

The Beacon

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



Volume 11 Issue 5 February 5, 2021

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Upcoming Services

Imagining the Possible

Sunday February 7th
10:00 a.m.
Virtual Worship Service

Rev. Zackrie Vinczen
Johanna Munson, Worship Associate

Our ability to use our imagination to solve problems helps us to expand our understanding of what is possible.

In this service we will reflect on the power of imagination and consider how we can use our imagination to get us where we want to be.

The Last Place You Looked

Sunday February 14th
10:00 a.m.
Virtual Worship Service

Rev. Zackrie Vinczen
Bryan Baker, Worship Associate

We often say we've found something in the last place we've looked, but what happens if we keep looking even after we find what (we think) we were looking for?

Current Week Calendar and Links

Your Cedars community invites you to participate in services and activities, get information, enjoy fellowship, and pause for reflection.

To view our detailed calendar [click here](#).
Then click on the event title to reveal a drop down with more information and an event description.

Sunday February 7th
10:00 a.m. Sunday Worship Service
[Virtual Sunday Service Link](#)
11:00 a.m. Congregational Coffee Hour
[Virtual Congregational Coffee Hour Link](#)
Use passcode 1959 if required
or by phone using 1-253-215-8782

Tuesday February 9th
1:30 p.m. Marvin Evans Reading Group
[Virtual Discussion Link](#)

Wednesday February 10th
7:30 p.m. Choir Practice
[Virtual Choir Practice Link](#)

Thursday February 11th
10:00 a.m. Morning Reflection
[Virtual Morning Reflection Link](#)
Use passcode 1959 if required
7:00 p.m. Meditation Group
[Virtual Meditation Link](#)

Friday February 12th
1:00 p.m. Cross Cultural Book Group
[Virtual Discussion Link](#)
Use passcode 2020 if required

News and Announcements

Breaking News!!!

Our Congregational Mission



Bremerton's Kitsap UU Fellowship has announced that Cedars-ordained and former member **Rev. Jessica Star Rockers** has been unanimously called to be the **Settled Minister** for their congregation.

Congratulations Reverend Jessica!

Belonging at Cedars

More Stories are Welcome



As Anita Sands writes, "...**diversity** is a fact (the numbers are what they are), **inclusion** is a choice (you decide whether to include someone or not), but **belonging** is a feeling that can be enforced by a culture that you can purposefully create."

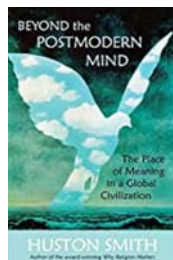
At the January 10 congregational meeting, members of the congregation shared stories of experiences that had made them feel they belonged at Cedars, as well as when they felt excluded.

These stories are being gathered in support of a board initiative to make Cedars the most welcoming and inclusive place it can be, and the storytelling will continue during coffee hours after the services on February 14, March 14, and April 11. The process will culminate at the congregational meeting in June with goals and actions that can help us become the congregation we hope to be.

If you are uncomfortable sharing your story in this relatively public forum, feel free to contact Rev. Zackrie, Dawna Kramer or other Cedars board members (Heidi Parkington-Thal, Helen Nissani, Kassia Sing, John Peck, Herb Hethcote or Carol Ann Davidson)

Evans Reading Group

Beyond the Postmodern Mind by Huston Smith will be discussed via Zoom by the Marvin Evans Reading Group on Tuesday, February 9th at 1:30 p.m.



The author, a noted scholar of religion who also spent 15 years as Professor of Philosophy at MIT, makes a case for transcendence, asserting that we must recognize a broader spectrum of reality than modern science acknowledges.

For more information, contact **Alan Miller** or **Mary Romeo**

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



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



Rev. Zackrie Vinczen

Faith Formation at Cedars

Chalice Lighting as a Spiritual Practice

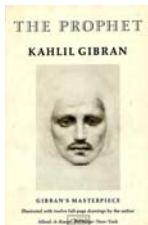


You may have noticed a number of different folks lighting and extinguishing the chalice in our Sunday services. It's part of an effort to get more people involved and make sure we "see" each other even when we can't meet in person.

Do you want to light the chalice? It doesn't have to be a solo affair either! Families and couples can do this together. We all look forward to seeing you. More information about doing this is available [here](#).

Bridging

In our Unitarian Universalist faith, the Bridging Ceremony celebrates the transition of our youth from their high school experience into young adulthood. This ritual helps us -- youth and families and all church members -- recognize and honor this important threshold moment. Right now, in these days where school is online and all the



Morning Reflection

**Every Thursday, 10:00 a.m.
Virtual Sessions**

During each Morning Reflection Session, which is led by **Rev. Zackrie**, participants gather for meditation and discussion of brief sections from **The Prophet** by *Kahlil Gibran*.

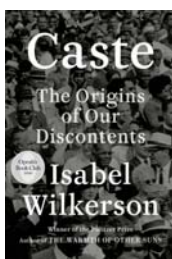
Meditation

**Cedars Meditation Group
Every Thursday, 7:00 p.m.
Virtual Sessions**



Although the zoom format is not the same as meeting in person, it is a step in committing to a regular meditation practice. Each session includes 5 minutes of chanting, 25 minutes of silent meditation and at least 30 minutes of informal group discussion.

For more information or the Zoom link, contact **Dawna Kramer** at raddjk@yahoo.com or via phone number from the Breeze directory.



Cross Cultural Book Group

Caste, The Origins of Our Discontents by *Isabel Wilkerson*.

Virtual discussion of this important book will continue February 12th at 1:00 p.m.

covering parts III & IV.

This deeply moving and thought-provoking book explores how brutal misperceptions about race have disfigured the American experiment, and how the interrelated but distinct concepts of race and caste coexist and reinforce each other.

For further information, contact zoom host **Herb Hethcote** or discussion host **Barbara Golden**.

Movie Essentials

**Join us for a Zoom
Discussion at 7:00 p.m.
Friday, February 26th**

The Movie Essentials Group meets monthly for social evenings and discussion of a selected



traditional trappings of senior year are missing, these rituals are more vital than ever.

Do you have someone in your family who is graduating from high school this year? Are you yourself graduating from high school? Would you help to shape a bridging ceremony at Cedars?

Rev. Zackrie and Kathryn Jay would love to hear from you!

An Invitation



Do you know any high school students who would like to explore Unitarian Universalism with other high schoolers?

YUUP (the Young Unitarian Universalists Project) is launching a platform to forge connections, work together, support each other, and find leadership opportunities. It will have a variety of different topics and groups within it for UU youth and recent bridgers across the country.

There are a couple of steps to joining the network: first, the youth must fill out the [Youth Drop-In Registry for their region](#) or [registry for recent bridgers](#). Once the registry is filled out and confirmed by a parent and a minister or church administrator, youth will receive a Mighty Network invitation to get on YUUP.

Spread the word! YUUP is for everyone. We hope to see you soon!



Chalice Circles

Are you interested in meeting regularly with people to listen and learn and to deepen spiritual connections to yourself and your

community? Consider joining a Cedars Chalice Circle!

What Is a Chalice Circle?

Chalice Circles are groups of 8-10 committed participants who come together with a trained leader to nurture spiritual growth through deep listening and open-hearted sharing. At the beginning of each month, participants will receive a packet of materials with readings, podcasts, spiritual practices, and questions for contemplation. Each participant chooses one spiritual exercise and a deep question to sit with for the course of a month. At Cedars, Chalice Circles will meet twice a month for two months, then monthly after that for an hour and 15 minutes on zoom.

More information is available [here](#)

movie that participants have viewed previously.

In February, the group will discuss the 2005 film ***The White Countess***.

A subtle drama set in pre-war Shanghai and following the modestly romantic interactions of an expatriate American businessman and diplomat disillusioned with the world but achieving a Casablanca-like nightclub dream, and a widowed Russian countess supporting an extended and impoverished exile family hoping to escape a Shanghai slum for Hong Kong, where they imagine their noble lineage can be recognized.

The discussion will begin at 7:00 but the Zoom link will be active by 6:45 to allow social interaction before the discussion. Available for streaming on Prime Video, YouTube and elsewhere. Get the Zoom link by contacting **Jane Martin**.

Climate and Energy Forum

Wednesday February 10th

7:00 - 8:30 pm

Register at: <http://bit.ly/feb-10-forum>

Come learn about climate action in the 2021 Legislative session from:

- Governor Jay Inslee (Invited)
- Christine Rolfes, State Senator, 23rd District
- Drew Hansen, State Rep, 23rd District
- Tarra Simmons, State Rep, 23rd District

Sponsored by: Climate Action Bainbridge, Sustainable Bainbridge, Citizens Climate Lobby, and EcoAdapt

Click here for more more information [Link](#)

Amazon Donates to Cedars!

Amazon has a charitable donation program called AmazonSmiles. If you are an Amazon customer, you can register so that Cedars will receive a small donation every time you make a purchase. It is easy to register and costs you nothing!

If you are an Amazon customer follow the instructions at this [link](#):

If you are already using AmazonSmiles and want to change your charity to Cedars, sign into your Amazon account and

1. Click on Hello (Name)/Account & Lists towards the top right of the page.
2. Click on Your Amazon Smile at the right.
3. On the right you will see "Your current charity" with a button below "Change

Interested? Use form below or contact Kathryn Jay (faith.formation@cedarsuuchurch.org) for more information. You do not need to be a Cedars member or Cedars friend to join a Chalice Circle, so if you have a friend who you think might be interested, please let them know. All are welcome.

Use this form to indicate your interest:

Cedars Chalice Circles

Kathryn Jay
Faith Formation Lead
360-559-2381

Justice Network

**Reform Our Justice System:
Targeting the Poor**

Banning debt-based drivers license suspensions is a goal of the Kitsap Equity, Race, And Community Engagement Coalition, **Kitsap ERACE**. The organization's criminal justice team added the objective to its list of collective actions after conferring with those working with impacted people.

Your license can be suspended if you can't afford to pay a traffic ticket, and if you can't drive, you can't work, so it's a catch-22!

The Kitsap ERACE team believes that drivers licenses should only be suspended if someone has been driving impaired or recklessly. The majority of convictions in Washington State are for driving with a suspended license.

Please help ERACE make a difference with this goal. Use the online link here to contact legislators: [License Suspensions](#)

Kitsap ERACE is a collaboration of many groups, organizations, and individuals, all striving for racial equity in Kitsap County. More information about ERACE is available [here](#).

Contact Penny Brewer of **Cedars' Justice Network** for further information.

Special Collection for Special Needs

Attorney **Jon Zulauf**, representing the **Seattle Clemency Project**, was Cedars' guest speaker on January 17th (his very moving presentation can be viewed [here](#)).

As co-founder of the project, Zulauf described the work being done for immigrants, teen offenders, and those in prison who are ready for a reformed life.

The SCP mission is to increase access to justice by matching reformed individuals with pro bono attorneys to seek early release from prison. Support is then provided for those

Charity." Below that button it shows the charity you are currently helping.

In this donation system, Cedars is currently listed as "Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Bainbridge Island" Location: Bainbridge Island, WA and a renaming request to reidentify us as Cedars is being submitted.

While these donation amounts are relatively minor, every little bit helps, and it adds up over time. Thank you!

The Cedars Fundraising Committee

Cedars Creativity Fair 2021

See What Others Have Been Doing To Cope with Social Isolation

Our identity as a congregational community has been weakened by the COVID-19 pandemic, and one response has been to re-imagine virtual versions of the several after-service **Creativity Fairs** that were held in Webster Hall in recent years.

Organized to provide opportunities to see and enjoy artful products and demonstrations of the creativity present in our talented and capable congregation, those fairs helped us get to know and appreciate each other better.

Now, that 2020 is behind us, a new 2021 Cedars Creativity Fair will open and the 2020 fair will close (but remain viewable as an album of photos on our **Cedars Facebook page**, Please join us by sharing what you have been doing and enjoy the growing show using the link below!

Cedars Creativity Fair 2021

Richard Wilson and Bonnie Yocus
Facebook Page Administrators

Recent addition to the show:



Helen Nissani demonstrated that a multi-layered assembly is much better than simple masking for social distancing at Sea-Tac this week. (photo by Chris Smellow).

released, including clothing, food, rent and transportation, as well as counseling to help with work and life skills..

During the coffee hour following the presentation, a special collection to support the SCP organization was discussed. To participate, please send a check to our office with Seattle Clemency Project designated on the check. Our address is: Cedars UU Church 284 Madrona Way NE #128, BI, WA 98110.

The Cedars Social Action Committee

Pastoral Care Concerns

COVID-19 Symptoms? Get tested now!

Public health officials are urging Kitsap residents to get tested as quickly as possible if they have any COVID symptoms, no matter how mild.

More testing information is available [here](#).

Frank Petrie, who volunteers at the Bainbridge testing site, has shared this detail:

COVID testing is performed at the drive-through testing site at Bainbridge Island City Hall, Mondays and Wednesdays, 1:00-4:30. Tests are processed by UW and results are available within 2-3 days. Tests are free.

You can make a reservation on line up to two weeks in advance. In the event you need a test immediately and there are no available reservations, the City does have a limited number of same-day, drive-up openings. When you arrive at the test site without a reservation, the traffic attendant will hand you a slip of paper with a QR code. Scanning the code with your smart phone admits you to a registration page where you provide name, address, birthdate, reason for needing test ("I have symptoms"), and insurance information. Upon completing your registration, you simply enter the queue and you will be tested.

Remember to wear a mask at the test site!

In recent discussion within the Cedars Pastoral Care Team, **Rev. Zackrie** confirmed that he would appreciate being informed if any member of the Cedars community tests positive for Covid-19.

The information will remain confidential if the person so wishes, but Rev. Zackrie's awareness could help with contact tracing as well as determining what support and possible services could be offered by Pastoral Care Team members and perhaps the larger Cedars UU community as well.

The Pastoral Care Team

Cedars Zoom License

Cedars UU Church recently purchased a licensed zoom account through UUA for use by Board members, committees, and affinity groups. This zoom account has screen sharing, polling, breakout rooms, and no time limits on meetings (the time limit for a free zoom account is 40 minutes).

To schedule a meeting using this account, email herbert-hethcote@uiowa.edu with the name of the meeting, the host, the date, the starting time, the approximate length of the meeting (you can go over this time length), if it is a weekly or monthly recurring meeting, and your mobile phone number.

Herb will schedule the meeting and send an email to you with the zoom information about the meeting including the link to the meeting and an attachment with complete instructions on being a zoom host. Then you can cut and paste this zoom meeting information into an email to those whom you are inviting.

Island School News

Our much-appreciated host facility for pre- and hopefully post-pandemic services and public gatherings has asked that we share news about an upcoming employment opportunity that will follow the retirement of Business Manager Loretta Morgan.

The Island School, a kindergarten through 5th grade elementary school on Bainbridge Island, seeks an accomplished Business Manager to start in summer of 2021. This is a full time position with benefits.

Visit <https://theislandschool.org/our-school/job-opportunities/> to see a detailed job description.

Employment Opportunity

Cedars is currently seeking applicants for part-time employment as Office Administrator. The position provides administrative support and assistance with communications and operational needs at our Cedars Center.

Formal Cedars policy does not permit hiring members of the congregation, but members are encouraged to share news of the opportunity with others. More information is available [here](#) and on the Cedars website.

Applications for this position will be accepted until February 15th

Guidelines for using Cedars Center

The Cedars Board is making the following restrictions to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission to the few people who must enter the Cedars Center to keep us functioning.

1. Permission from staff or Board Member is required for entry.
2. Sign in when entering and sign out when leaving.
3. Use hand sanitizer when entering.
4. Wear a face mask and practice social distancing.
5. Avoid touching your face.
6. Please disinfect high contact surfaces when you enter and before you leave: door handles, light switches, computer mouse and keyboard, desks, tabletops, countertops, sinks, toilet, and shared equipment such as pens, staplers, and clipboards.

Thank you for helping to keep us safe!

Join the Worship Tech Team

The Worship Tech Team is looking to add a few more members. Since September, **Rhonda Peacock** and **Tyler Weaver** have been busy each week editing and broadcasting our virtual services. They've done an amazing job with this, but since we are likely to be holding services this way for some time, we are hoping to have more people in the mix to share the workload.

All that is needed to join this team is a willingness to learn new technology and work with the rest of the team to produce our weekly services. If you are interested in joining this endeavor, please contact Rev. Zackrie and let him know of your interest.



Notes from Rev. Zackrie

The recent United States Supreme Court appointment is worrying to many folks and for many reasons.

If you're a member of the LGBTQ+ community and find yourself suddenly needing to get married for legal protections, contact me. I am willing to officiate small socially distanced weddings in Western Washington.

The Beacon is available to download and print each week. Go to www.cedarsuuchurch.org. The newest issue is available on the Cedars website under News after 12:00 p.m. on Fridays. Copies will also be available at Sunday Worship Services when they resume.

Members and Friends can easily search our online Church Directory for contact information. The link is located under the Connection Tab of the Cedars website

Services and Faith Formation

Sundays at 10:00 a.m.
The Island School
8553 NE Day Road
Bainbridge Island

Cedars Center

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

Closed during COVID-19 Pandemic

Rev. Zackrie Vinczen, Minister

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

Kathryn Jay, Faith Formation Lead

faith.formation@cedarsuuchurch.org

Office Manager

Currently volunteer staff
office@cedarsuuchurch.org

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](#).

[Cedars UU Church \(website\)](http://www.cedarsuuchurch.org)



Cedars Unitarian Universalist Church | 284 Madrona Way NE, #128, Bainbridge Island, WA 98110

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