

# 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 48 / December 1, 2023

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## Upcoming Services

### Sparkling Joy, Delicate Light, Huge Darkness

**Sunday December 3rd**  
**10:00 a.m.**  
**In-Person Service in Webster Hall**

**Joseph Bednarik, Guest Speaker**  
**Nancy Philip, Worship Associate**

The winter holidays incorporate lights of all kinds, from menorah candles and the eastern star to New Year's sparklers and solstice bonfires. This sermon explores the myriad holy lights of the holiday season, especially the light inside us all.

### Unity in Complexity

**Sunday December 10th**  
**10:00 a.m.**  
**In-Person Service in Webster Hall**

**Rev. Zackrie Vinczen**  
**Jenny Weaver, Worship Associate**

Join us for an exploration of "Unity in Complexity" this holiday season.

In our spiritually pluralistic faith community, we delve into the intertwining threads of community bonds, wrestling with the complexities of diverse traditions and beliefs. Through shared stories and reflections, we hope to discover the joy and strength found in the beautiful tapestry of our interconnected lives.

### 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 3rd**  
**10:00 a.m.**  
**In-Person Service in Webster Hall**  
**[Live-Stream Link](#)**  
**Coffee and Social time following**

**Wednesday December 6th**  
**6:00 p.m.**  
**Somewhere over the Rainbow**  
**Cedars Center**

## News and Announcements

### Love at the Center

Five months ago, the congregations of

the Unitarian Universalist Association voted to move forward with more discussion and discernment regarding changes to Article II of the UUA Bylaws. These are more commonly referred to as the Seven Principles and Six Sources of Unitarian Universalism.

The Study Commission has submitted its **Final Proposed Revision to Article II** to the UUA Board of Trustees. Rather than principles, it highlights Shared UU Values with Love as the central element. The sources now refer to Inspirations. We will talk about these more in the coming months. For now, I encourage you to read more about this new draft

**Jeff Philip, President  
Board of Trustees**

### Holiday Open House



'Tis the season to be jolly! Save the date and please join fellow Cedars UU members and friends for a Holiday Open House at Cedars Center on **Saturday, December 9, from 3 to 5 pm**. Please stop by to socialize, sample holiday cheer, and nibble on holiday treats.

### December Special Collection

**eliminating racism  
empowering women  
ywca  
Kitsap County**

Cedars holds a Special Collection monthly for community outreach 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 December 10th, the Social Justice Committee will be collecting donations for the YWCA Alive Shelter. The YWCA Kitsap County is dedicated to ensuring the personal safety, rights, welfare, and dignity of those who experience domestic abuse while building partnerships and increasing community awareness to create positive social change.

Your gifts will support their services including emergency shelter, supportive housing, legal advocacy, support groups, and education. For more information about their work, please visit [this website](#).

Please give generously. If you would like to receive a tax deduction for your



**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 **Deniz O'Rourke** for music accompaniment.

#### Sunday Hymns:

**Light One Candle (#221)  
Let All the Beauty We Have Known (#326)  
This Little Light of Mine (#118)**

### 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

donation, please write a check payable to Cedars UU Church with YWCA Alive Shelter in the memo to place in the offering basket or send it to the Cedars Church Office by December 20th. For more information, contact Carol Ann Davidson.

## Somewhere Over the Rainbow

As part of our mission in social justice (and feedback from our recent survey), we are excited to announce a new group at Cedars designed to serve our local queer community (including allies).



***Somewhere Over the Rainbow*** is to be 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 group will meet in the Cedars Center at 6 p.m. on the first Wednesday of every month, with the first meeting scheduled for **Wednesday December 6th**. This first meeting will give members a chance to learn more about the group leader and provide input for topics they would like to see in future meetings. Allyship, including addressing how to be a better ally and answering questions will be the first topic.

Some meetings may be closed to allies of the LGBTQ+ community depending on topics, but allies are warmly welcomed and encouraged to attend this first meeting. 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

assistance, please email Jeff Philip at [president@cedarsuuchurch.org](mailto: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.:

- 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](mailto:minister@cedarsuuchurch.org)  
360-930-9339

## 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

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**

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## 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](mailto:office@cedarsuuchurch.org).

### Creativity Fair

**Sally Wilson's** ladybug hors d'oeuvres provided holiday color as well as tasty treats on Thanksgiving Day:

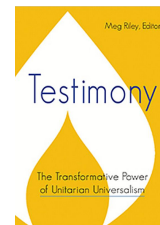


participate. Please consider signing up for one or more slots [here](#).

For more information contact **Mike Cox** at **206-799-3725** or [toxman57@gmail.com](mailto:toxman57@gmail.com).

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## Testimony - The Transformative Power of Unitarian Universalism



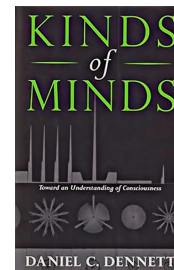
Offered by our own Skinner House Press, this illuminating book shares personal stories from people whose lives have been dramatically transformed by Unitarian Universalism, finding renewed purpose and personal meaning in UU values and through participation in a congregational community such as Cedars. 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](mailto:bookstore@uua.org).

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## 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 next 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 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.

### Print the Beacon Newsletter

The Beacon is available to download and print each week. Go to [www.cedarsuuchurch.org](http://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](mailto:minister@cedarsuuchurch.org)  
For an urgent matter, call (360) 930-9339  
(Pastoral Care)

### Faith Formation Lead

[faith.formation@cedarsuuchurch.org](mailto:faith.formation@cedarsuuchurch.org)

### Carolyn Kerns, Office Administrator

Available remotely Tuesday, Thursday, Friday  
[office@cedarsuuchurch.org](mailto:office@cedarsuuchurch.org)

Would you like to subscribe to The Beacon? Email: [beacon@cedarsuuchurch.org](mailto: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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