



AUGUST 2026

THE COMPANION

CUU'S MONTHLY
NEWSLETTER

ISSUE NO. 8

President's Message

Written by Rich Dean

Just back from a family week at the beach. A great way to get away from daily chores, and focus on the big picture. This is a good time as well for CUU to do some of the same. I hope you are taking the time to recharge your batteries.

First. an update on the Board. David, Sherry, and Holly left the Board and were replaced by Roderic, Jan, and Maria. Lydia and I remain. We had our first Board meeting in July and are off to a good start. Our Board retreat is scheduled for Saturday, Aug 15, where we plan to review our goals and plan for the upcoming year.

Now for some tough love. We have substantial challenges ahead of us on Project Elevate. The additional costs from BG&E for the 3 phase power is costing us more than \$90,000. Our total budgeted reserve including our original 5% reserve, the \$40,000 Chalice Lighter grant and our



boardpresident@cedarhurstuu.org

Availability:

Monday, Wednesday, Friday 4-6pm

An alternate appointment time may be made via email request.

Capital Campaign reserve has shrunk from about \$120,000 to just about \$5,000. Chances are we will exceed that amount. Then the delays related to the 3 phase power has been months, and our estimated completion is now somewhere in the October-November timeframe. We are all disappointed.

But my time at the Beach gave me perspective. I am reading *The Obstacle is the Way - The Ancient Art of Turning Adversity to Advantage* by Ryan Holiday. It quotes the great Roman Emperor, Marcus Aurelius who in 170, in the midst of battle, penned these words:

“Our Actions may be impeded...but there can be no impeding our intentions or dispositions. Because we can accommodate and adapt. The mind adapts and converts to its own purposes the obstacle to our acting.”

But my time at the Beach gave me perspective. I am reading *The Obstacle is the Way - The Ancient Art of Turning Adversity to Advantage* by Ryan Holiday. It quotes the great Roman Emperor, Marcus Aurelius who in 170, in the midst of battle, penned these words: "Our Actions may be impeded...but there can be no impeding our intentions or dispositions. Because we can accommodate and adapt. The mind adapts and converts to its own purposes the obstacle to our acting."

So we may struggle. Maybe the dumpster or the weeds at our entrance is unsightly and unwelcoming. Maybe the clutter at our old entrance is embarrassing. Maybe the thought of waiting until November for completion is discouraging. Maybe paying BG&E \$90,000 is outrageous. But the



obstacle is the way - because our intentions and dispositions converts our obstacles to our purposes! We will prevail. Our renovation will succeed. We will be stronger for the struggle.

I am looking forward to the fall when we plan a Welcoming Sunday to invite friends and visitors to our new space. I look forward to a Grand Opening when we celebrate and consecrate our new space. I am looking forward to new landscaping that will make our site sparkle with nature's bounty. I look forward to having our space filled with kids every Friday as we rent our space to a home school coop. I see kids filling our space with laughter and running through our woods. And I am looking forward to a revitalized downstairs where all kinds of new activities will vitalize this congregation. Please join me on this journey. Let's convert these obstacles to find our way.

I love You Cedarhurst
Rich



SUMMER LAY-LED SERVICES

August 2nd
Alan Bogage

This Sunday we will share a close reading of a variety of poems using a method called Lectio Divina. Through Lectio Divina we will consider poems by Cummings, Mary Oliver, Lucille Clifton, William Stafford, and others.

August 9th
Cindy Hirshberg & Roderic Hooks

Growth Through Engagement (GTE)
- Pathways

August 30th
Shirley, Becky Zimmerman, Maria Warburton, Kelley Gordon, and others

Members of the United Workers

United Workers is a Maryland based human rights organization helping to build a mass movement to put an end to poverty. We recognize that systemic changes are needed to accomplish freedom from poverty. Come and hear why Harriet Tubman is our mascot and how our work is making a difference in our community

August 16th
Steve Hirsch

Is Health Care a Right?

The very first principle of UU Churches states that we believe in "The essential worth and dignity of every human being."

What does that mean in the context of health care in the United States? Why is the US the only developed world without a universal health care plan for its people? As a great health care economist put it: "Are we a nation or are we just a bunch of people sharing some geography?" We will explore this question.

August 23rd
Jan Pennington

Animal Fun to Ponder On

A recent sermon got Jan thinking, "Do all Dogs go to Heaven?" And that led to the rabbit hole which is the basis of this Summer Session....

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS



**Hosted by Cedarhurst UU Church
August 23, 2026 @ 12:30pm
(after service and coffee hour)**

At a Death Cafe people gather to eat cake, drink tea, and discuss death.

The objective is "to increase awareness of death with a view to helping people make the most of their (finite) lives."

The Death Cafe is a group-directed discussion of death with no agenda, objectives, or themes. It is a discussion group rather than a grief support or counseling session.

Note: We now have 14 people who have registered for the Death Cafe, which is our maximum, so we have started a Wait List. We will email those who have RSVPed a few days prior to the event and if anyone cancels, those on the Waitlist will be notified. If you have already signed up for the Death Cafe and now can't attend, please email Beth Blevins (beblevins@yahoo). Thanks!



You can find currently available recorded sermons on the YouTube link located on CUU's new website Worship page!

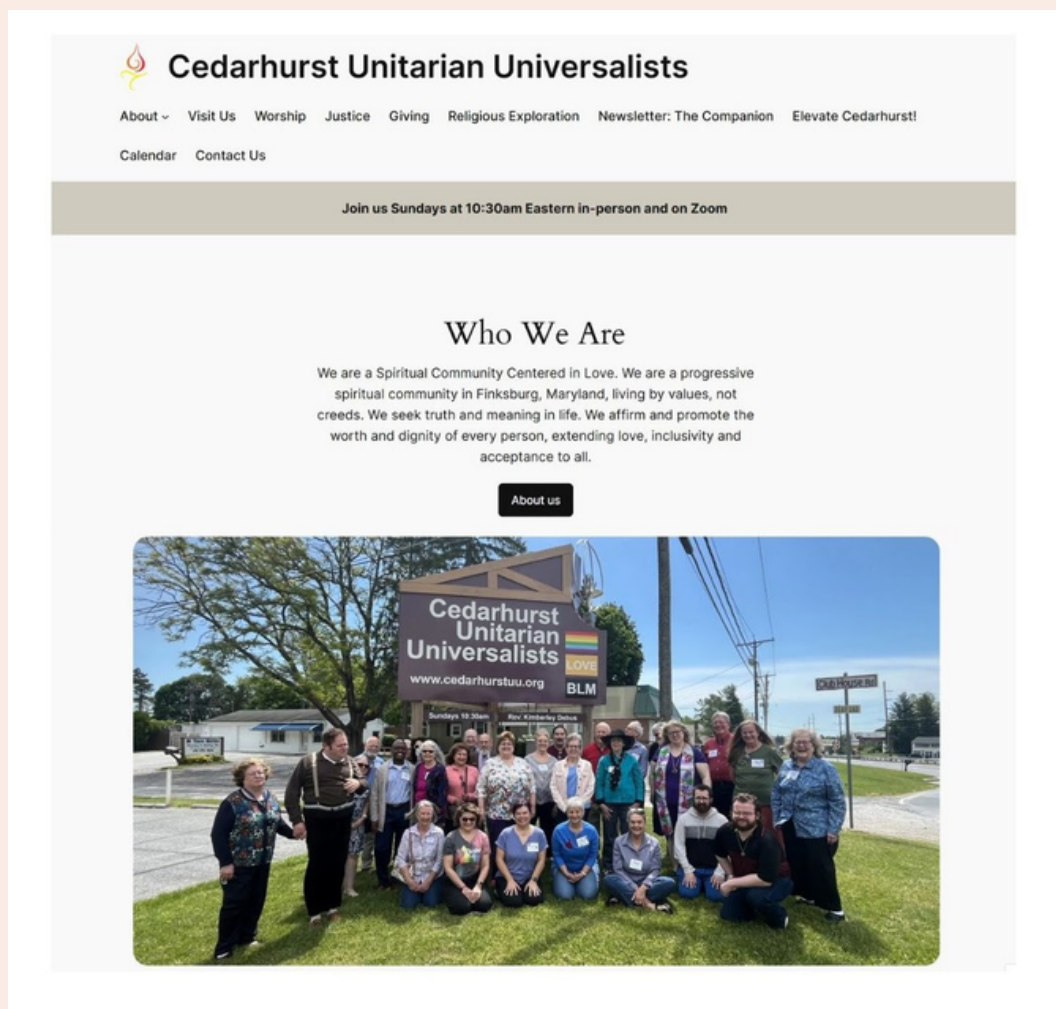
Don't forget to  LIKE and  SUBSCRIBE

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

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

CEDARHURST HAS A NEW WEBSITE CHECK OUT OUR NEW LOOK!

[Click Here to View Website](#)



While some pages are still under construction, our home page, calendar (with active links), and other aspects are up and running.

Our new website host and design will provide a user-friendly site with better accessibility to reflect and promote Cedarhurst's growth.



TLC AT CUU WINDOW WORK SESSION

T.L.C. at C.U.U.

Anyone who has spent time in our Cedarhurst Unitarian Universalists community is aware of, and has perhaps experienced, how much we try to take good care of each other. This happens regularly on an individual basis as we meet at local eateries to share meals, socialize when playing games together and certainly when we gather on Sundays to share a time of worship. Followed, of course, by coffee and catching-up after the Service. And we regularly share our Sunday collection with a local organization to keep sending out some Cedarhurst T.L.C.

Yes, T.L.C. (Tender Loving Care) all around.

Surprise! That T.L.C. was directed to our venerable building on Saturday, July 25th for the first phase of doing maintenance on the Sanctuary windows. To get started, the windows were removed from their openings and laid flat on carefully protected tables. From there, helpers cleaned out the old glazing putty, cleaned the window glass, treated the exposed wood, applied primer paint then returned the window to its original location. The exterior wood which frames the window also received a coat of primer paint.

Seven helpers showed up at staggered start-times to work on the windows, volunteering for about two hours each. Joseph Camlin, Stephen Lanham and Cindy Hirshberg planned and organized the work and prepared the space ahead of Saturday morning. Helpers Kathy Sheridan, Robin Bates, Barb Bradley and Linda Prause arrived and immediately tackled their assignments.

They shared high points and low points doing the work. One high point was the sweet sound of grimy glass suddenly sounding "squeaky-clean." A low point was certainly the sorry puns and jokes being shared. By some standards, the worst one was: "Did you hear about the invention of the shovel? It was ground breaking!"

Be sure to congratulate them for a job well done. You are welcome to share our great feeling of satisfaction and join us for the next window sessions.

The photos on the following page show the work.

TLC AT CUU WINDOW WORK SESSION



Preparation for Saturday

T.L.C.
at
C.U.U.



Carefully Removing Glaze Putty



Applying a Wood
Preservative Before the
Primer Paints are Applied



Applying Primer Paint
to the Windows

CUU MEMBERS JOINING TOGETHER

July 13 Lunch at Kecco's in Reisterstown, MD



from left to right Steven Hirsch, Lisa Galuardi, Robin Bates, Holly Thompson, Beth Schilpp, David Pittman, Linda Joy, Linda Prause, & Beth Blevins



CUU and Shepherd's Staff team up for July 4th picnic at Dutterer's Park



Thank-you for the little and big ways that you helped support the Shepherd's Staff July 4th Picnic held at Grace Lutheran Church in Westminster. We had 20 volunteers help with the picnic this year! The most ever! And there were all of the family members who helped peel potatoes and pick up food behind the scenes.

We were joined by Wetzel's Pretzel's, a local hotdog vendor with 150 hotdogs (whose name I don't know, so can't credit) and Texas Roadhouse in providing food.

You helped feed about 80 hungry guests, our volunteers, the Common Ground on-the-hill musicians and Shepherd Staff volunteers... so well over 100 in total. We had very little left overs.

Thanks for making this year's picnic the best ever! We are already planning for next year- so if you have any recommendations for improvements, please let me know. We hope to not have everyone line up- but will call table by table. Hopefully this will make it easier for those with mobility challenges, and also be able to tell which seats are taken. Drinks will be served "in the front" so guests can get those first as they arrive- and not have to juggle plates and drinks. Having helpers to assist getting food was a big hit. We may need one more.

Before I end, I wanted to share a little "post event story". One of the Shepherd Staff volunteers is a classroom aid for third grade at a Westminster elementary school. She recognized one of the students from her school and asked her what was the best day so far this summer. She replied "Today." with a big smile as she was eating a plate full of food. You are making a difference.

I know you were too busy to take any pictures, so here are a few.

Lookin' forward to next year,

Pamela Malkin



AUGUST SPECIAL EVENTS

Death Cafe

Sunday, August 23rd at 12:30pm

See full page description of Death Cafe' on page 4.

Dinner at the Flood Zone in Union Bridge

Friday, August 28th at 5:30pm

The Flood Zone Marketplace & Brewery in Union Bridge offers a vibrant atmosphere. This venue features live music, a variety of craft beers, and a diverse food menu. The layout includes a spacious outdoor beer garden along a creek, providing a pleasant setting for patrons, especially during warmer months.

They do not take reservations, so we will gather there at 5:30pm.

Location: 50N. Main St., Union Bridge, MD 21791.

Call Beth Schilpp with questions.



AUGUST EVENTS

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, August 3rd 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

The Board will be holding a private Board retreat for the month of August.

There will not be an open Board of Trustees meeting this month.



AUGUST EVENTS

CUU BOOK CLUB

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

The book for August is *Sense and Sensibility* by Jane Austen.

Sense and Sensibility by Jane Austen is a novel published in 1811. When the Dashwood sisters are forced from their family estate into reduced circumstances, they face romantic trials that test their contrasting natures. Sensible Elinor guards her feelings while passionate Marianne wears her heart openly. Both encounter love, disappointment, and betrayal as suitors prove honorable or false. Through heartbreak and revelation, the sisters must navigate society's demands while discovering what truly matters in matters of the heart. - Gutenberg.org

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.

NOTE- BOOK CLUB WILL MEET ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6TH BECAUSE OF THE SPECIAL SERVICE ON THE 13TH. The book for September is *Vesper Flights* by Helen MacDonald.



CAREGIVERS SUPPORT GROUP

Tuesday, August 11th 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.



AUGUST EVENTS

CUU IN-PERSON GAME NIGHT

Friday, August 14th 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.



NIGHT-BY-NIGHT: FOOD PROGRAM

Friday, August 21st at 6:15pm

We continue to serve 50 people at the Night by Night Shelter in Westminster.

Sandwiches and Salads will be served this month. Several folks are away, so help is needed!

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



WORSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, August 26th 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.





CONTACT

Telephone: 410-861-8820

Email: _Outreach@CedarhurstUU.org_

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

President: Rich Dean BoardPresident@cedarhurstuu.org

At Large Board Members:

Lydia Dundon lmillike42@gmail.com

Maria Warburton mariawarburton@comcast.net

Roderic Hooks autumnlover@me.com

Jan Pennington jan.pennington@comcast.net

Minister: Reverend Kimberley Debus minister@cedarhurstuu.org

Treasurer: Terri Ebaugh Treasurer@cedarhurstuu.org

Bookkeeper: Susan Blevins Bookkeeper@cedarhurstuu.org

Outreach Coordinator: Nalina White Outreach@cedarhurstuu.org

Header and calendar photos by Mark Pollitt

AUGUST 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2 10:30am Lay-led Service	3 7:30pm Congregational Life Committee Mtg.	4	5	6	7	8
9 10:30am Lay-led Service 12 pm Book Club	10	11 5:30 pm Caregivers Support Group	12	13	14 6pm CUU In-Person Game Night	15 Board Retreat
16 10:30am Lay-led Service	17	18	19	20	21 6:15pm Night-by-Night Shelter Dinner	22
23 10:30am Lay-led Service 12:30pm Death Cafe	24	25	26 7:30pm Worship Committee Mtg	27	28 5:30pm Dinner at Floor Zone in Union Bridge	29
30 10:30am Lay-led Service	NOTES:					