

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 5 / February 2, 2024

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Upcoming Services

The Myth of Monoculture

Sunday February 4th
10:00 a.m.
In-Person Service in Webster Hall

Rev. Zackrie Vinczen
Jenny Weaver, Worship Associate

The phrase “intra unum plures” (within one, many) affirms the idea that there is a complex intersection of identities at work within the construct of self.

In this service we will reflect on the intersectionality of these parts and consider what that means for our larger culture.

Whose Bright Idea Was This?

Sunday February 11th
10:00 a.m.
In-Person Service in Webster Hall

Rev. Amanda Aikman
Gregory Cook, Worship Associate

The origins, limitations, blessings, and future of monogamy.



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 event titles for information.

Sunday February 4th
10:00 a.m.
In-Person Service in Webster Hall
[Live-stream Link](#)
Coffee and Social Time following

11:15 a.m.
Cedars Informational Meeting
Learn about Unitarian Universalism and Cedars UU Church

Wednesday February 7th
6:00 p.m.
Program Council

Thursday February 8th
Interfaith Advocacy Day

7:00 p.m.
Somewhere Over The Rainbow
LGBTQ Support Group

News and Announcements

**Making an Impact
on the World**

The people at Cedars UU Church give generously to support our small community through annual pledges. Beyond that commitment, you also step up each month at the Sunday collection basket. Once each month we collect specifically for important causes, selected by the Social Action Committee.



Since July, our Special Collections have raised \$2,539 for non-profit organizations large and small, including: Poulsbo Pride, Kingston Cares, Uganda Borehole Project, Crop Walk, NW Hopeful Horizons, and the Alive Shelter. Over \$2,500! That is tremendous!

Last Sunday we were raising funds for the Ukrainian Association of Washington State. I become energized when I reflect on how we step up to make the world a better place.

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 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.

Small Event Fundraising

We are bringing Hosted Events back again this year! You can choose to be a host for a small gathering, or co-host a larger event with a friend. You determine what is included in the event like food, beverages or music. 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](#). Please reach out to



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 **Audrey Blair** for music accompaniment.

Sunday Hymns:

Lift Every Voice and Sing (#149)
We Would Be One (#318)
All Creatures of Earth and Sky (#203)

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



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 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.

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

FAITH ACTION NETWORK

A Partnership for the Common Good

Interfaith Advocacy Day

Faith Action Network's Interfaith Advocacy Day on February 8th will bring voices of compassion and justice to our elected leaders.

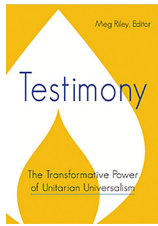
Join workshops to explore issues on FAN's 2024 agenda

Meeting with advocates from your legislative districtors will be putting your faith into action!

If interested, contact **Mike Cox** at toxman57@gmail.com

Super Supper 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.



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 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.

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

See What Others Have Been Doing

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.

Erin and the Kempkes family dogs

Loco and Mira have been enjoying matching sweaters that she made:



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

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.

- 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**

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

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

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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