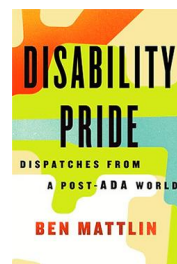
Beyond that, I hope that each of you will take time in the coming weeks to thank Archer for all he has done at Cedars, as we prepare to send him off to his next adventure.

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



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**

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.

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 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.

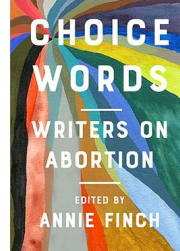
Continuing that sharing of individual interests and creativity, please join the fun and enjoy the growing show using the link below! If you have something to share, send a photo and description to office@cedarsuuchurch.org.

Cedars Creativity Fair 2022

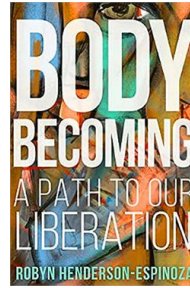
Past Cedars member **Steve Johnson** was recently recognized by Housing Resources Bainbridge with these appreciative words:

“Steve Johnson builds community one job at a time. For a man who likes working with his hands and who appreciates the meaning of home, a second act as a handyman for HRB’s Independent Living keeps him busy—and fulfilled.”

The HRB program performs health and safety home modifications, free of charge, for income-eligible older adults and people with disabilities who own or rent on Bainbridge. Through measures such as grab bar, handrail, and walk-in shower installation, the program aims to prevent falls and their independence-robbing aftermath and to create a safe and functional environment that allows clients to remain in their homes.



Words collects essential voices, from Amy Tan to Margaret Atwood and Ntozake 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 for more information.

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.

Facing the Climate Crisis

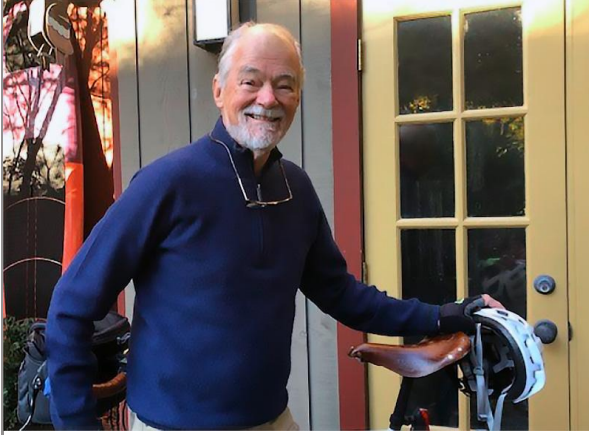
The Fall/Winter issue of the **UU World** magazine presents a multi-faceted exploration of the very significant environmental challenge now threatening our future as the human race.



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](#).

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. 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
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

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](#))

