

The Beacon

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



Volume 11 Issue 38 / September 24, 2021

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Upcoming Services

Doing Nothing Often Leads to Very Best of Something

Sunday September 26th
10:00 a.m.
Virtual Worship Service

Carol Ann Davidson and Jeff Philip, Guest Speakers

Most people think of play as being something that only children do. Yet play is an important part of the human experience for people of all ages. Let's explore the many benefits of play and how play can be a meaningful bridge to foster belonging and build relationships across the generations.

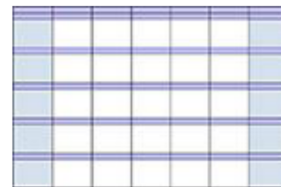
Learning from Each Other

Sunday, October 3rd
10:00 a.m.
Virtual Worship Service

Rev. Zackrie Vinczen
Grace, Worship Associate

Being in community provides us a chance to challenge formal notions of education and learn from each other in non-conventional ways. Join us for this service as we consider the different ways that we can be both learners and teachers in community.

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 26th
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

Saturday September 25th
2:00 p.m. Faithful Practices Reading Group
[Virtual Discussion Link](#)

Wednesday September 29th
7:00 p.m. Program Council
[Virtual Program Council Link](#)

News and Announcements

An Invitation from the Board

Dear Friends,

The Cedars
Board Members
and Reverend

Our Congregational Mission

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

Zackrie would like to connect with folks in the Cedars Community. Come join us for some light snacks with



your favorite hot or cold beverage. There is no particular agenda other than being available to visit and connect as we move into a new church year. We look forward to seeing you!

Follow this link to sign up for specific times and places to meet with some of us:

[Cedars Leadership Chats](#)

The Cedars Board:

Carol Ann Davidson, Mike Cox, Herb Hethcote, Jeff Philip, Susan Shaffer, Kassia Sing, Robyn Teske and Rev. Zackrie Vinczen (ex-officio)

Cedars 2020-2021 Annual Report

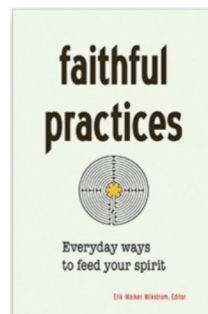
Our **2020-2021 Annual Report** provides a compilation of the incredible work that was accomplished over the past year. It was not easy given the pandemic, not having in-person services, and the several transitions that took place in our congregation. Please take a few minutes to read the Annual Report and appreciate the work that was completed by the staff, committees and teams at Cedars. We look forward to the upcoming year and working with all of you to strengthen our congregation as we move into the future.

Kassia Sing and Mike Cox
Co-Presidents

[Link to 2020-2021 Annual Report](#)

Faithful Practices Reading Group

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

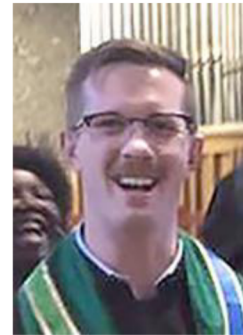


If you find yourself struggling to answer these questions, you're not alone. Many people struggle to talk about the spiritual dimensions of their life. If this describes you or you're simply interested in learning more about spiritual practices from a UU perspective, consider joining Rev. Zackrie for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



Cedars UU Church is a Welcoming Congregation and Green Sanctuary



Rev. Zackrie Vinczen

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.

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.

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 ideas. In addition, being a worship associate is a great way to become more widely known within the Cedars community.

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

Update on In-Person Services

Starting on **October 24th**, Cedars will begin holding in-person services at the Island School. These services will take place on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month with virtual services continuing to take place on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month. In months with a 5th Sunday, we will alternate between in-person and virtual services. This alternating schedule was developed in consultation with the Worship Technology Team, Worship Associates, Reopening Task Force, and the Cedars Board. It is meant to accommodate those who have expressed a need for in-person worship, as well as those who are unable to join in person or who do not feel comfortable doing so.

For safety, we need to limit participation for in-person services to those **who have been fully vaccinated**. You will be asked to verify your vaccine status at the first in-person service you attend, so please be prepared with your vaccination card. All in attendance will be required to wear masks. Doors and windows will be open for ventilation. Dress warmly! Outdoor childcare will be provided for children who are unvaccinated or wish to play outdoors.

In addition, we anticipate needing to limit the number of attendees for in person services to comply with Covid room capacity restrictions. We are still looking into the number of attendees that we can accommodate as well as how we will have people RSVP for Sunday services. More details on this will be shared as they are known.

Beyond this, our plan is to offer Zoom-based "mini-gatherings" on the Sundays that in-person worship happens. These gatherings will take place at 12pm and will be a chance for people to check-in, reflect, and share joys and sorrows.

Our goal is to establish a hybrid in-person/virtual option for Sunday services starting in 2022. We need some time to figure out logistics and learn more about the technology required. This will be a process and there might be a few bumps along the way, but we feel confident that in time we will find a new rhythm.

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

A Special Opportunity



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 graphic features a stylized illustration of a person's face in profile, with a QR code in the bottom left corner.

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.

Program sponsors have now announced that registration is full but the first three sessions will be recorded for those unable to attend and links will be available [here](#).



Super Supper Help Needed



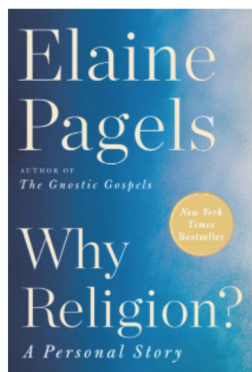
Our Social Action efforts are resuming and we need your help!

Super suppers, a free meal for those in need provided by members of the Interfaith Council, resumed this July. Cedars in partnership with Kol Shalom offers dinners on the last Tuesday

Thank you for your patience as we work out the complexities and variables needed to navigate a safe and appropriate path forward that accommodates the varied needs of our Cedars community.

And gratitude to all those who helped formulate this plan!

Evans Reading Group



We invite you to join us on Tuesday November 9th 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 November selection, proposed by Donna Moore, is ***Why Religion? – A Personal Story*** by Elaine Pagels.

Over many thousands of years, our understanding of the world has advanced exponentially. But our sense of mystery remains, and we still seek assurances that science and reason cannot provide. Elaine Pagels opens her new book with the question, "Why is religion still around in the twenty-first century?" As a distinguished scholar of Christianity, she obviously knows some academic explanations, but in *Why Religion?* she suggests a simpler, more poignant answer.

We will discuss the book (via Zoom) on November 9th. 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!

of each month. Because September is the Jewish holy month, Cedars is preparing the entire meal and Kol Shalom does the same for us in December.

We now have a regular sign up for you to use each month so that all in our congregation have a chance to participate.

Thank you so much for continuing to help our neighbors in need!

Penny Brewer and the Social Action Team

[Cedars Super Suppers Sign Up](#)

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.

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

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 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](#)), 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](#)).

Dawn Weaver says "Enjoying the process of making these [cutting boards, coasters, and serving trays]. Look at that grain POP!"



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!

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.

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.

Morning Reflection Sessions

During Morning Reflection, led by **Rev. Zackrie**, participants are invited for meditation



Preparing for Possibilities

Bainbridge Prepares has announced that its sixth annual **Day of Preparedness** will be held on Saturday September 25th. The annual event will include presentations from experts and Bainbridge Prepares Team leads regarding COVID-19, earthquakes, wildfires, power outages, and classes from the Bainbridge Island Fire Department.

Contact **Leslie Marshall** of the Prepared Cedars Committee or go to [this website link](#) for more information.

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.

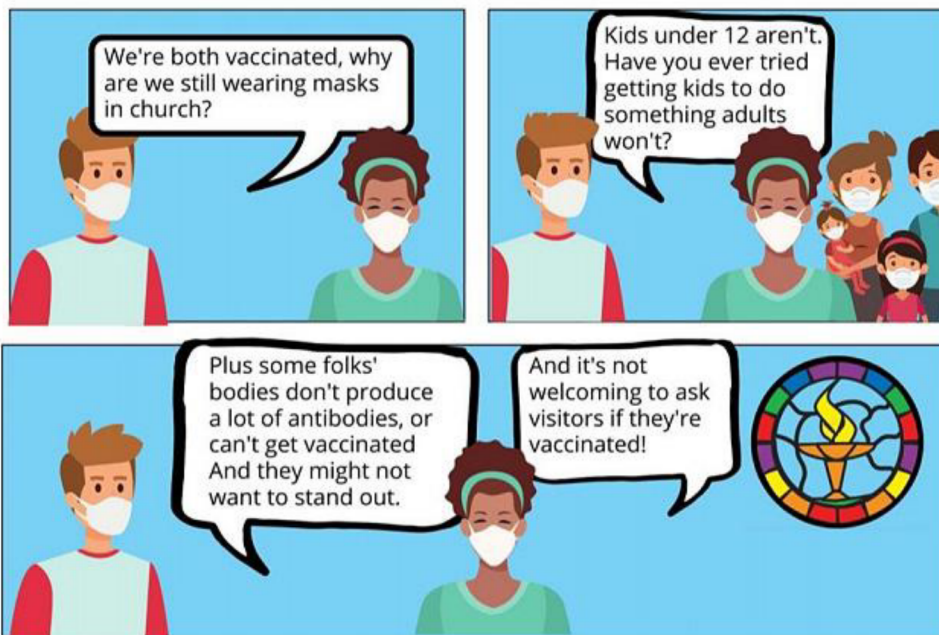
Watch for a late summer announcement about reconvening.

New Hours for Office Admin

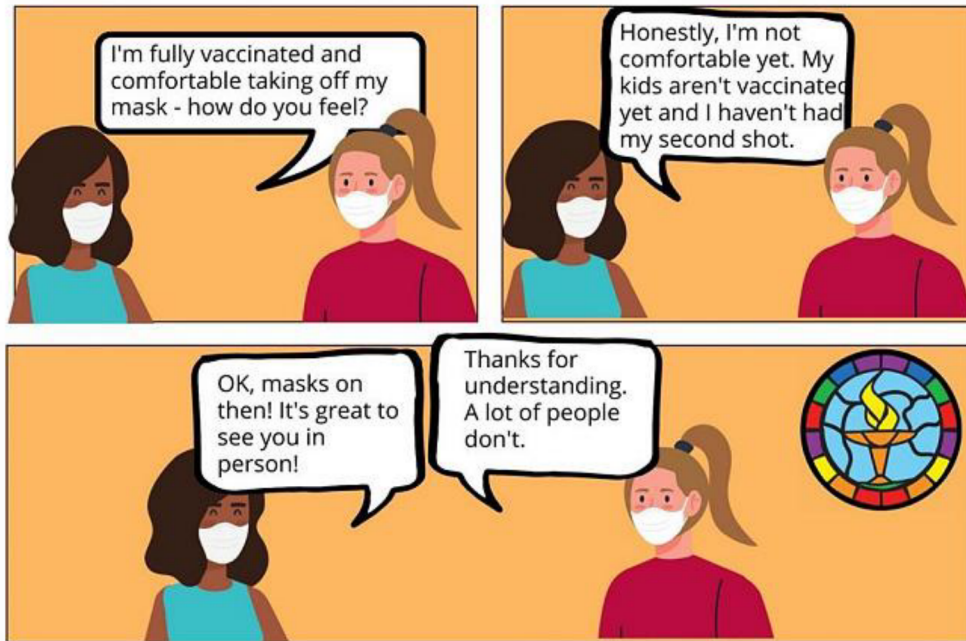
Our Office Administrator, Carolyn Kerns, has made a slight change to her office hours. As she incorporates some remote work into her schedule, her new office hours will be

Tuesday and Friday from 10:40 to 4:00

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
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: 10:40 a.m. - 4 p.m. Tuesday & Friday Available remotely 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Thursday
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)

