

The Beacon

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



Volume 13 Issue 9 / March 3, 2023

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Upcoming Services

Building a New Way

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.

Things Left Undone

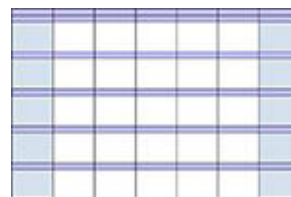
Sunday March 12th
10:00 a.m.
In-Person service in Webster Hall

Rev. Zackrie Vinczen
Jenny Weaver, Worship Associate

There are more things to do in life than time allows us to get done. Whether it's in a day, a year, or a lifetime, there is always more to do.

In this service we will consider the role that the things left undone can play in our lives.

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

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**

News and Announcements

Building a New

Way for the Coming Year

"Where do I want to see Cedars UU Church headed next year?" This is the question we can all contemplate in the month of March. Each year at this time, we pledge our financial commitment to this liberal congregation. The significance of our individual pledge is often tied to what we value in Cedars today and what we hope to see in the future.



Certainly, we have changed in the past three years. We have seen people take a break from Cedars, and new people who have joined us. Families with children have slowly begun trying to engage on Sunday mornings, and we have searched for ways to serve them. Those experiences on Sunday have been transformed by technology, giving people options for attending remotely. The wider community has benefited by the work all of you have done to highlight Social Action.

But, what lies ahead? This is the focus of our Stewardship Campaign in March. The Board of Trustees wants to hear from you. How will we **Build a New Way** (hymn #1017) to embody Cedars Mission Statement? Following Worship Service on March 12th (via Zoom) and March 19th (in person) you are invited to join discussion groups. Four groups will explore how we can grow further into our Mission. In addition, there are many opportunities throughout the month to actively come together for some fun. Musical gatherings, game nights, hikes and other options have been planned to get all of us out and about.

Please go to **Cedars March Stewardship Events** and sign up to attend a discussion session and some community gatherings. As you consider where we are, and where we wish to be, open up the pledge form, read the enclosed brochure, and discern how you can support our path forward.

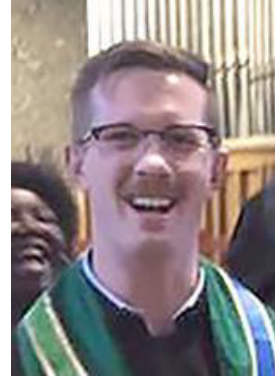
Jeff Philip
President, Board of Trustees

March 5th 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 March 5th, 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



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. The Fire of Commitment \(#1028\)](#)
- [2. Come Sing a Song with Me \(#346\)](#)
- [3. Building a New Way \(#1017\)](#)

Hymn of the Month

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 March 5th or send it to the Cedars Church Office by March 11th .

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!

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

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. As announced last month, 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.

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

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.

On September 22nd, 2022, Chase CEO Jamie Dimon testified before Congress and was asked if he would consider stopping providing fossil fuel loans and he replied that not funding new oil and gas production "would be the road to hell for America."

Two months later at the Annual Global Climate Change Conference UN Secretary General Antonio told the truth saying, "We are in the fight of our lives, and we are losing," and then continued with "We are on a highway to climate hell with our foot still on the accelerator."

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.

Folks over 60 control over 70% of the personal wealth in the US. We have untapped power to persuade. Join us on Winslow Green at NOON on March 21, 2023, while we celebrate all

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

Jeff Philip and **Rev. Zackrie** demonstrated commendable creativity in last minute relocation and reorientation of last Sunday's Service in response to winter's challenge.



island climate activists and educate our beloved community about dirty banking. Go **here** to register your pledge.

To help with the event please email **John Kydd** or **Wendy Jones**.

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.

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.

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. Zackie 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)

