

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 16+ / April 21, 2023

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

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

Upcoming Services

Poetry for the Earth

Sunday April 23rd
10:00 a.m.
In-Person service in Webster Hall

Rev. Zackrie Vinczen

This service will invite us into a time of music and reflection as we consider poems that express our connection to the Earth.

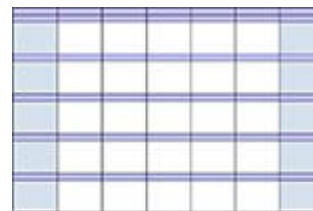
Be Careful of What You Pretend to Be

Sunday April 30th
10:00 a.m.
In-Person service in Webster Hall

Gregory Cook, Guest Speaker
Jenny Weaver, Worship Associate

The dictive “Just be yourself” is generally presented as something that is both easy to do and the right thing to do. Here we will examine the toll on society and self of not being authentic through the lens of Kurt Vonnegut’s 1962 novel *Mother Night*.

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 (Earth Day) April 22nd
Poetry Writing Workshop
2:00 p.m. at Cedars Center

Sunday April 23rd
10:00 a.m.
In-Person Service in Webster Hall
(livestream not available this week)
Coffee and social time following

Tuesday April 25th
4:45 p.m.
Super Supper

News and Announcements

Earth Day is Seventh Principle Day

“Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.” The seventh UU Principle is often referenced as our value which relates to the Earth and Environmentalism. Certainly, it has meaning beyond the environment. This month is Earth



Our Congregational Mission

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



Month and it reminds us that our connection to the world around us is a network of threads. Pull on or sever a thread and the impacts are devastating.

I worked for the EPA for 25 years, and saw awful impacts on the environment and wonderful stories of hope. What I came away with, was that we can definitely make a difference. Just watch this short video of two children who were recently recognized with the President's Environmental Youth Award for the work on Urban Trees in Richland, WA. Kids 4 Urban Trees - YouTube. Truly inspirational.

So, we get a little more active in April and very active on Earth Day, April 22nd. This year there are many opportunities for you to live your values. The Earth Day Expo at Battle Point Park will feature exhibits, food and activities. Also on the 22nd, you can stop by the Poulsbo Farmer's Market and speak with me and others on the Poulsbo Urban Tree Board about the value of trees. There is so much more, which you will find on Cedars online calendar or at Sustainable Bainbridge.

Earth Month Bainbridge Island - Sustainable Bainbridge

Jeff Philip
President, Board of Trustees



What is Your Ideal Day with Us?

This has been a long, cold, wet year, although I have faith that the sun will soon come out for more than one day at a time and I am interested in what that means for

our congregation.

At the end of March, we had a lovely lunch together at The Island School. Breaking bread is a wonderful way to gather and enjoy each other's company. We can create more opportunities like that in the months ahead. I am interested in what you would like to do. More small gatherings? Social Justice opportunities to get out and make a difference in the world? Family activities like a game night or a hike? Perhaps you would enjoy an organized outing to a sporting event, contra dance or concert.

Send your thoughts on things you would like to do to me at president@cedarsuuchurch.org. Or you can comment on the post on Facebook. We would love your feedback.

Jeff Philip
President, Board of Trustees

Safe Gatherings at Cedars

Continued Caution

Cedars UU Church is a Welcoming Congregation and Green Sanctuary



Rev. Zackrie Vinczen

Children's Faith Formation Needs You

An enthusiastic group of parents has begun planning children's programming for April 23, May 7 & 21, June 4 & 11. The parents will be leading the program activities in the Island School Library on those Sunday mornings and could use the help of other adults while they are leading the program.

Seeing an active children's Faith Formation effort getting off the ground again is exhilarating. To volunteer your assistance, please email Jeff Philip at president@cedarsuuchurch.org.

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.

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. 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)

UUA Bylaw Change Proposal

The UUA General Assembly this year will include voting on proposed changes to Article II of the UUA Bylaws and UUA governance.



These changes would do away with the Statement of Principles and the Sources from which they draw adopted in the 1980s and would also shift the relationship between the UUA and its member congregations.

Barry Andrews has volunteered to lead a discussion on the implications of these changes in the Island School library following the service on April 30.



Poetry Writing Workshop

April is **National Poetry Month!** To celebrate, **Rev. Zackrie** has been 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 final session will take place at the Cedars Center tomorrow from 2-4pm:

New Creative Group Meet-up

Are you an art dabbler, painter, wood-carver, sketcher? Or an artist wanna-be? Come join the Cedars Creative group, starting **Tuesday, May 2 from 3-5 pm** at the home of Meredith Patterson in Silverdale. We'll do a hands-on project of your choice each meeting, learning from each other as we go along. Beginners and experienced artsy crafters are welcome.

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

05/28/2023

07/23/2023

07/30/2023

08/20/2023

09/17/2023

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 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 **Julietta Dashe** for music accompaniment.

Sunday Hymns:

1. **Be Thou My Vision #20**
2. **Filled with Loving Kindness #1031**
3. **Spirit of Life #123 (Hymn of the Month)**
4. **Amazing Grace #205**

Pastoral Care

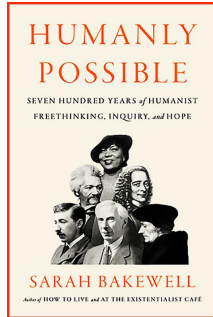
The Pastoral Care team is looking for people who can help with meals or rides for people needing an extra boost. Please take time to fill out the **Pastoral Care Volunteer Interest Form**. We are thankful to the many who have stepped up in the past few months to help.

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

Please contact Meredith by **email** or phone **(830 609-7778)** to get more details and to reserve your spot!

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 what brings all these aspects of humanism together, and why it has such enduring power, despite opposition from fanatics, mystics, and 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**.



Suquamish Good Neighbor Opportunities

This year is an important year for the Suquamish Tribe. For the first time since 2019, the Canoe Journey & Chief Seattle Days will be open to the public. These events will take place on the following dates:

Canoe Journey: Friday July 28th-Sunday July 30th

Chief Seattle Days: Friday August 18th-Sunday August 20th

Reopening these events suggests a significant public presence and the need for volunteer support. Cedars volunteers have participated with such assistance in the past, providing appreciated support while gaining rewarding

team know how we can be of support.

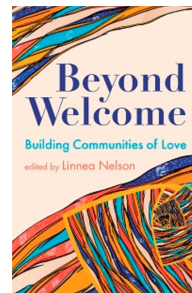
For more information about this effort please contact **Rev. Zackrie** or send an email to pastoralcare@cedarsuuchurch.org.

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 Universalism that upholds abundant 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**.

From the Bookkeeper's Desk

Pledge statements for the third quarter of the 2022-2023 pledge year, were sent out this

insight into the tribe's presence and culture.

More information is available [here](#).

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

Meredith Patterson says "These are painted shells, resplendent and shiny! I use them for decorative pieces, jewelry holders and soap dishes."



week via email. Statements are sent out quarterly to help you track your pledge payments and balance due. The pledge year runs from July 1 through June 30. Pledge payments for your 2022-2023 pledge year should be completed by June 30, 2023. If you did not receive a statement and want one, please email me at the address below. You are welcome to request a statement at any time.

Regarding pledge payments, are you aware that you can have pledge payments automatically withdrawn from your bank account monthly? Many members find this to be easy and convenient, relieving them of having to write a check each month. Withdrawals always happen on the first business day following the 15th day of the month. If you wish to set this up, you can do that anytime by requesting a form via email. You may wish to consider this convenient option for your 2023-2024 pledge.

Here is another thing to know about pledge payments. Those made through PayPal or Breeze are subject to processing fees from those companies. PayPal charges 7.8% and Breeze charges 1.08% of your payments to Cedars. You are credited for the full amount paid, but Cedars must then pay those processing fees. Payments made through checks, online bill pay, automatic deductions or cash are not subject to processing fees.

Thank you for your continued support of Cedars!

Mandy Maher

Cedars Bookkeeper
bookkeeper@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](#).

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

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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 \(website\)](#)

