

# 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 5 / February 3, 2023

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

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

## Upcoming Services

### Experiencing the Sacred Through Wilderness & Soul

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

**Rev. Jennifer DeBusk Alviar**  
Nancy Philip, Worship Associate

How can we embody a liturgy of the wild in harmony with creation that will sustain our spirits across the full life spectrum? Come join us as we embrace the second half of life and shift the paradigm toward conscious eldering within the context of eco-spirituality.

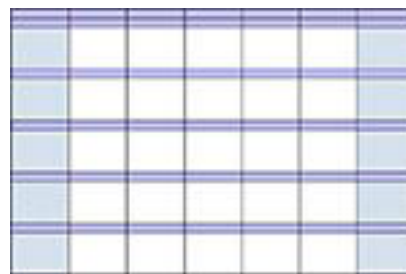
### Getting Free

**Sunday February 12th**  
10:00 a.m.  
In-Person service in Webster Hall

**Rev. Zackrie Vinczen**  
Jenny Weaver, Worship Associate

Theologian Anthony Pinn writes that "It is the affirmation of black humanity that emancipates black people from white racism, thus providing authentic freedom for both white and black people." In this service, we will unpack this quote and explore perspectives from liberation theology.

### 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 5th**  
10:00 a.m.  
In-Person Service in Webster Hall  
[Live-Stream Service Link](#)  
Coffee and Social Time following

## News and Announcements

### Get ready for Fun, Community and Stewardship in March

Each Spring we come together to talk about stewardship and creating a financially sustainable



### Our Congregational Mission

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

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. 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.

There will be 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

---

## The Big UU Gathering in June

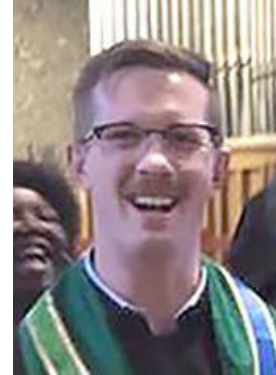
Each year thousands of Unitarian Universalists in the U.S. gather at something we call "General Assembly." It is technically a huge business meeting with representatives from the member congregations across the country. But it is much more than simply a business meeting. It includes daily worship, workshops, music, exhibitors and a chance to 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 28<sup>th</sup>) 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



**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 **Audrey Blair & Jenny Weaver** for music accompaniment.

### Sunday Hymns:

[We're Gonna Sit at the Welcome Table \(#407\)](#)  
[Love Will Guide Us \(#131\)](#)  
[We are a Gentle Angry People \(#170\)](#)  
[Lift Every Voice and Sing \(#149\)](#)

---

## 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

consideration.

## General Assembly: The Unitarian Universalist Association's Annual Meeting

**Jeff Philip**  
President, Board of Trustees

---

### 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.

---

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

### Cedars Creativity Fair 2023

**Jane Martin** shared these words and pic:

Honey is helping me make new signs for Cedars!

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 **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.

---

### 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](http://cedarsuuchurch.org))

**Stay safe, everyone!**

---

### 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).

---

### 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](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)

### Position open 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](#).

