

# 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 22 / June 2, 2023

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## Upcoming Services

### The Gender of God

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**Sunday June 4th**  
**10:00 a.m.**  
**In-Person service in Webster Hall**

**Rev. Zackrie Vinczen**  
**Jenny Weaver, Worship Associate**

Earlier this year, some controversy was stoked when the Church of England announced a plan to explore removing gendered language in reference to God. This is not the first religious tradition to go down this road...join us for this service as we consider the reasons behind such a change.

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### Flower Ceremony/New Member Recognition

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**Sunday June 11th**  
**10:00 a.m.**  
**In-Person service in Webster Hall**

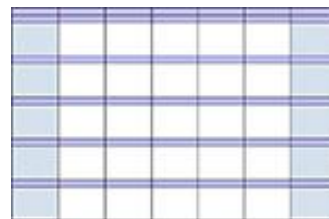
**Rev. Zackrie Vinczen**  
**Nancy Philip, Worship Associate**

In June 1923, Rev. Norbert Čapek led the first Flower Ceremony in Prague. Today Unitarian Universalists around the world still observe this ceremony allowing the flowers to “remind us of the wonderful simplicity of the natural order and that we too are a part of it.”

People are encouraged to bring flowers from their garden to church with them to share during the service. We will also be welcoming our newest members into the Cedars community this day.

### Current Week Calendar and Links

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*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 June 4th**  
**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**

**Tuesday, June 6th**  
**1:30 p.m.**  
**Evans Reading Group Discussion**

## News and Announcements

**Cedars’ Annual  
Congregational  
Meeting**

**Our Congregational Mission**



The Cedars Board of Trustees will host the 2023 Annual Congregational Meeting directly after the service on June 11th.

We will discuss and vote on a 2023-2024 budget proposed by the Board and the Budget Leadership Team to maintain Cedars programs and look toward growth in the coming year.

We will also discuss the proposal before all UU congregations regarding changes to the Seven Principles and Six Sources in the UUA Bylaws Article II. We will take a vote on your preferences, to inform voting delegates from Cedars to the UUA General Assembly.

Lastly, we will vote on a Board of Trustee candidate: Jeff Philip's 2 year term expires this year, but he is willing to extend his term one more year. We will vote on an extension to his term.

It is very important that we have a quorum at this meeting so that the votes are valid. We need 30% of our members to attend either in-person or via zoom. Therefore, we want and need as many people attending as possible.

If you cannot be present in-person or online via zoom for this meeting, but would like to vote, please e-mail Board Secretary **Andrea Barnes** for an absentee ballot. Absentee ballots will count as regular votes but **do not** count toward a quorum under the Cedars Bylaws.

### Don't miss the Annual Meeting

Each year, we gather to make important decisions about our congregation at our June Annual Meeting. Why June? Our fiscal year runs from July through June, so this is the end of our fiscal year. We set the direction for the next year, primarily through approval of our budget.

We are still in challenging times, with pledges far below what we have been used to. The Budget Leadership Team has done a terrific job of crafting a budget that will keep us moving forward in 2023 and 2024. We will make some hard choices, but we can do it. Financial sustainability is something we strive for. That status requires generosity, fresh new members and some effort to keep embodying our mission.

Most importantly, mark your calendars for June 11<sup>th</sup>, immediately after the service. I look forward to seeing you.

**Jeff Philip**  
President, Board of Trustees

**UUA General**

*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**



**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

07/30/2023



## Assembly 2023

General Assembly is the annual gathering of Unitarian Universalists, where

we conduct business of the Association, explore theological underpinnings of our faith, and lean fully into our mission and principles. Participants worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association through democratic process. Anyone may attend; congregations must certify voting delegates. Join us June 21 - 25, 2023 online or in-person in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. A full schedule of GA activities is available [here](#).

More information is available [here](#).

## Seven Principles of Unitarian Universalism



**Our faith tradition is 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:

- [The Seven Principles of Unitarian Universalism](#)

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 **Peter Spencer** for music accompaniment.

### Sunday Hymns:

1. [Come Sing a Song with Me \(#131\)](#)
2. [We Are a Gentle, Angry People \(#170\)](#)
3. [Abide with Me \(#101\)](#)
4. [How Could Anyone \(#1053\)](#)

## 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 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](mailto:president@cedarsuuchurch.org).

## Pastoral Care

The Pastoral Care team is looking for people

- **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

## 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.

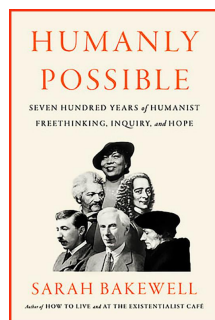
As we watch the health data, Cedars UU Church will continue to urge caution in the weeks ahead.

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

**Current COVID Safety - Cedars Unitarian Universalist Church ([cedarsuuchurch.org](http://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.

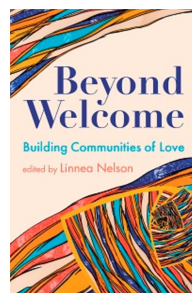
We will begin a several-session open discussion of this book at **1:30 p.m. next Tuesday, June 6th**, using Zoom at this [link](#).

All are welcome to join us. For more information contact **Alan Miller** or **Mary**

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](mailto: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, 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!

## 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](mailto:office@cedarsuuchurch.org).

## Cedars Creativity Fair 2023

Distant Cedars friend and former member **Bonnie Yocus** suggests the fashionable **Garden French Manicure** as a possibility offered by our current season:



## 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](mailto:toxman57@gmail.com).



## 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 insight into the tribe's presence and culture.

More information is available [here](#).

## Print the Beacon Newsletter

The Beacon is available to download and print each week. Go to [www.cedarsuuchurch.org](http://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

## Rev. Zackrie Vinczen, Minister

For an appointment, e-mail [minister@cedarsuuchurch.org](mailto:minister@cedarsuuchurch.org)  
For an urgent matter, call (360) 930-9339 (Pastoral Care)

## Position open

284 Madrona Way, NE #128  
Bainbridge Island WA 98110  
(206) 780-0373

**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](mailto: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](#).

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**Cedars UU Church (website)**

