

The Beacon

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



CEDARS CHURCH
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

Volume 11 Issue 34 / August 27, 2021

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Upcoming Services

The Future of Faith Formation

Sunday August 29th
10:00 a.m.
Virtual Worship Service

Rev. Zackrie Vinczen
Johanna Munson, Worship Associate

The idea of Faith Formation is one that encourages us to get beyond Sunday morning and see the work we do as a church as an all week endeavor. Join us for this service as we explore what the idea of Faith Formation might look like in our own lives.

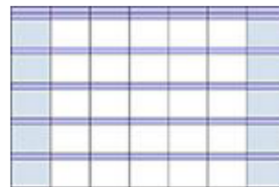
Spiritual Imagination

Sunday September 5th
10:00 a.m.
Virtual Worship Service

Rev. Zackrie Vinczen
Mike Cox, Worship Associate

Many spiritual practices help us to cultivate a deeper sense of imagination by asking us to engage our minds in visualization, deep focus, or simply following the threads of a particular thought process. Join us as we explore the imaginative nature of spirituality together.

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 29th
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

Wednesday September 1st
1:30 p.m. **Knitting/Crafting Circle**
[Virtual Knitting/Crafting Link](#)
Use passcode 2020 if required

News and Announcements

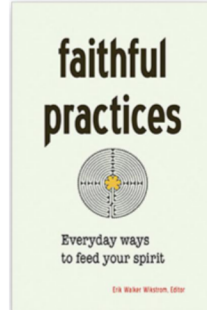
Faithful Practices Reading Group

*How's your prayer life?
What spiritual practices
ground you? Where do
you find meaning
throughout your week?*

Our Congregational Mission

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

If you find yourself struggling to answer these questions, you're not alone. Many people struggle to talk about the spiritual dimensions of their life. If this describes you or you're simply interested in learning more about spiritual practices from a Unitarian Universalist



perspective, consider joining Rev. Zackrie for a group reading of the book "Faithful Practices: Everyday Ways to Feed your Spirit."

This group will meet on zoom from 2-3:30 p.m. on the following dates:
September 25th, 2021
October 30th, 2021
November 20th, 2021
[December off]
January 22nd, 2022
February 19th, 2022

If you're interested in participating in this group, please take a moment to fill out the registration form [linked here](#). Registration will close on September 20th.

The book **Faithful Practices** can be purchased from the UUA bookstore [linked here](#).

If you would like to participate in this group but need help purchasing the book, please contact Rev. Zackrie at minister@cedarsuuchurch.org

Faith Formation at Cedars

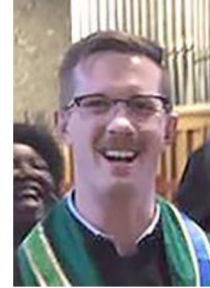
Fall is just around the corner, and that means children in our congregation will be returning to school. Our congregation's Faith Formation (AKA Religious Education) programming generally follows the school year, which means preparing for ways to bring all ages together. We have several unique challenges ahead. The surges in COVID-19 and unavailability of vaccines for all ages means being cautious on how we gather in person.

We are also looking for a Director of Faith Formation to lead the development and coordination of our program. Looking to the near term, a group is exploring ways to serve our children so they have an active sense of belonging in the congregation and a developing understanding of Unitarian Universalist Values. We all long for a time when we can be present together, whether virtually or in person, and the group is forming a way of doing just that.

The search for a Director of Faith Formation is taking an interesting turn this year. Both our congregation and Kitsap UU Fellowship are looking for a Director. In a spirit of collaboration, our two congregations are meeting to see if there are opportunities to create a better program together than we might separately. Ways in which we could collaborate include sharing programming



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



Rev. Zackrie Vinczen

Leadership News

Dear Cedars Community,

This week multiple events in my family have converged to require my undivided presence and attention. I will be spending several months in Florida and unable to devote the required energy to my board responsibilities at Cedars.

Consequently, I have resigned from the board, effective immediately. We have an extremely gifted and dedicated board! They have worked hard for you and there is much work to be done, from healing the community to reimagining faith formation and social action. Please assist them with your energy and participation.

Gratefully, **Dawna Kramer**

Be a part of Worship at Cedars

As we prepare to enter the fall and gear back up for the program year, we are looking for individuals ready to help with the creation of weekly worship. There are a few important roles that we are hoping to fill and find people willing to join the rest of the team in meaning making work we do.

Preaching: Once a month Rev. Zackrie is away from Cedars, and we need people willing to preach and lead services on these dates. This is your chance to share your thoughts on a topic with the rest of the community. Preaching can also provide you with a chance to deepen your own understanding on a topic as you research, write, and reflect in preparation for your service.

Worship Tech Team: As we continue to

ideas, selecting curriculum or specific activities, and perhaps even sharing a staff person. Sharing a staff person could attract someone looking for a full time position whose career path includes being a professional Religious Educator. We are in the early stages of understanding how we can collaborate, but there is excitement about the opportunity.

Religious Education and Faith Formation are integral to who we are as Unitarian Universalists. Paving the way for an inclusive, all ages experience will be an important step in preparing for the coming year.

If you have questions, please contact **Jeff Philip** (philip.jeff@gmail.com).

Cedars Knitting/Crafting Circle

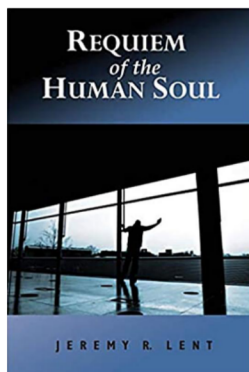
Cedars knitters and crafters enjoy virtual social gatherings on first Wednesdays of the month at 1:30 p.m. and third Mondays at 7:00 p.m.

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

Now that summer is ending, Linda Andrews has announced that the first Wednesday group will reconvene at 1:30 p.m. on September 1st. Please contact her if you are interested.

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

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**

navigate the presence of COVID-19 and begin conceptualizing what comes next with our online presence, we need people to assist with the technology side of things. Currently we hope to find a few individuals to help with recording and video editing. No prior experience is necessary, but it does help to have a familiarity with technology and a willingness to learn.

Worship Associates: In this role you get a chance to work with Rev. Zackrie and other service leaders to reflect on a topic and share your voice with others. This is a great opportunity for people to develop as a public speaker or experiment with creative ways of conveying an idea. In addition, being a worship associate is a great way to become more widely known within the Cedars community.

If you are interested in joining the worship team in any of these roles or have questions, please email Rev. Zackrie at minister@cedarsuuchurch.org

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!

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.

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

Watch for a late summer announcement about reconvening.

Super Supper Social Action

be human?

We will discuss the book in its entirety (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 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

Grace enjoyed the BARN (Bainbridge Artisan Resource Network) Summer Youth Program's 'Make a Pet in the Welding Shop' and brought her new companion home:



Announcement from the Office Administrator

Our Office Administrator, **Carolyn Kerns**, will be away from the office next week from **August 31st to September 3rd** as she moves from Bainbridge to Seattle.

If you need to contact the office, you can still do so and she will be back in the office on **September 7th** and will work to respond to emails then.

In-Person Safety at Cedars

As recently announced, Cedars is

Cedars is continuing to work with partner church Kol Shalom in the provision of dinner and dessert for those in need under sponsorship of the Bainbridge Island-North Kitsap Interfaith Council.

This month's Super Supper meal is scheduled for August 31st in the social hall of the Bainbridge Island Congregational Church.

Contact **Penny Brewer** for more information or to volunteer.

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.

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 office administrator, Carolyn Kerns at office@cedarsuuchurch.org.

Pastoral Care Concerns

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.

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,

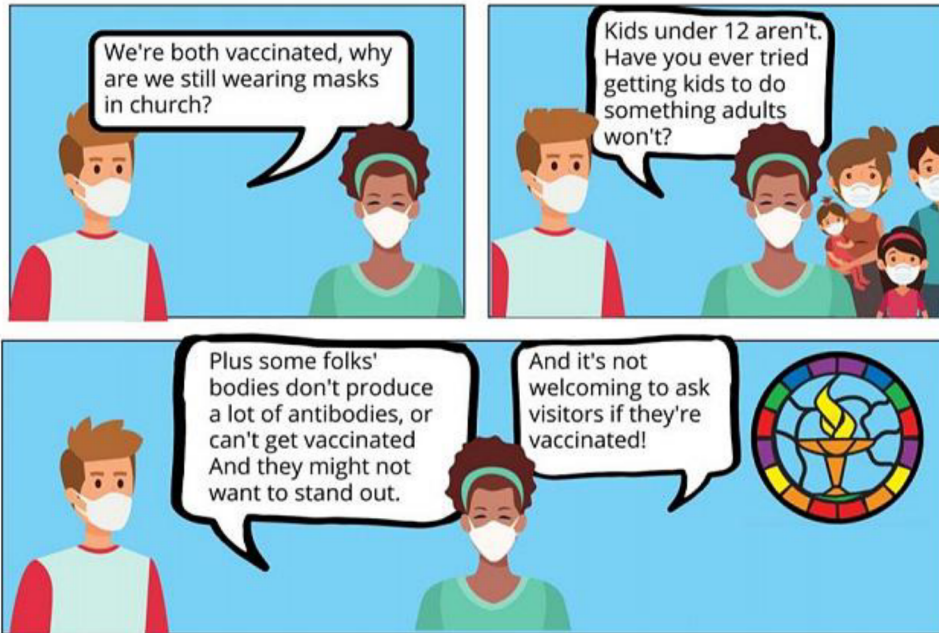
implementing special safety practices for Covid-19 protection during all in-person events planned during the remainder of the summer.

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.

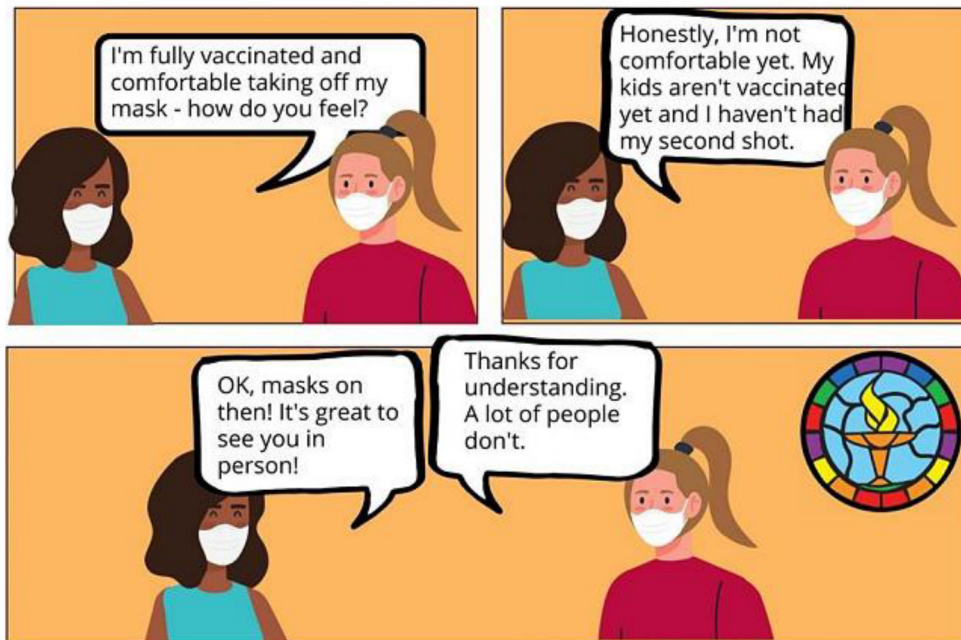
and shared equipment such as pens, staplers, and clipboards.

Thank you for helping to keep us safe!

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

Member Directory

Members and Friends can easily search our online Church Directory for contact information. The link is

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.

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)

Faith Formation Lead (Position Vacant)

faith.formation@cedarsuuchurch.org

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)

