



JULY 2026

THE COMPANION

CUU'S MONTHLY
NEWSLETTER

ISSUE NO. 7

Minister's Message Grace Notes

Written by Reverend Kimberley Debus

One feature of the UUA's General Assembly is the Ware Lecture, a discourse offered by someone outside our faith (although there have been some insiders in the early history of the Lecture), who bring information, a perspective, a call to us. We've heard from people like Linus Pauling, Reinhold Niebhr, Martin Luther King, Jr., Bryan Stevenson, Eboo Patel, Mary Oliver, and last year, Imari Jones.

Last week, our Ware Lecturer was Bishop Mariann Edgar Budde, who serves as bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Washington, DC. Bishop Budde made headlines with her homily the January 2025 interfaith prayer service, calling for compassion and mercy toward marginalized groups.



minister@cedarhurstuu.org

See end of article for Office
Hours.

I suspect many UUs who attended expected a rousing call to action, to speak out against the harms we have seen in the last 18 months - and indeed, there was some of that. But Bishop Budde spent most of her time calling us back to ourselves. She reminded us that our unwavering commitment to the inherent worth and dignity of every person means that for our entire history (even before we had that phrase), we have been First: first to respond, first to have the ideas, first to enact what seem to others to be radical suppositions that became globally accepted over time... but someone had to go first, and that someone is often us. Her lecture affirmed what a Methodist colleague said to me after our 2024 business resolution to affirm and work to protect trans lives as one of our religious values: “we (people in mainline faiths) watch what you do, so we know what we’ll be doing in 20 years.”

Over and over in her lecture, Bishop Budde affirmed us as “hope bearers” and it was a powerful message, not of how we need to change, but of how we need to remember who we are. She sang our song back to us, because we need to not forget the words.

But that’s not what I want to offer to you this month (well, it is but that’s not my only point).

Later, in the Q&A section, Rev. Dr. Sofia Betancourt (UUA president) asked what else we might do to be stronger partners with people and organizations of good faith.

Bishop Budde’s answers surprised me, because they weren’t about the outer work. I’m paraphrasing wildly from my badly scribbled notes here, but essentially, she spoke about our inner work as faith communities:

What impressed her is the cherishing of the communities that we establish; she noted that her work as a bishop (much like that of our congregational life staff) is encouraging congregations to be vibrant, healthy communities. She said many disparage the inner work of nurturing community and being curious about what helps us thrive. She noted that the Episcopal Church in America is not thriving (although she said it’s getting better) and that they could learn from the ways we adapt and evolve and continue to focus on our communities to create sustainability. She said that this work is as vibrantly important as our work for the good – that we need strong communities to support our work in the world.

This is why we are doing so much work on our building, our policies, our processes. This is why we held a charette and gathered so many amazing ideas. This is why we gather together in spirit circle groups, book groups, committees, working parties, and more. This is why we have potlucks and trips to gardens and shows. This is why our auction is filled with amazing gatherings. This is why we gather on Sunday mornings.

I have often said in sermons, “we have to get it right inside our walls if we have any hope of getting it right outside our walls.” That means strengthening our covenants, our relationships, our processes, and our spiritual depth. And this congregation takes that work seriously – strengthening our community so we can be vibrant, strong, and forthright. So we can lead the way.

So we can be hope bearers in a world that needs hope.

Happy Summer.
Rev. Kimberley

Rev. Kimberley's Hours

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

Limited Availability –available via text or email (please contact Rich Dean for emergencies):

July 16-27 – Study Leave (dissertation project work in Ann Arbor, MI)

July 28-August 2 – Association for UU Music Ministries conference in Milwaukee, WI

August 27-September 7 – Study Leave (dissertation project work in White Plains, NY)

No availability:

August 3-10 – vacation



Spirit Circles return in September



Sharing the Plate

Note: we will pause our plate share for July and August and resume in September. However, gifts to our community partners are always welcome.



President's Message

Written by Rich Dean

One of Rev. Kimberley's services last year got me thinking about our UU heritage and how well it complimented our US heritage. Our 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence is one we should all celebrate.

We can claim to be the ultimate American Religion. I know, these are times where we question the leadership in the White House, and their efforts to conflate our anniversary with their administration. Some of us would avoid the celebration and separate us from the ideas and the contributions that make this country great. It was Theodore Parker that spoke of "The arc of the Moral Universe bends toward justice" while fighting slavery. This country's great moral steps toward justice have often followed from UU heroes who lead the way.

Join me the service on July 12 where we will explore more of our UU history as we celebrate the 250th. Let's shine that light!

I love You Cedarhurst
Rich



boardpresident@cedarhurstuu.org

Availability:

Monday, Wednesday, Friday 4-6pm

An alternate appointment time may be made via email request.

SUMMER LAY-LED SERVICES

July 5th
Rich Dean

Celebrate US and UU History on our 250th Anniversary

This year, our nation celebrates the **250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence** — a moment when the American experiment declared itself into being with the words:

“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal...”

For 250 years, America has been striving — imperfectly, unevenly, sometimes painfully — to live into those words.

And for most of those years, **Unitarians and Universalists have been part of that struggle**, shaping the nation’s conscience, expanding its moral imagination, and insisting that freedom belongs to every person. We will explore that journey and the UU heroes who shaped our history.

July 19th
Roderic Hooks

Roderic will share an original short story. A discussion will follow.



July 12th
Kathy Sheridan

A Short Guide to a Happy Life

Kathy will be reading from the book by Anna Quindlen, followed by a discussion.

July 26th
Beth Schilpp and Holly Thompson

Unconscious Bias

ELEVATE CEDARHURST!

ELEVATE CEDARHURST!

BGE continues to be a metaphorical speedbump delaying further progress.

Last month, our contractors prepared for BGE's future work by digging a trench that ran parallel to the road, then turned down the hill and finally ended at our building below the kitchen. Pipes were laid in the trench and then it was covered over with dirt.

Sometime around the beginning of August, BGE is expected to place a new utility pole between our building and Club House Road and run a 3-phase overhead cable to a transformer on that pole. Then they will use cables to connect that transformer to our meter box via the underground conduits. This will allow our contractors to proceed with installing the elevator.

When the elevator has been installed and inspected, we can start using our new entrance and proceed with Phase II.

David Pittman



*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 

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

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."

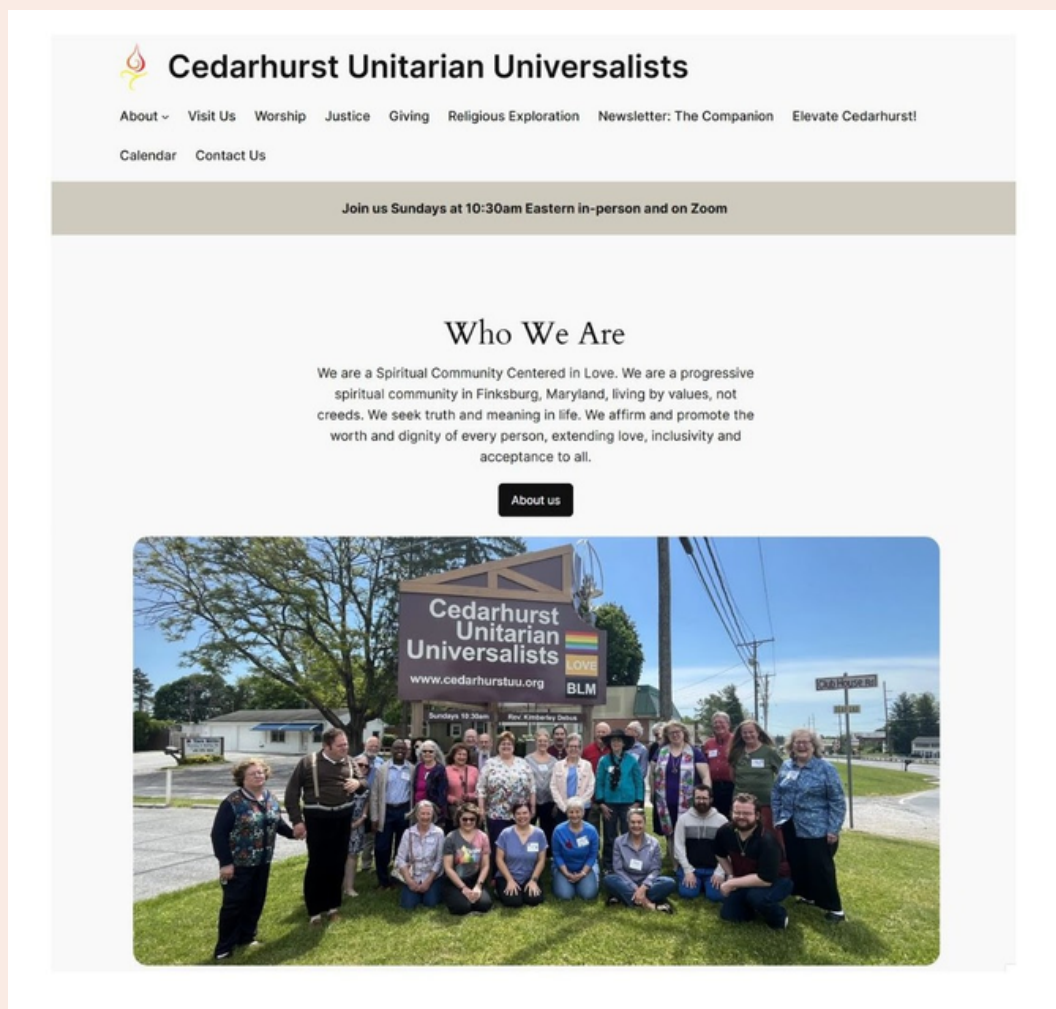
The Death Cafe is a group-directed discussion of death with no agenda, objectives, or themes. It is a discussion group rather than a grief support or counseling session.

THIS SESSION IS LIMITED TO CUU MEMBERS/FRIENDS ONLY, 14 PEOPLE MAXIMUM. PLEASE RSVP TO BEBLEVINS@YAHOO.COM BY 8/15/26.
(IF WE EXCEED 14 SIGNUPS, WE WILL START A WAIT LIST).

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.



GROWTH THROUGH ENGAGEMENT

ANTICIPATION! – Growth Through Engagement this Summer

Summer at Cedarhurst is often full of surprises. High on the surprise list are the Sunday morning programs presented by individual members. Although the topics vary widely, they are similar in the high quality of the topic's unique content, as well as the high level of interest and participation. The ongoing effort to strengthen our skills at greeting and engaging new people is also a Summer topic to be anticipated. There are two GTE-centered sessions deserving your particular attention. Plus a "Welcome Sunday" coming on September 13th.

Cedarhurst is small but it is also mighty; we've rejoiced in this fact many times in the years following the social and economic disruptions caused by COVID. As a close-knit community, we are able to laugh, joke, tease, kid and support each other, confident that our words will be understood and accepted by the listener whom we've known for many years.

And yet... we are preparing to welcome new people, who may not be quite as tuned-in to our jokes, or grounded in our shared experiences, or familiar with our organizational procedures.

Here are two Sunday programs to help refresh and tune-up everyone's awareness when speaking to people, especially to new people, who are curious about Cedarhurst and UU and are visiting to get acquainted with us. We had three first-time visitors just this past Sunday, so the importance of being on our best game is real.

Save these dates and join the conversation.

* Sunday, July 26th 10:30 AM – UNCONSCIOUS BIAS –
Presented by Beth Schilpp and Holly Thompson

* Sunday, August 9th, 10:30 AM – GROWTH THROUGH ENGAGEMENT - PATHWAYS -
Presented by Roderic Hooks and Cindy Hirshberg

Be sure to save the dates and connect with these presenters and their programs. The insights and research they are making available will help build a pathway to our future.

CUU MEMBERS JOINING TOGETHER

The CUU gang showed up at Island Green, with many staying to play mini golf Monday, June 8th in Westminster.



Here is a photo of some Friends of Cedarhurst who stopped in at the Art in the Park booth. The Jendras's the Engler's and The Davieau's support Cedarhurst for the Night to Night Shelter in Westminster and also by providing food for the 4th of July picnic for Shepherd's Staff. It's good to have friends!!!

CUU MEMBERS JOINING TOGETHER

June 14th Cedarhurst ended the year
with our annual flower ceremony and
Annual Meeting



CUU PROVIDES FOOD FOR THE HOMELESS IN JULY

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

Join the team that feeds the hungry Saturday, July 4th, noon-2 pm at Dutterer's Park. We need everything from BBQ pulled chicken to hamburger rolls. Whether you cook or not, you can be a big help with the picnic.

If you would like to donate food or cash, all contributions are appreciated to help provide 100 servings. Servers are also needed. Contact Pamela Malkin if you can contribute.



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

Sandwiches and Salads will be served July 17th. Several folks are away, so **help is needed!**

Contact Pamela Malkin for more information.



JULY SPECIAL EVENTS

LUNCH AT KECCO'S WOODFIRE KITCHEN IN REISTERSTOWN

Tuesday, July 14th at noon

Kecco's is an Italian restaurant and a favorite with a lot of folks.

They open at noon so we're not making a reservation.

Location: 114 Westminster Pike, Ste 109, Reisterstown 21136.

Directions: If you are coming north on Main St in Reisterstown and turn left at the Shell station, the restaurant is on the right about ½ way to Rte. 795.

Call Beth Schilpp with questions.



JULY EVENTS

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, July 6th 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, July 8th 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 website Calendar to join.



CUU IN-PERSON GAME NIGHT

Friday, July 10th 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.



JULY EVENTS

CUU BOOK CLUB

Sunday, July 12th at noon in-person and on Zoom

The book for July is **Class Clown** by Dave Barry.

How does the son of a Presbyterian minister wind up winning a Pulitzer Prize for writing a wildly inaccurate newspaper column read by millions of people?

Class Clown isn't just a memoir; it's a vibrant celebration of a life rich with humor, absurdity, joy, and sadness. Dave says the most important wisdom imparted by his Midwestern parents was never to take anything too seriously. This laughter-filled book is proof that he learned that lesson well.
~ 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.



SPIRIT CIRCLES

Monday, July 13th at 10:00am in-person

Spirit Circles groups offer connection, companionship, and spiritual deepening. Monday's group is led by Becky Zimmerman. Becky's group will continue throughout the summer. Watch the weekly announcements for location.



JULY EVENTS

CAREGIVERS SUPPORT GROUP

Tuesday, July 14th 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.



NIGHT-BY-NIGHT: FOOD PROGRAM

Friday, July 17th 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, July 22nd 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

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Header and calendar photos by Mark Pollitt

JULY 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
5 10:30am Lay-Led Service	6 7:30pm Congregational Life Committee Mtg.	7	8 7pm Board of Trustees Mtg	9	10 6pm In-Person Game Night	11
12 10:30am Lay-Led Service	13 10:00am Spirit Circles	14 Noon Lunch at Kecco's 5:30 pm Caregivers Support Group	15	16	17 6:15pm Night-by-Night Shelter Dinner	18
19 10:30am Lay-Led Service	20	21	22 7:30pm Worship Committee Mtg	23	24	25
26 10:30am Lay-Led Service	27	28	29	30	31	
NOTES:						