

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 36 / September 10, 2021

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Upcoming Services

Yes and...

Sunday September 12th
10:00 a.m.
Virtual Worship Service

Rev. Zackrie Vinczen
Tyler Weaver, Worship Associate

In improv the concept of “yes, and” is one that invites participants into a space of shared imagination. This is done by saying yes to the ideas put forward and then adding to the idea. In this service we will reflect on the power of “yes, and” thinking and consider ways we can use this concept in our lives.

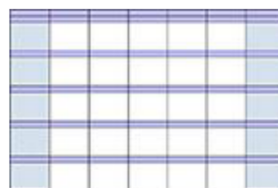
The One Thing Necessary for Happiness

Sunday September 19th
10:00 a.m.
Virtual Worship Service

Rev. Amanda Aikman
Penny Brewer, Worship Associate

Really? Just one thing? Well, let’s see if you agree with my take on it. Your mileage may differ!

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 September 12th
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

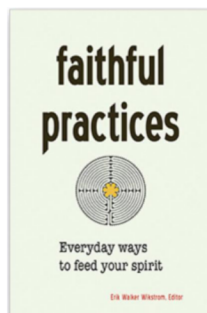
Tuesday September 14th
1:30 p.m. Evans Reading Group
[Virtual Discussion Link](#)
(use passcode 2020 if required)

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?*

If you find yourself



Our Congregational Mission

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

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 UU 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
October 30th
November 20th
[December off]
January 22nd
February 19th

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

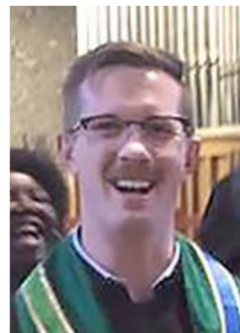
Fall is just around the corner, and that means children in our congregation will be returning to school. Our congregation's Faith Formation (AKA Religious Education) programming generally follows the school year, which means preparing for ways to bring all ages together. We have several unique challenges 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 ideas, selecting curriculum or specific activities, and perhaps even sharing a staff person. Sharing a staff person could attract



Cedars UU Church is a Welcoming Congregation and Green Sanctuary



Rev. Zackrie Vinczen

Healing together

I recognize there is a lot of hurt in our community right now. Specifically, the pain over the resignation of beloved music director Chris Smellow, and I want you to know that I hear your pain. I say that not in an attempt to defend the actions I took in this situation or somehow try to move you all through the emotions that you are feeling. Rather, I say this as your minister, to let you all know that I am still here with you.

Francis David, the individual credited with founding Unitarianism, is often quoted saying "we need not think alike to love alike." I believe that as many people as there are at Cedars, there are just as many ways as to how this situation could have been handled. Each of us has learned to trust our own intellectual faculties and opinions to navigate life. I did my best as I understood it and apologize for the pain this situation has caused.

I hope that together, we will be able to navigate this hurt. I also recognize this is going to take time. Healing always takes time, but I will continue to be here with all of you as we heal this wound together.

Rev. Zackrie

A Special Opportunity

Starting Thursday, September 23rd

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).

An Invitation

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

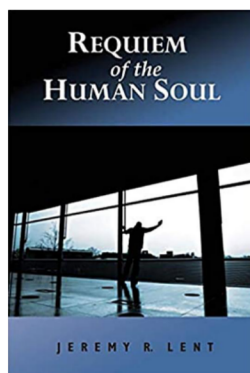


YUUP (the Young Unitarian Universalists Project) is launching a platform to forge connections, work together, support each other, and find leadership opportunities. It will have a variety of different topics and groups within it for UU youth and recent bridgers across the country.

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!

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

SAVE THE DATE Port Madison Dialogues Four Part Online Panel Discussions

Thursdays

6:30 - 8:00 pm

Sept. 23

Oct. 7

Oct. 21

Nov. 4



<https://bit.ly/PortMadison>

The Suquamish Tribe, Kitsap County, and the Dispute Resolution Center of Kitsap County are collaborating on a series of online dialogues on the Suquamish Tribe's history, current issues, and the sometimes difficult relationship between Tribal and Non-Tribal communities.

The series will also be offering songs, poetry, and stories of the Suquamish people.

Participants are asked to sign up for all four sessions since they will build on each other. For more information and free registration, visit [here](#).



Social Action News

Kitsap Immigration and Assistance Center has released the following:

We are paying close attention to the events unfolding in Afghanistan. Like all of you, we are heartbroken for the human beings caught in this humanitarian crisis, especially women, girls and LGBTQ+ Afghans.

The Puget Sound region will be receiving an influx of refugees in the next days and weeks. There are numerous ways you can help with their resettlement. Both temporary and long-term housing is an urgent priority. Additionally, volunteers are needed to provide host homes, transport people from the airport, help settle people into apartments or assist with English language classes. Donations of household and other necessities, as well as cash donations are also needed.

Here are some committed organizations that are providing assistance, and all of them need volunteers and financial support.

The International Rescue Committee: This agency has a webpage with updated on-the-ground information, wish lists of items to purchase for "Welcome Kits" ([linked here](#)),

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 (via Zoom link [here](#)) on September 14th. For more information contact **Alan Miller** or **Mary Romeo**.

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.

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

Richard Wilson shared his photographic observation that "Summer's ending in a splash of color and a flurry of activity!"

and volunteer opportunities.

World Relief, Seattle: This agency is calling for volunteers and donations ([linked here](#)) and has information for the Afghan community as well as volunteers and partners.

The Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service: This organization is seeking volunteers for airport pickups, mentoring, tutoring, and meal deliveries. They also need financial donations ([linked here](#)).

Jewish Family Services, Seattle: They have created an Amazon wish list for household items and other necessities ([linked here](#)). Other necessities. They are also looking for car seats and are accepting financial donations ([linked here](#)).

Afghan Health Initiative: This group provides access and support for physical and mental health services, as well as direct financial assistance to newly arrived refugees ([linked here](#))

Afghan American Community of Washington: This group provides religious, cultural and social support to the Afghan community while they are adapting to American society ([linked here](#)).

Miles4Migrants accepts donated airline frequent flyer miles, credit card points and cash to help people reunite with loved ones or resettle in a new country after fleeing their own country imperiled by war, persecution or disaster ([linked here](#)).

Contact **Penny Brewer** for more information.

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 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.



In-Person Safety at Cedars

As recently announced, Cedars is implementing special safety practices for Covid-19 protection during all in-person events planned until further notice.

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 at the bottom of this newsletter.

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!

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

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.

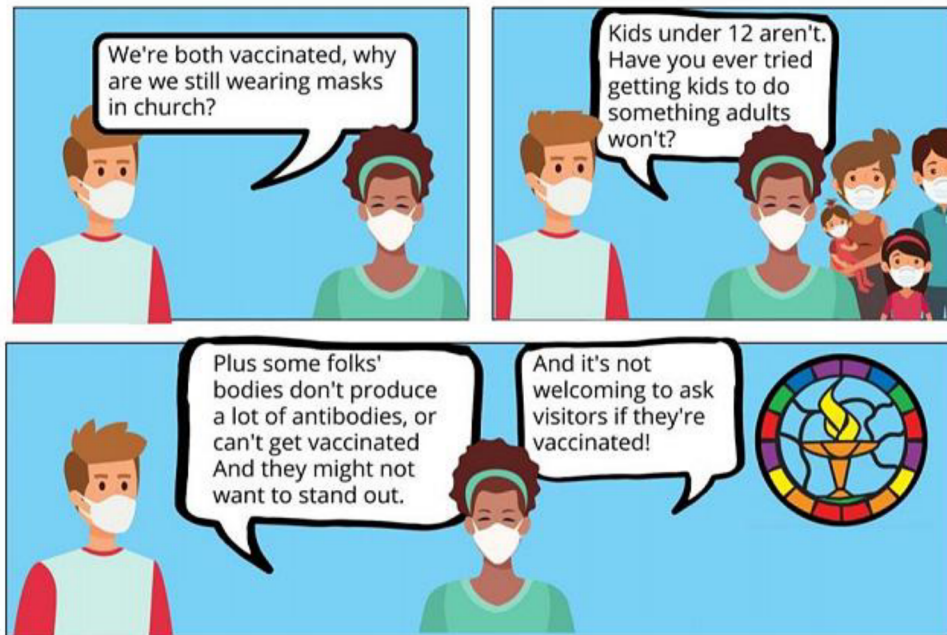
For more information about the Pastoral Care Team, please contact our office administrator, Carolyn Kerns at office@cedarsuuchurch.org.

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.

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)

