



Cedarhurst
Unitarian
Universalists



P.O. Box 358 Finksburg, MD 21048

FROM THE MINISTER

This month's Soulmatters theme is *Wonder*. You can view the word wonder as both curiosity and awe. For curiosity wonder would be something like *I wonder what the weather is today* or *I wonder what the future holds?* Wonder as a sense of awe brings us closer to ourselves, one another, and the universe. This type of wonder might be found in looking at the night sky and seeing the wonder of the universe, or being in meditation and experiencing the wonder of self-awareness.

This month holds both kinds of wonder. *I wonder what I will be getting for the holidays?* *I wonder what I need to do to get ready for the holidays?* Even, *I wonder how I will get through the holidays?*

December also contains the sense of wonder and awe that comes with the holy days of this season – Chanukah, Solstice, Christmas, and Watch Night. Each of these holidays holds great meaning and a sense of awe. The wonder of the oil lasting for 8 nights celebrated for the Jewish Holiday of Chanukah. The sense of awe that comes as the longest night gives way to new light as the sun returns for longer days. The wonder of the Christ child celebrated by Christians as the birth of love and salvation in the world. The wonder and resilience of Watch Night as hope for the new year are only breaths away.

What do you bring to this season of December and multiple holidays and Holy Days? Let us hold wonder – both questioning and awe – in our hearts this season.

Grace and Peace,

Rev. Amy



DECEMBER SERMONS

December 4: I wonder as I wonder – wonder can be both a question and a sense of awe. Join us as we begin this season of holidays by examining the holidays and bask in their sense of awe. Speaker Rev. Amy. A pot luck lunch and decorating CUU will follow services.

December 11: Speaker: Rev. Lora-Powell Haney

December 18: Singing the Holidays- Join us as we sing the hymns of the season and learn a bit about the history of the carols. Speaker: Rev. Amy.

December 24: 7:00pm - **Christmas Eve Service** Join us for a traditional service of readings and carols. This service will be Zoom only, so cuddle up with a cup of hot chocolate, and join us for this festive service. Speaker: Rev. Amy.

December 25: No service

January 1: Quaker-style service with an opportunity for someone to facilitate it.

Thank you to all who have helped make the services happen each and every Sunday. There are still opportunities to be zoom coordinator, lay leader, or bearer of after-service snacks, in the coming months. Worship committee meetings are now the third Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm on zoom. All are welcome. Contact Maria Warburton for more information.

THE CUU COMMUNICATION WHEELS

During the Covid lockdown, the way we communicated with one another was either via Zoom, email or by phone. Many of our decisions during this time revolved around what the changing landscape of the Covid protocol would be from week-to-week or month-to-month. The Board of Directors (the Board) was charged with making these decisions in accordance with recommendations from the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) and the CDC. At times, the Board would reach out to the congregation for feedback or informational sessions as Covid protocols needed to be updated. Consequently, many of our activities were online with the main goal of staying connected as a congregation, remedying against isolation and depression amongst members and staying engaged in our individual and collective faith journeys. In addition, right before Covid hit the Board changed its governance structure. The Board is a programmatic/strategic planning board now and has delegated trustee work to the various committee chairs. We did not have a chance to adjust to the new structure and really practice the logistics of how/who makes decisions and how they are communicated.

The Worship Committee, Congregational Life Committee and Outreach Committees are involved in great work. Currently, we do not have a trustee for Social Justice, Finance, Religious Exploration or Communications. Each committee has a budget and can make spending decisions within the confines of the budget. Moreover, each committee makes programmatic decisions within its subject-matter area. Ideally, the Board would convene a planning meeting with all of the trustees during the summer to plan themes and programs for the upcoming church year. The results of the meeting would be greater clarification of the charge of each committee and great symbiotic relationships between the committees and the Board. This has not been done due to all of the planning and pivoting that Covid has required. We can convene such a meeting in the Spring this year to make sure it happens before my term as president expires.

We have also had a great question about how to make a request of our administrative assistant's, Nalina's, time and talents. Rev. Amy is Nalina's direct supervisor. In general, all requests need to go through Rev. Amy. Currently, Nalina's time is utilized by reoccurring duties and assisting with the auction. Please keep this in mind through the end of January. We do have seasonal activities such as the auction, fellowship/pledging and annual meeting. The Summer tends to be a better time for new administrative projects.

As always, we must move forward in covenant with each other. This means assuming we are acting with the best of intention.

Francine Hahn

Board President

BRAVER ANGELS

BRAVER ANGELS, a Cedarhurst Signature Event:

Attend the Info Session About BRAVER ANGELS - December 10th, 2022.

You are invited to a free documentary about BRAVER ANGELS, a national, non-profit organization which provides opportunities to step past political stereotypes and actually talk with people whose political ideas may differ.

CedarhurstUU expects to host additional skill workshops next year to learn to step past stereotypes and converse with people whose thinking does not agree with ours; to look for common ground and ways to work together for the well-being of our families and communities. Plan to attend this FREE information meeting about BRAVER ANGELS hosted by CedarhurstUU.

Saturday, December 10 from 10:00AM until 11:15 AM

At the Exploration Commons, Carroll County Library, 50 East Main Street, Westminster, MD. 21157

Save your FREE seat on EventBrite for this BRAVER ANGELS introduction.

<https://braverangels.org/event/braver-angels-info-session/>

We look forward to seeing you there at 10.00AM on December 10th.

The Outreach Committee

CAKES FOR THE QUEEN OF HEAVEN

In 1977 the UUA General Assembly passed the Women & Religion Resolution. The impact of this resolution has been profound. Curricula celebrating the female as divine have been developed, including Cakes for the Queen of Heaven.

Cakes for the Queen of Heaven is a woman honoring adult RE curriculum developed by Dr. Shirley Ranck. It examines pre-Judeo Christian cultures that may have worshipped the female as the divine. The concepts of equality and reverence for the female in a religious setting are eye-opening to many participants.

The title for the curriculum comes from the book of Jeremiah in the Hebrew Bible wherein God speaks to Jeremiah, saying “Do you not see what they do in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem? The children gather wood and the fathers kindle the fire, and the women knead the dough to make cakes to the Queen of Heaven and to pour out libations to other gods, in order to anger me!”

Who was the “Queen of Heaven?” Who were the people that worshiped her? What sort of society did they live in? How did that society change into today’s society? These are questions explored in this workshop series.

When I moved to Maryland I was a member of the Towson Unitarian Universalist Congregation. The Women’s group offered this curricula and I signed up to be part of this group. It was an enriching experience that had stayed with me until I became a member of Cedarhurst. At that time, Valerie Wills, who was our part time Minister, offered this course. Once again, I took it with a different set of women and found it to be just as rewarding.

CAKES FOR THE QUEEN OF HEAVEN cont.

In 2004, I offered to teach the course at Cedarhurst. Each time I have taken it, I have come away with something different. A new insight, deeper relationships with the women in the group and an understanding that it is important to embrace the divine as a woman.

I will be once again teaching this course sometime in the future as part of Adult Religious Education.

Please consider joining me and the other woman interested in exploring the feminine divine. This course will be offered after Sunday services. Most classes will run 1- 2 hours. There are a total of 11 sessions between part one and part two.

Sherry Dean

At Large Board Member

Annual Auction Party – Live & In Person!

Mark your Calendar!

Enter reminders in your phone!

Tell your family and friends!

Clear the date!

Saturday, January 28, 2023 is the date for the CUU Auction! Now a day-time event (with a snow date of Feb. 4), the food/drink and Silent Auction will begin at 11:30am with the live auction starting at 1:00pm. Every CUU member and visitor should plan to be at the Auction—it's our party of the year and our second major source of funding.

Our auction is more than an essential fundraiser. It's how we meet others and connect with old and new friends while providing vital donations to our beloved congregation. Pay to Play... in the best possible way. Participation is the point: attend the auction, bid and buy events and items, and offer up something to be auctioned, usually with yourself included at the party/event/dinner.

Here's how it works: just think of something (anything!) you can donate. It can be hosting a homemade dinner for two or more guests, a night out at a play, concert, film, favorite restaurant, ballgame, boat ride, or shopping trip. Offer computer training, babysitting, beer making lessons, a week at your beach condo, pet-sitting, or any type of labor such as painting, leaf raking, organizing; freshly baked pies, cakes, lasagna tray or other delicious items, fresh vegetables from your garden next summer, works of art or collectibles you no longer love, or anything your mind can conceive! Auction committee members will be happy to help you develop your idea. Don't be shy!

The Auction Committee

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT CEDARHURST UU

Calendar is subject to change. Check the website calendar [here](#) for most current schedule.

4 Dec	Sunday	In-Person & Online Sunday Service	10:30AM
4 Dec	Sunday	Pot Luck & Decorate CUU for the Holidays	11:30 AM
6 Dec	Tuesday	Religious Services Committee	7:00 PM
7 Dec	Wednesday	Ladies Who Lunch	12:00 PM
7 Dec	Wednesday	Minister Office Hours	3:00 PM
8 Dec	Thursday	Holiday Mood Trip—Rawlings Conservatory	9:45 AM
10 Dec	Saturday	Braver Angels— A Cedarhurst Signature Event	10:00 AM
10 Dec	Saturday	CUU Virtual Game Night	7:00 PM
11 Dec	Sunday	In-Person & Online Sunday Service	10:30AM
11 Dec	Sunday	Congregational Life Committee	12:00 PM
11 Dec	Sunday	Book Club	12:00 PM
13 Dec	Tuesday	Caregivers Support Group	5:30 PM
14 Dec	Wednesday	Ladies Who Lunch	12:00 PM
14 Dec	Wednesday	Minister Office Hours	3:00 PM
14 Dec	Wednesday	Board of Trustees Meeting	7:00 PM
16 Dec	Friday	Night to Night Shelter Dinner	6:15 PM
18 Dec	Sunday	In-Person & Online Sunday Service	10:30AM
19 Dec	Monday	Monday Musings	7:00 PM
21 Dec	Wednesday	Ladies Who Lunch	12:00 PM
21 Dec	Wednesday	Minister Office Hours	3:00 PM
23 Dec	Friday	Drinks & Dessert	7:00 PM
24 Dec	Saturday	Food for Loaves	10:30 AM
24 Dec	Saturday	Christmas Eve Service—Zoom only	7:00 PM
25 Dec	Sunday	Online Christmas Service	Any Time
28 Dec	Wednesday	Ladies Who Lunch	12:00PM
28 Dec	Wednesday	Minister Office Hours	3:00 PM

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING PROGRAMS AT CEDARHURST UU

Online Access –

Having problems getting onto the Website Calendar? Try using a different Web Browser. The CUU website is best compatible with the following browsers: Google Chrome, Opera, Mozilla Firefox, and Microsoft Edge, among others. If you use these browsers and are still having difficulty, try clearing your cache and cookies, or changing your browser settings.

Build Your Own Theology –

A class where you reflect, discover, and build your beliefs with others. This class will be offered in January. Interested? Let Rev. Amy or Cindy Hirshberg know what time works for you.

December Blanket Drive

The Night to Night Shelter in Westminster has seen a HUGE increase in attendance. They need TWIN size blankets, gloves, and hats for the winter. Please contribute to this tremendous need.

Deadline: December 18th.

Pot Luck Lunch and Decorate CUU – Sunday, December 4th after service

Bring a dish to share and after lunch please stay for a bit to help decorate if you can.....if not, just being there for lunch is fine or if you just want to decorate, that is ok too. We are not using any fresh greens or a tree this year so the decorating should be easier. Many hands make quick work. Call Beth Schilpp at 443-904-1304 if you have questions.

Holiday Mood Trip Rawlings Conservatory – Thursday, December 8th 9:45am

The Rawlings Conservatory will have a poinsettia show and train gardens. They also have other plants on display. We can meet at CUU at 9:45am to carpool to Druid Hill Park in Baltimore where the conservatory is located. As usual, we will also find a spot for lunch. If you can attend, please call Pamela Malkin no later than 7:00pm on December 7th.

Braver Angels – Saturday, December 10th 10:00am—11:15am

A Cedarhurst Signature Event— Exploration Commons, Carroll County Library, 50 East Main Street, Westminster, MD 21157.

Plan to attend this FREE information meeting about BRAVER ANGELS hosted by Cedarhurst UU. (See page 5 of this Newsletter for more information.)

Game Night – Saturday, December 10th at 7pm on Zoom

Each time we pick a game to play that works well on Zoom and allows everyone to play including the person who has the game. It is all for fun – we do not even keep score and we usually laugh a lot. Contact Beth Schilpp if you have trouble with the Zoom link. Follow Zoom link on CUU Calendar.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING PROGRAMS AT CEDARHURST UU

CUU Book Club – Sunday, December 11th at noon on Zoom

The Book Club meets the second Sunday of each month. On this gathering the 2018 video *Book Club* will be viewed together. We will also be selecting our books for next year so come prepared with suggestions! Follow Zoom link on CUU Calendar.



Caregivers Support Group – Tuesday, December 13th at 5:30pm on Zoom

On the Second Tuesday of the month at 5:30pm is the Cedarhurst Caregiver Support group. If you are or have been a physical or emotional caregiver, please Zoom in to share your experiences, vent a bit or just listen. Our goal is to support each other. Call Beth Schilpp at 443-904-1304 if you have trouble getting onto Zoom. Follow Zoom link on CUU Calendar.

Night to Night: Food Program – Friday, December 16th at 6:15pm

Every third Friday on the month we provide dinner for approximately 30 homeless. Interested in helping provide food or drinks? Contact Pamela Malkin.

Monday Musings – Monday, December 19th at 7pm on Zoom

Monday musings is always on the 3rd Monday of the month and is open to everyone for discussing quotes on specific topics from Soul Matters which we get from the Unitarian Universalist Association. Each month Soul Matters suggests a topic and provides materials related to that topic. Beginning with this December gathering, the group will be facilitated by Rev. Amy Williams Clark. No prep work required – come give it a try. Follow Zoom link on CUU Calendar.

Drinks and Dessert – Friday, December 23rd on Zoom

This is our no agenda social time – come with or without drinks and dessert to chat and enjoy each other. Maybe share your plans for the holidays or whatever you wish. Follow Zoom link on CUU Calendar.

FOOD for Loaves and Fishes – Saturday, December 24th 10:30am-1:00pm

We serve approximately 60 hungry people. Lots of help is needed! Sandwiches, soup, chips, casseroles, fruit, desserts, drinks. Contact Pamela Malkin if you can help.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING PROGRAMS AT CEDARHURST UU

Online Christmas Service –

Services will be available online and presented by Chesapeake UU Ministerial Association. You can watch the service anytime that is convenient to you. Watch for the link in the Weekly Announcements and the CUU Calendar.

Ladies Who Lunch – Every Wednesday at Noon on Zoom

With no agenda other than social connection, this group is open to any woman who is a CUU member or friend! What happens in LWL, stays in LWL. We make new friends, strengthen existing friendships, and have a great time. Follow Zoom link on CUU Calendar.

Grief Group –

Grief Group will reconvene again in the new year. If you are interested in attending, please contact Rev. Amy at minister@cedarhurst.org

Minister Office Hours—Zoom and In-Person

Rev. Amy's Office Hours are 3-5 PM on Wednesdays.

Office Hours will take place at CUU and on Zoom. Looking forward to seeing you in person!

You can also make appointments with Rev Amy on Tuesdays or Thursdays. She is always available for urgent pastoral matters and can be reached at minister@cedarhurstuu.org.

[Zoom Link](#)

Meeting ID: 980 9298 0551

Passcode: 121055

CONTACT

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