

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 17 / April 28, 2023

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Upcoming Services

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.

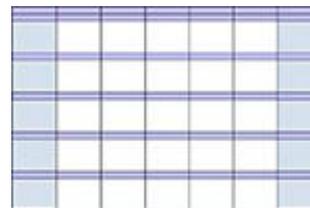
Religious Absurdity

Sunday May 7th
10:00 a.m.
In-Person service in Webster Hall

Rev. Zackrie Vinczen
Mike Cox, Worship Associate

In 2005, 24 year old Bobby Henderson wrote a satirical letter to the Kansas State Board of Education professing a belief in a supreme being known as the Flying Spaghetti Monster. Since then, what started as a joke has become an organized religion around the world. In this service we will review the history of the Pastafarian religion and the lessons offered on humor and the separation of church and state.

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 April 30th
10:00 a.m.
In-Person Service in Webster Hall
[Live-stream Service Link](#)
Coffee and social time following

Tuesday May 2nd
3:00 p.m.
Creative Group Meet-Up



Cedars UU Church is a Welcoming Congregation and Green Sanctuary

News and Announcements

Seven Principles of Unitarian Universalism

Our faith tradition is

*Worship with open hearts
Nurture a learning spirit
Serve justice with compassion*

explicitly a non-creedal religion, meaning that you do not have to accept one truth to be a UU.



The Association of Congregations did decide in 1961, and again in 1987, that it benefited all of us to be able to articulate some common values, so that we could at a minimum discuss what brings most UU's together. And so the Principles of Unitarian Universalism were created. In 1961 those Principles were crafted to help the merger of Unitarians and Universalists declare shared values. In 1987, they were re-written with an additional 7th Principle which recognized the interdependent web of existence.

For many of us, the Seven Principles have been a key element that helps us identify, describe, and strive for a set of values. In the wake of the rise of the BLM movement and an awareness of the injustices of racial inequality, some were calling for the addition of an eighth principle to address racial justice.

In response, a Study Commission tasked with reviewing the basis for the Seven Principles (Article II of the UUA Bylaws) has issued a report and recommendation for a change. That recommendation will be presented for a vote by congregations at this year's General Assembly. The vote will determine if the proposed changes will be further discussed and refined, leading to a final vote to adopt them in 2024.

What are these changes? As with any significant decision affecting Unitarian Universalism, I suggest each of us learn about the history and proposed changes with an open mind. Here are some ways you can learn more:

- Attend a discussion led by Rev. Zackrie Vinczen and Cedars Member Rev. Barry Andrews on **May 7th after the Worship Service**.
- **The Seven Principles of Unitarian Universalism**
- **Article II Study Report**
- **How the UUA's Principles and Purposes were shaped and how they've shaped Unitarian Universalism**
- **Background on the Article II Study Commission**



Jeff Philip
President, Board of Trustees

April Special Collection: Minister's

Love without judgment

Our Congregational Mission



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.

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

Discretionary Fund

The Minister's Discretionary Fund is used to support the ministry of the congregation; for example, to provide relief funds for members and nonmembers in need of emergency assistance and to provide special recognition for services to the congregation.

If you would like to receive a tax deduction for your donation, please write a check payable to Cedars UU Church with Minister's Discretionary Fund in the memo to place in the offering basket on April 30th or send it to the Cedars Church Office by May 7th.

For more information contact [Rev. Zackrie](#).

UUA Bylaws: Article II Proposed Change

This June the General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations will be voting on a proposal to make changes to Article II of the UUA Bylaws.

These changes would do away with the Statement of Principles and the Sources, and replace them with new language. The impact of this proposal would be far reaching and worth us taking time to reflect on together.

That is why, on **May 7th** following the Sunday service **Rev. Barry Andrews & Rev. Zackrie Vinczen** will be leading a discussion on this topic in The Island School Library. Our hope is to explore this issue together and get a sense of where Cedars falls on this issue as a community.

At our June 11th Congregational meeting, the Board plans to include an advisory vote on this issue on our ballots as a way of clarifying Cedars' stance on this issue, and inform our General Assembly delegates how to represent our congregation.

Below are some resources to help familiarize yourself with the issue prior to the conversation.

We hope many of you will join as we explore this important topic together.

Rev. Barry Andrews & Rev. Zackrie Vinczen

Resources:

[Article II Study Commission Webpage](#)
[UUA Bylaws](#)
[7 Principles? 8 Principles? No Principles?](#)
(Rev. Zackrie's Sermon)

Safe Gatherings at Cedars

Caution Recommended

Based on the recent decision to no longer require masking in health care facilities in Washington State, the Board of Trustees has decided that Cedars will no longer ask people

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](#).

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 Patterson** for music accompaniment.

Sunday Hymns:

1. [Spirit of Life \(#23\) Hymn of the Month](#)
 2. [Though I May Speak with Bravest Fire \(#34\)](#)
 3. [Just as Long as I Have Breath \(#6\)](#)
-

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.

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

to mask up while singing at Sunday Services.

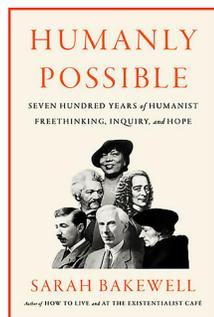
The new policy will be effective on May 7th. We will always honor people's individual choice to wear a mask at any time.

As we watch the health data, Cedars UU Church will continue to urge caution in the weeks ahead.

Current COVID Safety - Cedars Unitarian Universalist Church (cedarsuuchurch.org)

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 a 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**.



THE SUQUAMISH TRIBE



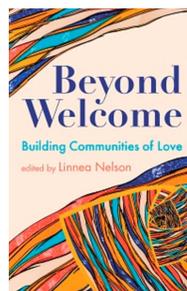
Suquamish Good Neighbor Opportunities

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-

pastoralcare@cedarsuuchurch.org.



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**.



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.

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

From the Bookkeeper's Desk

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 insight into the tribe's presence and culture.

More information is available [here](#).

Endangered Species Day May 19th



Every year on the third Friday in May, thousands of people around the world participate in Endangered Species Day by celebrating, learning about, and taking action to protect threatened and endangered species.

Along with the 18th annual Endangered Species Day, 2023 also marks the 50th Anniversary of the Endangered Species Act (ESA), a landmark piece of legislation that institutionalized our national commitment to the conservation of fish, plants and wildlife and the places they call home.

On Endangered Species Day 2023, wildlife refuges, gardens, schools, libraries, museums, community groups, and individuals will hold special programs or events.

Cedars member **Sandy Spears** invites you to join her from 4pm to 6pm at the intersection of Winslow Way and 305 on May 19th in a Banner Action for Endangered Species Day. The Action organizer has teams in 12 PNW cities banner for endangered salmon and orca that day. More information is available [here](#).

Sandy can be reached at Sandy.Spears@att.net for additional information and to participate.

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

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

Office Admin Changes

Our office administrator, Carolyn Kerns, has recently found full-time employment closer to her home in Seattle. She will still be assisting Cedars as much as possible, but her schedule has been modified.

Carolyn now works fully remotely for

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

Taya Hall shared this family member fashion statement..



Cedars on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays.

You can still contact **her** [via email](mailto:hervia_email) and she will either assist you remotely or find someone who can help you in person.

Please contact **Carolyn** with any questions you may have about this change.



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

Available remotely Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
office@cedarsuuchurch.org

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