



APRIL 2026

# THE COMPANION

ISSUE NO. 4

CUU'S MONTHLY  
NEWSLETTER

## Minister's Message Grace Notes

*Written by Reverend Kimberley Debus*

### **Unsurprisingly, the scammers are at it again!**

**They're back to their old tricks of spear phishing (explained below) where you see messages from "me" that are very clearly not me. But also, they're sending out emails that look like invoices and meeting/event invitations, complete with links. Don't click!**

Instead, be suspicious. Be careful, informed, and cautious. If you receive an email or text that looks like it's from me or someone else familiar but the message is unexpected, oddly worded, or urgent, don't respond and don't click links. If you have any doubts, contact me separately at a known phone or email address to confirm, or double check with our Administrator ([outreach@cedarhurstuu.org](mailto:outreach@cedarhurstuu.org)). Remember your minister and CUU leadership will never contact you asking for gift cards, money, or personal information.



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

**See end of article for Office Hours.**

## What Is Happening Here?

In a nutshell, scammers are working very hard to part you from your money. This is called “phishing.” Scammers will hunt for data across the internet – which includes emails and phone numbers – then create fake emails that look a lot like official emails from trusted sources, like Amazon, Best Buy, or even banks, and send tons of these fake emails out to the addresses they have. It’s a fishing expedition, as they hope to catch even one person who takes the bait.

Now those more general phishing scams go out randomly. But scammers have learned to be more savvy, and now there are two kinds of more targeted phishing.

The first is called “whaling,” because they go after the big fish (CEOs, CFOs, etc.). Their goal is to deceive top personnel in organizations to get large sums of money, trade secrets, access to secure systems and databases, and even execute unauthorized actions that can compromise a corporation. I mention this one because the way it was first described made me think we were also seeing that, but now I know they are trying to scam the top folks, not use the authority of a leader to scam others.

What we are experiencing is called “**spear phishing**” – this is what we see any time an email or text purports to come from a minister or other leader of the congregation. Similar to phishing, they mine data, but in these cases, they highly personalize the fake emails to “hopefully” make it sound authentic. This is why you see a lot of things like “peace and love” or “god bless” in the text. By using the name of someone in a position of authority like a minister, they are counting on your not reading closely and wanting to help.

Now to be clear – **no one’s personal accounts are hacked in any of these phishing schemes**; they are using data that is – for hackers – easy to get, and if you look at the email addresses or phone numbers these scammers use to contact you, you’ll see they usually aren’t anywhere close to real.

## So how do you know when it’s a scam?

When you know what to look for, they’re easy to spot. Typical spear phishing attempts contain **an unusual sense of urgency, incorrect email address or phone number, spelling or grammar mistakes, asks for sensitive information, links that don’t match the domain, and sometimes unsolicited attachments**. Additionally, you are likely to know how your minister signs their name, what they sign off with (mine is typically “Cheers” or “Blessings”), and in my case, if I’m texting you, I either already know you have my number and will see it’s from me, or I’ll state up front that it’s me if I’m not sure you do.

And of course, use your common sense. If it seems odd that I’m in a meeting and need hundreds of dollars of gift cards right now for something you haven’t heard of, there’s your sign. Any time there’s even a scintilla of doubt, go with that feeling. Check the email address it actually came from. Look for awkward language (for example, the word “kindly” often shows up in phishing emails). Look for odd area codes. Look at the situation. Heck, even look for my lengthy signature block on email.

I want you to be safe, and I want you to know that I’m being safe too. We need each other.

Blessings,  
Rev. Kimberley

## Rev. Kimberley’s Hours

*Rev. Kimberley is available [by appointment via Calendly link](#), and is usually available after worship when she is in the pulpit. Unless otherwise noted, she is always available by phone for emergencies, and will respond in a reasonable time frame to texts and emails for non-urgent matters.*

# Spirit Circles

Spirit Circles groups have begun, and it's not too late to sign up!

If you're looking for connection, companionship, and spiritual deepening, sign up for one of these Spirit Circles:

Third Mondays at 10am - in-person - with Becky Zimmerman

Second Tuesdays at 7:30pm - on Zoom - with Rev. Kimberley

Third Thursdays at 7:30pm - on Zoom - with Beth Schilpp

For more information, email Rev. Kimberley at [minister@cedarhurstuu.org](mailto:minister@cedarhurstuu.org).



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

### April- Interdependence

Our theme for April looks at the spiritual value of Interdependence: What does interdependence mean to you? What does interdependence look like when it's not about nature? How might interdependence connect to kindness?

To accompany our exploration is our Spirit Circles packet ([download here](#)). 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. Following that are more questions to ponder, and suggestions of other resources for further exploration. Finally, there is a chalice extinguishing to send you on your way.

Whether you dip in, use it as a focused guide, or share your insights at a Spirit Circle group, we hope you will find something that connects you to your spirit – and to others.

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# Sharing the Plate

On the fourth Sunday of the month we share our plate offering with partners in the larger community. Through our gifts, we can help lift up the work already being done by others.

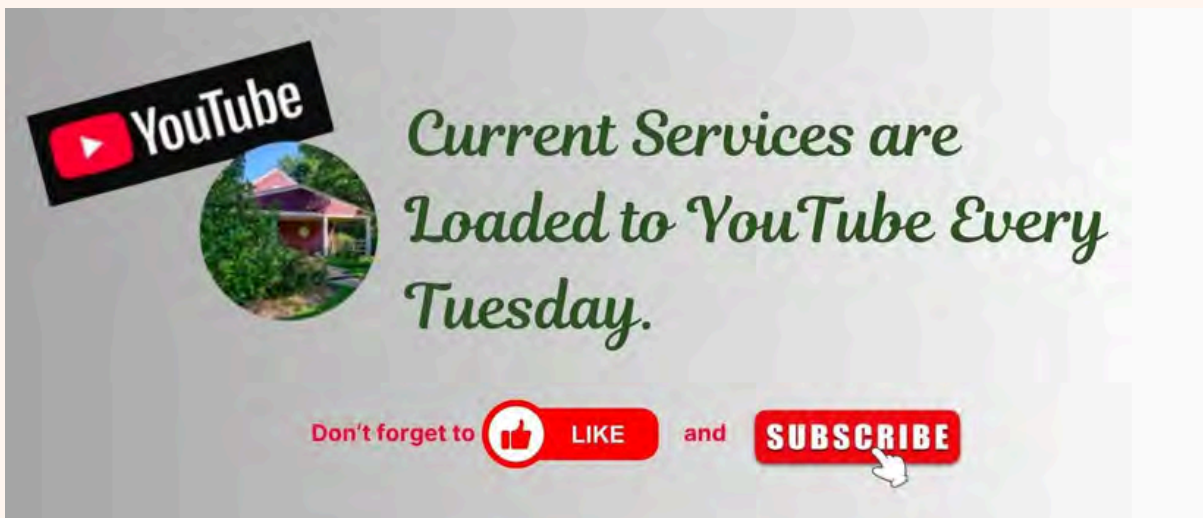


Please plan your donations for our share the plate offerings coming up:

April 26: [United Workers](#)

May 24 and June 28: [PFLAG](#)

Your donations to these worthy community partners are always welcome; while we dedicate the offering on the fourth Sundays of the month, your gifts can come in anytime. Make checks out to CUU and put the organization name and/or 'share the plate' in the memo line.



The graphic features the YouTube logo in the top left corner. Below it is a circular image of a house. To the right of the house, the text reads: "Current Services are Loaded to YouTube Every Tuesday." At the bottom, there is a red button with a thumbs-up icon and the word "LIKE", followed by the word "and", and another red button with the word "SUBSCRIBE" and a hand cursor icon pointing to it.

Check out CUU's new YouTube channel by following this [LINK](#)

You can find the currently available recorded sermon on the YouTube link located on CUU's website Home page!

[Home - Cedarhurst Unitarian Universalists](#)

## President's Message

*Written by Rich Dean*

**It is Stewardship season, a time for us to reflect on CUU – the organism, what it means to us, and our responsibility to support it. I am reminded of Rev Kimberley's story from the March 22 service about the tree in the village that served everyone with shade and fruits and comfort. And how it was incumbent on the village to take care of the tree. Who would be the stewards of the tree that takes care of the village? CUU is that tree in our community, and we are the roots that feed the tree, and sustain the life of our village, our community.**

I never tire of the story of how John Murray inspired Universalism in America. Abandoning his ministry in England, he came to America to start a new life and a new career. His ship gets stuck on a sand bar off the New Jersey coast and he volunteers to go ashore for fresh provisions for the ship. He meets a local farmer, Thomas Potter, who provides those provisions and strikes up a conversation about God's universal love for all of humanity.



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

*Availability:*

*Monday, Wednesday, Friday 4-6pm*

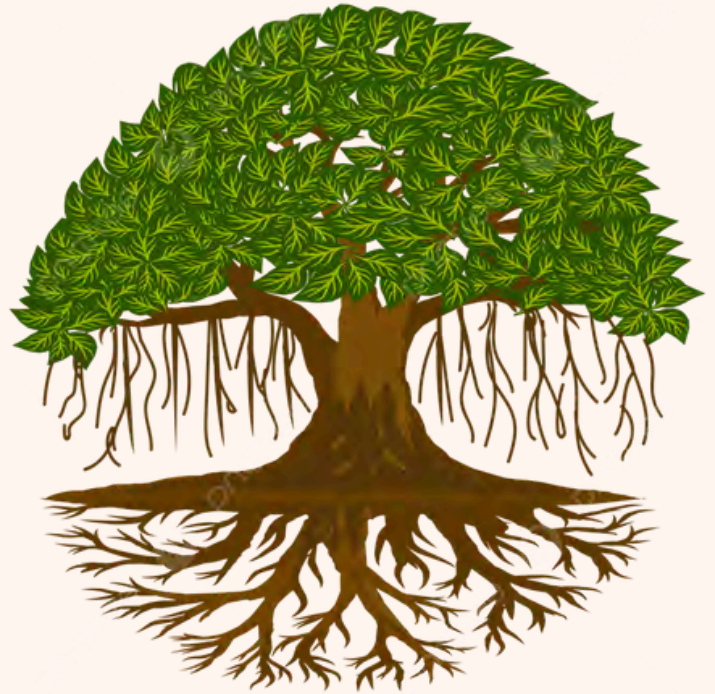
*An alternate appointment time may be made via email request.*

Thomas explains to Murray that he has been waiting for a minister to preach this gospel in the chapel he has built on his property and prevails on him to preach the next day. Murray declines, but they agree that if their ship is not raised by the next tide that he will preach that sermon. And of course the ship stays stranded and Murray preaches the sermon that inspires both him and the congregation to spread this gospel in America, leading to the Universalist movement in America.

The role of Thomas Potter is often overlooked. Thomas is the essential ingredient in enabling that service and the inspiration to spread that gospel in America. It is his stewardship that makes it all possible. Thomas builds the chapel for that service and inspires John Murray to preach that sermon. Thomas has the faith and the fortitude to make all this happen. My hope is that you can see in Thomas Potter the role that we play as stewards - to make our space and our message possible in community.

I love you Cedarhurst.

Rich Dean  
Board President



*Save  
THE  
Date*

**Fellowship Luncheon!**  
**Saturday, April 11th**  
**at 1:00pm**

See page 13 of this newsletter for further details.

# APRIL'S THEME IS INTERDEPENDENCE



## April 5th

Rev. Kimberley's sermon is titled "There You Will See Him."

We will consider the Easter story from the women's point of view - what can a different narrative teach us about resistance, justice, compassion, and hope?

## April 19th

Rev. Kimberley's sermon is titled "Before It's Too Late."

As we approach Earth Day, we will wrestle with hard realities, consider our interdependence, and look to where there is still hope for our planet.

## April 26th

Rev. Kimberley's sermon is titled "Life Calls on Us."

We return to our Journey Through our Living Tradition with a look at Process Theology and consider the ways we change and are changed for goodness.



## April 12th

Rev. Charlotte Lehmann's sermon is called "Mnisóta Makhoche: Where the Water Reflects the Sky."

In January, faith leaders from across many traditions and from across the country gathered for learning and action the day before ICE Out of MN held its protest. This worship service lifts up our interdependence as demonstrated by participating in current resistance movement(s). Through the sermon, Rev. Charlotte shares why they went, what they learned, and how it matters to all of us.



# OPEN AUCTION EVENTS

## *Auction Event Open Seats in April*

The month of April brings several opportunities to get in on some auction events that still have open seats.

Pamela Malkin's **Strawberry Cardmaking Class** is on April 4, bright and early at 9:30 am - 1:30 pm. Make up to 6 beautiful cards featuring decorative papers and diecuts. With strawberry accents, all will love to receive them. You can make them for any occasion, with your choice of greeting. Designed by Pamela Malkin. \$40 per seat. Please contact Linda Joy asap to give Pamela time to secure enough supplies.

Cindy Hirshberg's **Chocolate Tasting Around the World** has been rescheduled for April 18 at 1:30 PM at the home of Cindy Hirshberg. Beverly Humbert returns for an updated session of her informative and tasty program about chocolate. Experience an international variety of white, milk, and dark chocolates to discover your favorite. The real story about quality and flavor of chocolate depends more on where and how trees are grown, and how the beans are harvested and processed by companies large and small. Beverly will explain the nuances as you taste samples, savor flavor characteristics, decide on your favorite chocolates, and discover reliable places to shop for more to enjoy or to give as gifts. \$50 per seat. Please contact Linda Joy by April 11 to give Cindy time to arrange plenty of chocolate!

The very next day we have **Music and Pizza with Ayanna and Gerry** on April 19 at CUU. Pizza starts at 1:30; music at 2:00. In what is becoming a tradition, enjoy music by Ayanna and Gerry, and celebrate the new name for their duo: Soul Testimony, and enjoy pizza and liquid refreshments hosted by Lisa. Soul Testimony provides an acoustic blend of soul and folk. Original songs and covers drawing from the tapestry of American music, offered with reverence and heart. This event will be at CUU. There are plenty of seats left, so bring your friends. Seats are a bargain at only \$20! Please contact Linda Joy by April 12 to give Lisa time to arrange plenty of pizza!

Please contact Linda Joy at [Linda.Joy@verizon.net](mailto:Linda.Joy@verizon.net) or 410-790-5496 if you would like to purchase seats for any of these great events. Although Linda will contact the hosts, you can feel free to contact them directly too. The hosts would appreciate at least 1 week's notice to stock up on food and supplies.

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# OPEN AUCTION EVENTS

## *CUU Auction Open Events*

Looking for things to do this year? Here's a list of open events from the 2025 auction happening in 2026 Your contributions help support Cedarhurst's operating expenses!

### AUCTION EVENT OPPORTUNITIES

Event	Date	Time	Host	Available spots	Price
Strawberry Cardmaking Class	<b>4/4/2026</b> revised date	9:30 - 1:30	Pamela Malkin	5	\$40
Chocolate Tasting Around the World	<b>4/18/2026</b> revised date	1:30	Cindy Hirshberg	6	\$50
Music and Pizza with Ayanna and Gerry	4/19/2026	2:00	Gerry and Lisa Galuardi, Ayanna Chen	20	\$20
Croquet Game and Lunch	5/9/2026	10:30	Beth Blevins, Cindy Hirshberg, Barb Bradley	1	\$65
Salon & Sandwiches	5/30/2026	2:00	Terri Ebaugh	2	\$35
Pool Party (clothing required)	6/20/2026	1:00	Linda and Dave Joy	6	\$35
Skinny-Dip Pool Party	7/11/2026	1:00	Dave Joy	7	\$35
Girls' Overnight at Georgetown	9/19/2026		Sherry Dean	3	\$50

Contact [auction@cedarhurstuu.org](mailto:auction@cedarhurstuu.org) or Linda Joy 410-790-5496 or Terri Ebaugh 443-789-2307 if you would like to attend an event!



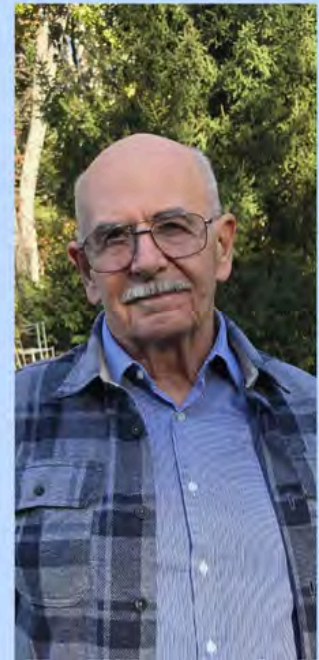
# SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Save the Date:

## Remembering Don Ebaugh

Don Ebaugh's memorial service will be on  
Saturday June 13.

More details will be provided as they are  
available.



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## Congregation Photo Op!!!

Sunday, **April 5th** after  
service, we are gathering  
outside by the CUU sign to  
take a congregation photo!

Please plan to attend  
looking fabulous!

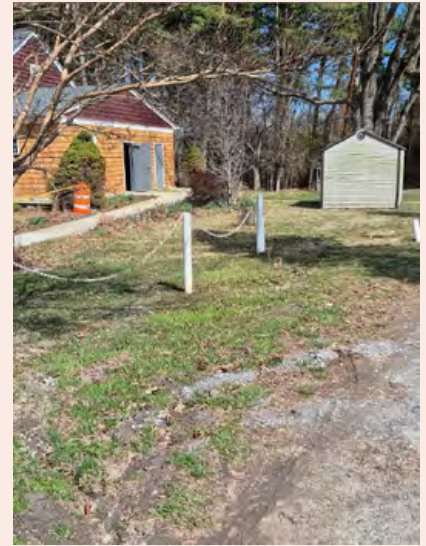


# CUU EVENTS FROM MARCH



**Working Party - The shed got moved!**

**It's easy when you have the A-Team!  
Steve, Greg, Stephen, and Dean**



**Auction Event - Twinsburg, OH trip.  
Linda Joy, Barbara Bradley, Patty Koch, and  
Jan Pennington.**



**Luncheon get together at Carroll Lutheran Village, where we were waited on like royalty and treated to lovely strawberry parfait desserts. We thank CLV resident and CUU member, Becky Barbour, for organizing the event. Some of the group stayed after lunch to play Mahjogg. That's CLV resident and CUU member June Clarke in blue at the head of the table; on her left are Maria Warburton, Pamela Malkin, Sherry Dean, our organizer Becky Barbour, Lisa Galuardi and Beth Schilpp. Next to Beth Schilpp, on the right are Ann Farmer, Terri Ebaugh, Dave Joy, Linda Joy, Beth Blevins, and Linda Prause.**

# APRIL SPECIAL OUTSIDE EVENT



All are Welcome

**Greater Baltimore Temple Annual Interfaith Dialogue**

**Sunday April 26, 2026**

**2-4 pm-Program**

**4-5 pm Reception**



**“Is there Life after Death?”**

A stimulating Interfaith panel discussion

Diverse Religious and Spiritual perspective on what happens after this life

at

**Greater Baltimore Hindu-Jain Temple**

**2909 Bloom Rd, Finksburg, MD 21048**

Organized by

**The Outreach and Interfaith Committee of Greater Baltimore Hindu-Jain Temple**

Info: Geetha Raja 410 905 7391, Ed Hostetter 410 227 7109, Ram Sanka 410 608 0528,

Kali Mallik 443 955 1424, Bhupendra Mehta 410 241 0673.

# APRIL SPECIAL EVENTS

## FELLOWSHIP POTLUCK LUNCHEON

We have having a potluck luncheon this year. This to bring:  
Appetizer, Salad, Entre, or Dessert.

There will be a sign-up sheet available on Sundays or you can  
email Sherry with you choice: [sherrydeann21@gmail.com](mailto:sherrydeann21@gmail.com)

Saturday, April 11<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm



## DINNER AT TAQUERIA EL GUACAMOLE

Join CUU friends and members for great Mexican food and great  
company. The restaurant is located at 2970 Dede Rd., Finksburg. See  
CUU's weekly announcements for directions. Reservations are not  
needed.

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

Monday, April 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm



## TRIP TO SHERWOOD GARDENS IN BALTIMORE

Meet friends and members at CUU at 10am to carpool to the gardens.  
We should be seeing many tulips and hopefully a few other flowers.  
Afterward, we will find a place to have lunch together.

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

Thursday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> at 10:00am



# APRIL EVENTS

## CONGREGATIONAL LIFE COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, April 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm on Zoom

We are always looking for activities that bring us together for fun and/or learning. If you cannot come to the meeting please stop by the Welcome Table with your ideas.

All are welcome to attend on Zoom.

Follow Zoom link on CUU website Calendar to join.



## BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

Wednesday, April 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm on Zoom

April'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 website Calendar to join.



## CUU IN-PERSON GAME NIGHT

Friday, April 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm in-person

Our monthly game night will begin at 6pm to enjoy dinner together with each person bringing their own food and drink (no potluck). Games begin at 6:30. Please bring a game or games you love. As always, folks are welcome to just come and eat or just come to play games.

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



# APRIL EVENTS

## CUU BOOK CLUB

Sunday, April 12<sup>th</sup> at noon in-person and on Zoom

The book for April is ***The Keeper of Lost Things*** by Ruth Hogan.

*Anthony Peardew is the keeper of lost things. Forty years ago, he carelessly lost a keepsake from his beloved fiancée, Therese. That very same day, she died unexpectedly. Brokenhearted, Anthony sought consolation in rescuing lost objects—and writing stories about them. As the end [of his life] nears, he bequeaths his secret life's mission to his unsuspecting assistant, Laura, leaving her his house and all its lost treasures, including an irritable ghost. As the Keeper of Lost Objects, Laura holds the key to Anthony and Eunice's redemption. But can she unlock the past and make the connections that will lay their spirits to rest?* – Amazon

Please come and participate even if it is your first time....would love to have more people participating.

Call Beth Schilpp with questions.

Follow Zoom link on CUU website Calendar to join.



## CAREGIVERS SUPPORT GROUP

Tuesday, April 14<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm on Zoom

If you are or have been physical and/or emotional support for another person, this could be the group for you. We have no experts, just people that are willing to share their experiences.

Follow Zoom link on CUU website Calendar to join.



# APRIL EVENTS

## SPIRIT CIRCLES

Tuesday, April 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm on Zoom

Spirit Circles groups offer connection, companionship, and spiritual deepening. Tuesday's group is led by Rev. Kimberley on Zoom.

Follow Zoom link on CUU website Calendar to join.



## SPIRIT CIRCLES

Thursday, April 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm on Zoom

Spirit Circles groups offer connection, companionship, and spiritual deepening. Thursday's group is led by Beth Schilpp on Zoom.

Follow Zoom link on CUU website Calendar to join.



## NIGHT-BY-NIGHT: FOOD PROGRAM

Friday, April 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:15pm

Our food team is AMAZING! Every month we serve a hot cooked meal the third Friday of each month at the Night-by-Night Shelter in Westminster. We bring a variety of items so everyone can find something to eat. With the snow and cold, the number of people attending the shelter has increased to over 50!

Night-by-Night Shelter in Westminster provides casseroles and assorted sides. They always need blankets and breakfast items, should you like to help make a difference.

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



# APRIL EVENTS

## **SPIRIT CIRCLES**

Monday, April 20<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am in-person

Spirit Circles groups offer connection, companionship, and spiritual deepening. Monday's group is led by Becky Zimmerman at Cedarhurst.

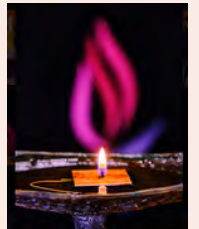


## **WORSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING**

Wednesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7:30pm 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 website Calendar to join.



## **DRINKS AND DESSERT**

Friday, April 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm on Zoom

Zoom in just to chat - no agenda.

Call Beth Schilpp with any questions.

Follow the Zoom link on CUU website calendar to join.





# CONTACT

Telephone: 410-861-8820

Email: [Outreach@CedarhurstUU.org](mailto:Outreach@CedarhurstUU.org)

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

President: Rich Dean [BoardPresident@cedarhurstuu.org](mailto:BoardPresident@cedarhurstuu.org)

Vice President: Holly Thompson [thompson.holly.2016@gmail.com](mailto:thompson.holly.2016@gmail.com)

At Large Board Members:

Sherry Dean [sherrydeann21@gmail.com](mailto:sherrydeann21@gmail.com)

David Pittman [d.s.pittman@verizon.net](mailto:d.s.pittman@verizon.net)

Lydia Dundon [lmillike42@gmail.com](mailto:lmillike42@gmail.com)

Minister: Reverend Kimberley Debus [minister@cedarhurstuu.org](mailto:minister@cedarhurstuu.org)

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*

# CEDARHURST UU

## APRIL 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
5 10:30am Sunday Service	6 7:30pm Congregational Life Committee Mtg.	7	8 7pm Board of Trustees Mtg	9	10 6pm CUU In-Person Game Night	11 1pm Fellowship Luncheon - Potluck
12 10:30am Sunday Service 12 pm Book Club	13 6:00pm Dinner at Taqueria El Guacamole	14 5:30 pm Caregivers Support Group 7:30pm Spirit Circle Zoom	15	16 7:30pm Spirit Circle Zoom	17 6:15pm Night-by-Night Shelter Dinner	18
19 10:30am Sunday Service	20 10:30am Spirit Circle In-Person	21	22 7:30pm Worship Committee Mtg	23 10:00am Trip to Sherwood Gardens in Baltimore	24 7pm Drinks and Dessert	25
26 10:30am Sunday Service	27	28	29	30		
NOTES:						