

# The Beacon

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



Volume 13 Issue 35 / September 1, 2023

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

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## --- Upcoming Services

### Walden in the Anthropocene

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**Sunday September 3rd**  
10:00 a.m.  
In-Person Service in Webster Hall

**Rev. Barry Andrews**  
Jenny Weaver, Worship Associate

Given the challenges we face, how can a man who went off to the woods for two years—woods he almost burned down himself a year earlier—tell us anything about the Anthropocene, global warming, and the threat of extinction?

What advice can someone who was born two hundred years ago offer to those living today?

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### Drop by Drop: Cedars' Water Ceremony

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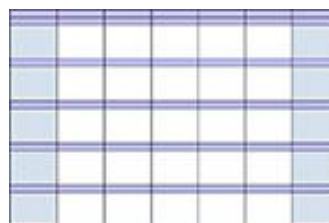
**Sunday September 10th**  
10:00 a.m.  
In-Person Service in Webster Hall

**Rev. Zackrie Vinczen**  
Gregory Cook, Worship Associate

Join us in celebrating our unity and interconnectedness through the symbolism of water. Participants are encouraged to bring water from their homes to pour into a common vessel to represent the blending of diverse experiences. Through reflection and music, we will embrace the sacredness of water, fostering a sense of belonging and commitment to kindness and empathy in our community.

### 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 September 3rd**  
10:00 a.m.  
In-Person Service in Webster Hall  
[Live-Stream Link](#)  
Coffee and Social time following

**Tuesday September 5th**  
1:30 p.m.  
Evans Reading Group



## News and Announcements

### A Labor Day Meditation

Unitarian Universalism has a class problem.

We rarely discuss it, and when we do, we often focus on the very poor: the homeless, panhandlers, people on welfare. But we also have a problem with the working class, particularly the ones suffering from what Marx called alienation. If you're a skilled craftsperson and like to work with your hands, you might be a UU. But if you make a living by renting your muscles and selling your time -- like my Dad -- you probably aren't.

My UU church is in a Boston suburb, and like all the UU churches I've attended, it has a lot of professionals with advanced degrees -- people like me. But most UU congregations don't have a lot of people like Dad. I think that's a problem.

This problem rarely even makes it onto an agenda. At my church, Martin Luther King Jr. Sunday is an annual reminder to meditate on our race problem and the paucity of African Americans in UU congregations. Labor Day? We're closed. It's the last weekend of our summer break, time for one last trip to the vacation home on the Cape.

But that's in the class-segregated suburbs of Boston. What about my hometown in farm country? Growing up, I didn't know we had a UU church, but we do. I've preached there twice now, and I try to stop in whenever I'm in town on a Sunday. It's full of wonderful people, but as best as I can determine they are also more like me than like Dad. I've met the newspaper editor, the superintendent of schools, and a professor from the local university there, but nobody from the factory where Dad worked or any other local factory. No truck drivers. No waitresses. Nobody who works checkout or has calloused hands.

I hope one or two working-class people are there somewhere, but I haven't met them yet. Neither has Dad. He came to hear me preach the first time, but he hasn't been back.

-- from an article in the UU World magazine by contributing editor and columnist Doug Mulder



### Starting the Year With Some Action

Each year your Board of Trustees gathers at a summer Retreat to discuss where we are and how to approach the coming

year. Earlier, I wrote in the Beacon that we set a Board Vision to "Foster joy and connection through learning, service and activities. Create a culture of belonging that will strengthen our community."

Building on that vision, we also discussed some attainable actions that would help lead us to that status. First, to continue to support social action, pastoral care, music, worship, faith formation and all the great work you are leading. In addition, we are going to pursue a parent's night out, innovative use of Cedars Center and fundraising through sale of UU



### 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*

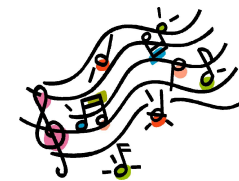
### Our Congregational Mission



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:

**Blue Boat Home (#1064) Hymn of the Month**

**For the Earth Forever Turning (#163)**

**We've got the Whole World in Our Hands**

### 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,

merchandise. We are also going to work on exploring alternative worship models (like the recent potluck discussion) and enhance communication and outreach on Worship Services. With these in mind, and to help everyone coordinate, we are also refocusing attention on Program Council meetings, where we can share these achievements.

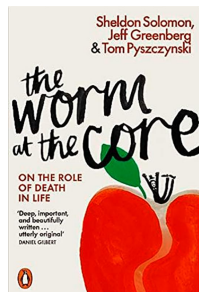
I am excited to see the new people showing up on Sundays and at other events. Let's keep the enthusiasm going and grow our strong community.

Jeff Philip  
President, Board of Trustees

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## 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 **Mary Romeo** know.

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## 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

please email Jeff Philip at [president@cedarsuuchurch.org](mailto:president@cedarsuuchurch.org).

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## 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.

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

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## 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](http://cedarsuuchurch.org))**

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## 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.

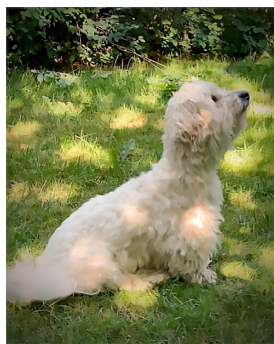
know and appreciate each other.

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).

## Creativity Fair

**Robyn Teske** says "It was a special moment when I saw my puppy Gabriel gazing at a vivid yellow-red leaf falling...ever so slowly. Then he wiggled his nose and sniffed, maybe wondering "What is this new smell in the air?" Those few seconds inspired this haiku:

*puppy sits staring  
amber leaf twirling to ground  
nose high, sniffs first Fall*



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).

## Items Left at Cedars Picnic!

Some items left after the Cedars picnic are at the Cedars Center waiting in the kitchen for the owners to pick them up. The condiments are in the refrigerator.



## 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

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

## 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

### Faith Formation Lead

[faith.formation@cedarsuuchurch.org](mailto:faith.formation@cedarsuuchurch.org)

## Carolyn Kerns, Office Administrator

Available remotely Tuesday, Thursday, Friday  
[office@cedarsuuchurch.org](mailto: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](#).



