

The Beacon

A weekly email newsletter from
 Cedars Unitarian Universalist Church
 Serving Bainbridge Island and Northern Kitsap County



Volume 10, Issue 14 April 3, 2020

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Upcoming Services

Sunday Worship Services-YouTube Live

Sunday, April 5, 11:00 a.m.

Online Service
Rev. Jessica Star Rockers, Minister, Kitsap UU Fellowship
Chris Smellow, Cedars Music Director

For Sunday, April 5, **Rev. Jessica Star Rockers**, Minister of the Kitsap UU Fellowship in Bremerton, will conduct **worship services**. Services include the combined congregations. You will be able to stream the services live through YouTube Live.

To stream the April 5th worship service, watch your e-mail for the posted link. You will see it the morning of the service, at least an hour ahead of the 11:00 a.m. start time.

Please join the virtual service each week. In order to leave a comment and participate in the conversation, you will need to create an account with YouTube. However, anyone can watch without an account by simply clicking on the link that will be sent to you.

Sunday Worship Service

In Case You Missed It
Sunday, March 29

If you missed the opportunity to join the Sunday Worship Service on YouTube Live last Sunday, March 29, click on this link to enjoy it now.
[Sunday Worship Service, March 29](#)

This Sunday's (4/5) link will be sent to your e-mail and posted on the Cedars website. Don't miss the 11:00 a.m. start time.

News and Announcements

RE News

RE Classes Suspended

RE Classes will not meet again until worship services resume at The Island School.

Families are encouraged to use this time to share stories, discussion, and reflection on topics that have been the focus of this year's Religious Education classes at Cedars.

Grades 1 - 4: Stories from Scripture

Grades 5-8: Discussion of Big Questions

Youth Group: UU Seven Principles in Everyday Life

-The Religious Education Committee



**Cedars UU Church is a
 Welcoming Congregation
 and Green Sanctuary**

Our Mission

Worship with open hearts
 Nurture a learning spirit
 Serve justice with compassion
 Love without judgment



Rev. Zackrie Vinczen

Cedars Calendar

To view our detailed calendar [click here](#). Then click on the event title to reveal a drop down of more detailed information. Links to virtual meetings are in the **event description**.

Taking advantage of online options, your Cedars community invites you to share events, get information, gain learning and instruction, enjoy fellowship, and pause for reflection. A full calendar with descriptions and links can be found on Breeze.

April 5:
11:00 a.m. (Online) Sunday Worship Service

April 8
10:00 a.m. (Online) Wednesday Morning Reflection

[Morning Reflection Link](#)

6:00 p.m. (Online) Cedars Town Hall

[Cedars Town Hall Link](#)

7:30 p.m. (Online) Cedars Choir Practice

Contact Chris Smellow for link.

Wednesdays at Cedars

A Message from Rev. Zackrie

As we all experience the implications for the spread of COVID-19 virus, your Board President, **Heidi Parkington-Thal**, and I remain in regular contact with each other to determine best practices to support our Cedars community.

Every Wednesday will start with a **Morning Reflection** at 10:00 a.m. on Zoom. (Link will be on the calendar listing every week.) In this session, we will take time to share personal reflections, consider topics on people's minds, and offer stories and readings.

On Wednesday evenings, **Heidi and I** will host a weekly, online (Zoom) **Cedars Town Hall at 6:00 p.m.** (Link will be on the calendar listing every week.) During each meeting, we will *update information about Cedars people and events, share prayers and reflections, and make time for Joys and Sorrows.* If you are unable to join these meetings, you will be able to find them online (see Cedars website). Please note that the *Joys and Sorrows* shared will remain part of the meeting but will not be posted online.

Please continue to monitor your email for additional details about Cedars activities and events. Watch the calendar listing in *The Beacon* and the *Breeze* calendar for events and Zoom links.

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out, preferably by e-mail. *Should you be in need of Pastoral Care, please call Rev. Zackrie's Pastoral Care number. (See footer below.)*

In Solidarity,
Rev. Zackrie Vinczen
Cedars Unitarian Universalist Church
minister@cedarsuuchurch.org

Paving Our Way

Annual Stewardship Campaign

Paving Our Way



We hope that you have been able to take some time to read our **Paving Our Way stewardship brochure**. While many things are closed right now, **Cedars has remained open--virtually.** Rev. Zackrie, the Cedars Board, and the staff are offering virtual services, town hall meetings, committee meetings, choir rehearsals, shared reflection time, and continued service by e-mail and mail.

Rev. Zackrie recently secured an emergency grant from UUA to purchase equipment so that we can use technology even more to inform, share, and commune with each other virtually.

If you have not turned in your **2020-2021 pledge**, please do so as soon as possible. You can make your pledge by mail, by e-mail to our bookkeeper, **Gregory Cook (gcook1729@gmail.com)**, or as a donation on **Breeze**, the **Cedars website**, or by US mail.

Website: click the **Donate** button on the home page of our website (www.cedarsuuchurch.org). (You can use PayPal with this option.)

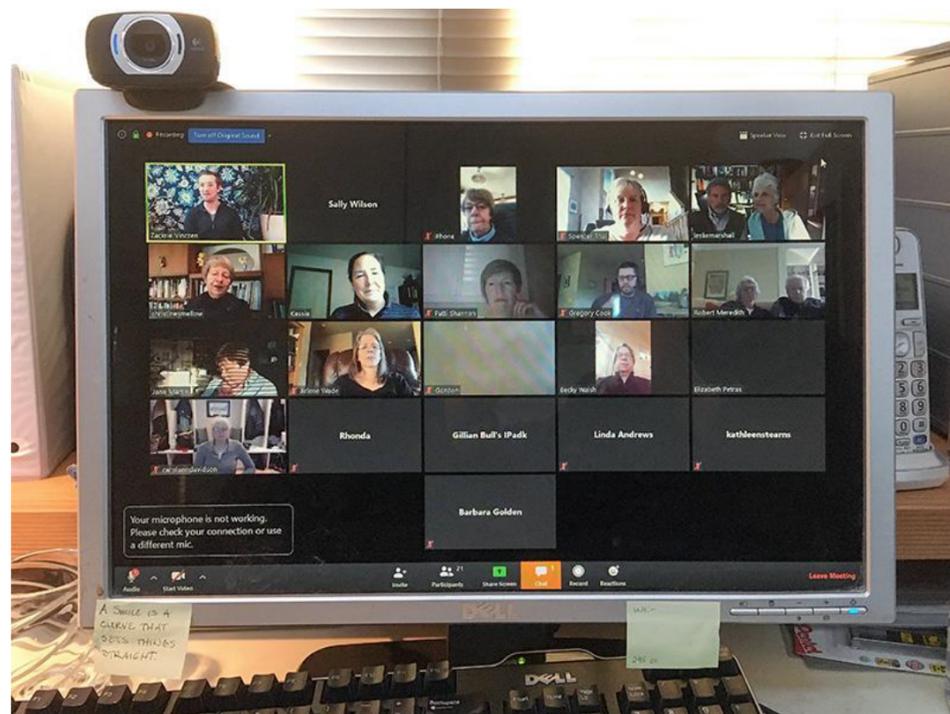
US Mail: Send checks to:
Cedars UU Church

How Are You Connecting?

Tell Us How Your Are Connecting Virtually

Many Cedars Members and Friends have been sharing the ways in which they are staying connected during the Shelter-in-Place order. We know you are calling each other, sending texts, and holding discussion groups and book talks.

Please send us pictures of your virtual connections! We will post them in *The Beacon*, so we can at least see each other during this time of isolation.



Here is a screen shot of the virtual **Cedars Town Hall Meeting**, held on April 1st. Photo courtesy of Richard Wilson.

A Way to Connect

Words from One of Our Worship Associates

Nearly a year ago, **Mike Cox**, acting as Worship Associate for a Sunday Worship Service, shared these thoughts about connecting with others. Because they are **so applicable in the time of self-isolation**, we thought they would be good to share again. (Edited for length.)

I have found over the past decade that small acts of thoughtfulness can make a real difference in people's lives...yes, it is a self-evident truth, but for some of us who struggle to show our thanks and affection to people, the little acts of connecting with people are important.

Over 10 years ago I noticed at work that many of my friends and colleagues complained that they did not feel valued. I am sure this is a common complaint by people in many organizations, and I am guessing it probably occurs even here at Cedars...I decided I would try and rectify that in my small way.

Around the first of each year I would write a short hand-written note to about 10 people telling them why I valued their work and valued them. ..Well, the response was overwhelmingly positive...And a positive, unintended consequence was that I received nice feedback, which is always welcome.

I decided to extend this practice and wrote notes to people in my past who I had lost touch with for one reason or another...people who I had a falling out with over the years... childhood and college friends that I had lost touch with...old girlfriends...my parents' friends who I had known during my childhood.

...The majority of people were thankful for the simple notes. And the ones who were the most thankful were the friends of my parents who wrote back relating stories about my parents and me when I was young.

...For me this [became] a way to show that each of those people was special to me in some fashion...

[We all need to feel valued.] I would challenge each of you to take a few moments..to perform those small acts of kindness that provide others with the knowledge that they matter, they are loved, and they are

Attn: Treasurer/Bookkeeper
284 Madrona Way #128
Bainbridge Island, WA 98110

Breeze: We now can donate using Breeze! If you log into Breeze, you will see **Give Now** as a tab at the top of the page. Click on that, and you can make your donation or pay your monthly pledge. Through **Breeze**, you also can look at your profile, and your donation will be listed under *My Giving*. It also shows the history of your giving, which you will be able to download to an Excel Spreadsheet.

Additionally, during this time, we ask that you think about what you would have put in the collection plate each Sunday. *Consider making that donation to Cedars.*

Thank you for your generous gifts that will allow us to meet ongoing expenses now, and will enhance our time to worship and celebrate in person when the crisis is over!

Gratefully,

-Your Stewardship Committee

Cedars Town Hall-Update

Notes from April 1 Town Hall Meeting

Be sure to join the Zoom sessions each Wednesday morning and evening: **Morning Reflection at 10:00 a.m.** and **Cedars Town Hall at 6:00 p.m.** (See links in calendar listing.) Here is a recap of the April 1st Town Hall Meeting.

Rev. Zackrie opened the meeting with the chalice lighting and some gentle breathing exercises. He reminded us that this is a good time to be calm and reflective.

Board President, **Heidi Parkington-Thal**, shared that some nearby church communities do have members who have tested positive for the COVID-10 virus. While the Cedars community misses the opportunity to worship together, hold committee meetings, and make social contact, we are grateful that our caution is keeping people relatively safe and healthy. We are saddened by the news of suffering in our neighboring communities and are mindful of the need to be fastidious in our own person habits. *Stay safe!*

Heidi also reminded everyone that this is the active **Stewardship Campaign** season! Many pledges have been received online and through US Mail, and the amount pledged thus far is more than half way to this year's annual goal. **Please remember this campaign and go online or send in your pledge and your check.** Our US mail is being checked regularly, and checks will get to our bookkeeper in a timely way.

During Shelter-in-Place, the **Cedars Board** continues to meet the church's financial obligations, such as rent to The Island School and wages for employees. The ability to meet these obligations will be examined each month during this critical time. Your contributions will help! *Consider sending an extra check that represents the amount you would have paid into the Sunday Collection each week.*

During this weekend, **Rev. Zackrie** will be taking his regular monthly weekend off. It is well-deserved, as he took no time off in March. The Sunday Worship Service will be led by **Rev. Jessica Star Rockers**. Shortly before that service begins, she will send out the YouTube Live link. The following Sunday will be **Easter Sunday**, and the service will be led jointly by **Rev. Zackrie** and **Rev. Jessica Star Rockers**.

Close to 30 people joined the meeting on Wednesday night, and they shared some of the ways in which people are coping with self-isolation. (See **In Our Community**.)

Rev. Zackrie closed the meeting with a reminder that it still is possible to look out into the world from our separate homes. When we do, we will see many ways in which we are connected. He shared [The Spirit Neither Sorts nor Separates](#), a poem by Linda Gregg.

Social Action Committee

important.

This is a nice way to spend some of our time in self-isolation, and it can help you feel connected!

In Our Community

Send us updates on community activities in which you are participating during this crisis time.

Some communities, including Commodore Neighborhood and Grow Village, among others, are setting some evenings aside for Community Sing-Alongs outside, weather permitting.

In many neighborhoods around North Kitsap County, regular *Sound Support for Health Workers* are being observed with nightly *Drums for Community Spirit* at 7:00 p.m. and *Ringings of Bells* at 8:00 p.m.

Adventurous Cedars families are enjoying outside activities, inside home-schooling, and even some April Fool's antics!

Many homes and businesses on Bainbridge Island are placing stuffed bears in their windows. Then, they go on Google Maps and add their locations to the Bear Hunt. Families out for walks are looking for those bears and filling in the sightings on their maps!

And some **Cedars** good news: **John Peck** came home from his long stay in the hospital this week! Although he must soon return for another stay, he was fit enough to walk from his home to Bainbridge City Hall to pay his water bill in person! **Welcome home, John!**

What is happening in your neighborhood?

From Cedars Staff and Board of Trustees

Staying Connected Through Shelter-in-Place

How to Communicate Now

During the Shelter-in-Place, your Cedars staff and Board of Trustees continue to conduct church business and to work on your behalf. Our goal is to maintain contact with our Cedars Members and Friends while staying in compliance with government directives and recommendations. We are following practices that consider the health and well-being of our Cedars community. You can find information and fellowship through communications and activities provided online. **Check The Beacon, the church website, and the Cedars Facebook page for pointers to information and events.**

Use of E-mail:

In order to keep you informed, we may be sending out more e-mail messages than we normally would. This is meant to be helpful to you, not to crowd your in-box. We are using our best judgment about what to send/when, and we apologize for the increased number of messages, but hope you will benefit from the information.

We are gratified to hear from so many of you, and it is very appropriate to send messages to office@cedarsuuchurch.org when you want to let us know that you are well, you are productive, you are creative, you have an idea to share, or you need some information. **Kathleen** will continue to respond to e-mail during office hours (Tues-Fri, 9:00 a.m. to noon). Please share your thoughts and the ways in which you are staying connected during this time. Some of your ideas might be shared in *The Beacon*!

Rev. Zackrie is using this time to develop many online opportunities for the Cedars community and to devote attention to individuals who are experiencing challenges from health and family issues, effects of isolation, and matters of faith. For pastoral care, please call **Rev. Zackrie's** Pastoral Care number: (360) 930-9339.

Our Board President, **Heidi Parkington-Thal** is addressing church issues as they arise and is overseeing the dissemination of information to all in the Cedars community. She must prioritize messages that specifically require Board attention.

Information about Events

Special Collection for April

In April, every week will be a **Special Collection** week! **Fishline** in Poulsbo and **Helpline** on Bainbridge Island need our help. They are doing what they can to provide food and services for the many more people who are looking to them for assistance during this time of crisis. And they need CASH.

Please open your hearts and checkbooks and contribute to the work of either (or both) of these critical local services. Thank you in advance for responding to this **Special Collection** request.

Send checks directly to:

Fishline
19705 Viking Way.
Poulsbo, WA 98370.

Helpline House
282 Knechtel Way NE
Bainbridge Island, WA 98110

Gratefully,
-**Social Action Committee**

Be Patient, Be Calm

During this time of health concerns and relative social isolation, it will help if you remain patient, stay calm, and keep informed.

- Refer to local health agencies for official communications about COVID-19 and recommendations for preventing the spread of the virus.
- Pay attention to those groups that are at increased levels of vulnerability to the virus.
- **Make sure your contact information at Cedars is up to date.**
- Check your e-mail, social media, and the Cedars website regularly.

Keep in mind these personal hygiene recommendations from health professionals:

- Wash hands regularly (for at least 20 seconds) with soap and water.
- Apply hand sanitizer when washing is not an option.
- Cough and sneeze into the crook of your arm.
- Stay home, as WA state has ordered.
- Observe *physical distancing* recommendations when you are out.
- Avoid touching your face.

Connect with Cedars



Services and Children's Religious Education

Sundays at 10 a.m.
The Island School
8553 NE Day Road
Bainbridge Island

Cedars UU Center

284 Madrona Way NE, #128
Bainbridge Island, WA 98110
(206) 780-0373

Parking Hints
Guide to Cedars Center Use

Rev. Zackrie Vinczen, Minister

For an appointment, e-mail
minister@cedarsuuchurch.org
For an urgent matter, call:
(360) 930-9339 (Pastoral Care)

Office Manager:

Kathleen Stearns
Cedars Office Hours:
Tue-Fri 9:00 a.m.- noon

Would you like to subscribe to *The Beacon*? Email: beacon@cedarsuuchurch.org

Do you have an article, event or announcement?

Send it to The Beacon by Friday at 11:00 a.m. **ONE WEEK BEFORE** the next Friday's newsletter (7 days in advance). See our [submission guidelines](#).

Committee, Event, and Activity Chairs are staying in touch with group members as needed, and we are grateful for their outreach. Please refer questions about specific events to the contact people. Contact people are listed on **Breeze** in the *Description* for each event (even cancelled ones).

Take care of yourselves, check on your neighbors, and stock your home considerately!

-**Your Cedars Staff and Board of Trustees**

Cedars Center Closed

Temporary Closure of Cedars Center

During this time of response to the coronavirus, our goal is to maintain contact with our Cedars Members and Friends while also being in compliance with government recommendations, and following practices that consider the health and well-being of our Cedars community. Your Cedars Board and staff continue to work with and for you; all are responding to e-mail.

You will be able to find information and fellowship through communications and activities provided online. Check *The Beacon*, our website, and the Cedars Facebook page for pointers to the information and the events.

For the safety of our entire Cedars community, the **Cedars Center at Madrona Way is closed until further notice**, and access to the office is limited. (There is a new entry code.) If you find you have an emergency that will require you to enter the Cedars Center, please contact **Rev. Zackrie** or a Board Member.

Stay safe and well!

Print the Beacon Newsletter

The Beacon is now available to **print** at home. Newest version is available after 12:00 p.m. on Fridays. Copies also will be available at each Sunday Service on the Activities Table.

Member Directory

Members and Friends can easily search our online [Church Directory](#) for contact information. The link is located under the Community Tab of the [Cedars website](#).