

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 36 / September 8, 2023

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--- Upcoming Services

Drop by Drop: Cedars' Water Ceremony

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.

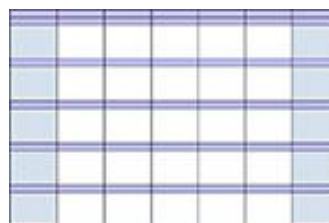
Designing Space for the Possibility of Grace

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.

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



News and Announcements

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 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

Safe Gatherings at Cedars

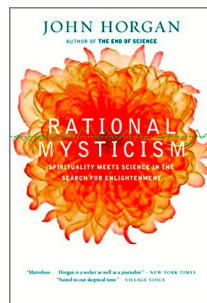
Based on the recent decision to no longer require masking in health care facilities in Washington State, the Board of Trustees has decided that Cedars will no longer ask people to mask up while singing at Sunday Services.

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.

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 **Gretchen Yanover** for music accompaniment.

Sunday Hymns:

- **Wake, Now My Senses (#298)**
- **I've Got Peace Like a River (#100)**
- **Blue Boat Home (#1064) Hymn of the Month**

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 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

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



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://openmicsscience.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 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.

- **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).

If you would like more information, please reach out to **Rev. Zackrie**.

minister@cedarsuuchurch.org

360-930-9339

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

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

Jane Martin says "I am liking my Berkeley Tie Dye tomatoes this year."



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 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.

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

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](#))

