

The Beacon

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



CEDARS CHURCH
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

Volume 13 Issue 4 / January 27, 2023

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Upcoming Services

Building a Better Phone Booth

Sunday January 29th
10:00 a.m.
In-Person service in Webster Hall

Rev Zackrie Vinczen
Gregory Cook, Worship Associate

Have you noticed the stark lack of phone booths in our world today? Why is that? Join us as we consider if it's time to build a better phone booth.

Rev. Zackrie will also lead a special discussion session after the service.

For the Beauty of the Earth

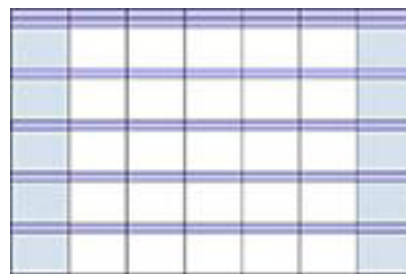
Sunday February 5th
10:00 a.m.
In-Person service in Webster Hall

Rev. Jennifer DeBusk Alviar
Nancy Philip, Worship Associate

The images we hold at the center of our hearts powerfully shape and inform our ecological worldview.

Let us re-vision our relationship with the natural world as one of kinship and connection leading to greater ecological healing.

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 29th
10:00 a.m.
In-Person Service in Webster Hall
[Live-Stream Service Link](#)

Coffee and discussion immediately following

News and Announcements

The Big UU Gathering in June

Each year thousands of Unitarian Universalists in the U.S. gather at something we call "General Assembly." It is technically a huge business meeting with representatives from the member congregations across the country. But it is much more than simply a business meeting. It includes daily worship, workshops, music, exhibitors and a chance to

Our Congregational Mission

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

meet and know UU's who have also made the effort to attend.

Nancy and I have attended many GA's, in Portland, Spokane, Salt Lake City, and Long Beach, CA. We have learned something, expanded our network of friends and been inspired at each one. This year, General Assembly is in Pittsburgh, PA June 21 – 25. For many years, the UUA has offered virtual attendance for people who cannot make the trip. The availability of virtual attendance significantly improved when the Pandemic struck in 2020. Early Registration is now open (through February 28th) via the link below.

One important element at General Assembly relates to the Fifth UU Principle: The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large. Each congregation may send delegates to be representatives at the business meeting portion. Ideally, delegates would be attending in person, though they may also attend with a full virtual registration. If you are interested in being a delegate, please contact a member of the Board of Trustees for consideration.

General Assembly: The Unitarian Universalist Association's Annual Meeting

Jeff Philip
President, Board of Trustees

Safe Gatherings at Cedars

Continued Caution to Prevent Viral Flu Spread

Spread of viruses (COVID, Respiratory Syncytial virus and the flu) surged late in 2022, but didn't grow to the levels some health professionals predicted. Those rates appear to be coming back down in January. As we watch the health data, Cedars UU Church will continue to urge caution in the weeks ahead.

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.

Current COVID Safety - Cedars Unitarian Universalist Church (cedarsuuchurch.org)

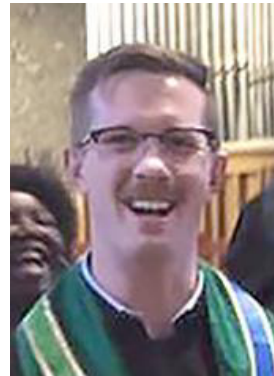
Stay safe, everyone!

From the Bookkeeper's Desk

Pledge statements were emailed out recently. These statements reflected pledge payments received from July through December 2022. That time frame encompasses the first half of the Cedars fiscal year, which ends in June 2023. **If you did not receive your statement, or have any questions, please email me at the email address below.** Updated statements are scheduled to be sent out again



Cedars UU Church is a Welcoming Congregation and Green Sanctuary



Rev. Zackrie Vinczen

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 special thanks to **Meredith Patterson** for music accompaniment.

Sunday Hymns:

- [1. Let It Be a Dance \(#311\)](#)
 - [2. Building Bridges \(#1023\)](#)
 - [3. We Laugh, We Cry \(#354\)](#)
-

Hymn of the Month

Greetings, music lovers of Cedars!

We hope this newsletter finds you well and ready for some uplifting tunes. We have some exciting news to share with you all. Starting in February, we will be introducing a new feature to our Sunday services: the Hymn of the Month.

Each month, we will select one hymn to be sung at each service that month. The idea behind this is to help our congregation build a strong familiarity with a diverse repertoire of hymns. Not only will this add some variety to our services, but it will also allow us to deepen our connections to the words and melodies that bring us together in song.

This new feature will allow us to sing with more spirit, more joy, and more unity. We look forward to singing with you all in February, as we prepare to introduce "Love Will Guide Us" as our first Hymn of the Month.

in April, but you are welcome to request a statement any time you need one by sending me an email request.

And speaking of pledge payments, **are you aware that you can have pledge payments automatically withdrawn from your bank account on a monthly basis?** Many members find this to be easy and convenient, relieving them of having to write a check each month. Withdrawals always happen on the first business day following the 15th day of the month. If you wish to set this up, you can do that anytime, just request a form and I'll email it to you. You may wish to consider that convenient option when pledge time begins again in July 2023.

Tax letters, detailing the total of contributions received in the 2022 calendar year, were sent out to those members that requested them for IRS reporting purposes. If you did not request one, but find that you need one, simply email me and I'll be happy to send you one. Please include your mailing address when you email your request.

Please remember to notify me when you have an email address change. We use QuickBooks for our fiscal record keeping and it is that software program that generates things like statements. Having your correct email address in QuickBooks will make for fast and accurate communications with me.

Mandy Maher
Cedars Bookkeeper
bookkeeper@cedarsuuchurch.org

Cedars Creativity Fair 2023

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 2023

Phil Hutcherson and **Emily Mockett** shared this image and inspired poetry:

The Lighthouse

We can't wait to see how this new feature will bring us even closer together as a community.

The Music Committee at Cedars Unitarian Universalist Church

Women's Covenant Groups Reforming



All Cedars people who identify as women are invited to a meeting scheduled for **7 pm on Tuesday February 28th** to enable reformation of Women's Covenant Groups. The meeting will be on Zoom due to concerns about Covid, as well as to use its Breakout Room feature to more easily create new groups. Once in Breakout Rooms, groups will select the day and time for their first meeting, either in-person or on Zoom, as well as their group leader(s).

A covenant group is a small relational group of people who meet regularly to establish deeper relationships among themselves and within the congregation. Cedars currently has four women's groups; some may continue as they are, but most will end and members will participate in one of the new groups. This reformation will be in effect for one year.

The Zoom link for this event will be available closer to the event. **Johanna Munson** and **Sally Wilson** will facilitate the meeting. Contact **Sally** if you have any questions.

Time for All Ages Volunteers

Are you looking for new ways to get involved, have fun, and make meaning? Is it time to spice up your church life? If so, then we have an opportunity for you.

The Worship Team is looking for people who are willing to lead games, tell jokes, and share stories during the Time for All Ages portion of our Sunday services. Whether you're a long time storyteller seeking an audience or brand new to public speaking, we have a place for you.

So, if you're ready to add a little humor and fun to our Sunday mornings, please reach out to Rev. Zackrie, and let him know that you're ready to make us laugh and create meaning. He can take it from there and help find a home for your talents.

Rest is Resistance

Please join us after service on January 29th when Rev. Zackrie will facilitate a

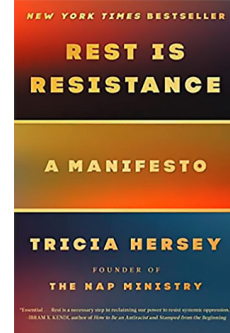
Why is it so easy
To see—the Light?
The Light in others standing in view?
Even in the wildest of storms
The casting of their flashes—
Finds us!
Finds us at the grocery line
In Others waiting so patiently
Finds us at the foot of hospital bed
In Others cleaning so intentionally
Finds us at our children's beds
In Others growing so quietly
Finds us at the intersections of Life
In Others standing so spirit-fully
They enter our dreams
Our memories of tomorrow
In Finding us,
We realize WE are their Lighthouse
Both found in the Light
Both saved in the storm
May we remember to cast our light
Wherever we find ourselves
Standing on this earth
May we remember we are always
Someone else's lighthouse
Even when we cannot see
The Light in ourselves

Blessed be,
reverent emilyjane
Poetry as prayer



discussion on rest as a form of resistance.

Based on the work of **Tricia Hersey** who leads a movement called the Nap Ministry, we will consider rest as a form of social justice and reparation.



Tricia, a theologian, artist, and community organizer, is author of **Rest is Resistance: A Manifesto** and curates spaces and forums for communities to rest. She says, “The Nap Ministry is not a religious movement but a spiritual antidote to the very earthly problems that are plaguing communities: exhaustion, chronic diseases and mental health crises - issues she sees as arising from systems of capitalism and white supremacy.”

To learn more about her work, here are some links to articles, an audio interview, and her book:

[NPR](#)
[New York Times](#)
[YES Magazine](#)
[The Nap Ministry](#)

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.

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](#).

Print the Beacon Newsletter

The Beacon is available to download and print each

Member Directory

Members and Friends can easily search our online

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.

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)

Position open

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)

