

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 3 / January 19, 2024

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Upcoming Services

Working with Shadows

Sunday January 21st
10:00 a.m.
In-Person Service in Webster Hall

Rev. Zackrie Vinczen
Gregory Cook, Worship Associate

Ursula K. Le Guin once wrote, "To light a candle is to cast a shadow." In this service, we will reflect on this insight as we consider the shadows our own light casts.

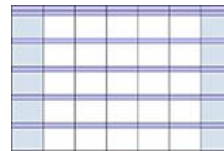
Cloaked in a Thousand Ways

Sunday January 28th
10:00 a.m.
In-Person Service in Webster Hall

Rev. Zackrie Vinczen
Nancy Philip, Worship Associate

The Sufi teacher and poet Hafiz once wrote "cloak yourself in a thousand ways, still shall I know you, Beloved." This line, a description of Hafiz's intimate relationship with God, speaks to an ability to unmask illusions and get at the truth of what is. In this service, we will explore this theme and consider how to find the truth even if it is cloaked in a thousand ways.

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 21st
10:00 a.m.
In-Person Service in Webster Hall
[Live-stream Link](#)
Coffee and Social Time following

Wednesday January 24th
Exploring Meditation
5:00 p.m.

News and Announcements





Small Event Fundraising for Cedars

We are bringing Hosted Events back again this year! The objective is to provide creative and enjoyable opportunities for Cedars people to know and appreciate each other better while helping with fundraising to support the congregation's ongoing operation.

Sponsors (like you) get to determine what the event will be, such as themed or special menu dining, performance entertainment, or perhaps even exotic game instruction (rumor has it that Mahjong has some Cedars fans).

Tickets will be sold for a small fundraising fee (perhaps about \$20-\$30), and Cedars will be the beneficiary.

Need ideas? Check out these **Examples of Past Events**. When you are ready to submit your event, go to the **Event Submission Form**. You can propose multiple dates. The planning team will notify you of the date selected, and who has purchased a ticket for your event. Please reach out to me if you have any questions.

Jeff Philip
President, Board of Trustees
philip.jeff@gmail.com



UU, Cedars, and You

Following the Sunday Service on **Sunday, February 4th**, Rev. Zackrie and the



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 **Nick Colletto** for music accompaniment.

Sunday Hymns:

Be Thou My Vision (#20)

This Is the Truth That Passes Understanding (#369)

Though I May Speak with Bravest Fire (#34)

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

Community Life Team will be hosting a casual conversation about Unitarian Universalism and our Cedars community for those of you who are curious and would like to learn more.

Great conversation as well as light refreshments will be provided in the Island School Library. We try to offer these opportunities a few times each year so we hope you will be able to join us.

January Special Collection

Cedars holds a monthly Special Collection as a way to educate our congregation about the work of various nonprofit organizations that reflect our values and to channel our generosity in support of them.

On Sunday January 28th, the Social Justice Committee will be collecting donations for the **Ukrainian Association of Washington State**. The Association, an entirely volunteer organization established in 1971 by Ukrainian immigrants, has devoted itself to perpetuating Ukrainian culture in the Pacific Northwest and providing support to Ukrainians who live here since that time.

Following Russia's Ukrainian attack, the Association has been directing its energies toward humanitarian fundraising for the country and providing as much assistance as possible to the 20,000 or so Ukrainian refugees who have made their way to Washington State.

Nena Peltin will attend and talk about the Association. Nena moved here from Seattle in 2020. In 2021, she joined the Bainbridge Island Rotary Club and has spearheaded a committee to provide humanitarian aid to Ukraine as it suffers through Russia's vicious attacks.

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 discusses 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



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.:

- 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

Super Supper

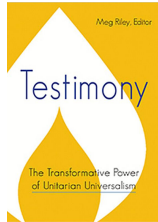
Cedars, in partnership with Kol Shalom as members of the Bainbridge Island Interfaith Council, offers Super Supper dinners on the last Tuesday of each month, and is now moving toward a similar role assisting the Suquamish Community Kitchen on selected Wednesdays with free meals for those in need.

Counseling Alliance, who has volunteered to offer this program for Cedars and the wider community.

The next meeting is February 8th, 7 pm at the Cedars Center.

Topic: Challenging Negative Thoughts

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



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.

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

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

From the Bookkeeper's Desk

Once again this year, since we know most taxpayers no longer itemize deductions, we will not be sending out 2023 tax letters to all church members. If you do itemize your IRS deductions and need a letter detailing all of your 2023 contributions, please send an email request to

bookkeeper@cedarsuuchurch.org. A letter will be sent to you showing all January - December 2023 payments received by Cedars for pledges, non-pledged gifts, and special collections.

Additionally, in January, pledge statements will be sent out. These statements will reflect all pledge payments received from July through December 2023. That time frame encompasses the first half of the Cedars fiscal year, which ends in June 2024.

If you have any questions, please feel free to email me at the address above.

Mandy Maher
Cedars Bookkeeper

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**.

Walker Willingham's talent for yardwork and landscape improvement was clearly and necessarily taken well beyond simple lawn-mowing and leaf-raking recently.



minister@cedarsuuchurch.org
360-930-9339



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

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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 \(website\)](http://cedarsuu.org)



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