

The Beacon

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



Volume 13 Issue 23 / June 9, 2023

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Upcoming Services

Flower Ceremony/New Member Recognition

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.

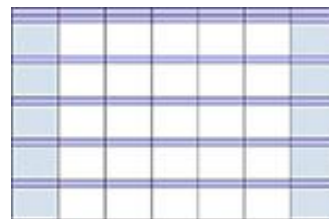
On Fatherhood

Sunday June 18th
10:00 a.m.
In-Person service in Webster Hall

Warren Read, Guest Speaker
Fran Korten, Worship Associate

On this Fathers Day, we'll contemplate the complexities that can accompany the notion of "fatherhood." Whether we reflect on our own fathers, or consider those in our lives who happened to stand in place as a father figure, we'll celebrate those in our lives who have practiced for us the positive virtues that raise the term "fathering" to more than mere biology.

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 June 11th
10:00 a.m.
In-Person Service in Webster Hall
[Live Stream Link](#)
Children's Faith Formation in TIS Library

11:00 a.m. Cedars Annual Meeting

Thursday June 15th
7:00 p.m.
Cedars Board of Trustees Meeting



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

News and Announcements

[Cedars' Annual](#)

[Our Congregational Mission](#)



Congregational Meeting

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.

The Democratic Process within our UU Congregation

The Seven UU Principles have been a central set of concepts to frame our values for over 30 years. This Sunday, after the service, we will gather at our annual Congregational Meeting to practice the Fifth Principle, by engaging in the democratic process. I hope you will be able to attend with us.

Interestingly, one of the items on our agenda is how the Congregation would like our Delegate to General Assembly to vote on the **Proposed Article II Revision**, which would change the Seven Principles to a set of Values. This is a great opportunity to express our voice among the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations.

We will also vote on other matters, including our annual budget, appointments to the Board of Trustees and Nominating Committee, as well as some good discussion on what you would like to see at Cedars in the Year ahead.

Take a look at the Agenda, and we look forward to seeing you there.

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



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

08/20/2023

09/17/2023

If this interests you, please get in touch with **Rev. Zackrie**.

Musical Notes

You may join by zoom if you cannot attend in person.

- **Join Zoom Meeting Link**
- Meeting ID: 921 6307 3154
- Passcode: 2022
- Dial by your location 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)



UUA General 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](#), with more information [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.

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 **Audrey Blair** for music accompaniment.

Sunday Hymns:

1. **Mother Spirit, Father Spirit (#8)**
2. **How Could Anyone (#1053) Hymn of the Month**
3. **I Know This Rose Will Open (#396)**
4. **Find a Stillness (#352)**

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.

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.

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](#)
- [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

June Special Collection: Habitat for Humanity



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 June 11th, the Social Justice Committee has chosen to collect money for Habitat for Humanity of Kitsap County. Habitat helps families in Kitsap County build strength, stability, and self-reliance through affordable homeownership. Several people from the organization will be attending the June 11th service to discuss the work they are doing in Kitsap County.

If you would like to receive a tax deduction for your donation, please write a check payable to Cedars UU Church with Habitat for Humanity of Kitsap County in the memo to place in the offering basket on June 11th or send it to the Cedars Church Office by June 30th.

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

Safe Gatherings at Cedars

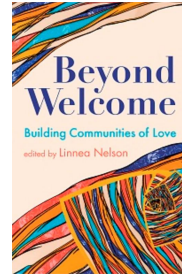
Caution Recommended

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

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**.

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.



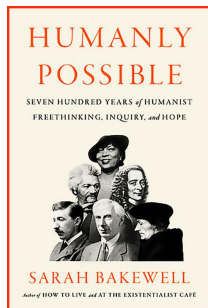
Suquamish Good Neighbor

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 continue our several-session Zoom discussion of this book to cover chapters 4 through 8 on June 27, and finishing with chapters 9 through 12 on August 1, using Zoom at this [link](#).

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

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! Our next session will be on **Tuesday, June 20th at 3:00 pm**.

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.

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](#).



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 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 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

From the Bookkeepers Desk

It is time to start planning for your 2023-2024 Fiscal Year pledge payments which will start in

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

Former Cedars member and DRE **Lisa Ashley** shared this recent capture of delicate garden color.



July. If you wish us to set up automatic payments from your bank account, you simply need to fill out a simple form and we take care of the rest. The automatic payments are deducted from your account on the first business day following the 15th of the month. You can request that we stop the payments at any time. If you are interested, please send me an email at the address below and I'll email the form to you.

If you have any questions about the balance due on your 2022-2023 pledge just let me know and I'll be happy to send you a statement. I plan to send statements out to everyone at the end of June.

Thank you all for your continued support of Cedars!

Mandy Maher
Cedars Bookkeeper
bookkeeper@cedarsuuchurch.org



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](#).

