

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 20 / May 19, 2023

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

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Upcoming Services

Parallels of Disaster, Parallels of Hope

Sunday May 21st
10:00 a.m.
In-Person service in Webster Hall

Rev. Amanda Aikman
Nancy Philip, Worship Associate

An invitation to re-tune our moral radios to catch the broadcasts of hope and good news - messages that are all too often drowned out but are operating quietly under the static.

Climate Challenge – Why Love is the First Answer

Sunday May 28th
10:00 a.m.
In-Person service in Webster Hall

Kathryn Lafond, Guest Speaker
Johanna Munson, Worship Associate

What if the story of the Earth/the Universe actually, is really a love story that plays out as a continuous evolutionary theme? And right now we are in an awakening of humanity to remember itself as a manifestation of this eternal energy/eternal presence? While our current paradigm makes it hard to embrace the idea of a love story among humanity/Earth/Cosmos, discover what more there is to love when we treat our Earth as Alive!

Kathryn Lafond, known for her love of prayer, song and ceremony, is devoted to helping us remember the sacred in everyday life. For over 25 years she has served her community as an Intuitive Energy Healer, health coach, spiritual guide, author and teacher of plant medicine.

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.

Friday May 19th
Endangered Species Day
4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Bannering
Winslow Way & 405

Saturday May 20th
Electric vehicle & Bike Expo
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Woodward Middle School

Sunday May 21st
10:00 a.m.
In-Person Service in Webster Hall
[Live Stream Link](#)
Children's Faith Formation in TIS Library
Coffee and social time following

News and Announcements

I bet you won't read this...

This Sunday, we will hear a message of hope and good news. But, how do we hear about and spread good news? Our lives are overloaded with information today. News comes at us on our phones, computers, radio and TV. We pick through our email to find something worthwhile among the spam. For an organization like Cedars, I often think about how we can reach out and engage people in better ways. I have not found a better way yet.

In March we organized a number of gatherings during Stewardship Month. The idea was to create more engagement and opportunities to connect with each other. Unfortunately, not many people participated in the planned events. I didn't hear many comments on the events, so am not sure why they didn't resonate with the congregation.

On April 21, my article in the Beacon asked what you would like to do with the people in this community. Social action ideas, community events, family gatherings? There was a link to the President's email address, but I didn't receive any feedback.

Today, I am actually betting you will not read this. On May 21, if you come up to me and say "I want to spread some good news," I will give you \$20. Yup. Every person. Don't tell anyone, as I only want people who read this to respond. I encourage you to do something good with it. If you could use it, that is good. If you give it to our special collection for Friends of the Farm, that is good. What good you can do with it is up to you. It's my little experiment to see if people read the Beacon.

Jeff Philip
President, Board of Trustees

UUA Bylaw Changes

Following our May 27th service, Rev. Barry Andrews and Rev. Zackrie Vinczen facilitated a discussion about the proposed changes to Article II of the UUA bylaws. If you would like to continue this conversation at the national level, please consider joining the upcoming Zoom workshop listed below.

The workshop is open to all Unitarian Universalists. Whether or not you submit a suggestion or idea, we encourage you to join us for these discussion workshops.

To participate, please use the registration link below.

Amendment Discussion Workshop #3
Sunday, May 21, 2023
4pm ET / 3pm CT / 2pm MT / 1pm PT
[Register now for the workshop.](#)

May Special



**Cedars UU Church is a
Welcoming Congregation
and Green Sanctuary**

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

Our Congregational Mission



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:

07/23/2023

Collection: Friends of the Farm

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 May 21st, the Social Justice Committee has chosen to collect money for the Friends of the Farm (FOF). They are an organization located on Bainbridge Island whose mission is to ensure the future of local farming and build a healthier community through a resilient and equitable food ecosystem. Several people from the organization will be attending the May 21st service to discuss the work they are doing on Bainbridge Island.

If you would like to receive a tax deduction for your donation, please write a check payable to Cedars UU Church with Friends of the Farm in the memo to place in the offering basket on May 21st or send it to the Cedars Church Office by May 30th.

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

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 to mask up while singing at Sunday Services.

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

We will always honor people's individual choice to wear a mask at any time.

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

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

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. **Morning Has Broken (#38) Hymn of the Month**
2. **There's a River Flowin' in My Soul (#1007)**
3. **Come and Go with Me (#1018)**

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.

Children's Faith Formation Needs You

An enthusiastic group of parents has begun planning children's programming for May 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**.

Pastoral Care

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.

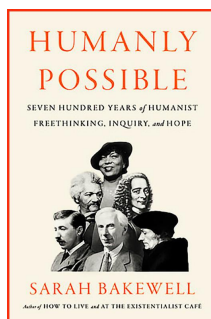
On Endangered Species Day 2023, wildlife refuges, gardens, schools, libraries, museums, community groups, and individuals will hold special programs or events.

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.

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**.



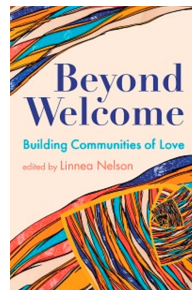
Suquamish Good Neighbor Opportunities



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.



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

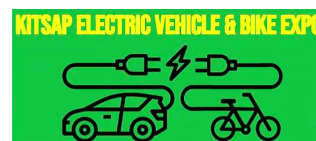
contributors dream of a future Unitarian Universalism that upholds abundant love and universal justice within every community.

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**.

Kitsap Electric Vehicle and Bike Expo



Want to learn more about electric vehicles and electric bikes, eat good food, and enjoy local live music? Come to the Woodward Middle School on Bainbridge Island for the Kitsap Electric Vehicle and Bike Expo on **Saturday May 20th from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

The Expo is sponsored by Rotary Club of Bainbridge Island, Puget Sound Energy, Sustainable Bainbridge, Bainbridge Island

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 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

Distant Cedars friend **Stephanie Moret** celebrated Spring Equinox with a beach labyrinth in Oregon's Lincoln City:



Chamber of Commerce, City of Bainbridge Island, and BI Cycle.

10:00 – 11:00: Presentations

- Welcome: Brenda Fantroy-Johnson, Mayor of Bainbridge Island
- City of Bainbridge Island Activities: Autumn Salamack, Climate Officer
- Electric Bikes: Tom Clune, Owner BI Cycle
- Electrify Your Ride: Grace Reamer, Board member Seattle Electric Vehicle Association and Coltura
- Questions and Answers: Fran Korten, Facilitator

11:00 – 2:00: Kick the Tires

- Learn about electric vehicles from dealers, car owners, and bike owners.
- Learn about electric vehicle programs from Puget Sound Energy, City of Bainbridge Island, ZEV Coop, Pacific Mobility, Bainbridge Greenways, and others.
- Listen to local music and eat local food.

To learn more about the event or if you would like to bring your electric vehicle or bike or volunteer at the Expo please contact **Mike Cox** at toxman57@gmail.com.



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 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!

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

Available remotely Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
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)

