

The Beacon

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



Volume 13 Issue 33 / August 18, 2023

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--- Upcoming Services

Community Conversation

Sunday August 20th
10:00 a.m.
In-Person Service in Webster Hall

Nancy Philip, Speaker
Jeff Philip, Worship Associate

Last month we met and discussed our thoughts on the two questions, do you have a personal spiritual practice and what do you do to feel connected to something larger than yourself.? This Sunday, we will continue exploring these topics and our takeaways from this discussion.

[No Livestream]

A congregational picnic in Bainbridge Island's Battle Point Park will follow the service.

Being a Good Neighbor

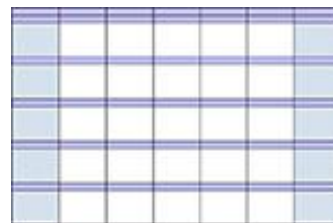
Sunday August 27th
10:00 a.m.
In-Person Service in Webster Hall

Rev. Zackrie Vinczen
Gregory Cook, Worship Associate

Being a neighbor isn't all borrowed cups of sugar and BBQs. Sometimes these close proximity relationships are fraught with tension.

Come join us as we explore the essence of neighborliness together.

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.

Saturday August 19th
10:00 a.m.
Chief Seattle Days Gravesite Service
Suquamish

Sunday August 20th
10:00 a.m.
In-Person Service in Webster Hall

1:00 p.m.
Picnic in Battle Point Park



News and Announcements

Looking Forward



Board of Trustees Focused on Progress This Year

Yesterday, on Thursday, August 17th, the Board of Trustees held their annual retreat to reflect on the past year, the status of our Congregation, and what to focus on as we begin the new church year. Your Trustees, Herb Hethcote, Rod Kempkes, Dean Sampson, Andrea Barnes, Reverend Zackrie Vinczen and myself, Jeff Philip, spent an afternoon to establish a vision and actions for Cedars Unitarian Universalist Church to take in the 2023-24 year that will bolster a purposeful and sustainable congregation.

With that focus, we engaged in a bit of soul searching. Cedars is struggling. Our membership numbers are down. We have a balanced budget, though it continues to rely on our financial reserves. There is certainly good news. People are stepping up with incredible initiative and endurance to serve our congregation and the community at large. Setting up Sunday mornings, bringing wonderful music and thoughtful topics to services, as well as and looking toward the Faith Formation of our youngest people are encouraging. So is the care to our congregation by the Pastoral Care Team and the service to the community coordinated by the Social Action Committee.

The Trustees crafted the following Vision for themselves in the coming year: "Foster joy and connection through learning, service and activities. Create a culture of belonging that will strengthen our community."

We think this is not only achievable, but also nourishing for our dear Cedars. We then explored concrete actions that we can work on to make the vision a reality. I will go into the actions next week. For now, know that each of the Trustees loves this Congregation and is dedicated to working with you to ensure Cedars UU Church thrives.

Jeff Philip
President, Board of Trustees

Cedars UU Summer BBQ

Come on out for fun with the whole Cedars family on Sunday, August 20th from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. at the picnic shelter in Bainbridge Island's Battle Point Park! Games, conversation with friends, and good food for everyone are being planned.

Please bring a dish to share (main dish, dessert, salad, etc.). We also encourage you to bring something to grill, as we will have a hot grill available. And please also consider bringing your own plates/utensils and carpooling.

The picnic shelter is located near the Arrow Point Drive NE entrance of Battle Point Park.



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

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 **Audrey Blair** for music accompaniment.

Sunday Hymns:

When Our Heart Is in a Holy Place (#1008)
Love Will Guide Us (#131)
Just as Long as I Have Breath (#6)

Survey for Social Justice

Our Social Justice Committee needs your input!

There are many directions in which Cedars Social Justice efforts could take us in the next six months. To be successful, we want to be sure that we are proceeding in alignment with your values, personal interests, and priorities. Our most successful projects have been ones that Cedars members and friends are passionate to participate in and organize together. To do that we ask that you complete **this survey** by August 13th to help us develop a path forward for our social justice activities.

The park features include a large children's play structure, basketball, tennis, roller hockey courts, and over three miles of walking trails.

Additional details and a sign-up list for various tasks are available [here](#).



Chief Seattle Days

Chief Seattle Days is an annual event celebrating the memory of Chief Seattle with various activities focused on the revitalization of Coast Salish traditions and culture. The celebration is open to the public and people from around the world are invited to experience the Suquamish Tribe's hospitality, culture and fun.



A gravesite ceremony at 10 a.m. tomorrow will be open to the public again this year for the first time since 2019, with the tribe practicing traditions, inviting people to share stories, and reminding people of Chief Seattle and tribal history.

The Suquamish are one of more than twenty tribal groups that were parties to the Treaty of Point Elliott, signed near Mukilteo, on north Puget Sound, on January 22, 1855. This document was the second of five treaties that Territorial Governor Isaac Stevens negotiated with tribes in western Washington. Representing both the Suquamish and Duwamish tribes at the treaty signing was Chief Seattle, along with many sub-chiefs and leaders of other tribes. The Suquamish gave up title to their lands, which encompassed most of present Kitsap County, for acknowledgement and protection of their fishing and hunting rights, health care, education and a reservation at Port Madison.

To make this cultural event successful, a strong volunteer presence will be essential, and **Rev. Zackrie Vinczen** is helping by coordinating volunteers to fill the following roles:

- Parking Attendant
- Meal Assistance
- Trash & Recycling Attendant
- Info Booth Attendant
- First-aid Support

If you are available and willing to help out, please contact Zackrie by email at minister@cedarsuuchurch.org.

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.

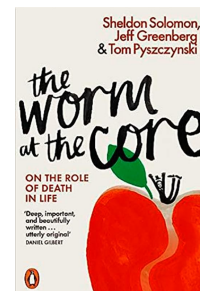
Children's Faith Formation Needs You

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

Evans Reading Group

The Evans Reading Group is pleased to invite your participation in our 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 next selection is ***The Worm at the Core: On the Role of Death in Life***.

"Deep, important, and beautifully written, ***The Worm at the Core*** describes a brilliant, original program of scientific research on death, a force so powerful that it drives our lives, but so frightening that we cannot think clearly about it. This book shines the light of reason on the heart of human darkness." — Daniel Gilbert, Edgar Pierce Professor of Psychology, Harvard University.

Join us for an interesting discussion via Zoom at 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, September 5th. If you would like to be on our email list, let **Mayr Romeo** know.

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

David Barnes says “On Troll Patrol tonight.” (Bainbridge Island location undisclosed)



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.

Safe Gatherings at Cedars

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.

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

Current COVID Safety - Cedars Unitarian Universalist Church (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.

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

Rev. Zackrie Vinczen, Minister

For an appointment, e-mail 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

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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)

