

The Beacon

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



Volume 13 Issue 14 / April 7, 2023

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Upcoming Services

Easter

Sunday April 9th
10:00 a.m.
In-Person service in Webster Hall

Rev. Zackrie Vinczen
Johanna Munson, Worship Associate

The story of Easter is one of betrayal and hope, sacrifice and redemption, but is the story we all know the whole story?

This Easter we will consider an additional account provided by the betrayer himself: Judas Iscariot.

Join us as we seek to understand and answer the question...was it really about the silver?

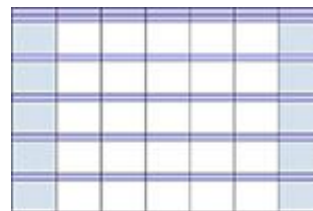
Untranquil Streams

Sunday April 16th
10:00 a.m.
In-Person service in Webster Hall

Rev. Barry Andrews, Guest Speaker
Nancy Philip, Worship Associate

This service will explore the significant risks and opportunities for our Unitarian Universalist faith community suggested by proposed changes in UUA bylaws that will be voted on at the upcoming General Assembly in June.

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.

Saturday April 8th
Poetry Writing Workshop
With Rev. Zackrie

Sunday April 9th
10:00 a.m.
In-Person Service in Webster Hall
[Live-Stream Service Link](#)
Coffee and social time following



News and Announcements

Listening to your feedback on our Mission

In case you missed the recent summary,

Our Congregational Mission

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

or would just like a second reading, here again is that summary of this month's very productive exploration of how we might more effectively grow into our mission statement. The discussions were engaging, and of course we welcome further thoughts and feedback. Here is a sample of what we've heard so far:



Worship with Open Hearts: Lots of appreciation for how we have adapted Worship during and after the Pandemic, including how Archer injected some energy during the Time for All Ages. Looking forward to hearing a variety of perspectives, both UU and outside the UUiverse. Would love to hear more people from our congregation leading a session on Sunday mornings.

Nurture a Learning Spirit: Strong support for learning programs for adults and children. People want to step up to make more programs available, including Our Whole Lives, general children's programming, adult discussion groups focused on movies, books or other topics of interest. The parents group is actively planning things for children and would love any support from individuals and the congregation at large.

Serve Justice with Compassion: People are excited about our focus on Social Justice. Some ideas to explore are to have periodic Sunday Services focused on Social Justice issues; look for causes that have personal impact; focus on women in need; and possibly inviting recipients of our monthly special collection to come speak on Sunday.

Love without Judgment: People were very interested in exploring how we can be more aware of the intersection of Love and Judgment. This is perhaps something we can aspire to, though it is challenging. As a value, it can be important to approach people with an open mind and love in our hearts, even as we discern how to interact with them based on their attitudes and behaviors. One of the more challenging things to achieve in life.

The Board of Trustees will receive notes on the discussions and any additional feedback. You can always send me your thoughts at Philip.jeff@gmail.com.

Jeff Philip
President, Board of Trustees

Safe Gatherings at Cedars

Continued Caution

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



**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:

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

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

No Live Stream on April 23rd:

On April 23rd, Cedars won't be livestreaming

be coming back down. As we work our way through 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)



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.

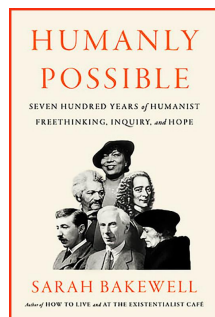
This workshop will introduce features of poetic form and invite participants to experiment with writing their own poetry. The sessions will take place at the Cedars Center from 2-4pm on the following dates:

- April 8th
- April 22nd

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

Evans Reading Group

Regaining focus in post-pandemic daylight, the Evans Reading Group is pleased to invite your participation as we return to our Cedars practice of reading and discussing books that can intrigue and might enlighten us in seeking "Salvation by Bibliography" as our late friend Marvin Evans used to say.



Our current selection, proposed by Mary Romeo, is **Humanly Possible**, a sweeping new study by Sarah Bakewell that takes readers on a grand intellectual adventure bringing extraordinary humanists together across history. Some of them sought to promote scientific and rationalist ideas, others put more emphasis on moral living, and still others were concerned with the cultural and literary studies known as "the humanities." The author explores not only what brings all these aspects of humanism together, but why it has such enduring power, despite opposition from fanatics, mystics, and

our Sunday service because our small but mighty tech team is taking advantage of the lovely spring weather and hitting the road! But don't worry, we'll still be holding a good old-fashioned, low-tech service in Webster Hall.

With summer just around the corner, we might have a few more Sundays without our tech-savvy team unless we get some extra hands on deck. So, if you're up for the challenge and want to help us out, please reach out to Carolyn Kempkes! She would be happy to talk to you more about what is involved.

Together, I know we'll navigate things with grace and good humor.

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 **Grace Bonow** for music accompaniment.

Sunday Hymns:

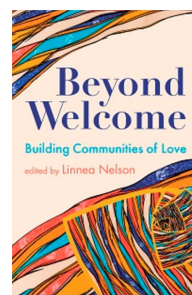
1. **Morning has Broken (#38)**
2. **Spirit of Life (#123)**
3. **For the Beauty of the Earth (#21)**

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 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.



Building Communities of Love

How do we go beyond welcome to build compassionate, authentic, and equitable communities? In this Skinner House book released last year, editor Linnea Nelson and

contributors dream of a future Unitarian

tyrants.

We will tentatively begin our several-session discussion of the book (perhaps via Zoom) at 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, June 6th. For more information contact **Alan Miller** or **Mary Romeo**.

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.

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

Former Cedars member and subsequently ordained UU minister (now retired and living in Portland) **Duane Fickeisen** shared this winter-ending / spring-arriving shadow pattern last week:

Universalism that upholds beloved love and universal justice within every community.

Examining both the joys of community and the responsibilities we have to one another, *Beyond Welcome* provides clarity about current structures and behaviors that create barriers to equity in our faith communities as a passageway to building foundational structures of love and liberation.

Through personal and collective reflections, these heartfelt essays tell stories of how it feels to be in Beloved Community while prompting readers to imagine what it will take to get us there. The lived experiences of these hopeful Unitarian Universalists—ministers, religious professionals, and laypeople alike—illuminate the relevancy of liberation in each and every one of our communities.

The book is available through the **InSpirit UU Book and Gift Shop**.



ClimateSmart Challenge Sharing

Mike Cox has shared links to

documents discussed last week at the Climate Smart Challenge call with Dana Rollison ([assistant for Derek Kilmer on energy issues](#)):

Inflation Reduction Act Guidebook

The Inflation Reduction Act builds on the foundational climate and clean energy actions taken by the Biden-Harris Administration and investments that President Biden secured in his Bipartisan...

White House Overview

Rewiring America Calculator

Electric Vehicles Eligible for Credits

An additional resource was noted by Leslie Marshall:

How to Reduce Electrical Energy Use

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](#).

For more information contact **Mike Cox**



at 206-799-3725 or toxman57@gmail.com.



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)

