

The Beacon

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



Volume 13 Issue 8 / February 24, 2023

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Upcoming Services

Religious Absurdity

Sunday February 26th
10:00 a.m.
In-Person service in Webster Hall

Rev. Zackrie Vinczen
Mike Cox, Worship Associate

In 2005, 24 year old Bobby Henderson wrote a satirical letter to the Kansas State Board of Education professing a belief in a supreme being known as the Flying Spaghetti Monster. Since then, what started as a joke has become an organized religion around the world.

In this service we will review the history of the Pastafarian religion and the lessons they offer on humor and the separation of church and state.

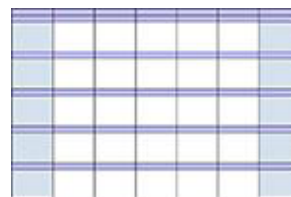
Stewardship Sunday

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

Rev. Zackrie Vinczen
Nancy Philip, Worship Associate

In this service, we will consider personal and congregational possibilities while reflecting on what it can mean to be an actively participating and contributing part of the social and spiritual family that we recognize and value as Cedars.

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 February 26th
10:00 a.m.
In-Person Service in Webster Hall
[Live-Stream Service Link](#)
Coffee and Social Time following

Tuesday February 28th
7:00 p.m. Women's Covenant Groups
[Zoom Link](#)

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**

Would you host a gathering in March?



Each Spring we come together to talk about stewardship and creating a financially sustainable congregation. As you know, Cedars, along with most other congregations, has been challenged by the years of the pandemic. As we see more people return to become more engaged, the true value of this community becomes evident. I am inspired by our ability to connect with people who share our values to grow and do good in the world.

This March, we will again gather as we continue to rebuild that community. Individuals will host events throughout the month around the area. Last year we played board games, went on hikes, enjoyed ice cream or tea and cookies. Nancy and I will be hosting a BBQ and a game night. We are again asking if you would be interested in hosting a small event. You can sign up to host [here](#).

While we are having some fun together, we will also set aside some time on two Sundays to talk in small groups about the future of Cedars UU Church. On March 12 and 19 we will hold some discussion sessions focused on the four elements of our Mission. More to come on how you can participate in those discussions. We are looking forward to some community fun and meaningful dialog that will lead to stewardship pledges that will help us build a new way.

Jeff Philip
President, Board of Trustees

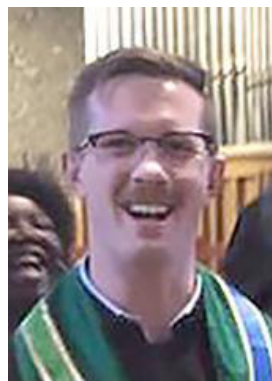
February Special Collection: Faith Action Network



Cedars holds a Special Collection monthly for community outreach 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.

On February 26th, the Social Justice Committee has chosen to collect money for the **Faith Action Network (FAN)**. The FAN is a multi-faith organization through which thousands of people and over 160 faith communities across Washington State partner for the common good. For more information about this program visit, <https://fanwa.org/>.

If you would like to receive a tax deduction for your donation, please write a check payable to Cedars UU Church with FAN in the memo to place in the offering basket on **February 26th**



Rev. Zackrie Vinczen

Leading a Service

Are you looking for a chance to share your unique perspectives with the rest of the congregation? Do you have a passion for puns? Do you know how to keep a crowd on the edge of their seats? Or have you just always wanted to speak in front of a captive audience? If so, we want to hear from you!

Cedars is looking for speakers of all backgrounds, experiences, and identities to share their wisdom by leading a Sunday service.

Leading a service is a great way to connect with your fellow community members, grow your own spiritual practice, and contribute to the ongoing conversation about the values and principles that guide our church.

Whether you have experience in public speaking or have always wanted to try your hand at preaching, you are invited to give it a try and share your wisdom and unique perspective.

Currently, we are still looking to fill the following dates:

04/16/2023, 04/30/2023, 05/28/2023, 06/18/2023, 06/25/2023

If this interests you, please get in touch with **Rev. Zackrie**.

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 **Audrey Blair** for music accompaniment.

Sunday Hymns:

- [1. Love Will Guide Us \(#131\)](#)
 - [2. For All That is Our Life \(#128\)](#)
 - [3. My Life Flows on in Endless Song \(#108\)](#)
-

or send it to the Cedars Church Office by
February 28th.

For more information contact **Mike Cox** at **206-799-3725** or toxman57@gmail.com.

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!

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.

The Joys of an Expanded UU Network

One aspect of being connected to the broader Unitarian Universalist community is that Nancy and I have connections to people who share our values beyond our local community. In December we hosted a UU Friendsgiving with people from Portland, Bellingham, Seattle and Puyallup. Last week, we were able to be hosts to a friend who is looking to locate in Port Townsend, because the Quimper Fellowship has such a strong connection to the local LGBTQ community. On our daylong visit to

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.

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 **7pm on Tuesday, February 28th** to enable the 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.

Zoom Link

Johanna Munson and **Sally Wilson** will facilitate the meeting. Contact **Sally** if you have any questions.

Poetry Writing Workshop

April is just a few weeks away, and you know what that means? **National Poetry Month!** To celebrate **Rev. Zackrie** will be offering a three-session poetry writing workshop for members

Port Townsend we hung out with the Faith Formation Director, another friend of ours. We even found ourselves sailing with some UU's on our cruise in Alaska last summer.

How did we make these connections? First of all, we found opportunities to engage in regional and national UU events. Things like Regional and General Assemblies. Sometimes they are not too far away, and other times they make for a good excuse to travel somewhere new. You can see what is happening at www.uua.org. But another thing to do, is listen to people you meet in your wanderings around this wonderful world. And don't hesitate to share that you are a Unitarian Universalist. You may find someone respond with that familiar wide eyed expression that says: "Really? Me too!"

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

Cedars friend Molly Clawson shared her photographic capture of winter's very brief and near final display of cool several days ago.

and friends of Cedars.

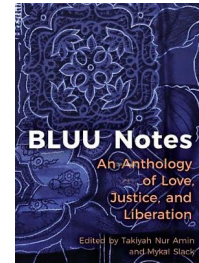
This workshop will introduce features of poetic form and invite participants to experiment with writing their own poetry. The sessions will take place at the Cedars Center from 2-4pm on the following dates:

- April 1st
- April 8th
- April 22nd

If you'd like to join this workshop, please take a moment to fill out the [registration form](#).

BLUU Notes

"May this power of love you find in these pages change your life and your Unitarian Universalism."



Forged at the intersection of faith and justice, **BLUU Notes: An Anthology of Love, Justice, and Liberation** is a rich and profound collection of original poems, prayers, and short prose pieces by Black Unitarian, Universalist, and Unitarian Universalist writers, musicians, worship leaders, and liturgists that can be used for personal study, private meditation, and worship that amplifies a Black Unitarian Universalist perspective and worldview.

It has just been released by Skinner House Books and is available from the InSpirit Book Shop [here](#).

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](#).

Please contact **Mike Cox** with any questions.

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.

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)

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)

