

The Beacon

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



CEDARS CHURCH
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

Volume 14 Issue 1 / January 5, 2024

[Website](#) [Faith Formation](#) [Calendar](#) [Our Staff](#) [Contact Us](#) [Join Cedars](#)

Upcoming Services

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.

Brunch & Banter: Hope in the Time of Climate Change

Sunday January 14th
10:00 a.m.
In-Person Service in Webster Hall

Mike Cox, Service Facilitator

Join us for a time of gathering, sharing a meal, hymns, and meaningful conversation. Mike Cox will facilitate the program.

Bring your curiosity, questions, and wisdom to share—plus, your favorite Brunch-y dish! Let's connect and celebrate human togetherness.

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 January 7th
10:00 a.m.
In-Person Service in Webster Hall
[Live-Stream Link](#)
Coffee and Social Time following

Wednesday January 10th
5:00 p.m.
Writing as a Spiritual Practice
Cedars Center

Thursday January 11th
6:00 p.m.
Somewhere Over the Rainbow
Cedars Center

News and Announcements

A New Year

Opportunity

Cedars has been supporting Super Suppers on Bainbridge for many years. Once per month, we partner with Congregation Kol Shalom to serve a healthy, hearty meal to people at the Eagle Harbor Congregational Church. It has become such a success that the number of people volunteering exceeds the need.



The Social Justice Committee has recently been working toward supporting another community meal. The Suquamish Community Kitchen feeds between 35 and 75 meals every Wednesday to the local community as a way to share a good meal and connect with others in the community. A few of us have worked alongside the Community Kitchen volunteers and are now ready to give it a go with our help too. We will begin with our first North Kitsap meal at the Suquamish United Church of Christ on Wednesday, February 21st.

We could use your help! If you are interested in helping to prepare and serve the meal, please contact me at philip.jeff@gmail.com.

Jeff Philip
President, Board of Trustees

Cedars' Congregational History

The Bainbridge Island Review is currently celebrating 100 years of publishing history and has invited the sharing of locally significant memories from the period. This is especially relevant to Cedars, because we can be thankful for the newspaper error that led to our founding and subsequent presence.

For many years, the oral history of the fellowship that has become Cedars recalled that the local newspaper inadvertently used "Unitarians" in the headline above an article announcing possible formation of a Unity group, and that disappointed Unitarians responded by forming a group of their own.

The story is true. The names of those Unitarians are then found as signatures on bylaws for a new Bainbridge Unitarian Fellowship. Those bylaws, dated June 9, 1959, also included a succinct statement of purpose for the new organization: "To study and practice the principles of liberal Unitarianism and to conduct a church school."



**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 **Juliette Dashe** for music accompaniment.

Sunday Hymns:

Gather the Spirit (#347)
There's a River Flowin' in My Soul (#1007)
My Life Flows on in Endless Song (#108)

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.

Somewhere Over the Rainbow



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

- 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

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

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.



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.:

- 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

Testimony - The Transformative Power of Unitarian

together, as well as by the ways we can find to know each other better.

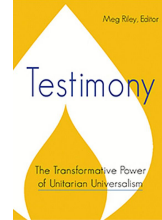
In past years we organized occasional Creativity Fairs to share individual interests and capabilities following Webster Hall services, and in response to the more recent pandemic we have shifted to on-line or virtual versions of those fairs.

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

Rev. Zackrie has updated his Facebook profile to align with the potential and possibilities of the new year:



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 as members of the Bainbridge Island Interfaith Council, offers Super Supper dinners on the last Tuesday of each month, and is now moving toward a similar role assisting the Suquamish Community Kitchen on selected Wednesdays with free meals for those in need.

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 or **Rod Kempkes** at rdkempkes@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)

Faith Formation Lead

faith.formation@cedarsuuchurch.org

Carolyn Kerns, Office Administrator

Available remotely Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
office@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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