

The Beacon

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



Volume 13 Issue 26 / June 30, 2023

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

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

Upcoming Services

The State of the Assembly

Sunday July 2nd
10:00 a.m.
In-Person service in Webster Hall

Rev. Zackrie Vinczen
Nancy Philip, Worship Associate

From June 21 - 25, 2023 Unitarian Universalists from around the world have gathered in Pittsburgh and online to conduct the business of our association, elect national representatives, and deepen our commitment to love and justice. In this service Rev. Zackrie will offer his reflections and cover some of the highlights of this gathering.

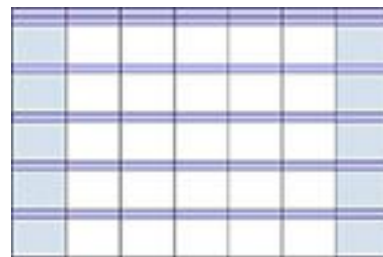
The Spirituality of Trees

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

Rev. Zackrie Vinczen
Jeff Philip, Worship Associate

We can learn a lot from the roots, trunks, branches, and leaves of trees –both literal and metaphorical. In this service, we will pause to consider some of these lessons for ourselves.

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, July 2nd
10:00 a.m.
In-Person Service in Webster Hall
[Live-Stream Link](#)
Coffee and Social time following

Tuesday, July 4th Independence Day

News and Announcements

UUA General Assembly 2023

General Assembly is the annual gathering of Unitarian Universalists for conducting the business of our Association, exploring and appreciating theological underpinnings of our faith, including our mission and principles, and deepening our appreciation of each other.



Cedars UU Church is a Welcoming Congregation

More than 4,100 Unitarian Universalists gathered this year for the multiplatform GA, with 1,768 online registrants (including Cedars Trustees Jeff Philip and Herb Hethcote) and 2,380 in-person registrants in Pittsburgh Pennsylvania (including Rev. Zackrie Vinczen). Much was accomplished, including the election of a new Association President, and a good summary of it all is available [here](#).

Democracy Among UU Congregations

At General Assembly this year, several issues were before the delegates for vote. The most prominent was regarding Article II of the UUA Bylaws, which defines many of the elements we use to describe the Unitarian Universalist tradition. It currently describes them as Principles, Purposes, Sources, Inclusion and Freedom of Belief.

The UUA is an association of congregations, rather than a denomination. As an association, we send delegates to General Assembly to democratically vote on issues presented, and work together moving forward based on the majority vote.

The proposal to continue studying revisions to Article II passed last week with a vote of 87% to 13%, with 4,765 delegates voting. I know many people wished that we would not continue discussions about Article II, but now that it has passed, I would like us to continue the conversation. I heard many interesting points on both sides of the issue that I would like to share.

Other agenda items that were voted on:
Business Resolution: Divestment from Fossil Fuel Industry and Subsequent Reparations failed, 68% to 32%.

Actions for Immediate Witness (Statements on Current Social Issues)

- Rise up to stop Copy City, passed, 83% to 16%
- Organizing for Health Equity, passed 86% to 14%
- Protect Dreamers / DACA, passed 98% to 2%

Electing Rev. Dr. Sofia Betancourt be the next President of the UUA, passed 96% to 4%

The beauty of our democratic system is that perspectives are represented. Time and space for debate is a critical part of the democratic system. Let's gather for more debate in the year ahead, and learn about the issues we care about so we can be more informed participants.

Jeff Philip
President, Board of Trustees

Safe Gatherings at Cedars

Our Congregational Mission

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



Rev. Zackrie Vinczen

Rev. Zackrie Away

June 20th-28th, I will be away from Cedars to attend the Unitarian Universalist General Assembly in Pittsburgh Pennsylvania. While away, I will be available by phone for urgent matters. Feel free to call or text if something urgent comes up: **(360)-930-9339**.

I will be returning to my regular work schedule on June 29th and in the pulpit on July 2nd to share updates from GA with all of you.

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 **Juliette Dashe** for music accompaniment.

Sunday Hymns:

1. **Be thou My Vision (#20)**
 2. **Lean on Me (#1021)**
 3. **Let It Be a Dance (#311) Hymn of the Month**
-

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

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.

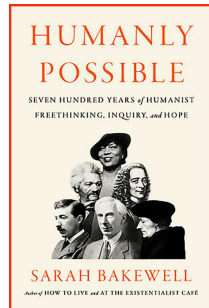
As we watch the health data, Cedars UU Church will continue to urge caution in the weeks ahead.

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

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

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."

We will finish our several-session Zoom discussion of this book covering chapters 7 through 12 on July 25th at this [link](#).

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



Rotary Auction & Rummage Sale

The annual Rotary Auction & Rummage Sale is arguably the largest event on Bainbridge Island that fulfills the three tenets of waste reduction: Reuse, Reduce, Recycle.

- Items that are sold are reused and thus reduce the need to buy new.
- Items that are unsold are reused through donations to

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. Program activities will be scheduled in the Island School library on selected Sunday mornings and the help of other adults will be welcomed.

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

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.

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.

nonprofit organizations or recycled to the greatest extent possible.

Want to help?

The Green Team is a group of hardworking volunteers working throughout the pre-Auction period and the July 8th Sale Day to sort, recycle, and ensure materials that cannot be sold go to good use rather than to the landfill. To volunteer with our amazing Green Team:

1. Please use this [online registration form](#) and indicate your interest in the Green Team by typing "Green Team" in the Special Skills and Expertise text box.
2. After you have registered, schedule your preferred slot(s) and the type of work you'd like to do. If you aren't able to find a convenient slot on the schedule, just come by anytime between 8:00am to 7:00pm, June 30 through July 7. We always welcome the help!

Questions? Please [email](#) us.

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

Nancy Philip shares "A Boy and his Refurbished Classic Car."

Kitsap 2023 Pride Festival



Kitsap Pride is Kitsap County's premier LGBTQ+ Pride event and is scheduled to take place on **Saturday, July 22nd, from 2:00 to 9:00 pm** at the Bremerton Fairgrounds.

It is a free, family-friendly event. The main stage will feature live music, DJ, and drag performances. Kitsap Pride will host a beer garden and a Pride store for logo merchandise.

They are looking for volunteers to help with the event. To register to help and for more information on the event use this [link](#).



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](#).

Food4Kids

Monday, August 7th
9:00-11:30 a.m.

Kingston Cares provides and delivers nutritious, kid-friendly meals to over 120 local students who lack access to other food programs during school breaks. Last year they provided 11,000 meals!



It takes a small army to set-up, pack, clean-up and recycle each Monday morning when



schools aren't in session. We have committed to creating a team of 17 people to prepare the food packs in Kingston on this one Monday in August. This is a great opportunity for us to reach out to North Kitsap and enjoy a morning volunteering together. Best of all: families are welcome!

Please contact **Patricia Erdmann** to sign up for our CEDARS Team. **360 953-4503** OR **pperdmann@gmail.com**

PS. This is my first time organizing a Cedars activity, so I'll appreciate hearing from interested volunteers asap.

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 \(website\)](#)

