

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 25 / June 21, 2024

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

Upcoming Services

Cringeworthy: The Persistent Echo of the Most Uncomfortable

Sunday June 23rd
10:00 a.m.
In-Person Service in Webster Hall

Warren Read, Guest Speaker
Nancy Philip, Worship Associate

Like other emotional experiences, embarrassment and shame can be deeply personal, and yet also readily understood by others. Nearly everyone has a story they can share in which they are the star, caught in a moment of humiliation or, at least, discomfort.

Why is it, then, that it's those scenes we wish to forget that persist in our minds, often at the most random, inopportune moments? In today's sermon, we'll look at nature of memory, and self, and the path to forgiveness for the most inane, and uncomfortable, echoes of our past.

E = MC²: The Case for an Afterlife

Sunday June 30th
10:00 a.m.
In-Person Service in Webster Hall

Johanna Munson, Guest Speaker
Gregory Cook, Worship Associate

According to Albert Einstein's law of conservation, mass and energy are interchangeable, and the sum stays constant. What if we apply this to the cycle of life and death?

There are as many stories of afterlife as there are spiritual traditions; however some traditions exclude the possibility of

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.](#)

This week, through Sunday June 23rd
UUA General Assembly (Virtual)

Sunday June 23rd
10:00 a.m.
In-Person Service in Webster Hall
[Live-Stream Link](#)
Coffee and Social Time following

Tuesday June 25th
5:00 p.m.
Super Suppers

Wednesday June 26th
1:30 p.m.
Evans Reading Group
5:00 p.m.
Exploring Meditation



Cedars UU Church is a

"the undiscovered country, from whose Bourn no traveler returns" (William Shakespeare). Join us as we venture into the beyond!

**Welcoming Congregation
and Green Sanctuary**

News and Announcements

Shifting Sands

This past week has been a shock for many of us. Rev. Zackrie Vinczen announced his resignation from Cedars last Sunday, after five years of professional ministry. His announcement comes as we are entering the summer season, a time when many folks are planning summer vacations, planning to enjoy the warm weather at home or at distant locales.



Sometimes life can feel like the earth is moving under our feet, similar to standing barefoot on an ocean beach and the tide comes in and then retreats with the sand beneath our toes being moved toward the sea. But then we take a step, and we are on firm footing again, ready to take another step.

Rev. Zackrie is taking a step on his own journey. A necessary step to maintain balance in his life. I wish him well in that next step. At the same time, the people at Cedars will continue to walk together as we have for decades. We will find a new way forward, working together to serve each other and the wider world around us. Your Board of Trustees, both current and future Trustees will help guide us on that path.

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.

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 our Musicians and Song Leader **Alan Miller**.

Sunday Hymns:

1. Building Bridges (#1023)*
2. Circle Round for Freedom (#155)
3. My Life Flows on in Endless Song (#108)

Departing Cedars: A Thank You

As many of you know, I have been your office manager at Cedars since the summer of 2021. In that time, I have gotten to know many of your both in person and virtually. Even if we never interacted, every member of Cedars has contributed to my experience here and I want to extend my sincere thanks. I have learned a lot during my time at Cedars and have grown both professionally and personally. After giving it much thought, although it saddens me to be closing this chapter of my life, I will be leaving Cedars July 13th.

The 63rd General Assembly is now underway virtually and you can view the GA schedule to see the lineup of informative workshops, inspirational worship services and more.

Although typically a physical gathering of congregational delegates, this year's GA has instead been 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.

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 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."

Until that time, please don't hesitate to reach out to me.

And again, thank you.

Carolyn Kerns
Cedars Office Manager
office@cedarsuuchurch.org

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

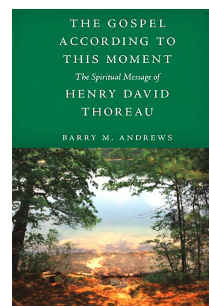


An enthusiastic group of parents has begun planning children's programming. Program activities will be scheduled in the Island School library on selected Sunday mornings and the help of other adults will be welcomed.

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.

Evans Reading Group

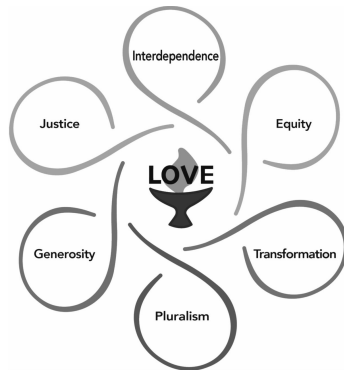
Organized 17 years ago as the Spirituality Book Group, this Cedars reading group assumed a new identity as the Evans Reading Group in 2020 to honor the Rev. Marvin Evans after his passing.



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 especially pleased to invite your participation with us now in the reading and discussion of a very significant and recently published work by one of our own Cedars members, titled **The Gospel According**

The most significant concern raised by the Article II change proposal has been 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 in the proposal's diagram may themselves be seen to represent the seven principles, and consequently preserve familiar and meaningful organizational form in 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 (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

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

To This Moment: The Spiritual Message Of Henry David Thoreau by the **Rev. Barry Andrews** (available through Barry, University of Massachusetts Press or Amazon).

Primarily known as a writer, a naturalist, and an advocate of environmental preservation, civil disobedience and simple living, Thoreau's spirituality was in the woods, not in a church, and primarily had to do with transcendent experiences encountered in the natural world.

Join us for an interesting discussion via Zoom at 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, June 26th. If you would like to be on our email list, let **Mary Romeo** know.

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.

- June 26th

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

June Special Collection

Cedars holds a monthly Special Collection for community outreach and to educate our congregation about the work of various non-profit organizations and programs that reflect our values and can benefit from our generosity and support.

On Sunday June 30, the Social Justice Committee has chosen to collect donations for Kingston Cares, the organization providing Food4Kids throughout the year when schools are not in session.

Last summer we brought a large team to help pack food bags one Monday morning. We hope to do that again later this summer.

Questions? Contact **Patricia Erdmann**

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

Carolyn Kempkes says, "These are board books for babies. I started working on them when I was sick with COVID a year and a half ago. These books contain high contrast imagery that helps babies eyes develop and also introduces cognitive skills using mathematical translations including scale, translation, rotation, reflection, mirroring and tessellation. The idea had been percolating in my head for over 20 years. Not being able to do anything because I was in quarantine gave me the time to get started on them!



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 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!



2024 Rotary Auction: Volunteers Needed

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

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

Bainbridge Island WA 98110
(206) 780-0373

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 \(website\)](#)



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