

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 21 / May 24, 2024

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

Upcoming Services

How to Continue

Sunday May 26th
10:00 a.m.
In-Person Service in Webster Hall

Rev. Zackrie Vinczen
Jenny Weaver, Worship Associate

How do we answer the call to environmental stewardship in light of the reality that our current lifestyle is unsustainable? What actions can we take to ensure the continued existence of life on our planet?

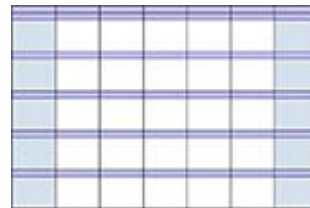
True Self, True Pride

Sunday June 2nd
10:00 a.m.
In-Person Service in Webster Hall

Rev. Zackrie Vinczen
Gregory Cook, Worship Associate

Celebrate the journey to authenticity as we explore the significance of embracing one's true identity, regardless of societal norms or expectations. Drawing inspiration from personal narratives and spiritual teachings this service is an invitation to live more fully as your true self.

Current Week Calendar & Links



Your Cedars community invites you to participate in services and activities, get information, enjoy fellowship, and pause for reflection.

[View the detailed Calendar.](#)

Sunday May 26th
10:00 a.m.
In-Person Service in Webster Hall
[Live-Stream Link](#)
Coffee and Social Time following

Tuesday May 28th
1:30 p.m. Zoom discussion
Evans Reading Group

5:00 p.m.
Super Suppers

Wednesday May 29th
5:00 p.m.
Exploring Meditation

News and Announcements

Stewardship, Emotions and a Congregational Meeting

We had a successful



Stewardship Campaign over the past month, with several people making significant increases to their pledges. We still have about twenty pledges yet to come in and will be following up with those folks over the next week. Of course, knowing what to expect from your generous pledges in the coming year allows the congregation to set a budget that is reasonable.

Tonight, I encourage you to join us at Cedars Center to watch the Disney movie Inside Out. It is an animated film, but explores the complex changes we experience in childhood dealing with a variety of evolving emotions. Next month, Inside Out 2 is in theaters, and we will go as a group to see that one too. After each movie, we will have a discussion to process out thoughts (and emotions).

On June 9, at our annual Congregational Meeting, we will be voting on our annual budget, the new board for the coming year, and an advisory vote on the UUA Article II Bylaw changes. Lots of opportunities to engage over the next few weeks. I look forward to seeing you.

Jeff Philip
President, Board of Trustees



General Assembly 2024

General Assembly (or GA) is the annual gathering of Unitarian Universalists, where we conduct business of the Association, explore the theological underpinnings of our faith, and lean fully into our mission and principles.

Although typically organized as a physical assembly of congregational delegates, this year's GA will instead be virtual, with "Love Unites, Stories Ignite" as an organizing theme celebrating love as a profound and binding force transcending boundaries and historical traditions within our faith communities and beyond, while our stories and the power of storytelling can ignite change, inspire compassion, and help us build a more just and equitable world.

The 63rd General Assembly will take place virtually **Thursday, June 20 through Sunday, June 23**, and you can now view the GA schedule to see the lineup of informative workshops, inspirational worship services, and more!

**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 Musician **Grace Bonow** and Song Leader **Rebecca Kim**.

Sunday Hymns:

1. Lo, the Earth Awakens Again (#61)
2. In Time of Silver Rain (#60)
3. For the Beauty of the Earth (#21)

It's Time for the Annual Report!

If you are a Committee Leader, please write a concise report summarizing your committee's activity between July 1, 2023 and June 30, 2024. This can be in either bullet point or paragraph form. Email the finished report to the Office Manager at

office@cedarsuuchurch.org.

If you have any questions, please contact Jeff at philip.jeff@gmail.com.

Children's Faith Formation Needs You

An enthusiastic group of parents has begun planning children's



Article II: Principles or Values?

The UU community is abuzz about the proposed changes to Article II in the UUA Bylaws. That Article outlines some of the core elements of the Unitarian Universalist movement in the United States (Canada and other countries have their own guidance). In June we will vote on whether to change them.

We had an in-person Cedars Center discussion of the proposed changes several weeks ago and plan to continue the conversation in a Zoom session later in the month. For now, here are links to relevant information:

- [Final Proposed Revision to Article II](#)
- [Save the Seven Principles Website](#)
- [UU World Magazine Article](#)
- [Present Text of Article II](#)

Beliefs & Principles

For some perspective on the Article II proposal and what it could mean with regard to our ongoing identity and practices, it might be helpful to review the summary of beliefs and principles currently present on the UUA's own website as identified by the late Rev. Dr. Forrest Church:

"In Unitarian Universalism, you can bring your whole self: your full identity, your questioning mind, your expansive heart.

Together, we create a force more powerful than one person or one belief system. As Unitarian Universalists, we do not have to check our personal background and beliefs at the door: we join together on a journey that honors everywhere we've been before.

Our beliefs are diverse and inclusive. We have no shared creed. Our shared covenant (the seven Principles) supports "the free and responsible search for truth and meaning." Though Unitarianism and Universalism were both liberal Christian traditions, this responsible search has led us to embrace diverse teachings from Eastern and Western religions and philosophies.

Unitarian Universalists believe more than one thing. We think for ourselves, and reflect together, about important questions:

- The existence of a Higher Power
- Life and Death
- Sacred Texts
- Prayer and Spiritual Practices

We are united in our broad and inclusive outlook, and in our values, as expressed

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.



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.:

- June 12th: Prompt 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

Support Southern Resident Orcas and Salmon

Sandy Spears is looking for volunteers to walk in Bainbridge Island's Grand Old Fourth parade (with its typical 18,000 member audience) to demonstrate

in our seven Principles.

We are united in shared experience: our open and stirring worship services, religious education, and rites of passage; our work for social justice; our quest to include the marginalized; our expressions of love."

The most significant concern raised by the Article II change proposal is its apparent disregard for the seven principles, and consequently whether it is an acceptable portrayal of who we are as individuals and as a faith community. Worth noting however, is that the seven words giving conceptual form to the proposal's diagram may themselves be seen to represent the seven principles, and consequently give meaningful form to the proposal.

Super Supper and Community Kitchen 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. We have a regular sign-up for you to use each month to provide various dishes and to assist with setup, serving, and cleanup, so that all in our congregation have a chance to participate. Please consider signing up for one or more slots [here](#).

Cedars is also now committed to leading the preparation and serving of a free meal to anyone in the community every other month through the Suquamish Community Kitchen. These meals require many helping hands to prepare, serve, and clean up. Please consider signing up for one of the team member roles on one or more of the upcoming dates (May 29, July 10, September 11, and November 13) [here](#).

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

Exploring Meditation

Join us for a monthly meditation gathering at the Cedars Center (located at 284 Madrona Way #128 in Winslow).

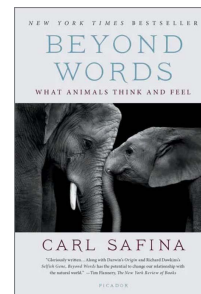
Throughout our session, we will delve into a variety of meditation techniques. As we meditate together, you'll have the opportunity to explore these techniques deeply. As the session draws to a close, there will be a chance to pose inquiries and, if you wish, share your personal meditation experiences with others.

support for the protection and continuing presence of the endangered Southern Resident Orcas and Salmon in our local waters.

For more information or to volunteer, please contact **Sandy Spears** at 713-705-7924. She currently has only four people, and needs at least 5 more! It's also really fun to be in a parade!

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 more than 60 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.

Because we found our recent selection by Carl Safina deeply fascinating and inspiring, we have chosen another book by the same author as our next selection.

Interweaving decades of field observation with exciting discoveries about the brain, Safina's **Beyond Words** explores similarities between human and nonhuman consciousness, self-awareness, and empathy, suggesting that we need to re-evaluate our understandings and interactions with animals. Wise, passionate, and mind-opening, this book is ultimately a graceful examination of humanity's place in the world.

Join us for an interesting discussion via Zoom at **1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 28th**. If you would like to be on our email list, let **Mary Romeo** know.



**2024 Rotary Auction:
Volunteers Needed**

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

- May 29th
- June 26th

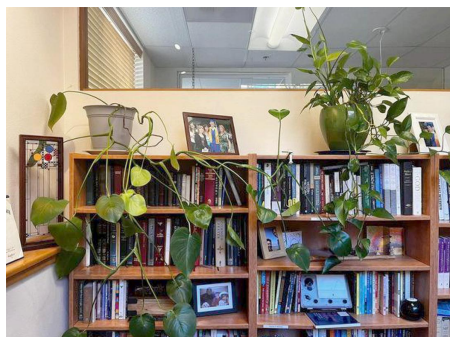
If you would like more information, please reach out to **Rev. Zackrie**.
minister@cedarsuuchurch.org
360-930-9339

Cedars Creativity Fair 2024

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. Please feel free to join an on-going process of sharing news and details about the creative interests and accomplishments of each other as members and friends of Cedars UU Church. If you have something to share, send a photo and description to office@cedarsuuchurch.org.

See What Others Have Been Doing

Rev. Zackrie says "One thing I love about my office is how my bookshelf is slowly being overtaken by plants.



June 29th – July 6th

It is that time of year again. If you are interested in volunteering for this year's Rotary Auction, you can go to the **volunteer site** to sign-up.

More specifically, folks from Cedars are very involved in the Green Team (Jane Martin) and Lawn and Garden (Mike Cox) among others so we would welcome your help. But pick the area you are interested in helping and come make a difference in our community and have some fun.

If you are interested in more details about the event or volunteering, feel free to reach out to **Mike Cox** (toxman57@gmail.com or 206-799-3725).



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 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!