

# The Beacon

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



Volume 12 Issue 52 / December 30, 2022

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## Upcoming Services

### 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**

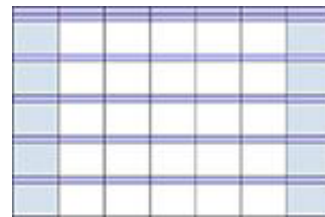
Join Nancy Philip in meditation and ritual as we gently step into the new year of 2023. We will do a simple Tabula Rasa (clean slate) ritual, set some intentions and possibly walk the labyrinth next door.

### Loving with a Broken Heart

**Sunday January 8th**  
**10:00 a.m.**  
**In-Person Service in Webster Hall**

**Rev. Zackrie Vinczen**

### 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 January 1st**  
**10:00 a.m.**  
**In-Person service in Webster Hall**  
**(no live stream)**  
**Coffee hour immediately following**

## News and Announcements

### Ring in the New Year with New Opportunities

The current year ends, and the new year begins. It is not surprising that this holiday is one that encourages us to begin a fresh start. The days are beginning to be noticeably longer and brighter, giving hope that we can make things better. Whether you call it "New Year's Resolutions" or simply set in your mind to begin making small changes for the better, this urge is normal and can be transformative.

Cedars UU Church is making some changes in January 2023 that can be opportunities to grow. Our Minister, Reverend Zackrie Vinczen will be cutting back his hours to 3/4 time in January, giving him time to rejuvenate, easing the burden on our finances and giving all of us more room to grow into lay leadership.

### 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**

Similarly, Faith Formation and Music Coordinator, Archer Philip will be moving on to new horizons in mid-January.

We have strong leaders in our congregation, with creative minds and a wealth of talents. We are looking forward to seeing how the congregation will step into leadership and continue to serve ourselves and the wider world. Whether you have personal aspirations or congregational aspirations for 2023, I encourage you to share them on our Facebook page at

<https://www.facebook.com/CedarsUnitarianUniversalistChurch>

### Happy New Year

Jeff Philip,  
President, Board of Trustees

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

**Stay safe, everyone!**

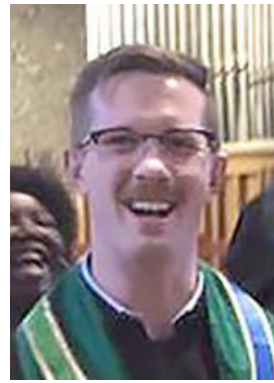
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## UUA Reviewing Principles and Purposes

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 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)



**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.

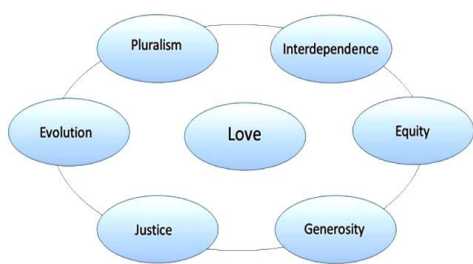
– Rev. Zackrie Vinczen

*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, 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?**



## 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](mailto:office@cedarsuuchurch.org).

## Cedars Creativity Fair 2022

**Emily Mockett** has creatively described the near meltdown of island shopping following last week's just-in-time meltdown of the snow and ice entrapment of last-minute holiday necessity shoppers, and **Phil Hutcherson** has captured hands-off evidence of that memorable lockdown:

### GROCERY STORE MAYHEM (after the Great Melt)

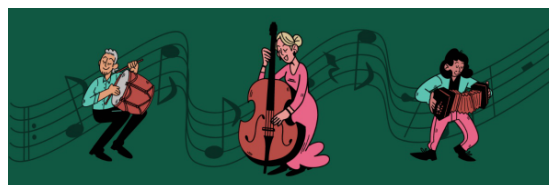
*Just one more forgotten item  
Eggs, Bananas or olive bread?  
Just one more quick grocery stop  
For the holiday feast spread  
No street parking to be found  
Today after ice storm melt  
No carts left to gather round  
Holiday grocery frenzy surely felt  
What could have been a place to cry  
As nerves wary of tested patience  
Self Checkout epic lengths mystify  
Every register, an infinite convergence  
What appeared within the mayhem  
A surprise Christmas Eve treat  
Was not a crushing of frustration  
Something much more upbeat  
As I swept through the jammed store  
With only my reusable bags to fill  
Spaces & aisles opened up more  
Everyone with heaping cart; super chill*

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



## 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

*As if we all had practiced dances  
Our shopping choreography rehearsed  
Extending our turns & perfect stances  
Making way for others, twirling reversed  
Over the rush, a hush of gratitude  
For which we all internally elate  
Food, power, heat & family multitude  
Grocery store thankfulness resonate  
Happy holidays and to all a good night!*

Ice Storm Photo by **Philip Hutcherson**



[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.

## 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** 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. 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)

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)

