

The Beacon

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



Volume 11 Issue 30 / July 30, 2021

[Website](#) [Faith Formation](#) [Calendar](#)

[Our Staff](#) [Contact Us](#) [Join Cedars](#)

Upcoming Services

A Place Apart

Sunday August 1st
10:00 a.m.
Virtual Worship Service

Rev. Zackrie Vinczen

Our woundedness can cause us to take solace in isolation and create a place apart. In the Movie (and book) “Into the Wild” this sort of separation is exactly what the protagonist Chris McCandles sets out to find—a world removed from pain and people.

Join us as we consider the implications that flow from creating such a place apart and the deeper pain such isolation can cause.

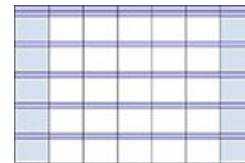
Blessing of the Animals

Sunday August 8th
10:00 a.m.
Special Sunday Service format with family pets participating as honored guests

This Sunday, we plan to have our annual ceremony celebrating the non-humans in our lives. We will especially honor and bless our pets, those who share our days and homes. Then we also include and bless those other individual beings that share our local neighborhoods and our world.



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 titles for more information.

Sunday August 1st
10:00 a.m. **Sunday Worship Service**
[Virtual Sunday Service Link](#)

Immediately After Service Coffee Hour
[Virtual Coffee Hour Link](#)
Use passcode 1959 if required
or by phone using 1-253-215-8782

And note this special date too!!!

Sunday August 15th

Join the congregation and bring friends, family, and lunch to an all-ages in-person picnic following our virtual service. It will be held at the park and playground adjacent to the Suquamish Museum.



News and Announcements

Sad News from the Board

Significant change has come to Cedars with the announcement of Chris Smellow's resignation and retirement after 14 years of much-appreciated service as Music Director. Her talent, creativity, and care will be missed by all as we continue on without her.

Further details about the change have been shared in a special letter sent to all members by the board. If you did not receive a copy of this letter please notify Carolyn Kerns at the Cedars Center office or Dawna Kramer, Cedars Board President

Update from the Board

The board would like to thank all the members of the Cedars community who have communicated with us over the last two weeks, whether during the coffee hour, via email, or in individual conversations. Our congregation is grieving and that process must be respected and allowed to play out for each of us.



With an eye to healing, the board is considering making use of a group of trained UUA volunteers called the Healthy Congregations Team. That team provides training, consultation, and assessment for congregations "wishing to embrace healthy communications and proactively engage conflict."

In addition to working with the Healthy Congregations Team, the Board is planning a retreat in late August to review the results of the recent congregational survey and discuss a vision and goals for the coming year.

The Cedars Board members are: **Dawna Kramer, Michael Cox, Herb Hethcote, Kassia Sing, Carol Ann Davidson, Jeff Philip, and Robyn Teske.**

Congregational Survey

The Cedars Board is beginning to review and process information gathered in the congregational survey emailed to members on July 13th. Your ideas and opinions are important in the planning for a successful 2021-22 church year, so please respond if you haven't already done so.

There is a link to the survey here for your convenience: [Cedars Survey](#)

Our Congregational Mission

*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

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!

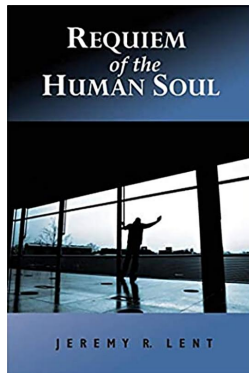
The survey will be closing on August 1st.

If you haven't received a survey, please contact **Carolyn Kerns** at office@cedarsuuchurch.org or during her office hours at 206-780-0373.

In-Person Safety at Cedars

As recently announced, Cedars is implementing special safety practices for Covid-19 protection during all in-person events planned during the remainder of the summer. Detailed information and instruction about these practices is available on the **Cedars website**, and the basic thinking about masking has been summarized in the illustrations located at the bottom of this newsletter.

Evans Reading Group



We invite you to join us on Tuesday September 14th at 1:30 p.m.

Seeking "Salvation by Bibliography" as our late friend Marvin Evans used to say, we meet to discuss books that can intrigue and might enlighten us.

Our summer selection, proposed by Mark Shaffer, is **The Requiem of the Human Soul** by **Jeremy Lent**.

In this provocative novel, the reader is faced with challenging questions about spirituality, history, and global politics: Could our race "evolve" itself to a higher plane? At what cost and benefit? If we lost what is now the "human race" as a result, would that be so bad, given our sordid and shameful history? On the other hand, is there something special, our soul, worth keeping at any price? Ultimately, this novel forces the reader to grapple with the fundamental question: **what does it mean to be human?**

We will discuss the book in its entirety (tentatively via Zoom) on September 14th. For more information contact **Alan Miller** or **Mary Romeo**.

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

Meditation

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.



The Meditation Group will take July off as a summer break and reconvene in August.

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

Cedars Knitting/Crafting Circle

Cedars knitters and crafters enjoy virtual social gatherings on first Wednesdays of the month at 1:30 p.m. and third Mondays at 7:00 p.m.

Both groups have decided to take a summer pause however, agreeing that "It's just too nice to be indoors and Zooming."

So stay tuned as autumn approaches, and watch for an announcement about resuming the activity, perhaps even mask-to-mask if not face-to-face as our lives return to normal.

The Wednesday afternoon group is now hosted by **Linda Andrews**, and the Monday evening group is hosted by **Hilda Wiens**.

Contact **Carol Ann Davidson** for details.

Morning Reflection Sessions

During Morning Reflection, led by **Rev. Zackrie**, participants are invited for meditation and discussion of brief sections from a selected and inspirational source.

The group recently finished **Kahlil Gibran's The Prophet** and has decided to take the summer off while considering its next selection.

Watch for a late summer announcement about reconvening.

Join the Pastoral Care Team

Caring for one another is a core Unitarian practice, and the Cedars Pastoral Care Team is central to this ministry. We can offer a listening presence, connection, and hope to members of our Cedars community in times of need. We send cards, make phone calls, provide information resources and support family and friends who are caregivers.

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.

Please join the fun by sharing what you have been doing and enjoy the growing show using the link below!

Cedars Creativity Fair 2021

Alex Sanso says "Have I mentioned I'm opening a retail shop on Winslow Way on Bainbridge Island? It's happening in time for Art Walk on August 8!"



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 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!

The Team meets just once a month with our minister. We are now expanding the Team, and we would love to have you join us.

For more information about the Pastoral Care Team, please contact our new office administrator, Carolyn Kerns at office@cedarsuuchurch.org.

Pastoral Care Concerns

Mary Clear Padilla is in Poulsbo's Liberty Shores convalescent and retirement facility recovering from a fall and mild concussion. Cards and/or afternoon visits would be appreciated (call ahead to arrange at 360-779-5533). Her temporary address is:

Mary Clear Padilla
Apt. 115
Liberty Shores
19360 Viking Avenue NW
Poulsbo, WA 98370

In discussion with the Pastoral Care Team, **Rev. Zackrie** confirmed that he would appreciate being informed if anyone in 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.

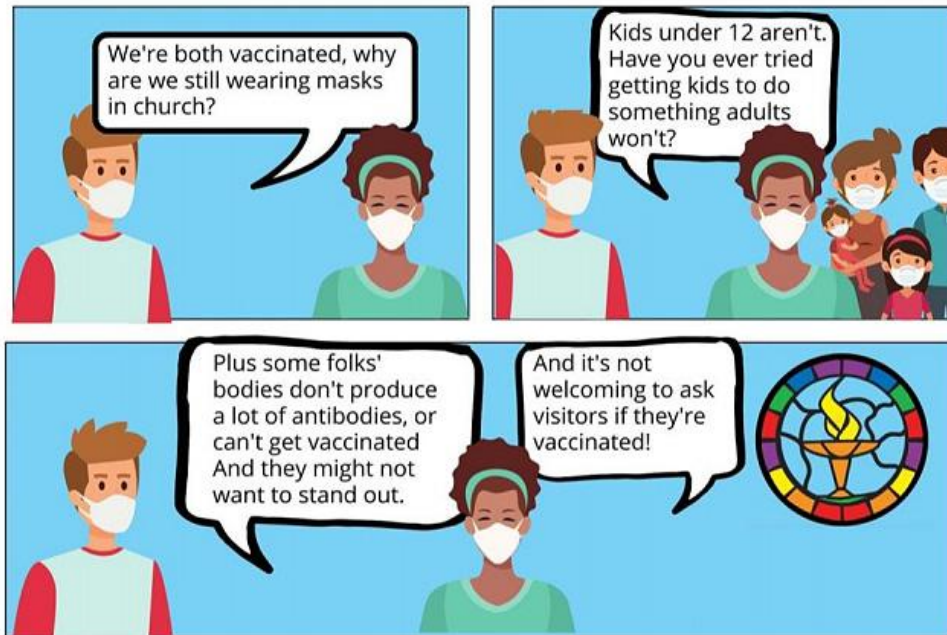
Social Justice News

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.

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

MASKS IN CHURCH?



CONSENT: MASK EDITION!



Print the Beacon Newsletter

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.

Member Directory

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

Rev. Zackrie Vinczen, Minister

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

Faith Formation Lead (Position Vacant)
faith.formation@cedarsuuchurch.org

Bainbridge Island WA 98110
(206) 780-0373

Closed during COVID-19 Pandemic

Carolyn Kerns, Office Administrator

hours: 10:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, Thursday,
Friday 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)

