



APRIL 2025

THE COMPANION

CUU'S MONTHLY
NEWSLETTER

ISSUE NO.
4

Minister's Message Grace Notes

Written by Reverend Kimberley Debus

Our theme this month is Transformation; originally, it was selected because of Earth Day, Passover, and Easter – all celebrations marking and calling for transformation.

But it resonates even more for Cedarhurst, now that the board has accepted a bid to begin the transformation of our building, and we are seeing so much transformation right in front of our eyes: new members, new attendees, a baby dedication, an organized kitchen, new initiatives, a General Assembly literally just down the road, and an anniversary celebration on the horizon.

Is it any wonder that this year's stewardship campaign is called Renaissance?

Something's happening here, and to me, it's palpable. The election in November could have turned the congregation inward, protecting itself in fear and anger. Instead, you are meeting the moment – turning that fear and anger into action, looking inside to become more useful and powerful on the outside. You are seeing the



minister@cedarhurstuu.org

Office Hours:

Wednesday 4:00-7:00 pm

Zoom open office hours link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9600148952>

goodness in each other, being present to the many realities our fellow Cedarhurstians are facing because of race, gender, income, age, etc. You taking care of each other and this place so that we can be a beacon in the darkness, a light and a source of support and assistance out in our community. You are giving more and more of your time, your talent, and your treasure to keep this momentum going. You are meeting the moment.

It's exciting, and amazing, this Renaissance.

It is... transformative.

And of course, more than ever, it's important that you take care of your physical, emotional, and spiritual selves.

I had a moment the other day when I realized I haven't been doing my spiritual practice and was feeling utterly drained. And so I attended to my spirit – not on the way to helping attend to yours – but simply attended to my spirit. In this case it was spending some time with a Jan Richardson poem. It fed me, and it continues to feed me.

You may have other things that feed your spirit – remember a few months ago when I preached about spiritual practice as building up our strength for the resistance? We still need that. Every day. Maybe it will just be a good pause in your day... but maybe it will bring about a little bit of transformation – a little bit of strengthening or calming or confirming that transforms you,

bit by bit, into the agent of Love I know you are.

You will find the poem that that helped me shake the spiritual emptiness I felt in this month's Spirit Circles. Whether you are attracted to the Richardson poem or something else in the packet, take your time with it. Read the piece you choose several times, maybe even once aloud. Note the word or phrase that moves you, and carry it with you, thinking and considering and maybe even praying those words. May it be a blessing.

Blessings,
Rev. Kimberley

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.

Spirit Circles: Connecting to Our Spirits and to One Another



April - Transformation

Our theme this month looks at the spiritual call to Transformation: How might transformation be understood spiritually vs. emotionally vs. organizationally? What is the relationship between transformation and renewal? What helps transformation happen?

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.

Save
the
Date

Owning Your Religious Past Weekend Workshop

Friday, May 3 – Evening
Saturday, May 4 – All Day
Sunday, May 5 – After Worship

Through reflection, discussions, creativity, and journaling, we'll explore our past religious perspectives and experiences, what we bring into our faith as UUs today, and who we hope to become as we continue our spiritual journeys.

Please email Rev. Kimberley at minister@cedarhurstuu.org if you're interested!



APRIL 2025

ISSUE NO. 4

President's Message

Written by President Becky Zimmerman

Greetings, beloved Cedarhurst family & friends.

Though my term as your Board President isn't finished until the end of June, I am taking a break right now due to a breast cancer diagnosis. I'll have surgery on April 15, followed by internal medicine (chemo, but I hate that term) in May. I will continue to monitor my BP email when I can, and stay informed of all things Cedarhurst, but...

Sherry Dean, current Vice President, will be handling most of my duties for now. Sherry's email is: sherrydeann21@gmail.com.

The rest of the Most Amazing Board Ever, Steve Hirsch, David Pittman, and Holly Thompson, along with Rev. Kimberley, Lisa Miller (Treasurer), and Nalina White (Outreach Coordinator/Administrative Assistant) will continue with the great work they are doing for our building (including of course Elevate Cedarhurst!), our finances,



boardpresident@cedarhurstuu.org

our outreach efforts, and **Small Wins** – all the things that need doing that you can help with! Be sure and sign up if you're able to help.

And I'm happy to say that the three areas of focus I laid out at the beginning of my term in 2023:

- **Inclusion**
- **Communication**
- **Momentum**

are coming along nicely!

All three are things for which there's always room for improvement. And that's what I want to see. Perfection is not the goal, but progress is. Thank you, everyone, for that!

I do love encouraging texts or phone calls at 443-789-1886 (9 am – 9 pm) and you'll never be bothering me, thanks to voicemail and the silent option on my cell!

And I love cards, so if you're card inclined, send 'em to 1740 Camargo Dr, Westminster, MD 21158.

The Cedarhurst ship is on course, and I will be back from "shore leave" soon.

Becky Zimmerman
Board President



Small Wins



We've had some great Small Wins! Lots of folks are signing up for various tasks, and a few of them have been completed – including tasks for outreach, the gardens, and the kitchen! More are in the works, including tech and worship tasks, sanctuary tasks, our new banner, and the banned books shelf.

Want to spend a little more time contemplating what task you'll sign up for? [Find the complete list here!](#) Please sign up in person (or ask a friend to help).



Elevate Cedarhurst! Update

On March 20th, Cedarhurst's Board convened for a special meeting to consider construction proposals for **Elevate Cedarhurst!** Of the four bids that were received, two were immediately rejected because they were too high. After considering the other two, the Board voted to accept the bid from **GRC General Contractor**, which offered the lowest prices for both Phases I & II:

Phase I	\$547,247
Phase II	\$167,370
Total	\$714,617

Construction for Phase I, the primary purpose of which is to build an extension encompassing a new main entrance and an elevator and new stairs, should be completed around the end of 2025.

David Pittman d.s.pittman@verizon.net (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!!!

CUU Auction Open Events

Looking for things to do this year?

Here's a list of open events happening in 2025 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>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>5/17/2025</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>1</i>	<i>\$35</i>
<i>Skinny Dip 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!

SPECIAL EVENTS AT CUU

Cedarhurst Welcomes the UUA Chalice to Our Sanctuary

On March 16th, CUU was honored to have UUA's Chalice visit our Sanctuary for the Sunday Service. The UUA Chalice is visiting Maryland and surrounding congregations in honor of the UUA's 64th General Assembly, which is being held in Baltimore this year.



Francine Hahn lighting
the UUA Chalice.

SPECIAL EVENTS AT CUU

Cedarhurst UU Welcomes Two New Members!



Two new members, Alecsandra (Sande) Bihlmaier and Lydia Dundon, are shown signing the book in March.

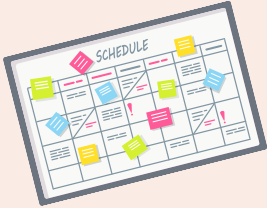
SPECIAL EVENTS AT CUU



Photograph by Pamela Malkin

Beth Schilpp, Maria Warburton, Linda Uselmann, Sande Bihlmaier, Linda Prause, Bob Niemann, and Pamela Malkin (not shown) enjoying their time at CUU's outing at the **Druid Hill Conservatory** on March 7th.

SPECIAL NOTICES



Planning Ahead



Now that Spring has sprung, Summer isn't too far off. We will once again have informal summer services, all or most facilitated by members and friends. They will run from June 15 - August 31.

Now is the time to start thinking about what you might want to share with the congregation. The summer services allow for someone to dig deep into an issue along with extended conversation among those present at the service,



HELLO SPRING



Celebrate Spring! Auction Event Date Change

There has been a date change for Celebrate Spring! Auction Event!

It is no longer Easter weekend but has been switched to Saturday May 17 starting at 3:00 PM. This was a sign-up event for \$30 and still has several spots available.

Contact Maria Warburton or Francine Hahn if you can make the new date and have questions about it!



Enhance Your Effective Pledge To Cedarhurst UU (Update)

For those of you with IRA accounts, there is a great way for you to pledge your support to CUU that stretches your contribution and may minimize your cost. A contribution from your IRA can be taken as a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) and can count as part of your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD). The distribution which is normally taxed is passed to the charitable organization without being taxed. This is especially beneficial if you don't itemize your deductions as you still get the full tax benefit of your contribution. Here are the key points:

- **Eligibility:** You must be at least 70½ years old to make a QCD.
- **Direct Transfer:** The funds must be transferred directly from your IRA to the charitable organization. If the money is withdrawn and then donated, it won't qualify as a QCD.
- **Tax Benefits:** QCDs are excluded from your taxable income, which can help reduce your overall tax liability
- **Annual Limit:** You can donate up to \$100,000 per year as a QCD.

However, QCDs are not available directly from a 401(k) or 403(b) account. To use this strategy, you would need to roll over the funds into an IRA first.

Note: You can't take a QCD and deduct your contribution on Schedule A of an itemized return. My bad. This is not tax advice. Check with your tax advisor.

Rich Dean



SPECIAL NOTICES

Offering Home Hospitality for General Assembly 2025

Whether you're planning to attend GA or not, we invite you to consider providing home hospitality for those traveling from around the country (and beyond) to attend. In addition to providing a comfortable housing experience for UUs from around the country, the generous donation of your time and accommodations will result in a nice donation from the UUA for our congregation!

[Please follow this link](#) if you're interested in offering space in your home.



Recruiting “Quarter-Inch Team” for a New Cedarhurst Banner

How would you like to sew quilt squares for our new Cedarhurst banner?



Work is underway to make a new Cedarhurst banner. The goal is to have it ready in May, in time to carry it in the Banner Parade at the Unitarian Universalist General Assembly (GA) in mid-June in Baltimore.

The design will be familiar. The banner front will feature the flame logo at the center with the words, “Cedarhurst UU” curving along the larger flame, with Finksburg, MD in the lower right corner. The reverse side will display the circular “Love and Justice in ACTION” logo with a colorful emphasis on the word Love.



The background will be dark blue pieced squares, and here is where you can lend a hand. Help is needed to make — sew and press — the background squares.

The plan is to have the pieces packed into little kits with instructions on how to assemble the square. Eighteen (18) squares are needed, each measuring precisely eight inches on each side. We will either pass out the kits to be assembled at home, or have a “quilting bee” at Cedarhurst to sew and press the squares. Or perhaps do both, depending on everyone’s wishes.



Our new banner is Item 41 in the Small Wins campaign. If you have not yet signed up for an activity, please join the fun in making the new Cedarhurst UU banner to carry so proudly in the GA Banner Parade.

Please text Francine Hahn at 443-756-7451 to sign up.

BTW: This year, our Unitarian Universalist General Assembly will be held at the Convention Center in downtown Baltimore, an easy commute from Finksburg where Cedarhurst Unitarian Universalists is located. The dates are June 18-22 and online registration is still open.

APRIL SPECIAL OUTSIDE EVENT

SENSITIVE LOCATIONS, SACRED SPACES

Interfaith Prayer Vigil

As Unitarian Universalists, we uphold the shared values of Interdependence, Equity, and Justice. On the eve of the hearing for a historic legal challenge to the rollback of protections for immigrant communities, we gather with interfaith partners to hold sacred space for prayer, solidarity, and collective resolve.

Join us next week, in person or in solidarity, for this vigil to affirm the sanctity of sensitive locations—places where all people should feel safe from enforcement and be free to live with dignity.

- Thursday, April 3
- 6:30pm
- National City Christian Church, Washington, DC
- RSVP: <https://bit.ly/DC-Vigil>

The Rev. Nancy McDonald-Ladd, UUA Communications Director is attending and offering the opening prayer.

You can learn more at their public announcement page

<https://publicwitness.my.canva.site/sensitive-locations-sacred-spaces-prayer-vigil>



APRIL SPECIAL CUU EVENTS

IN-PERSONAL DINNER AT ISLAND QUIZINE

Thursday, April 3rd at 6:00pm

This restaurant is located in Reisterstown Shopping Center. The cuisine is Jamaican with other Caribbean specialties. They do not take reservations. Location: 11925 Reisterstown Rd 21136.

If you have any questions, please call Beth Schilpp at 443-904-1304.



CARD MAKING CLASS

Saturday, April 5th at 10:00am at CUU

Join us as we create beautiful cards for birthdays or just because.

\$25 includes all supplies, except adhesives.

Payment to be made directly to Arleen Graham at class.
Reserve your spot with Pamela by March 29.



EASTER EGG HUNT

Sunday, April 20th after service at CUU

Stay after service and join in on the fun!



APRIL 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

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

We will not be meeting in April. Our next meeting is May 5th at 7:00pm on Zoom.

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



APRIL EVENTS

CAREGIVERS SUPPORT GROUP

Tuesday, April 8th 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.



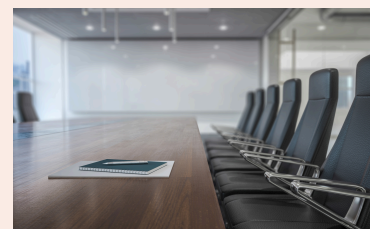
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

Wednesday, April 9th at 7:00 pm on Zoom

March's Board meeting will be on Zoom for all who wish to attend.

Board meetings are open to all unless otherwise noted.

Follow Zoom link on CUU Calendar to join.



CUU VIRTUAL GAME NIGHT

Friday, April 11th 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.



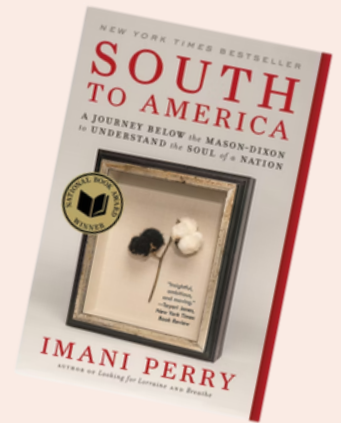
APRIL EVENTS

CUU BOOK CLUB

Sunday, April 13th at noon on Zoom and In-Person at CUU

The book for April is *South to America* by Imani Perry.

Weaving together stories of immigrant communities, contemporary artists, exploitative opportunists, enslaved peoples, unsung heroes, her own ancestors, and her lived experiences, Imani Perry crafts a tapestry unlike any other. With uncommon insight and breathtaking clarity, *South to America* offers an assertion that if we want to build a more humane future for the United States, we must center our concern below the Mason-Dixon Line. ~Amazon



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

Here are the books for the rest of the year!

May: *The Sympathizer* by Thanh Nguyen.

June: *The Secret Life of Flora Lee* by Patti Callahan Henry

July: *Iona Iverson's Rules for Commuting* by Clare Pooley

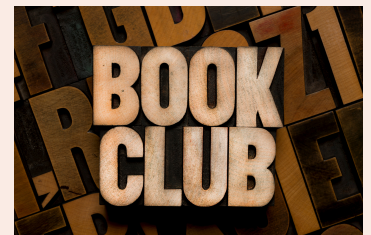
August: *Weyward* by Emilia Hart

September : *Night Watch* by Jayne Anne Phillips

October: *James* by Percival Everett (there are a lot of holds on this book so we suggest you get on the list and read it when you can so you will be ready for this.)

November: To be determined

December: Bring your suggestions for 2026



Call Beth Schilpp with questions.

Follow Zoom link on CUU Calendar to join.

APRIL EVENTS

NIGHT-BY-NIGHT: FOOD PROGRAM

Friday, April 18th at 6:15 pm

Cedarhurst UU continues its work feeding the homeless at Westminster's Night to Night Shelter. We have nine CUU members and friends who provided 80 sandwiches, 3 salads, 5 soups, veggie tray, assorted fruit, assorted chips, 5 doz rolls from Texas Roadhouse, cake and assorted drinks to feed over 50 hungry people

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



WORSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, April 23rd 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.



DRINKS AND DESSERT

Friday, April 25th 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.



MAY SPECIAL EVENTS



IN-PERSON LUNCH AND/OR THEATER PERFORMANCE

Sunday, May 4th at noon

Get together for lunch at Asian Sakae. Location: 405 N. Center St. Ste. 22, Westminster 21157. The restaurant serves Chinese, Thai and Japanese food. After lunch we'll attend the play "Company" at Carroll Community College in the Theater in Scott Center at 2pm.

The play is a musical about a confirmed bachelor at age 35 contemplating relationships and marriage. The ticket prices are not currently available but we'll let you know when they are published. As always, folks can choose to do both events or only one. Call Beth Schilpp at 443-904-1304 with questions.



CONTACT

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David Pittman d.s.pittman@verizon.net

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Treasurer: Lisa Miller Treasurer@cedarhurstuu.org

Outreach Coordinator: Nalina White Outreach@cedarhurstuu.org

Header and calendar photos by Mark Pollitt

APRIL 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2 12pm Ladies Who Lunch 4 pm Rev. Kimberley's Office Hours	3 6pm Dinner at Island Quizine	4	5 10am Card Making Class at CUU
6 10:30am Sunday Service	7	8 5:30 pm Caregivers Support Group	9 12pm Ladies Who Lunch 4 pm Rev. Kimberley's Office Hours 7pm Board of Trustees Mtg	10	11 7pm CUU Virtual Game Night	12
13 10:30am Sunday Service 12 pm Book Club	14	15	16 12pm Ladies Who Lunch 4 pm Rev. Kimberley's Office Hours	17	18 6:15pm Night-by-Night Shelter Dinner	19
20 10:30am Sunday Service 12pm Easter Egg Hunt!	21	22	23 12pm Ladies Who Lunch 4 pm Rev. Kimberley's Office Hours 7:30 pm Worship Committee Mtg	24	25 7pm Drinks and Dessert	26
27 10:30am Sunday Service	28	29	30 12pm Ladies Who Lunch 4 pm Rev. Kimberley's Office Hours			
NOTES:						