

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 52 / December 29, 2023

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Upcoming Services

At the Threshold

Sunday December 31st
10:00 a.m.
In-Person Service in Webster Hall

Rev. Zackrie Vinczen

Worship Associates
Jenny Weaver
Johanna Munson

This service will invite us into a space of ritual reflection as we prepare to cross the threshold into a new year. Come with your intentions, hopes, and imagination as we navigate this liminal time together.

Abracadabra Alakazam: The Magic of Words

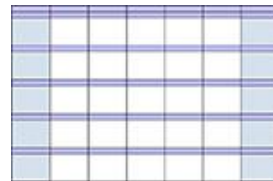
Sunday January 7th
10:00 a.m.
In-Person Service in Webster Hall

Rev. Zackrie Vinczen

Worship Associate
Johanna Munson

There was a time when it was believed that certain words were so powerful that they needed to be used with care. Today, we tend to be a little looser with our words, but there is still magic in them. Come join us as we explore the magic of words today.

Current Week Calendar & 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 December 31st
10:00 a.m.
In-Person Service in Webster Hall
[Live-Stream Link](#)
Coffee and Social Time following

24:00 p.m.
2023 concludes with fireworks
2024 begins with opportunity

Tuesday January 2nd
1:30 p.m.
Evans Reading Group



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

News and Announcements

New Year Opportunities

Many people make resolutions on New Year's Eve. One poll found that 37% of respondents made one in 2022. Another survey found that the average resolution lasts 3.74 months. The poll also revealed that just 8% of respondents stick with their goals for one month, 22% last two months, 22% last three months, and 13% last four months.



I generally don't make NYE resolutions. Still, I think of 2024 as another year that is filled with new opportunities. At Cedars, we are discussing expanding our efforts to reduce food insecurity by preparing a meal a month in Suquamish. We are looking at ways to restart the hosted event fundraisers that were so much fun in the past. We are also seeing new faces that we hope will become our friends and part of our community.

Whether you make resolutions or not, I wish for you to embrace new experiences in 2024 and that they enrich your life.

Jeff Philip
President, Board of Trustees



Christmas Eve

Webster Hall was filled with carol-singing and candlelight last Sunday evening as we gathered for a special Christmas Eve Service in which Rev. Zackrie helped us recognize and appreciate the present-day significance of the original nativity story.

Somewhere Over the Rainbow

Somewhere Over the Rainbow is an LGBTQ+ support group providing education on important matters affecting



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 **Emily Groff** for music accompaniment.

Sunday Hymns:

How Could Anyone (#1053)
Meditation on Breathing (#1009)
There's a River Flowin' in My Soul (#1007)



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**

queer individuals as well as a safe space for connection.

The group will discuss a wide range of topics related to the LGBTQ+ community, particularly concerns and challenges affecting the mental health of queer people, and will be facilitated by **Kenny Davis**, a local Licensed Mental Health Counselor Associate with Caretta Counseling Alliance, who has volunteered to offer this program for Cedars and the wider community.

The next meeting will take place at the Cedars Center on January 11th at 6 p.m.

We look forward to seeing all colors of the rainbow in attendance and hope to see you there.

Exploring Meditation

Join us for a monthly meditation gathering 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.

- **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

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

Group, a new monthly writing experience facilitated by Rev. Zackrie.

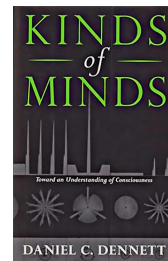
During each of these gatherings, you will be offered prompts that nourish your creative spirit, ignite your inspiration, and invite you into questioning. Moreover, these gatherings will also provide a space for deep reflection, contemplation, and sharing. Whether you choose to attend a single session 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.:

- 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

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



Evans Reading Group

Organized 16 years ago as the Spirituality Book Group, this Cedars reading group assumed a new identity as the Evans Reading Group in

2020 to honor the Rev. Marvin Evans after his passing.

In our time together, the group has read and discussed 64 books selected to intrigue and hopefully enlighten us in seeking "Salvation by Bibliography" as our late friend Marvin used to say, and we are pleased to invite your participation with us in our ongoing practice.

Our current selection is *Kinds of Minds – Toward an Understanding of Consciousness*, by **Daniel C. Dennett**.

Combining ideas from philosophy, artificial intelligence, and neurobiology, Daniel Dennett leads the reader on a fascinating journey of inquiry, exploring such intriguing possibilities as: Can any of us really know what is going on in someone else's mind? What distinguishes the human mind from the minds of animals, especially those capable of complex behavior? If such

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

The winter holidays always bring this colorfully festive band of celebrants to **Jane Martin's** house.



Print the Beacon Newsletter

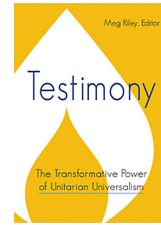
The Beacon is available to download and print each week. Go to www.cedarsuuchurch.org. The newest issue is available on the Cedars website under News after 12:00 p.m. on Fridays.

Services and Faith Formation

Sundays at 10:00 a.m.
The Island School
8553 NE Day Road
Bainbridge Island

animals, for instance, were magically given the power of language, would their communities evolve an intelligence as subtly discriminating as ours?

Join us for an interesting discussion via Zoom at 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, January 2nd. If you would like to be on our email list, let **Mary Romeo** know.



Testimony - The Transformative Power of Unitarian Universalism

Offered by our own Skinner House Press, this illuminating book

shares personal stories from people whose lives have been dramatically transformed by Unitarian Universalism, finding renewed purpose and personal meaning in UU values and through participation in a congregational community such as Cedars. Together these vignettes paint a portrait of the real, felt impact of Unitarian Universalism.

For more information and purchase, see the InSpirit Bookstore at bookstore@uua.org.

Super Super 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.

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**.

Rev. Zackrie Vinczen, Minister

For an appointment, e-mail minister@cedarsuuchurch.org
For an urgent matter, call (360) 930-9339 (Pastoral Care)

Cedars Center

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

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 \(website\)](#)



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

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