

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 26 / June 28, 2024

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

Upcoming Services

The Problem with Narratives

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

Gregory Cook, Guest Speaker
Jenny Weaver, Worship Associate

As human beings we often organize our understandings in terms of narratives. What happens when the simple narratives that we find most compelling mislead us?

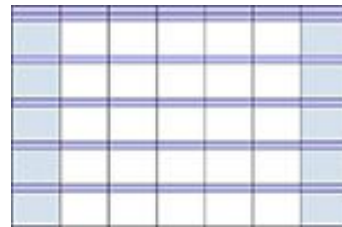
Courage: Finding Strength in a Constantly Changing World

Sunday July 7th
10:00 a.m.
In-Person Service in Webster Hall

Jenny Weaver, Guest Speaker
Nancy Philip, Worship Associate

Exploring themes of strength, resiliency, and fear, as we navigate through a constantly changing world as Unitarian Universalists.

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 June 30th
10:00 a.m.
In-Person Service in Webster Hall
[Live-Stream Link](#)
Coffee and Social Time following

Thursday July 4th Independence Day
Winslow Parade Participation



**Cedars UU Church is a
Welcoming Congregation
and Green Sanctuary**

News and Announcements



Shifting Sands

Dear Cedars,

I was saddened to hear of Reverend Zackrie's decision to resign from his position as Minister at Cedars Unitarian Universalist Church this week. Zackrie has been an important part of Cedars since he was called to be our Minister in 2019. Together, we have weathered many changes at Cedars and in society at large over the past 5 years. Rev. Zackrie has been with us through those changes.



Your Board of Trustees and Rev. Zackrie are actively discussing what this transition will look like. While we don't yet know what the future looks like, we do know that our mighty, little congregation has navigated many changes over the years. We have had the service of a number of Ministers, some have been with us longer than others. We know the value of a Minister in our congregation and the wider Bainbridge and North Kitsap communities.

The Board and Rev. Zackrie have mutually agreed his last day at Cedars will be July 12th. Coincidentally, we have received notice from our Office Manager Carolyn Kerns that she will be resigning effective on the same date. Carolyn has been working remotely from Seattle for over a year now, and has decided to focus on life in Seattle. Both Rev. Zackrie and Carolyn Kerns have been wonderful additions to Cedars. We will host a farewell reception at 5:30pm on July 11 at Cedars Center, so we can all say goodbye.

What is next for us? We will be rallying together to ensure that the important work we do together, for each other and for the wider world continues. This is a great time to work with one another on the various aspects of Cedars' life. Whether it is Sunday Worship, Music, Social Action, Membership, Pastoral Care, Setup or other aspects of our Congregation, each person has something to contribute.

Reach out to a Trustee and ask how you can step up in the months ahead to serve.

We are a resilient community. The world keeps on spinning, and as Unitarian Universalists, we strive to create and maintain loving communities. We will find a way through the challenge of filling the gaps left by a departing minister. And we will keep fulfilling our mission:

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 Musician Audrey Blair and Song Leader Rebecca Kim.

Sunday Hymns:

1. Our World is One World (#134)
2. Building Bridges (#1023)*
3. Come and Go With me (#1018)

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**

Departing Cedars: A Thank You

As many of you know, I have been your

Worship with open hearts
Nurture a learning spirit
Serve justice with compassion
Love without judgment

Jeff Philip
President, Board of Trustees



UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY
VIRTUAL GA • JUNE 20 - 23, 2024

At All-Virtual GA, Unitarian Universalists Center Love and Pledge Bold Social and Climate Justice Action

With love centered as a core value of the faith, more than 3,400 Unitarian Universalists from around the country and world gathered for an all-virtual Unitarian Universalist Association General Assembly 2024, June 20–23.

The assembly's theme, "Love Unites, Stories Ignite," celebrated the profound impact of love as a binding force that transcends boundaries and divisions..

In that spirit, delegates decisively adopted a new statement of shared UU values that places love at the center. With 80 percent of voting delegates choosing to adopt changes to Article II of the UUA bylaws, the new stated values of the faith are

Equity, Generosity, Interdependence, Justice, Pluralism, and Transformation, centered around Love.

A two-thirds vote to change Article II was required under UUA bylaws; the new statement was approved by 80.2 percent of voting delegates (2,025 votes) to 19.8 percent (499 votes), with 21 delegates abstaining (0.8 percent).

The vote came after a multi-year process of discernment that involved thousands of UUs around the country, including a majority vote at GA 2023 to continue the process to a final vote at GA 2024.

Only one of four proposed amendments to the new statement of values passed, to amend the description of the shared value of Equity to read, "We declare that every person is inherently worthy and has the right to flourish with dignity, love, and compassion."

Two proposed amendments to incorporate additional values—Peace, and Reason and the Responsible Search for Truth and Meaning—and a

office manager at Cedars since the summer of 2021. In that time, I have gotten to know many of you 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.

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

And again, thank you.

Carolyn Kerns
Cedars Office Manager
office@cedarsuuchurch.org

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!

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**

proposal for an alternative description of Equity, did not pass.

Beliefs & Principles

For some perspective on the Article II revision and what it may 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."

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, consequently preserving familiar and meaningful organizational form and purpose.

Cox at 206-799-3725
or toxman57@gmail.com or Rod Kempkes at rdkempkes@gmail.com



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).

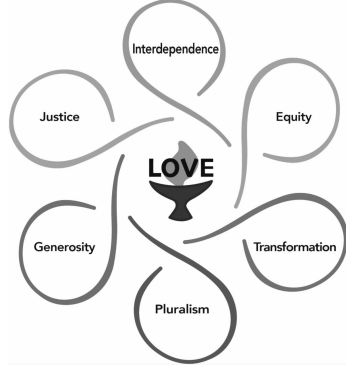
Cedars Creativity Fair 2024

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

Carolyn Kerns got a photo of one of the racoons that live in the tree outside her apartment.



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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[Cedars UU Church \(website\)](#)



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