



JULY 2025

# THE COMPANION

CUU'S MONTHLY  
NEWSLETTER

ISSUE NO.  
7

## Minister's Message Grace Notes

*Written by Reverend Kimberley Debus*

Often when I return from General Assembly, I am filled with inspiration, book recommendations, and more content than I can possibly fit into a newsletter column. Sadly, this year, the fates suggested I spend more time in my hotel room than in worship, workshops, or general sessions – between a reaction to medication that laid me low at the beginning of the week and an encounter with a dodgy piece of salmon that laid me low later in the week. (I'm fine now.)

And still, moments of joy and inspiration snuck in – not the least of which was glimpses of CUU members in the halls, doing volunteer work, and holding down the bass section of the choir. I was so proud when friends told me they'd met one of our members, and folks loved our new banner.



[minister@cedarhurstuu.org](mailto:minister@cedarhurstuu.org)

See end of article for Summer  
Office Hours.



But more, through their eyes I was reminded of what General Assembly can be when I'm not feeling sick and overwhelmed – a time of connection, wonder, and inspiration. I love the energy, the ways in which we are reminded of the power of Love, the beauty of our voices joined together, the strength of our morals and values, and the spirit that fills the room when we gather.

We may be small, and we may sometimes feel like we are in the middle of nowhere. But we are a part of something big, and beautiful, and powerful. I love that we gather beyond our walls sometimes to remind us that we are not alone.

Blessings,  
Rev. Kimberley

### Rev. Kimberley's Summer Hours

*Rev. Kimberley will be available [by appointment only via Calendly link](#). She is also available by text or phone for emergencies unless otherwise noted below*

*Limited Availability:*

*July 1-6 – vacation and Independence Day holiday weekend – no office hours - please contact Rich Dean for emergencies.*

*July 22-28 – Association for UU Music Ministries conference in Atlanta – no office hours*

## Spirit Circles: Connecting to Our Spirits and to One Another



### Summer - Joy

Our theme this summer looks at the spiritual call to Joy: Is there a difference between joy and happiness? Where does joy come from? What is the relationship between joy and sorrow?

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.

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## President's Message

*Written by Rich Dean*

### Why I said, "Yes."

**My election to become your President came in a last minute flurry from the Robin and others, looking to fill the ballot before the annual meeting. In truth is that this not what I had planned to be doing these next 2 years. But I got a call from someone you know, she who cannot be denied, who inspired me to run. It was a short campaign and I managed to squeak to victory at the last minute 😊. I am honored to serve.**

It was my work on the pledge drive that inspired me to say yes. Jay Levenson and I reached out to just about everyone this year to ask how you were doing, how CUU was doing and to ask for your support. Your response was inspiring. I heard some real enthusiasm about how things were going here at CUU. You liked the new ministry of Rev Kimberley, you liked the recent surge of visitors and new members, kids in the sanctuary, and our Elevate Cedarhurst! project to expand our building. You said yes! And our pledge drive added 30% new pledges, and 20% more pledged income over last year. Thank you. And you inspired me to believe that these next 2 years would be an exciting time for CUU and I want to be a part of that.



[boardpresident@cedarhurstuu.org](mailto:boardpresident@cedarhurstuu.org)

*Availability:*

*Monday, Wednesday, Friday 4-6pm*

*An alternate appointment time may be made via email request.*



My plan for CUU is simple. We need to grow Cedarhurst in size and in spirit. We are small and vibrant. Our survival demands that we be bigger and vibrant. These are hard times for UU and other denominations. Everyone is seeing aging populations and little interest in church by our younger generation. I plan to work from the inside out. The inside part is building organization and consensus and a plan among our leadership. The outside part will follow as we reach out to our community, political leaders, and those in need. CUU is uniquely positioned to bring love, healing and a voice for justice in a time of great need in our community. Let's do it.

Rich Dean  
Board President

[boardpresident@cedarhurstuu.org](mailto:boardpresident@cedarhurstuu.org)



## 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](mailto:Jan.Pennington@comcast.net). We Need You!!!





Photo of CUU volunteers serving at  
Shepherd's Staff July 4th Picnic 2024

## July 4<sup>th</sup> Shepherd's Staff Picnic



We will again be staging our annual July 4th Picnic at 12 noon with Shepherd's Staff. Shepherd's Staff is under construction, so the picnic has moved to Dutterer's Park in Westminster. There are a few items still needed: 2 pavilions/tents, ice filled ice chests, sloppy joes, pulled pork, coleslaw (no mayo), help setting up tents and taking down.

Contact Pamela at 443-487-1299 for more details.



### *CUU Auction Open Events*

There are still a few events open this year from last year's auction!

Your contributions support Cedarhurst operating expenses.

<i>Event</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Open Spaces</i>	<i>Price</i>
<i>Skinny Dip Pool Party</i>	7/12/2025	1:00pm	7	\$35
<i>Girls Overnight at Georgetown</i>	9/13/2025		2	\$50

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





## 2025 Summer Service Schedule

Date	Speaker	Topic	Description
7/6	Rich Dean	Celebrating UU and American History	Our Unitarian faith has so much to do with our American History. We are the quintessential American religion with strong ties to the American Revolution, our Founding Principles, Our Founding Fathers and American culture and Presidents throughout our history. Let's celebrate and own this great American tradition on our 249 <sup>th</sup> Birthday!
7/13	Steve Hirsch	Morality!	
7/20	Holly Thompson	My Life in Exercise	
7/27	General Assembly Crew	Reflections on Baltimore GA	
8/3	Lydia Dundon	Cults and Belonging	
8/10	Roderic Hooks	Thoughts and Meditation	
8/17	Alan Bogage	TBD	
8/24	OPPORTUNITY		
8/31	OPPORTUNITY		

Thank you to all who have signed up for a Sunday Service. Only two slots remain! Please contact Maria Warburton at [mariawarburton@comcast.net](mailto:mariawarburton@comcast.net) to sign up or for more information about what it means to do a summer service.

Also, contact Maria if you are interested in signing up and neither of the two dates work for you as perhaps we can rearrange the schedule. Also contact Maria if you would like to add a description of your service and it can be included in the weekly announcements and later newsletters.



## Small Wins



We've had more great Small Wins! Lots of folks are signing up for various tasks, and more are being completed. Summer is a great time to get tasks done, so check out the list and find a partner and a date to score a win!

Want to see what's still unclaimed? [Find the complete list here!](#) Please sign up in person (or ask a friend to help).



## 2025 Annual Meeting Minutes Summary



The annual meeting for Cedarhurst Unitarian Universalists convened at 12:30 pm on June 1, 2025. 18 members present in the sanctuary with 2 attending via Zoom and 5 absentee ballots.

Completed copies of all reports were distributed via email and to those attending in person.

Sherry Dean in her capacity of acting President chaired the meeting. Committee chairs gave a brief verbal report and there were no questions asked.

Board members were recognized for their outstanding service this year: Lisa Miller, Steve Hirsch, David Pittman, Cindy Hirshberg, Holly Thompson and Sherry Dean.

Four members passed away this year. Pete White, Doug Morgan, Noi Levenson and Sharon Kennedy.

We had a successful Operations pledge canvass co-chaired by Rich Dean and Jay Levenson. Total pledges were \$79,290. This represents a 20% increase from last year and 6% over goal. Pledge units increased 30% from 30 to 39. Positive feedback included satisfaction with Rev. Kimberley, new energy at services and anticipated Elevate Cedarhurst! improvements.

Rich Dean was added to the ballot for President. Lydia Dundon was nominated for the At Large Board position. Both Rich and Lydia will start their 2-year service on the Board starting July 1, 2025. Steve Hirsch completed his 2 years on the Board. Becky completed her 2-year term as President.

Barb Bradley and Cindy Hirshberg tallied the votes.

The ballot vote totals were as follows:

Rich Dean, President – 15 voted yes. 0 no's  
Holly Thompson, At Large Board Member – 30 yes. 0 no's  
Lydia Dundon, At Large Board Member – 15 yes. 0 no's

Budget – 24 yes, 1 no, 5 abstain

Greg Thorne, Nominating Committee – 28 yes, 0 no's, 2 abstain  
Maria Warburton – Endowment Committee – 30 yes, 0 no's

Sherry Dean – GA Delegate – 30 yes, 0 no's  
Maria Warburton – GA Delegate – 30 yes, 0 no's

Meeting was adjourned at 1:30.

Respectfully submitted by Sherry Dean



# CUU OUTREACH



Robin Bates at CUU's Outreach Booth at Carroll County Juneteenth Event



Jan Pennington and Steve Hirsch are ready to welcome visitors to the Cedarhurst booth at the Art in the Park event in downtown Westminster. Several dozen people visited the booth and received a warm welcome and some UU literature.



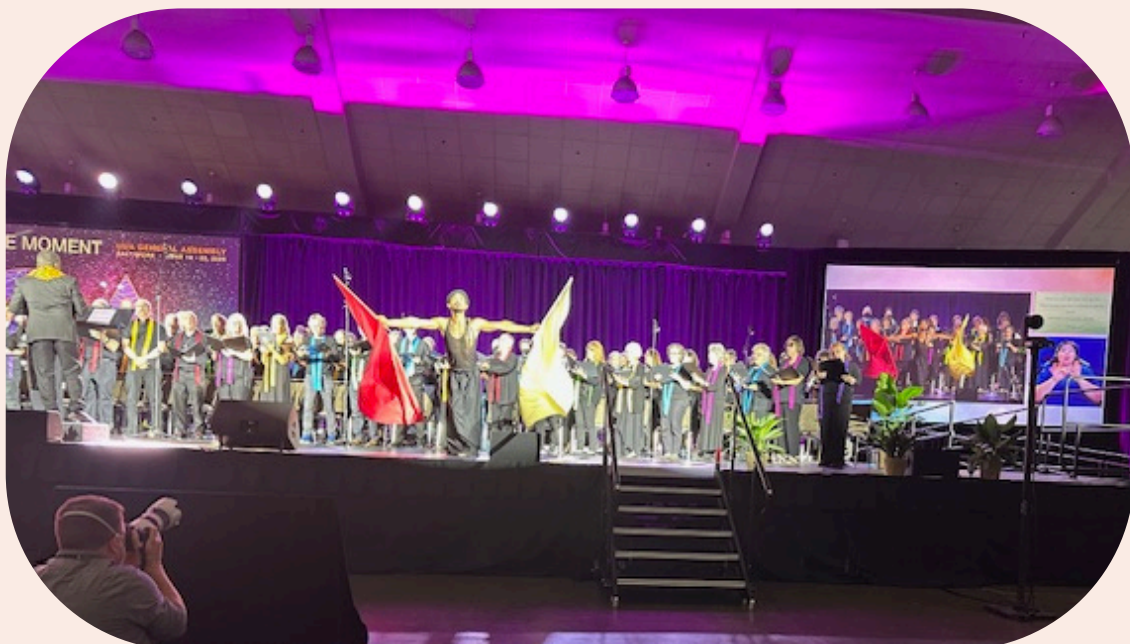
When the rain cleared, Cindy Hirshberg joined Jan Pennington to greet visitors at the outreach booth. Seven new people signed up to receive our online publications, the "Weekly UUupdate" and the monthly "Companion."



# CUU OUT AND ABOUT



*CUU'ers and Friends at Westminster for  
"No Kings Day"*



*Can you spot Dean Camlin and Rev. Kimberley singing in the Sunday morning choir  
at General Assembly?*



# CUU AT GENERAL ASSEMBLY



*Cindy Hirshberg and her sister, Craig, a retired UU minister.*



*Photo of CUU's new banner, front and back, with eight of ten CUU attendees.*



*Early morning worship where we created the interdependent web of nature.*





# CUU AT GENERAL ASSEMBLY

*Maria Warburton with Sherry Mitchell, a PBBUC member. (Sherry is June Clarke's daughter.)*



*Chalice Dancer (in purple tunic) leads the group in gestures to match prayer spoken in unison, saying, "I know this rose will open, I know my fears will burn away, I know my soul will unfurl its wings, I know this rose will open."*

*As the session ended, more than 100 attendees were led into the hallway to walk in a large circle and share a prayer-with-gestures calling for world peace.*





# JULY SPECIAL CUU EVENTS

## Shepherd's Staff July 4<sup>th</sup> Picnic

Friday, July 4<sup>th</sup> at Noon

We will again be staging our annual July 4th Picnic at 12 noon with Shepherd's Staff. Shepherd's Staff is under construction, so the picnic has moved to Dutterer's Park in Westminster. There are a few items still needed: 2 pavilions/tents, ice filled ice chests, sloppy joes, pulled pork, coleslaw (no mayo), help setting up tents and taking down.



Contact Pamela at 443-487-1299 for more details.

## A Taste of Italy on Main St. in Westminster

Saturday, July 12<sup>th</sup> 5:00-9:00 pm

We will "meet up" at the event - meeting at 5:30 at the Locust Lane stage (near Life is Pizza) where an Italian DJ will be spinning music. If we want to eat, we can pick up food from vendors at the event (the city is providing high top tables outdoors--no chairs--at the event) or duck into a downtown restaurant. Beth Blevins will be the contact for the event. If you can't make it by 5:30 for the meet-up or if you need more info on the day of the event, feel free to text her at: 301-367-6318.



Note: if it's pouring rain, we will cancel the meet-up but check with Beth if the weather looks iffy.



# JULY SPECIAL CUU EVENTS

## **WORSHIP COMMITTEE WORK DAY**

Monday, July 21st 3:00-7:00 pm

The Worship Committee will not have a regularly scheduled meeting for the month of July.

The committee will meet on July 21<sup>st</sup> from 3:00-7:00pm at Cedarhurst to explore possible changes to the physical space used for the Zoom devices and to enjoy a meal together. Anyone considering joining the committee is welcome to attend.





# JULY EVENTS

## CONGREGATIONAL LIFE COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday July 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm on Zoom

We will be planning the coming year – places to have breakfast, lunch or dinner or just dessert together, day trips and other activities for folks in the congregation to have a good time together. Please come to the meeting with your ideas or talk to Pamela Malkin, Barb Bradley, June Clarke, Beth Blevins, Beth Schilpp or Becky Barbour. Call Beth Schilpp at 443-904-1304 with questions.



Follow Zoom link on CUU Calendar to join.

## CAREGIVERS SUPPORT GROUP

Tuesday, July 8<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm on Zoom

If you currently or in the past have been a physical or emotional or both to a loved one, this may be the group for you. We do not have any experts – just folks who are willing to share their experiences and feelings without worrying about judgement from the others.

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

Follow Zoom link on CUU Calendar to join.





# JULY EVENTS

## **BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING** Wednesday, June 9th at 7:00 pm on Zoom

July'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, July 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm on Zoom

Have a fun evening playing games with others in the congregation. The games we usually play are Taboo, Tribond, Scattergories or Trivial Pursuit because they work on line. We do not really keep score...are just having fun. Always open to other games and everyone is welcome to Zoom in. Barb Bradley will be opening this game night this month.

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

Follow Zoom link on CUU Calendar to join.





# JULY EVENTS

## CUU BOOK CLUB

Sunday, July 13<sup>th</sup> at noon on Zoom and In-Person at CUU

The book for July is *Iona Iverson's Rules for Commuting* by Clare Pooley.

"Every day Iona Iverson, a stylish, opinionated, larger-than-life magazine advice columnist, rides the train to work with her dog, Lulu. Every day she sees the same people, whom she knows only by nickname: Impossibly-Pretty-Bookworm and Mr-Too-Good-to-Be-True. Of course, they never speak. Seasoned commuters never do.

Then one morning, the man she calls Smart-But-Sexist-Manspreader chokes on a grape right in front of her. He'd have died were it not for the timely intervention of Sanjay, a nurse, who gives him the Heimlich maneuver.

This single event starts a chain reaction, and an eclectic group of people discovers that talking to strangers can teach you quite a bit about the world around you—and even more about yourself." - **Goodreads**

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

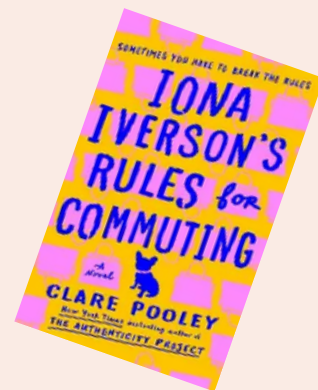
Here are the books for the next couple months!

August: *Weyward* by Emilia Hart

September : *Night Watch* by Jayne Anne Phillips

Call Beth Schilpp with questions.

Follow Zoom link on CUU Calendar to join.





# JULY EVENTS

## NIGHT-BY-NIGHT: FOOD PROGRAM

Friday, July 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:15 pm

Night-by-Night Shelter in Westminster will provide casseroles and assorted sides (seeking a variety of food items) Friday July 18th, with delivery of food between 6 and 6:30pm.

Could you help provide a dish, drinks or desserts?  
Donation?

Contact Pamela Malkin at 443-487-1299 for more details.





# JULY OUTSIDE EVENT



"Common Ground on the Hill was founded on the premise that there is a common human thread unifying all people expressed in our various artistic traditions. Our mission is to make this thread a path towards human understanding, tolerance, fulfillment, and enjoyment."

Join fellow CUU folks at the many Common Ground on-the-Hill events that are free and open to the public July 7-18, at McDaniel College in Westminster. Art Gallery talks are presented by artists from all over the world, 6:30 each night Mon-Thurs at Rice Gallery in Peterson Hall's top floor. <https://www.commongroundonthehill.org/classes/gallery-talks>

## MARYLAND FOLKLIFE CENTER

The keynote speeches are always thought provoking! Offered Monday evenings at 8 pm July 7 and 14 at Alumni Hall.

Parking is fairly close by and free. Handicapped spots are very close.

<https://www.commongroundonthehill.org/classes/keynote-arts-stronger>

<https://www.commongroundonthehill.org/classes/keynote-winding-rivers>

For lovers of folk music, you will enjoy the concerts offered each night inside in the airconditioned comfort of Alumni Hall Tues-Fri with a different theme each night. They begin at 8 pm until about 10 pm.

<https://www.commongroundonthehill.org/experience/concerts/all-concerts>

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Dr. Sarah Star is on the faculty of the Community College, and for about 5 years, she has conducted a discussion program called "Democracy Lab," where people talk about current civic topics chosen by Dr Star. Attendees include students, community members, and often other faculty members who can add depth to the discussion. The sessions are either on Zoom or in person. It is a rich, carefully structured resource for talking over contemporary issues. "Democracy Lab" has also partnered with Braver Angels to host several workshops on campus in the past.

Dr. Star is offering two sessions, July 14-18 as a part of Common Ground on the Hill.

### *Freedom as Presence*

Explore the nature of freedom and the institutions, values, and habits that support it.

<https://www.commongroundonthehill.org/classes/freedom>

### *Democracy: 21st Century Challenges and Paths to Renewal*

Understand the forces threatening democracy in the world and how to strengthen it both at home and abroad.

<https://www.commongroundonthehill.org/classes/democrac>





# CONTACT

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Treasurer: Lisa Miller [Treasurer@cedarhurstuu.org](mailto:Treasurer@cedarhurstuu.org)

Outreach Coordinator: Nalina White [Outreach@cedarhurstuu.org](mailto:Outreach@cedarhurstuu.org)

*Header and calendar photos by Mark Pollitt*



JULY 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4 Noon Shepherd's Staff July 4 <sup>th</sup> Lunch	5
6 10:30am Lay-led Sunday Service	7 7 pm Congregational Life Committee Mtg.	8 5:30 pm Caregivers Support Group	9 4 pm Rev. Kimberley's Office Hours 7pm Board of Trustees Mtg	10	11 7pm CUU Virtual Game Night	12 1pm Private Offsite Auction Event 5pm A Taste of Italy in Westminster
13 10:30am Lay-led Sunday Service 12 pm Book Club	14	15	16 4 pm Rev. Kimberley's Office Hours	17	18 6:15pm Night-by-Night Shelter Dinner	19
20 10:30am Lay-led Sunday Service	21 3 pm Worship Committee Work Day	22	23	24	25	26
27 10:30am Lay-led Sunday Service	28	29	30 4 pm Rev. Kimberley's Office Hours	31		
NOTES:						