



MARCH 2026

THE COMPANION

ISSUE NO. 3

CUU'S MONTHLY
NEWSLETTER

Minister's Message Grace Notes

Written by Reverend Kimberley Debus

In 441 days, if all goes smoothly, I will be standing on the chancel of Washington National Cathedral in a jaunty cap and a heavy robe.

Yes, the studies I have been doing these last two years (since before I became your minister) will culminate in a Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.), which I am pursuing at Wesley Theological Seminary in DC, and yes, commencement happens at the Cathedral.

I wanted to share a bit with you about my program and also what the next 441 days will be like for you all.

First, a D.Min. is a doctorate, but it's not a Ph.D. (or a J.D., D.F.A. or M.D.). Where a Ph.D. is an academic degree a D.Min. is a technical or applied degree. Our dissertations are centered around a project that asks 'what does the church need' and is actively carried out in a church-related setting. (For example, those in the military chaplain track are doing projects with their units in relation to their ministries there.)



minister@cedarhurstuu.org

See end of article for Office Hours.

My track is called “curating community through the arts” and much of my coursework has covered not only various art forms (drama, music, visual culture, architecture, storytelling, writing) but also topics like change, adaptive leadership, and trauma. Our Small Wins project last year was borne from things I learned in the adaptive leadership class, and the courses on trauma-informed care have been vital to ministry in this moment.

In asking the question ‘what does the church need’, given my program focus, I determined a need for a better framework for Unitarian Universalist worship that is more inclusive, embodied, and sacred and helps us better meet this moment. I’ll be examining this through a theatre lens, and with an eye to how we teach this not just to clergy but to lay worship leaders. I’ll be grounding this theologically with the Transcendentalists (which we talked about on February 22) and process theology, which we’ll cover in late April.

So what does this mean for you?

First, you won’t see a change in my availability to you – I’ll still be in the pulpit twice a month, at meetings, available for pastoral care.

Second, I will be away a little more this summer and a bit in autumn, but I’ll make sure there’s a nearby minister available when I’m away in case a physical ministerial presence is required.

Third, we’ll get to party! In March of next year, I am required to do a final presentation to all who have supported me or been engaged in the project, and it’s expected that we celebrate. (I’ve already told Sherry Dean, Holly Thompson, and Terri Ebaugh we’ll have to get the Anniversary planning gang back together.)

I admit I never thought I would be doing a D.Min., until it became clear I needed to do it. But now that I’m a little over a year from completing it, it is so clearly the right choice for my career and my ministry.

Plus, I’ll get a jaunty cap.

Blessings,
Rev. Kimberley

For the data and calendar geeks among you, here’s my schedule:

June 14-21	Ministry Days and General Assembly - virtual	available as normal
July 16-27	Dissertation Project work in Ann Arbor, MI	available by text/email
July 28-August 2	Association for UU Music Ministries Conference (AUUMM) in Milwaukee, WI	available by text/email
August 3-10	Vacation	emergencies only
August 27-September 7	Dissertation Project work in White Plains, NY	available by text/email
October 9-15	Study Leave (major dissertation deadline)	available by text/email
October 16-24	Vacation	emergencies only
January 11-15	Study Leave (final dissertation deadline)	available by text/email
March (day TBA)	Dissertation Presentation and Celebration at CUU/online	
May 16	Commencement! at Washington National Cathedral	

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.



Spirit Circles: Connecting to Our Spirits and to One Another

March: Generosity

Our theme for March looks at the spiritual value of Generosity: What does generosity mean to you? What does generosity look like when it's not about money? What is the relationship between kindness and generosity?

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.

Sharing the Plate

While we are not quite in the habit yet, we do intend for the fourth Sunday of the month to be when we sharing our plate offering with our larger community. Through our gifts, we can help lift up the work already being done by others.

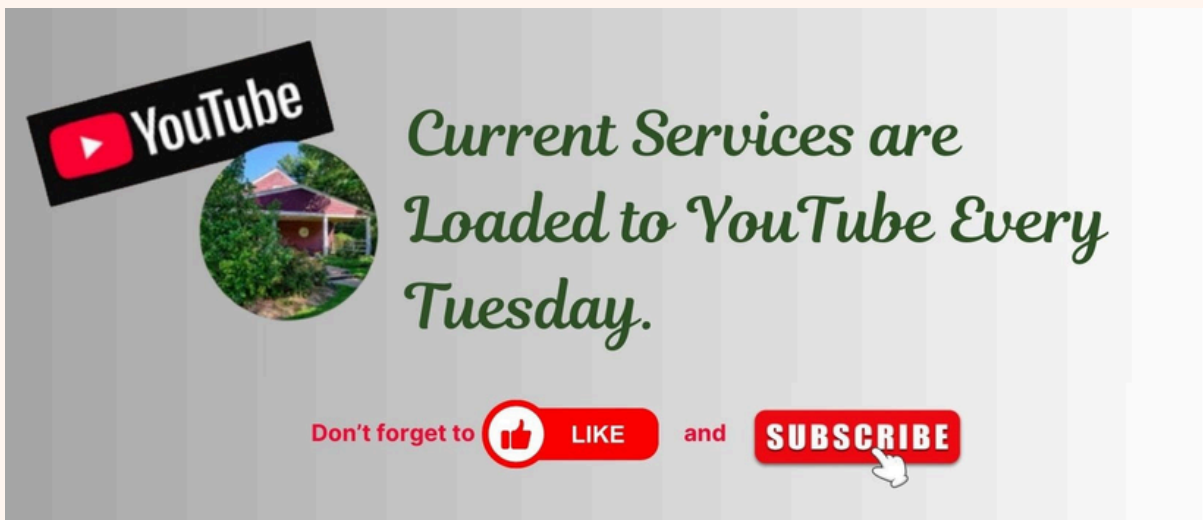


In January and February, we dedicated our plate to [Sister Source](#), the organization run by

March and April: [United Workers](#)

May and June: [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 are always welcome. Make checks out to CUU and put the organization name and/or 'share the plate' in the memo line.



The graphic features a grey background with vertical stripes. On the left, there is a tilted YouTube logo and a circular image of a house. To the right, the text reads: "Current Services are Loaded to YouTube Every Tuesday." Below this, there are two red buttons: "LIKE" with a thumbs-up icon and "SUBSCRIBE" with a hand cursor icon. The text "Don't forget to" is positioned to the left of the "LIKE" button, and "and" is between the two buttons.

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

As I write this we are in the midst of February, by far the worst month of the year. Spring may be just around the corner but arctic weather and two snowstorms tell me otherwise. I sometimes begrudge my snowbird friends who are in Florida. But don't they know that winter builds character? And in the midst of all this frigid weather CUU carries on. You are the warmth and charm that makes my Februarys manageable.

I have to share with you the results of our Capital Campaign. Our total pledged is now \$240,862 which is 5% over our goal of \$230,000. Cedarhurst, you have stood up and shown what commitment looks like when a challenge is presented. Kudos to our Capital Campaign team, Roderic Hooks, Francine Hahn, Lisa Galuardi, and Alan Bogage.

For an update on what is going on at CUU, see my President's Report for details.

[March President's Report](#)

Project Elevate! is our #1 priority and progress there has been good. We are mostly on schedule but budget is a concern. You can see the framing of our current porch and the siding. We are on target for completion in the May-June timeframe. Right now everything hinges on the addition of 3 Phase/220v power to the building which will require poles and trenching to our building by BGE. Installation of the elevator depends on that, and the cost of this installation by BGE may stretch our budget and reserves. In addition, we discovered that our fire alarm system is not operable and requires an overhaul that might be expensive. With the reserves we included in our budget, we will certainly survive, but we want to avoid unnecessary cost to keep residual funding for our Capital Fund for future building expenses.



boardpresident@cedarhurstuu.org

Availability:

Monday, Wednesday, Friday 4-6pm

An alternate appointment time may be made via email request.

Our Congregational meeting on February 8 was a success. We introduced a new format which was a council-style format. We had reports from our committee chairs about all of what is going on at CUU. Amazing stuff. We will do this again next year.

We have scheduled another Working Party for March 14, 9am-1pm. We will continue to clean out and clean up our basement. Our November Working Party was a big success. We worked hard and had fun. Please join us this month if you can.

And finally a tribute to Don Ebaugh who we lost this month. Don was gentle and warm, generous and willing. He volunteered to help me remove the last of the debris from our November cleanup. He joined me on January 6th, cold and icy. No matter. He put his shoulder to the task and poof, done. Thank You, Don.

I love you Cedarhurst.

Rich Dean
Board President



Don Ebaugh



Becky Barbour shared this photo of snow outside of her window taken in the early hours of the morning, February 23rd.

MARCH'S THEME IS GENEROSITY



March 1st

Rev. Alexa Fraser's sermon is called "Hope." About a year ago Rev. Alexa was with us and we talked about courage. Now let's tackle Hope. One of our most inspiring songs is Sing a Song with Me which touches on the need for finding hope when it is hard to find. Yes, let's build hope together.



March 15th

Rev. Lyn Cox's sermon is called "Connected at the Heart: Interdependence and Generosity." As Unitarian Universalists, we cultivate a spirit of gratitude and hope. We give thanks for the web of connections that link us to each other, to our neighbors and wider community, to the earth, and to the past and future. One of the ways our gratitude, hope, and love manifest is through the practice of generosity. Financial generosity is only part of it. We also practice generosity of heart, opening our awareness to the ways our wellbeing and liberation are bound up together. May the assurance that we are part of something larger than ourselves spiritually, temporally, and practically lead us to giving and receiving with abundance.



March 8th

Rev. Kimberley's sermon is titled "Bread and Roses." On our Journey Through our Living Tradition, we will examine the power of the Social Gospel and the strong women who led us through the social reforms of the late 19th/early 20th century.

March 22nd

Rev. Kimberley's sermon is titled "Oh What a Piece of Work Are We." Humanism comes to the fore on our Journey Through our Living Tradition, as we consider the source and expression of our moral compass.

March 29th

CB Beal's sermon is titled "Pathfinder, Trailblazer, or Whack-A-Mole? Part 2." For this sermon, CB asks us to think about the following questions: First, if you think about yourself increasing justice in the world, what are your similarities to the characters in today's worship? Collie or Wanda; young me, or my Grandfather? Perhaps you find yourself similar to the people who misunderstood who my grandfather was, seeing only a man in shabby clothes picking up cans, or the ladyslipper, desperately joyous to be noticed. When do you follow, and when do you lead? How do you make the decision to follow or lead?



ELEVATE CEDARHURST!

Elevate Cedarhurst! Update:

Anyone who visited 2912 Club House Road during February probably noticed the shingles that were installed on the new exterior walls. And anyone who ventured downstairs might have seen a new hallway that will soon connect the addition to the rooms on the lower level. If you would like to see the bottom of the new stairs, walk to the end of that new hallway and then look through the window and turn to the left. There you will also see the elevator shaft, but (alas!) no elevator. Installation of the elevator awaits BGE's upgrading of CUU's electrical service, for which we don't yet have a date.

Upstairs, the proposed floor plan has been enhanced by designating a short-term storage area (i.e., an open closet) for congregants' larger items such as walkers, backpacks, and baby carriages. This was accomplished without sacrificing the second restroom. Also, the wall between the kitchen and the sanctuary will have a pass-thru window to facilitate moving food and dishes into and out of the kitchen without blocking the doorway.

One of the goals of **Elevate Cedarhurst!** was to make the rooms on the lower level accessible to everyone. The activities for which those rooms will be used must be determined by the congregation. The ideas that were proposed during the charrette on February 22nd included several that involved new purposes for rooms on the lower level. A compilation of everything that was proposed during the charrette was included in the February 28th **Weekly UUpdate** and can also be found on the next page.



FEBRUARY'S CHARRETTE UPDATE

*Your **BIG**, and small, Ideas for Cedarhurst Unitarian Universalists are Here!*



Hello!

Thank you to everyone who took part in the Cedarhurst UU Charrette last week! There was a tremendous amount of energy, and a brilliant list of ideas as a result.

The CUU Board will look at the list in a few weeks and decide on a way forward for the ideas, some of which may need to be voted on by the congregation before proceeding.

I have added a column which has my suggested way forward for each project. This is just my suggestion, and isn't necessarily what the Board will decide to do.

My opinion of what the best way forward is, is that we need five new task-forces/teams which would be responsible for the ideas that fall into these categories:

- Memorial Garden
- General Building Projects
- Downstairs Finishing Projects
- Sanctuary Aesthetics Projects
- Community Engagement

The other ideas already have teams that they can work with, and in those cases I have written who I think that is.

For ideas that relate to the Elevate Cedarhurst! (EC) Team, feel free to contact me directly.

Please let me know if you have any thoughts about this list. It would be most helpful if you share these thoughts with me **BEFORE** the next board meeting, on March 11th.

Thank you again for participating! Last Sunday really did feel like Christmas in February to me.

-Lydia Dundon

[LINK TO CHARRETTE PROJECT IDEAS LIST](#)

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Auction Event: Tacos & Trivia



*Barb Bradley, Thom Remaley, Beth Schilpp and
Becky Zimmerman with Rev. Kimberley Debus.*



daylight savings time is here!



Don't forget to set your clocks ahead 1 hour on Saturday night, March 7th, before you go to bed! Remember to "Spring ahead" as we lose an hour in the evening.



Daylight Savings Time begins
Sunday, March 8th at 2 a.m.



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!

Event	Date	Time	Host	Available spots	Price
Chocolate Tasting Around the World	rescheduling	1:30	Cindy Hirshberg	6	\$50
STAY TUNED FOR NEW DATE					
Strawberry Cardmaking Class	4/11/2026	9:30 - 1:30	Pamela Malkin	5	\$40
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 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 or Linda Joy 410-790-5496 or Terri Ebaugh 443-789-2307 if you would like to attend an event!



OPEN AUCTION EVENTS

OPEN AUCTION ITEM

APRIL 19

PIZZA AND MUSIC WITH SOUL TESTIMONY (AYANNA AND GG)



Even though every week there is an item in the announcements and every month there is an item in the newsletter about open auction items, I want to focus everyone's attention that there are still openings for the auction item noted above.

Each year Ayanna and I do something different musically and this year is no exception. Since last year we have named our duo Soul Testimony, and you can follow us on Facebook and Instagram and YouTube, and on and on and on. This year we will present our "greatest hits". But that designation has a different connotation than you might think. We will be performing the songs we like best to perform. We will draw from Soul, R&B, Folk, Americana, Rock, and anything else that may strike our fancy. You may hear things ranging from Irving Berlin to the Doors or Guns n Roses, with Stevie Wonder, Black Pumas, Earth Wind and Fire and a cast of thousands. So many songs, so little time.

So if you were on the fence about coming, do as James Brown once sang "Get up offa that thing", and sign up with Linda Joy, and also let me know you signed up so we can get enough food and drink.

Linda Joy 410-790-5496 linda.joy@verizon.net Gerry Galuardi ggaluardi@verizon.net

See what we've been up to on YouTube:



MARCH SPECIAL OUTSIDE EVENT

FILM SCREENING AT McDANIEL COLLEGE

Thursday, March 5th at 7:00pm

There will be a free screening of the film “Heightened Security” on March 5 at 7:00 pm at McDaniel College and include a panel discussion moderated by Dr Erin Watley. The film highlights the courtroom battles against anti-trans laws while exposing media narratives impacting public perception. More information can be found at this link, <https://www.pflagwcc.org/2026march-movie-screening> including the required registration form.



HEIGHTENED SCRUTINY

Free Screening
Thursday, March 5, 2026
7:00 pm (doors open at 6:30 pm)
McDaniel College - Decker Auditorium
Westminster, Maryland
Panel Discussion - Refreshments
Registration Required - Scan QR Code



MAMA DRAGONS PFLAG MARYLAND

MCDANIEL COLLEGE
Communication & Cinema Department

MARCH SPECIAL EVENTS

LUNCH AT CARROLL LUTHERAN VILLAGE

Thursday, March 19th at 11:30am

205 St. Mark Way, Westminster 21158 at the café. Take the first left after entering the village to get to the café. (It is not the bistro.)

Call Beth Schilpp at 443-904-1304 by the 17th if you can attend so we will know what size table is needed.



BALTIMORE MUSEUM OF ART AMY SHERALD EXHIBIT “AMERICAN SUBLIME”

Thursday, March 26th at 1:30pm

The exhibition is the most comprehensive presentation of Sherald's work to date, illuminating the arc of her career from 2007 to 2024 through approximately 40 paintings. From foundational early works to some of her most iconic and recognizable paintings and rarely seen examples, American Sublime captures the power and poignancy of Sherald's artistry and traces her ascendance as one of the most influential figurative painters of our time.

The cost is \$16 for seniors and \$18 for adults. This exhibit requires timed ticket entrance so get your tickets asap for 1:30 on the 26th and we can carpool from CUU about 11:30 am so can have lunch before seeing the exhibit. Call Beth Schilpp with questions.



MARCH EVENTS

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, March 2nd 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 Calendar to join.



CUU BOOK CLUB

Sunday, March 8th at noon in-person and on Zoom

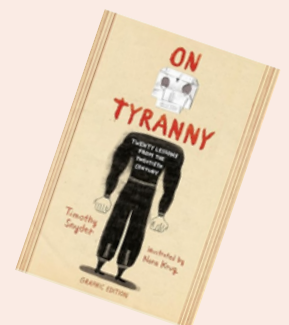
The book for March is **On Tyranny** by Timothy Snyder.

Timothy Snyder's New York Times bestseller On Tyranny uses the darkest moments in twentieth-century history, from Nazism to Communism, to teach twenty lessons on resisting modern-day authoritarianism. Among the twenty include a warning to be aware of how symbols used today could affect tomorrow ("4: Take responsibility for the face of the world"), an urgent reminder to research everything for yourself and to the fullest extent ("11: Investigate"), a point to use personalized and individualized speech rather than clichéd phrases for the sake of mass appeal ("9: Be kind to our language"), and more. - 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.



MARCH EVENTS

CAREGIVERS SUPPORT GROUP

Tuesday, March 10th 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 Calendar to join.



SPIRIT CIRCLES

Tuesday, March 10th 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 Calendar to join.



BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

Wednesday, March 11th 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.



MARCH EVENTS

SPIRIT CIRCLES

Monday, March 16th at 10:30am in-person

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



SPIRIT CIRCLES

Thursday, March 19th 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 Calendar to join.

NIGHT-BY-NIGHT: FOOD PROGRAM

Friday, March 20th at 6:15pm

The 13 member food team for the Night-by-Night Shelter provided 21 different items for our Breakfast for Dinner themed meal in February. We are lucky to have both members of CUU and friends help provide food. 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!



We also delivered a selection of board games for those who used the shelter when they extended their hours since the weather was below freezing for over a week.

They always need blankets and breakfast items, should you like to help make a difference.

March's menu will be assorted casseroles and sides, with desserts and drinks.

MARCH EVENTS

WORSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, March 25th 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 Calendar to join.



CUU IN-PERSON GAME NIGHT

Friday, March 27th 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.



DRINKS AND DESSERT

There will not be Drinks and Dessert for the month of March.





CONTACT

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David Pittman d.s.pittman@verizon.net

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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

MARCH 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 10:30am Sunday Service	2 7:30pm Congregational Life Committee Mtg.	3	4	5	6	7
8 10:30am Sunday Service Noon CUU Book Club	9	10 5:30pm Caregivers Support Group 7:30pm Spirit Circles on Zoom	11 7pm Board of Trustees Meeting	12	13	14
15 10:30am Sunday Service	16 10:30am Spirit Circles In-person	17	18	19 11:30am Lunch at Carroll Lutheran Village 7:30pm Spirit Circles on Zoom	20 6:15pm Night-by-Night Shelter Dinner	21
22 10:30am Sunday Service	23	24	25 7:30pm Worship Committee Meeting	26 1:30pm Baltimore Museum of Art	27 6pm In-Person Game Night	28
29 10:30am Sunday Service	30	31				
<p>NOTES: There will not be a Drinks & Dessert this month.</p>						