

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 37 / September 15, 2023

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Upcoming Services

Designing Space for the Possibility of Grace

Sunday September 17th
10:00 a.m.
In-Person Service in Webster Hall

Rev. Jennifer Alviar
Johanna Munson, Worship Associate

Creative ideas are born in unexpected places. Yet their birth holds genius and magic in it. Join us as we explore together the collective possibilities for grace-filled wonder and transformation.

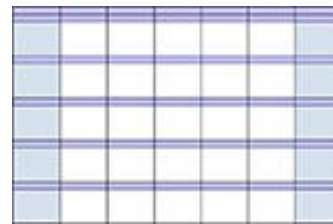
The Great Evangelical Deconstruction

Sunday September 24th
10:00 a.m.
In-Person Service in Webster Hall

Michael Camp
Mike Cox, Worship Associate

Michael Camp shares why many evangelicals today are deconstructing their faith and making some startling and beautiful discoveries. Based on his own experience as a "deconstructed" and ex-evangelical missionary, he shares why this is a welcome trend. You'll learn why it's having a positive spiritual impact on both our wider society and progressive faith communities like UUs.

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 September 17th
10:00 a.m.
In-Person Service in Webster Hall
[Live-Stream Link](#)
Coffee and Social time following



News and Announcements

Cedars Outreach at

Poulsbo Pride

Poulsbo will host their first Pride Event on September 24th from 11am to 6pm in Raab Park and Cedars will be there hosting an information booth and book exchange and that is where you can help.



In the spirit of roadside Free Little Libraries, we will set up a Free Mobile Library for everyone attending. Each book we give out will include information about Cedars UU Church, so people can find our congregation and join a Worship Service or other event. If you have extra books you would like to gift to people in the community, just drop them off at the Cedars Center office and we will include them in the giveaway.

I also encourage you to stop by the Pride event, because it will be fantastic. If you also want to help in the booth, just let me know.

Jeff Philip
President, Board of Trustees
president@cedarsuuchurch.org

Safe Gatherings at Cedars

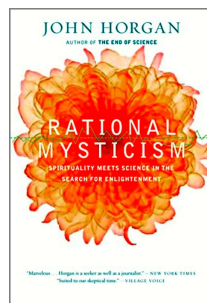
Based on the recent decision to no longer require masking in health care facilities in Washington State, the Board of Trustees has decided that Cedars will no longer ask people to mask up while singing at Sunday Services.

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

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

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 **Rational Mysticism --Spirituality Meets Science in the Search for Enlightenment**, by John Horgan.

How do trances, visions, prayer, satori, and other mystical experiences "work"? Is



Cedars UU Church is a Welcoming Congregation and Green Sanctuary

Our Congregational Mission

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



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 **Meredith Patterson** for music accompaniment.

Sunday Hymns:

- **Blue Boat Home (#1064) Hymn of the Month**
- **When Our Heart is in a Holy Place (#1008)**
- **When the Spirit Says Do (#1024)**

Exploring Meditation



Join us for a new monthly meditation gathering **on the 4th Wednesday of each month** at the Cedars Center (located at 284 Madrona Way #128 in Winslow).

Throughout our session, we will delve into a variety of meditation techniques. As we meditate together, you'll have the opportunity to explore these techniques

there a scientific explanation for religious mysteries and transcendent meditation? This book chronicles advanced research into the mechanics and meaning of mystical phenomena, exploring chemistry, neuroscience, psychology, anthropology, theology, and more, to narrow the gap between reason and mystical experience.

Join us for an interesting discussion via Zoom at 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday November 8th. If you would like to be on our email list, let **Mary Romeo** know.



Social Justice Special Collection

Cedars holds a monthly Special Collection 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.

For the September 24th Special Collection, the Social Justice Committee has chosen to collect money for the **Rotary Club of Bainbridge Island's Uganda Well Project**. This project works with a local trusted contractor to drill borehole wells in rural villages in northern Uganda. Since 2003, a total of 194 wells have been drilled. New money raised now will go towards a 2024 goal of drilling three more wells.

If you would like to receive a tax deduction for your donation, please place a check in the offering basket with "Rotary Uganda Well Project" in the memo-line on September 24th, or send it to the Cedars Church Office by September 30th.

Additionally, Cedars will be participating again in the October **Bainbridge Island/North Kitsap CROP Hunger Walk**, part of a nationwide movement raising funds to end hunger and poverty in the U.S. and around the world, and the Social Justice Committee invites you to join in that activity, helping hungry families, educating communities in sustainable farming methods, and providing renewable sources of food.

On a beautiful fall afternoon last year, we had a group of eleven people participating in the walk and wearing Cedars shirts to demonstrate our congregation's support for the community to see.

deeply. As the session draws to a close, there will be a chance to pose inquiries and, if you wish, share your personal meditation experiences with others.

Mark your calendar for the following dates from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m.

- September 27th
- October 25th
- November 29th
- **No Meeting in December**
- January 24th
- February 28th
- March 27th
- April 24th
- May 29th
- June 26th

If you would like more information, please reach out to **Rev. Zackrie**.
minister@cedarsuuchurch.org
360-930-9339

Writing as a Spiritual Practice

Discover the profound depths within yourself and the world around you through the transformative power of writing. Throughout the centuries, writing has served as a spiritual practice, illuminating hidden truths and connecting us to something greater.

Join the **Cedars Spiritual Writing Group**, a new monthly writing experience facilitated by Rev. Zackrie. During each of these gatherings, you will be offered prompts that nourish your creative spirit, ignite your inspiration, and invite you into questioning. Moreover, these gatherings will also provide a space for deep reflection, contemplation, and sharing. Whether you choose to attend a single session or embark on the full journey, each gathering will offer the promise of a meaningful exploration of self and soul.

So mark your calendar for the following dates from 5-6 p.m.:

- September 13th: Opening the Senses
- October 11th: Befriending Solitude & Grief
- November 8th: On Gratitude
- December 13th: Reviving Spiritual Traditions
- January 10th: Dwelling in Our Bodies
- February 14th: Moments in Between
- March 13th: Allowing Emptiness
- April 10th: Responding to Art
- May 8th: Encounters in the Wild
- June 12th: TBD

Each session will take place at the Cedars Center in Winslow (284 Madrona Way #128).

This year, the walk will start at Eagle Harbor Congregational Church at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 1st.

To sign up for this year's event, just go to the CROP Hunger Walk Cedar's Team [website](#). From there you will be able to sign up to walk with Cedars or contribute if you cannot join us. The website includes information about the route that we will be walking. There will be accommodation for anyone who does not want to complete the full walk.

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



Open Mic Science Returns

**Tuesday September 12th, 7:00 pm,
Treehouse Café**

We invite you to an evening at The Treehouse Café on Bainbridge Island to explore ideas in all aspects of science and technology in an informal, social setting. Talks are to be held the second Tuesday of every month at 7 p.m.

Our first program and discussion is to be: **“What is the Deal with Carbon Offsets”**

Derik Broekhoff, an Islander, who works with the Stockholm Environmental Institute will share his long experience working in this field.

You can subscribe to the Open Mic Science newsletter to see future events by going to <https://openmicscience.weebly.com/>

So come and enjoy pizza and beer and stay abreast of current science and technology. We hope to see you on September 12th.

If you have any questions, please reach out to **Mike Cox** at toxman57@gmail.com.

Children's Faith

If you would like more information, please reach out to **Rev. Zackrie**.
minister@cedarsuuchurch.org
360-930-9339



This last Wednesday night was the first Session of the new Spiritual Writing Group that has formed at Cedars. Eight participants joined in a time of spiritual practice and written reflection. This month's theme was "Opening the Senses" and invited exploration on the sensory details of memory and the present moment. The next session will take place on Wednesday, October 11th from 5-6 at the Cedars Center.

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.

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

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.

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.

Creativity Fair

Joyce Jensen says "Breakfast, lunch, and dinner."

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.



Climate Circle Conversations

In 2022, the Bainbridge Island/North Kitsap Interfaith Council (IFC) formed the **Climate Circle**, "to promote awareness of individual and shared actions to mitigate and adapt to climate change," with several Cedars members helping to organize the program, which currently has about twenty members from different congregations and faith traditions.

Next month, the Climate Circle is launching a month of climate conversations of various kinds and inviting participation. The goal of this initiative is **"to increase awareness of what individuals, congregations, and the whole community of faith organizations can do to address climate change."**

An open interfaith gathering called **Celebrating the Web of Life** will be the kickoff event, led and hosted by Climate Circle members. The gathering will be at Kol Shalom (9010 Miller Rd NE) on Wednesday October 4th at 7:00 p.m.

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

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

[Cedars UU Church \(website\)](http://www.cedarsuuchurch.org)



Cedars Unitarian Universalist Church | 284 Madrona Way NE, #128, Bainbridge Island, WA 98110

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