

OCTOBER 2026

ISSUE NO. 10

THE COMPANION

CUU'S MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Minister's Message

Grace Notes

Written by Reverend Kimberley Debus

While I was with the Canton, NY, congregation last weekend, the topic of Chalice Lighters came up; this is a community support program, which began in 1984 as a way for individual Unitarian Universalists to support projects and programs within and among UU congregations by donating $10 or more a few times a year. This used to be run district by district (when the UUA was organized by districts rather than regions), and when a district's Chalice Lighters team approved a project, a "call" would go out to participating UU's who would then send checks to help meet the Chalice Lighters goal.

The program continues today, with regional Chalice Lighters boards, who assess projects from congregations and affiliated organizations. They can be anything from supporting new initiatives, staff support, or building projects. This past November, we were awarded a Chalice Lighter grant in support of Elevate Cedarhurst. The funds aren't from some mysterious philanthropist – they're from fellow UUs across the region who understand that we are all connected and can help each other thrive. And because these are regional groups, you'll know your donations are going to congregations you might know – maybe even a neighbor!



minister@cedarhurstuu.org

See end of article for Office Hours.

This program matters, and I am making two asks today:

First, if you aren't already, please become a Chalice Lighter. **Sign up here**, and when it's time to award, you'll get a call to send in your donation.

Second, our Central East Region is looking for folks interested in serving on the grant approval team. The **job description is here**; if you're interested, reach out to **cer@uua.org** and they'll connect you with the right person.

I hope you'll consider these great opportunities to support our UU family!

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As an FYI, I'll be on study leave October 8-15, then vacation October 19-27. I'll check email and be available for emergencies during study leave; I'll be in Europe while on vacation – for emergencies during that time, please contact board president Rich Dean.

Blessings,
Rev. Kimberley

Rev. Kimberley's Hours

*Rev. Kimberley will be available **by appointment only 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.*

Sharing the Plate



On fourth Sundays we share our gifts with the larger community, and help lift up the work already being done by others.

In September and October, we dedicate our plate to **PFLAG**, whose mission is to welcome all people - gay, straight, bisexual, transgender, queer or questioning and their families, friends, and allies. They offer support each other, educate the broader community, and advocate for equality. They also provide opportunities for dialogue about sexual orientation and gender identity, and acts to create a society that is healthy and respectful of human diversity.

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.

Spirit Circles: Connecting to Our Spirits and One Another



There's always room at our Spirit Circles! While you might choose to explore the Spirit Circles packet on your own, we do encourage you to join a group, whether you've been at CUU for a long time or are just starting to explore the congregation.

Current groups:

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

Third Wednesdays at 10am - in person (at CUU) - with Becky Zimmerman

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

For more information, email Rev. Kimberley at ***minister@cedarhurstuu.org***



Theme for October: Forgiveness

Our theme for October looks at the spiritual concept of Covenant: When you hear the word "forgiveness" what springs to mind? When is forgiveness appropriate? What is required to offer forgiveness? What is required to ask for forgiveness?

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 you find something that connects you to your spirit – and to others.

President's Message

Written by Rich Dean

Moving Forward – Program Development

I realize that some may be discouraged about delays in our Elevate! project. Delays by BG&E have killed our schedule and cost us a ton. But we expect them on site any day…. Be assured that the Board has expressed our frustration and concerns about BG&E to all our local politicians for action to review and to address the failures we have experienced. But we must move forward.

We expect things to move soon and hope to see completion in the November/December timeframe. In the meantime, we need to grit our teeth, gird our loins, … and put our shoulder to the wheel to move forward. We will prevail and the results will be glorious!

Looking ahead, the Board added an exciting new goal: **Program Development**. With our building nearly complete and our organizational foundation stronger than ever, we're ready to grow in spirit and community. Ideas include social justice initiatives, art and activism space, expanded fellowship events, accessibility improvements, OWL and religious education, and creative gatherings like poetry slam open mic nights, and the annual auction, and the No Kings Rally.



boardpresident@cedarhurstuu.org

Availability:
Monday, Wednesday, Friday 4-6pm

An alternate appointment time may be made via email request.

Lots of things on the calendar. Our auction is scheduled for November 14 at 11:30am. This is one of the highlights of the year. It's a gift that keeps on giving. We get together and have a great time laughing and eating at the auction. We bring in a substantial amount of money, a key piece of our budget. And we schedule events throughout the year for getting together in small and large groups. Please join us at the auction. It will be great.

CUU has signed up to sponsor a No Kings Rally on Saturday, October 17. This is a nonpartisan event with a focus on saving our democracy and getting out the vote. We will host a public event in our parking lot where folks can come together and express their thoughts and concerns in creative ways. We are also planning a pre-event for Friday, October 16 where we will organize, prepare signs and posters, and connect. Please plan to join us.

I love you Cedarhurst

Rich



How Can You Support Cedarhurst at No Cost to You?

How does the Scrip program work? We purchase gift cards from various stores at a 5% discount. You buy them from us at face value, then use the cards to pay for your purchases. We get to keep that 5% and you pay nothing extra to support our beloved church. It's a win-win! Currently we offer Giant, Martin's, Weis, and Food Lion. If there is sufficient interest in another store, we can check with them to see if they have a similar community program.

Although we can't accept credit cards because the fees would eat up half of our profit, we do accept checks, cash, and Zelle. Come visit the scrip table, next to the welcome table at the back of the church.

If you have any questions regarding the Scrip program, contact Linda Joy at 410-790-5496 or Linda.Joy@verizon.net.



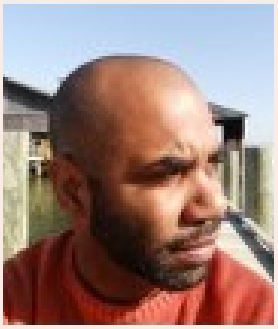
OCTOBER'S THEME IS FORGIVENESS



October 4th
Rev. Kimberley Debus

The Wisdom of Broken Things

Where do we find wisdom when times are hard, nerves are frayed, and conflict breaks our relationships? We will turn to the sages as we ponder the lessons broken things can teach us about vulnerability, nurturing, and forgiveness.



October 11th
Adrian Graham

To Begin Again

If you're alive, you have certainly messed something up. Somewhere, sometime, you made a mistake. It happens; we human beings are imperfect, after all. What we do with that imperfection matters a great deal. Can we make peace with our failings—and the faults of others—to begin again in love?

October 18th
Rev. Kimberley Debus

Be Subject to One Another

In these tumultuous times, it is easy to be unkind to those we disagree with. Yet there is a prophetic as well as a pastoral value to kindness, thoughtfulness, and helpfulness - we'll explore how we are called to treat others.



October 25th
Dr. Erin Watley

Forgiveness and Justice

Forgiveness may be a virtue, but it is not always lovingly used in our communities. What else can we do when patterns of forgiveness get in the way of justice?

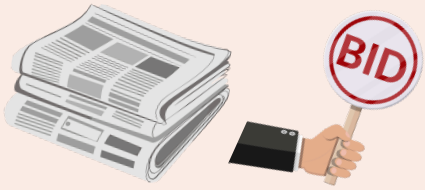


CEDARHURST UU ANNUAL AUCTION

LATEST NEWS

AUCTION NEWS

NOVEMBER 14, 2026



Our annual **Goods and Services Auction** is the afternoon of November 14th. You should have already received an email (on September 11) with a link to the donation form and some valuable tips. If you have not received that email, you can email us at **auction@cedarhurstuumd.org**. Here's the link to the donation form **Cedarhurst 2026 Auction Donation Form - link here**

All donations received by September 30th will be entered into the special prize drawing.But even if you have already missed that deadline, never fear, we will still happily welcome your donation for several more days before we get to work on producing the catalog. If you have trouble with the electronic donation, we can assist you.

The auction is one of the ways we come together as a community to support the people, programs, and ministries that make our church special.

The auction raises money for our **operating budget**, helping to support the everyday work of our congregation—from keeping our building welcoming and functioning to supporting our programs, worship, music, outreach, and all the behind-the-scenes work that allows our church community to thrive.

Another wonderful thing about the auction: **we are not just buying things from one another; we are sharing our gifts with one another**. Someone who loves to cook can share a meal. Someone with a particular talent can offer their expertise. Someone who enjoys entertaining can host an event. Someone who has a special skill can turn it into a gift to the congregation. Other ideas include a homemade dinner, a special dessert, a garden project, a creative service. Some favorite auction donations include Pamela's card making class, Sherry & Rich's movie and St. Patty's Day dinner, Linda Joy's Chocolate Cherry cake, Beth's Italian goodie basket, Terri's Salon and Sandwiches.

In other words, the auction is a celebration of what we have to give—and what we can accomplish together. Most importantly, remember that every bid and every donation helps strengthen our church. When we participate in the auction, we invest in the community we have created together and help ensure that our congregation continues to have the resources it needs to carry out its mission.

Come join the fun. Bid generously. Give generously. And let's see what wonderful things we can create together!





SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS



Call for Musicians!



Do you think you have to wait for an invitation to join the choir? Do you think that only singers can participate in the choir? Do you think you have to be able to read music to join the choir? Do you think you are obligated to attend every week? Do you feel you can't play your instruments because you don't have an accompanist? Wrong on all counts! We would love to have you join us as your schedule permits with your voice or other instrument. **Choir rehearsals are Sunday mornings starting at 9:15**. I know it's hard to drag yourself out of bed that early, but it's great fun!

If you would prefer to play an instrument either with the choir or as a soloist, we would love to have you provide a gift of music. If you need an accompanist, Linda Joy is your person. If you are interested in participating with choir or providing music in another way, please contact Linda Joy 410-790-5496 **Linda.Joy@verizon.net**

Save the Date

United Workers Arts and Culture Showcase
November 7 from 1:00 - 4:00pm at CUU

All are invited to attend a statewide United Workers Arts and Culture Showcase. Members will be sharing their stories through creative expression, including poetry, drawing, quilting, and other art.

Light refreshments will be served. Look for more information in the November Companion.



SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Prayer Vigil to Pray for Peace

Westminster Church of the Brethren

19 Bond St.
Westminster, MD

Outside in the Peace Garden, weather permitting

In the Sanctuary if inclement weather

Sunday, October 17th
2 –3 p.m.

Light refreshments afterwards

All are welcome!





Link to Signup Genius
https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0444AEAA29ABFFC34-64693649-ccinterfaith#/



CUU PROVIDES FOOD FOR THE COMMUNITY

Meals provided for the Hungry by CUU

Our cooks and shoppers have been busy! We provided lunch at Westminster Church of the Brethren as part of their Loaves and Fishes lunch Saturday, September 5th. The pictures show those who were able to stay and help serve: Ann Farmer, Beth Schilpp, Lisa Galuardi, Holly Thompson, Rebecca Davineau, Jan Pennington and Pamela Malkin. Steve and Beth Hirsch, Terri Ebaugh and Alan Bogage also provided food. We served soup, salad, sandwiches, fruit drinks and dessert to about 30. With the addition of take-out, we provided about 80 meals.





Two weeks later, we provided dinner Friday, September 18 at the Night by Night Shelter in Westminster to about 50. The menu was sandwiches and salads, with 9 different sandwiches (including gluten free options), 7 salads/sides, Texas Roadhouse Rolls, and drinks. Thanks to Jan Pennington, Lisa Galuardi, Rebecca Davineau, Linda Jendras, Holly Thompson, Andy Penzi, Rodrick Hooks, Ann Farmer, Maria Warburton and Pamela Malkin.



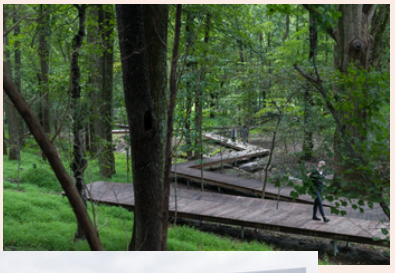
Help is always welcome and needed. Even if you don't cook! Items like drinks and snacks or breakfast bars are an important addition to each menu. You may help once or regularly. We provide dinner for 50 +/- people every third Friday, with drop-off of food between 6:15 pm and 6:45pm. Contact Pamela Malkin for more information on the many ways you can support this effort.

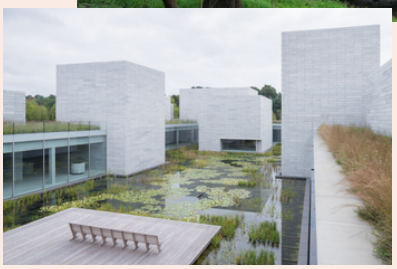


OCTOBER SPECIAL EVENTS

TRIP TO GLEN STONE MUSEUM

Thursday, October 15th at 9:30am





The museum is free, but timed tickets are required. We have gotten 8 tickets for an 11:15am entry. If there is more interest we may be able to get more, but not sure, so call Beth Schilpp ASAP if you wish to come.

This museum is on 300-acres and has post-war and contemporary art, outdoor sculptures, rotating indoor galleries, and on-site cafeteria and much more. We will start home at 3:30pm. Trip takes 1 to 1 1/2 hours each way.

The rain date is October 22.

NO KINGS RALLY AT CUU

Saturday, October 17th 12:00-2:00pm



Cedarhurst will be hosting a No Kings Rally to emphasize saving democracy and getting out the vote.

We need participation, leadership, and support.

Rich Dean and Shirley Eatmon are co-chairing the event.

Join us on Friday, October 16th to collaborate and prepare posters and signs for the rally.



OCTOBER SPECIAL EVENTS

DINNER AT PARADISO RISTORANTE

Wednesday, October 21st at 6:00pm

Location: 20 Distillery Dr., Westminster.

We have eaten there before and everyone seemed happy with this Italian restaurant, so we're giving it another visit.

Call Beth Schilpp at 443-904-1304 by 6pm on October 19th is you wish to come so reservation can be made.







OCTOBER EVENTS

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, October 5th 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.



CUU IN-PERSON GAME NIGHT

Friday, October 9th 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.





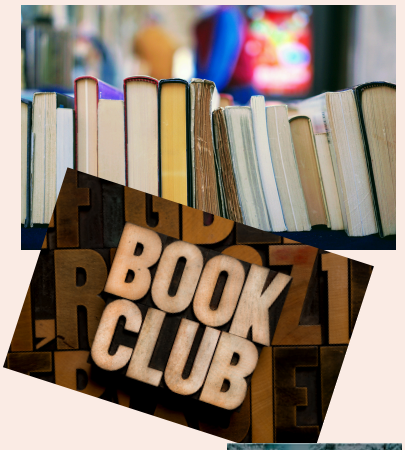
OCTOBER EVENTS

CUU BOOK CLUB

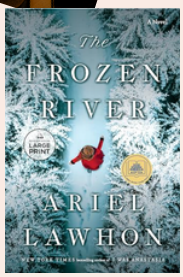
Please note new time for this month only

**Sunday, October 11th at 12:30pm in-person and on Zoom

The book for September is ***The Frozen River*** by Ariel Lawhon.



Maine, 1789: When the Kennebec River freezes, entombing a man in the ice, Martha Ballard is summoned to examine the body and determine cause of death. As a midwife and healer, she is privy to much of what goes on behind closed doors in Hallowell. Her diary is a record of every birth and death, crime and debacle that unfolds in the close-knit community…when a local physician undermines her conclusion, declaring the death to be an accident, Martha is forced to investigate the shocking murder on her own.



Clever, layered, and subversive, Ariel Lawhon's newest offering introduces an unsung heroine who refused to accept anything less than justice at a time when women were considered best seen and not heard. ***The Frozen River*** *is a thrilling, tense, and tender story about a remarkable woman who left an unparalleled legacy yet remains nearly forgotten to this day.*

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, October 13th 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.



OCTOBER EVENTS

SPIRIT CIRCLES

Tuesday, October 13th at 7:30pm on Zoom

Spirit Circles groups offer connection, companionship, and spiritual deepening. Tuesday's group is led by Rev. Kimberley Debus. Contact Rev. Kimberley if you are interested in joining.

Follow Zoom link on CUU website Calendar to join.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

Wednesday, October 14th at 7:00 pm on Zoom

October'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.

SPIRIT CIRCLES

Thursday, October 15th at 7:30pm on Zoom

Spirit Circles groups offer connection, companionship, and spiritual deepening. Thursday's group is led by Beth Schilpp. Contact Rev. Kimberley if you are interested in joining a Spirit Circles.

Follow Zoom link on CUU website Calendar to join.



OCTOBER EVENTS

NIGHT-BY-NIGHT: FOOD PROGRAM

Friday, October 16th at 6:15pm

Help is needed for our upcoming October 16th meal. We will be providing dinner for both Friday and Saturday, October 16 and 17. They had no one to provide a meal for Saturday, so we will bring extra of what we prepare so enough food is provided for both nights. We try to bring a variety of food items each month, so just about anything is welcome. If you can, bring drinks, desserts, or even a frozen lasagna. Food will be delivered that Friday or Saturday, October 16/17 between 6:15 and 6:45 at the shelter located by the Westminster Senior Center on Stoner Road.

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

SPIRIT CIRCLES

Wednesday, October 21st at 10:00am in-person

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

Contact Rev. Kimberley if you are interested in joining a Spirit Circles group.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, October 28th 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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Minister: Reverend Kimberley Debus minister@cedarhurstuu.org
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Bookkeeper: Susan Blevins bookkeeper@cedarhurstuu.org

Outreach Coordinator: Nalina White Outreach@cedarhurstuu.org

Header and calendar photos by Mark Pollitt

CEDARHURST UU

OCTOBER 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4 10:30am Sunday Service	5 5:30pm Congregational Life Committee Mtg.	6	7	8	9 6pm In-Person Game Night	10
11 10:30am Sunday Service 12:30pm Book Club	12	13 5:30 pm Caregivers Support Group 7:30pm Spirit Circles on Zoom	14 7pm Board of Trustees Meeting	15 9:30am Trip to Glen Stone Museum 7:30pm Spirit Circles on Zoom	16 6:15pm Night-by-Night Shelter Dinner	17 12-2pm No Kings Rally at CUU
18 10:30am Sunday Service	19	20	21 10:30am Spirit Circles in-person 6pm Dinner at Parasiso Restaurant	22	23	24
25 10:30am Sunday Service	26	27	28 7:30pm Worship Committee Meeting	29	30	31

NOTES: