

The Beacon

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



Volume 13 Issue 11 / March 17, 2023

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

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

Upcoming Services

The Secret to Happiness

Sunday March 19th
10:00 a.m.
In-Person service in Webster Hall

Fran Korten, Guest Speaker
Johanna Munson, Worship Associate

In the U.S. Declaration of Independence, we are told that we have an inalienable right to the pursuit of happiness. But is pursuing happiness a good idea?

In this service we will examine various recommendations for achieving happiness and reveal the real secret to happiness.

Where's the Stork From?

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

Rev. Zackrie Vinczen
Nancy Philip, Worship Associate

If babies come from storks, then where do storks come from?

Join us as we untangle this twisted nest of an origin story and consider the possibility that nothing (not even birds) is real.

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 March 19th
10:00 a.m.
In-Person Service in Webster Hall
[Live-Stream Service Link](#)
Coffee and Social Time following

11:15 a.m.
In-Person activity in Webster Hall
Building a New Way Discussion

Monday March 20th
5:30 – 6:30 p.m. Climate Smart
Challenges
[Zoom Link](#)

Tuesday March 21st
12:00 Noon Third Act: Banking Protest
Winslow Green

News and Announcements

Building a New Way Together

This Sunday, March 19th, we have another opportunity to share our expectations with one another after the



Our Congregational Mission

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

worship service.

The discussion on March 12th was energizing. We had a great turnout, and the creative juices were flowing. People gathered on Zoom to discuss how we can Build a New Way centered around the four parts of our Mission Statement.

As wonderful as virtual meetings are, meeting in person is much more powerful. The Board of Trustees will be setting priorities for the coming year soon, and establishing a budget to make those priorities come to fruition. Your participation is critical in forming the priorities and budget. Please **signup to attend the discussion (Signup Genius)**, on Sunday March 19th.

Equally important, is your financial commitment to Cedars UU Church in the coming year. A few weeks ago, you received a brochure highlighting this critical time in the life of our congregation. We are truly Building a New Way after a challenging three years. A community like ours is constantly changing. You can help ensure that we grow in positive ways with a generous financial commitment.

Here are two things you can do now:

1. Complete your financial pledge to Cedars, either with the **Online Pledge Form** or with the form sent to your home.
2. **Sign up to discuss Building a New Way**, on Sunday March 19th.

Jeff Philip
President, Board of Trustees

Events for March

Looking for some fun or social action projects? There are plenty of to choose from, Just go to **Cedars Stewardship Events @ Signupgenius.com**. We especially want to see you at the Building a New Way Discussion group session.

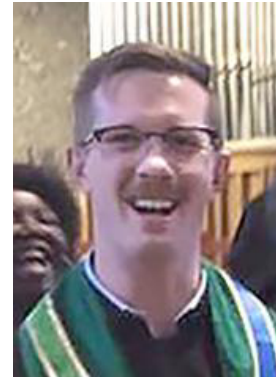
- **March 17** Game Night
- **March 19** Building a New Way Group Discussion
- **March 20** Climate Smart Challenge
- **March 21** Dirty Banks Rally
- **March 24** Picnic in the Pea Patch
- **March 25** Lunch and Music
- **March 26** Congregation BBQ Lunch

March 19th Special Collection: Front and Centered

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



Cedars UU Church is a Welcoming Congregation and Green Sanctuary



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 **Meredith**

to channel our generosity in support of them.

On March 19th, the Social Justice Committee has chosen to collect money for Front and Centered. Front and Centered seeks a just transition away from an extraction-based economy to one centered on ecological restoration, community resilience, and social equity.

If you would like to receive a tax deduction for your donation, please write a check payable to Cedars UU Church with Front and Centered in the memo to place in the offering basket on March 19th or send it to the Cedars Church Office by March 31st.

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

New Women's Groups

A covenant group is a small relational group of people who identify as women and meet regularly to establish deeper relationships among themselves and within the congregation. Beginning this month, Cedars will have three new women's covenant groups:

- One evening group meeting mostly in-person on the first Monday of the month.
- One afternoon group meeting with a mix of Zoom and in-person meetings on the fourth Tuesday of the month.
- One meeting mostly on Zoom with day and time yet to be determined.

All groups have room for additional members, so contact **Sally Wilson** if you are interested in participating.



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!

Patterson for music accompaniment.

Sunday Hymns:

- [1. What Wondrous Love \(#18\)](#)
- [2. Come Sing a Song with Me \(#346\) Hymn of the Month](#)
- [3. We Laugh We Cry \(#354\)](#)

Third Act: Seniors and Allies Against Dirty Banking



Join us on March 21st from Noon to 2:00 at Winslow Green on Bainbridge Island

Since the Paris Accord's in 2015, Chase Bank has made more new fossil fuel loans than any other bank. They are determined to continue.

We can stop Chase from funding climate change by joining together nationally to move our money from Chase and other mega banks like Citi Bank, Bank of America, and Wells Fargo. In less than a year 17,000 people have pledged to move their accounts.

One of 70 nationwide bank protests is happening here on beautiful Bainbridge Island. Our action will be respectful, fun and pointed. We will hear some heartfelt words from local faith and climate leaders and march together to Chase bank and ask them to divest from fossil fuels.

Join us on Winslow Green at NOON on March 21, 2023, while we celebrate all island climate activists and educate our beloved community about dirty banking. To register your pledge log on [here](#).

If you have any questions, please contact **Mike Cox** at toxman57@gmail.com or 206-799-3725.

JOIN THE CLIMATE SMART CHALLENGE



Climate Smart Challenge

Come learn about the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) on Monday, March 20th at 5:30pm

At our next meeting staff from Representative Kilmer's office are coming to provide information on the IRA and answer our questions. The IRA offers incentives and other programs that we can take advantage of both individually and collectively to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions.

Monday, March 20th

5:30 – 6:30 pm

Zoom Link

Meeting ID: 929 048 2386

Phone if Needed: 253-215-8782

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.

Cedars Creativity Fair 2023

Distant Cedars friend and former member **AI Tringali** shows us that candles aren't the only way to joyfully celebrate a birthday.

If you have any questions, please contact **Mike Cox** at 206-799-3725 or toxman57@gmail.com.



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 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**.

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 \(website\)](http://www.cedarsuuchurch.org)

