



FEBRUARY
2025

THE COMPANION

CUU'S MONTHLY
NEWSLETTER

ISSUE NO.
2

Minister's Message Grace Notes

Written by Reverend Kimberley Debus

**The very first hymn in Singing the Living Tradition is
May Nothing Evil Cross this Door – words by poet Louis
Untermeyer, set to a tune by Robert Quaille.**

It begins

**“May nothing evil cross this door,
and may ill fortune never pry about
these windows; may the roar
and rain go by.”**

Fitting words to start – a blessing, if you will, for our space, and our community. We want to be a sanctuary. And more fittingly, it is not a dirge or a march, it is a dance – a waltz, a welcoming, loving blessing to all of the spirits who enter: the book, the congregation, the faith, life itself.

It continues with two verses affirming that our faith help us
“withstand the battering of the storm, and calling for peace to “walk
softly through these rooms.”



minister@cedarhurstuu.org

Office Hours:

Wednesday 4:00-7:00 pm

Zoom open office hours link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/96001>

[48952](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/96001)

Nearly a decade ago, I affirmed this song with my own lofty ideas that this waltz of welcome would invite us to dance into our space, imagining us waltzing and fox-trotting and electric-sliding into the pews, “weaving an energetic magic that catches fire ... the whole congregation moving and breathing in sync, ready to be together because their spirits already are engaged in the dance of welcome and blessing.”

I love this image, and in 2016 was satisfied with this analysis.

But today I read the final verse, and something hits differently:

“With laughter drown the raucous shout,
and, though these sheltering walls are thin,
may they be strong to keep hate out and hold love in.”

But I quibble now with “hold love in.” Does that mean we only share it amongst ourselves? Are we stingy with our love, making sure we have enough and not showing it outside our ‘thin’ walls? If we hold love in, will we meet the hate and fear outside our walls with only our silence?

Will our silence read as complicity?

In this month of Love, I hope we remember to spread, and share, and act, and resist in Love. That we love openly, and deeply, and compassionately.

I hope most of all that when people need a shelter, a sanctuary, a place of care and blessing, our Love is loud and proud – and like any good dance, invites others into this place of strength and peace and joy.

Blessings,
Rev. Kimberley



Spirit Circles: Connecting to Our Spirits and to One Another



February - Love

This month, make Spirit Circles a habit of your heart!

Our theme this month looks at Love: what does love mean? How do the many kinds of love differ? What is the relationship between love and compassion? And what does it mean that our values put Love at the center?

To accompany our exploration is our Spirit Circles packet ([download here](#)). As highlighted last month, each packet is organized in a typical covenant group format: a chalice lighting/opening words, a check-in question, some questions to help you think about the theme, quotations and poetry, then an article or essay. Following that are more questions to ponder, and suggestions of books, movies, and television shows that reflect our theme. Finally, there is a chalice extinguishing to send you on your way.

Whether you dip in or use it as a focused guide, my hope is that you find something that connects you to your spirit – and to others.

To make an alternate appointment time with Rev. Kimberley, please use the following link: <https://calendly.com/kdebus/meet-with-rev-kimberley> or contact Nalina at outreach@cedarhurstuu.org and she will facilitate the scheduling.



President's Message

Written by Pres. Becky Zimmerman

Breathe. Pause before responding. Focus on one thing. Join with others who recognize the importance of hope. This is the advice I'm listening to that is keeping me balanced in my role as a citizen of the U.S. right now.

And, as I said at the mid-year congregational meeting, I find myself profoundly grateful right now that I found Cedarhurst twelve years ago. How wonderful it is to know that we have each other, and we have values and principles to guide us as we make our way through uncertain and frightening times.

Evangelism is not a word you hear much in a UU setting. And "evangelical" can be a trigger word that immediately brings up strong feelings – positive or negative. But the dictionary definition of **evangelism** is *Zealous advocacy of a cause*.

Okay, truthfully that's the second definition. The first one is specific to spreading the Gospel by public preaching or personal witness.

But when you stop and think about it, neither definition is inherently problematic. In both cases, one or more people are spreading the word about something they believe in. Sharing "good news" (another name for the gospel in some circles).

In our case, the "good news" is that there is a physical space at 2912 Club House Road where people gather on Sunday morning, and at many other times during the year, for fellowship, worship [substitute your favorite word for what we do on Sunday], education, spiritual growth, and of course potlucks, at which we excel!



boardpresident@cedarhurstuu.org

443-789-1886

9 am – 9 pm

Back to evangelism: if you believe in the cause of liberal religious expression, social justice, and a safe space for people in sometimes desperate need of that – wouldn't you want to share that? It's fantastic that we have each other, but as the song says, we need to "draw the circle wide." That means stretching our own comfort zone and talking to people about Cedarhurst in our day-to-day interactions.

If that sounds scary, may I suggest practicing telling your

Cedarhurst story, or your UU story, to someone you trust. Decide what parts of your story you're comfortable sharing. An elevator speech is also a good idea – one to two sentences that sum up what UU is to someone not familiar with our faith. I need to revisit my elevator speech and practice it, too.

Where I'm going with all of this is simply that NOW is a great time to share our good news about Cedarhurst with people we know, or even people we meet for the first time. Keep

your radar tuned in to things people say that might be leading to a conversation about this community in Finksburg that you're a part of. And practice with a friend to get comfortable doing it.

That's evangelism, and it's not a bad thing.

You can reach me at boardpresident@cedarhurstu.org or 443-789-1886.

Becky Zimmerman, Board President





Elevate Cedarhurst! Update

This article recaps remarks made during the Congregational Meeting on January 26th.

During our Congregational Meeting last June, a large majority approved Dean Camlin's proposed plans featuring (among other things) an addition with an elevator and a wider staircase. In response to certain members' concerns, this proposal was subsequently revised, such as by increasing the size of the foyer. The revised plans were then sent to a building contractor to obtain a preliminary cost estimate.

The estimate we received indicated that construction would have cost more than Cedarhurst could afford to spend. The Board then met with Dean to consider ways to reduce construction costs. Notably, we

agreed to shrink the overall size of the proposed addition, including the size of the foyer. We also eliminated the proposed new front porch, with the understanding that it could be added someday when we can pay for it.

No one wanted these changes. However, we can't move forward until we have plans that we can afford to build with the resources we have plus whatever we can hope to raise from a Capitol Campaign.

The revised plans have been sent to multiple building contractors. We sincerely hope to receive proposals from all of these contractors, and that at least one of them will be acceptable. If not, we'll have to reconsider the viability of Elevate Cedarhurst!

- David Pittman 301-801-8032



RE Volunteers Needed!

Our mission for life-long learning begins with RE-Religious Education.

We have a Nursery Aide and now are seeking Volunteers to work with our youngest participants.

Please consider volunteering in our RE program. Right now, we are looking for help on the 2nd and 4th weeks of the month. Volunteers must have a "Background Check."



Interested in getting on the Schedule? Let Jan know by emailing Jan.Pennington@comcast.net. We Need You!!!

2025 UULM-MD
Legislative Kickoff

Bringing Your UU Values
to the Maryland General Assembly



Online and
at the UU Church of Annapolis.
333 Dubois Rd.
Annapolis, MD 21401



Register Here:

February 8th, 2025
9:00am to 12:00pm
Doors Open at 8:30am

UU Legislative Ministry of MD Hosts Kickoff on Feb. 8 for 2025 Legislative Session

Come join UUs from all over the state as we prepare for our 2025 Legislative Session. Hear what our Lead Advocates have been working on and discover how YOU can make a difference in our State. Together, we can create a State Government that embodies our UU Values.

The Kickoff will be a hybrid event (attend via Zoom or in person)

Where: Online and/or at UU Annapolis (333 Dubois Rd, Annapolis, MD 21401)

When: Saturday, February 8th from 9 am to 1 pm. Doors/screens open at 8:30 am

To Register: Click on <https://secure.ngpvan.com/U7FliK2fSUqSflUVyjXx5w2>

You can make a difference by writing to your lawmakers. There are two major immigration bills that UU is collecting emails for:

1. HB 85 - The Rachel Morin Act, which UU opposes and
2. HB 207/ SB 386- This would expand Dreamers' ability to access college, which UU supports

Find both of these at the Take Action Page: <https://www.uulmmd.org/take-action>



UU Legislative Ministry of Maryland Shared Voices for Liberal Religious Voices in Maryland

Let's Have CUU's Voice Heard!

CUU has had a great history of serving our community. I would like to expand that to include having our voice heard at the state level. It turns out that this can be quite easy, and CUU is in an excellent position to make a difference!

My colleague Phil Webster at UU Columbia has been active with the UU Legislative Ministry of Maryland ([UULM-MD](#)) and can help us get started. UULM-MD does all the hard work in finding the issues, shaping the debate, and targeting upcoming legislation with emails. Senators and Delegates from Carroll County are swing voters on many of the bills of concern to us. Just a few letters from us will make a big difference. You can do as little or as much as you like. But do something.

The interest areas of UULM-MD include: Climate Change, Gun Violence, Health Care/Reproductive rights, Criminal Justice Reform, Immigration Reform, Medical Aid for the Dying, and Democracy. You get to sign up for one or more of these topics that are important to you. Here is how to join - go to the UULM database page [here](#) and fill out the form.

- Use the address where the voter resides
- Click "Climate Change" (and any other areas of interest) at the bottom.

Then watch for emails from UULM. There should be an update once a week on what is happening in Annapolis and sporadic "Action Alerts". That alert will have information about the bill and why it is important and a sample email to your legislator. This sample can be edited right there or the user can just click "send"! It is that simple. It is more powerful if the user just adds a sentence at the beginning of the sample email to personalize it. Bing, bang, boom – you are done in 3 minutes! Our voice gets heard.

Please take the time to check out the UULM-MD website above and then click "here" to enroll. Easy peasy. Email me if you have questions.

Rich Dean
richdeann@gmail.com

CUU Auction Open Events

Looking for things to do next year?

Here's a list of open events from CUU's 2024 Auction!

Your contributions support Cedarhurst operating expenses!

<i>Event</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Open Spaces</i>	<i>Price</i>
<i>Tacos and Trivia</i>	<i>2/1/2025</i>	<i>5:00pm</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>\$25</i>
<i>Dance Party: Rock Out!</i>	<i>2/15/2025</i>	<i>7:30pm</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>\$15</i>
<i>Zoom Cooking Class</i>	<i>2/22/2025</i>	<i>5:00pm</i>	<i>35</i>	<i>\$25</i>
<i>Music & Drinks at Bonnie's Place</i>	<i>4/6/2025</i>	<i>3:00pm</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>\$85</i>
<i>Celebrate Spring Afternoon</i>	<i>4/19/2025</i>	<i>3:00pm</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>\$30</i>
<i>Salon & Sandwiches</i>	<i>5/31/2025</i>	<i>2:00pm</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>\$35</i>
<i>Pool Party (clothing required)</i>	<i>6/21/2025</i>	<i>1:00pm</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>\$35</i>
<i>Skinny Dipping Pool Party</i>	<i>7/12/2025</i>	<i>1:00pm</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>\$35</i>
<i>Girl's Overnight at Georgetown</i>	<i>9/13/2025</i>		<i>3</i>	<i>\$50</i>

Contact Linda Joy at 410-790-5496 Linda.Joy@verizon.net or Terri Ebaugh at 443-789-2307 TerriDonEbaugh@gmail.com if you'd like to attend an event!



CUU OPEN AUCTION EVENTS - FEBRUARY

TACOS AND TRIVIA - An Evening of Noshing and Quizzing Saturday, February 1 at 5pm (quiz begins at 5:30)

Join us for the only auction event that features both tacos and trivia! Hosted by Rev. Kimberley, the food will be plentiful, and the questions will range from pop culture to Unitarian Universalism to general knowledge.

Bring your thinking caps and your appetites!

Tickets still available - \$25 at the door.

RSVP to Rev. Kimberley at
minister@cedarhurstuu.org

See you then!

ZOOM COOKING CLASS hosted by Sherry Dean Saturday, February 22 at 5pm

Join me via Zoom for my 5th cooking class. We will be making an often-used recipe for Honey Lime Chicken Thighs. I have used this recipe for family get togethers since it only takes 15-20 minutes from start to finish. I will give recommendations for easy side dishes that will compliment the chicken dish.

Recipes will be sent out a week before the cooking class in order for all participants to cook together and so I can answer any questions that may arise. These cooking classes have been fun and informative with lots of interactive questions and cooking tips.

Please join me for fun and laughter and you will have a delicious meal that I am sure you will make again and again. Please contact either Terri Ebaugh or Linda Joy to purchase a spot (see previous page for contact information).

Sincerely, Sherry Dean

CUU DANCE PARTY - Rock Out! Saturday, February 15 at 7:30pm

Come dance away the winter blues at the Second Annual CUU Dance Party on February 15 at 7:30pm. This year's focus is on music from the 1960s and 1970s* (Motown, Soul, Rolling Stones, a little disco, etc.). This will be a two-hour party with an intermission (and/or musical games). Light refreshments and drinks (beer, wine, soda, etc.) will be served. Note: In case of inclement weather, the snow date is March 1st.

Price: \$15 at the door (If you didn't pre-pay at the auction, please bring a check made out to CUU-- with "Dance/auction" in the memo line)

* Those who have bought tickets in advance are invited to submit a dance song suggestion or two for the evening's playlist to Beth Blevins by 2/14/25 at: beblevins@yahoo.com.

FEBRUARY SPECIAL OUTSIDE EVENTS



Westminster Ministerium's Black History Month Racial Justice and Reconciliation Series

Four exciting weeks of speakers, presentations, and, most importantly, conversations focused on the theme "Racial Justice & Reconciliation," taking place every Thursday evening in February at 6:00 p.m.

Thurs Feb 6 at 6pm – “Remembering the 60’s Civil Rights Era” showing the CMC Documentary “March on Washington,” followed by discussion and sharing of memories of that era. At Carroll Lutheran Village Chapel 300 Luther Dr. Westminster MD 21158. (Hosted by Revs Charlie Marshall & Matt Fuhrman.) Refreshments to follow.

Thurs Feb 13 at 6pm – “Working toward Racial Justice and Reconciliation in our Mainline Churches” Speakers: Rev. Randy Callender, Canon for Mission, Episcopal Diocese of Maryland; Cathy Rice, Co-Chair, Delaware-Maryland Lutheran Synod Racial Justice Team. Hosted by Rev. Pierre-Henry Buisson, Westminster Church of the Ascension, 23 N Court St, Westminster, Maryland. Refreshments and fellowship to follow.

Thurs Feb 20 at 6pm – Speaker from the Carroll County Lynching Memorial Coalition, Maryland Lynching Truth and Reconciliation Commission (MLTRC), introduced by Rev. Marty Kuchma, St. Paul’s United Church of Christ. Hosted by Rev. Kimberley Debus @Cedarhurst Unitarian Universalist Church, 2912 Club House Rd, Finksburg, MD 21048. Refreshments and fellowship to follow.

Thurs Feb 27 at 6pm – “Keep On Keeping On.” Speaker: Rev. William H. Johnson III, Senior Pastor, Union Memorial Baptist Church, “Where Do We Go From Here?”. Hosted by Rev. Glenn McCrickard @ Westminster Church of the Brethren, 19 Bond Street, Westminster, Maryland. Refreshments and fellowship to follow.

For more information on the WEM speaker series: Contact Rev. Marty Kuchma, St. Paul’s United Church of Christ, [\(410\) 848-5975](tel:4108485975).

FEBRUARY SPECIAL CUU EVENTS

CHARLESTOWN TREASURE SALE

Friday, February 7th at 9:30am

We'll meet at CUU to carpool to Charlestown Senior Housing in Catonsville and have fun shopping the Treasure Sale.

Everything has been donated by residents or by their families if an apartment needs to be cleaned out. This is where Beth Schilpp lives so call her if you have questions. It is best to pay by check or cash, there may be a minimum purchase of \$25 to use credit.

Lunch will be in Catonsville at the Catonsville Gourmet.



Speaker from the Carroll County Lynching Memorial Coalition, Maryland Lynching Truth and Reconciliation Commission (MLTRC)

Thursday, February 20th at 6:00 pm

Speaker to be introduced by Rev. Marty Kuchma, St. Paul's United Church of Christ.

Hosted by Rev. Kimberley Debus at CUU.

Refreshments and fellowship to follow.

(See details on previous page.)

FEBRUARY EVENTS

LADIES WHO LUNCH

Every Wednesday at noon on Zoom

LADIES WHO LUNCH is a social Zoom gathering that is open to ANY woman who is a member or friend of CUU. Zoom in to chat with other ladies in the congregation.

As stated last month, the group will definitely meet through March. However, ***the group needs to decide if it should continue after that since participation has decreased.*** If you have never participated, Zoom in for a few minutes or for the hour - see if you would like this group to keep going.

Follow Zoom link on CUU Calendar to join.



CONGREGATIONAL LIFE COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, February 3rd at 7:00 pm on Zoom

The Congregational Life Committee sponsors a variety of activities for friends and members of the congregation.

Pay us a visit and see if you would like to join us. Having new folks and new ideas would be very welcome.

Call Beth Schilpp at 443-904-1304 with questions.

Follow Zoom link on CUU Calendar to join.



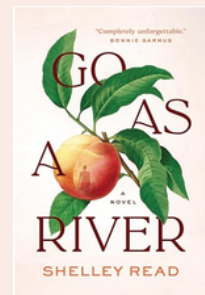
FEBRUARY EVENTS

CUU BOOK CLUB

Sunday, February 9th at noon on Zoom and in-person

The book for February is *Go as a River* by Shelley Read.

This novel is inspired by the real-life destruction of the town of Iola, Colorado. It tells the story about a young woman living on the family farm who enters into a love relationship with a Native American man which is forbidden due to local prejudices. It explores themes of love, identity and the power of nature to guide one's path through life.



The book for March will be *Briar Club* by Kate Quinn. It is suggested to put on reserve now because it may be a little hard to get.

We'd love to have new folks participating in this group!

Call Beth Schilpp with questions.

Follow Zoom link on CUU Calendar to join.



CAREGIVERS SUPPORT GROUP

Tuesday, February 11th at 5:30 pm on Zoom

If you currently are or have been a physical or emotional support for a loved one, this might be the group for you. We do not have any experts, just folks willing to share their experiences.

Call Beth Schilpp at 443-904-1304 with any questions.

Follow Zoom link on CUU Calendar to join.



FEBRUARY EVENTS

CUU VIRTUAL GAME NIGHT

Friday, February 14th at 7:00 pm on Zoom

Zoom in to play games just for fun. We do not really keep score. The games we have usually played are Scattergories, Tribond or Taboo - mainly because the owner of the game can also play. However, if you have another game that you think will work on Zoom, please come and we can try it. Call Beth Schilpp at 443-904-1304 with questions.



Follow Zoom link on CUU Calendar to join.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

Tuesday, February 18th at 7:00 pm in-person

February's Board meeting will be in-person for all who wish to attend.

Board meetings are open to all unless otherwise noted.

Follow Zoom link on CUU Calendar to join.

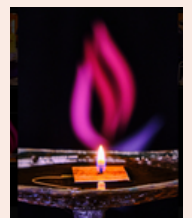


WORSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, February 19th at 7:30 pm on
Zoom

Interested in helping to create the Sunday worship services?
Then this is the committee for you! All are welcome.

Follow Zoom link on CUU Calendar to join.



FEBRUARY EVENTS

NIGHT-BY-NIGHT: FOOD PROGRAM

Friday, February 21st at 6:15 pm

Every third Friday of the month we provide dinner for approximately 40+ homeless in Carroll County, a community service CUU has provided for over ten years.

If you'd like to help prepare food, we're preparing chili this month.

Contact Pamela Malkin at 410-857-5071 for more information on how to help.



DRINKS AND DESSERT

Friday, February 28th at 7:00 pm on Zoom

End the month by Zooming in to talk with others in the congregation.

No agenda - just friendly chit chat.

Follow Zoom link on CUU Calendar to join.





CONTACT

Telephone: 410-861-8820

Email: Outreach@CedarhurstUU.org

Web address: <http://www.cedarhurstuu.org>

President: Becky Zimmerman BoardPresident@cedarhurstuu.org

Vice President: Sherry Dean sherrydeann21@gmail.com

At Large Board Members:

Steve Hirsch steveh46@yahoo.com

David Pittman d.s.pittman@verizon.net

Holly Thompson holly.thompson.2016@gmail.com

Minister: Reverend Kimberley Debus minister@cedarhurstuu.org

Treasurer: Lisa Miller Treasurer@cedarhurstuu.org

Outreach Coordinator: Nalina White Outreach@cedarhurstuu.org

Header and calendar photos by Mark Pollitt

FEBRUARY 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 5pm Tacos and Trivia Open Auction Event at CUU
2 10:30am Sunday Service	3 7 pm Congregational Life Committee Meeting	4	5 12pm Ladies Who Lunch 4 pm Rev. Kimberley's Office Hours	6	7 9:30am Charlestown Treasure Sale	8
9 10:30am Sunday Service 12 pm Book Club	10	11 5:30 pm Caregivers Support Group	12 12pm Ladies Who Lunch 4 pm Rev. Kimberley's Office Hours	13	14 7pm CUU Virtual Game Night	15
16 10:30am Sunday Service	17	18 7pm Board of Trustees Mtg	19 12pm Ladies Who Lunch 4 pm Rev. Kimberley's Office Hours 7:30 pm Worship Committee Mtg	20 6:30pm WME Black History Racial Justice & Reconciliation Series	21 6:15pm Night-by-Night Shelter Dinner	22
23 10:30am Sunday Service	24	25	26 12pm Ladies Who Lunch 4 pm Rev. Kimberley's Office Hours	27	28 7pm Drinks and Dessert	
NOTES:						