

# 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 37 / September 17, 2021

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

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## Upcoming Services

### The One Thing Necessary for Happiness

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**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!

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### Doing Nothing Often Leads to Very Best of Something

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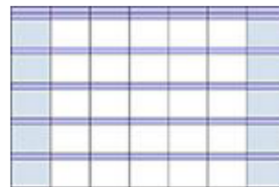
**Sunday September 26th**  
10:00 a.m.  
Virtual Worship Service

**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.

### Current Week Calendar and Links

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*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 19th**  
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

**Monday September 20th**  
7:00 p.m. Knitting/Crafting Circle  
[Virtual Knitting/Crafting Link](#)  
Use passcode 2020 if required

## News and Announcements



### Sunday's Guest Speaker

The **Rev. Amanda Aikman** lives in Everett. She retired in 2016 after 25 years as a parish minister, mainly in the Pacific Northwest. She also did consulting

### Our Congregational Mission

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

work with Cedars in 2017 and enjoyed her time with us immensely.

Amanda and her partner, Nancy, were married in their back yard on July 10. She is also writing a novel, which she describes as akin to running a marathon while carrying a concrete block.

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## Board Leadership News

The Cedars Board held a retreat on Sunday September 12th. More details will be shared soon, but we want to provide you with a few highlights:



We welcomed

**Susan Shaffer** to the Board. Susan will serve on the Board until June 2022. Thank you, Susan, for stepping up!

**Kassia Sing** and **Mike Cox** will serve as Co-Presidents until June 2022. Kassia and Mike will determine exact roles and responsibilities of each and share that with the Congregation over the next several weeks. Thank you, Kassia and Mike, for leading us onward!

**Carol Ann Davidson** will step into Kassia's role as Secretary. Thank you, Carol Ann.

We are grateful to all who participated in the Talking/Listening Circles. We offer a special thanks to the leadership of the Path Forward Working Group, who advised and worked with the Board to organize and conduct the Talking/Listening Circles and make resultant recommendations. We will provide the Congregation with specific actions over the next several weeks to help us move forward.

Based on the great work of the Re-opening Task Force, Technology Team, and Worship Team, we are targeting Sunday October 24th for our first in-person service at The Island School since the pandemic began. There are lots of details to be worked out, but we are excited to hold in-person services that follow the science, are safe, and inclusive.

The Board discussed a stronger commitment to our community social action work and is suggesting a specific focus on climate change since results from the Congregational Survey indicated that this was an area that most people had a strong interest.

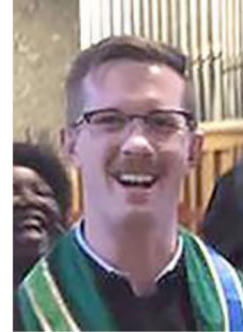
Finally, we will begin issuing a quarterly report from the Board that we hope will improve communication with the Congregation. Look for our first issue in October!

A huge thanks to the volunteers on the sub-committees and teams mentioned above:

**Path Forward Working Group:** Rick Blythe, Mike Cox, Carol Ann Davidson, Herb



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



**Rev. Zackrie Vinczen**

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## 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.

If you are interested in joining the worship team in any of these roles or have questions,

Hethcote, Fran Kortzen, Jane Martin, Heidi  
Parkington-Thal, Jeff Philip, Patti Shannon,  
Kassia Sing, Tyler Weaver

**Re-Opening Task Force:** Mike Cox, Dawna  
Kramer, Leslie Marshall, Rhonda Peacock,  
Kassia Sing, Sally Wilson

**Tech Team:** Rick Blythe, Carolyn Kempkes,  
Max Macrae, Rhonda Peacock, Tyler Weaver

**Worship:** Grace Bonow, Penny Brewer, Mike  
Cox, Johanna Munson, Tyler Weaver

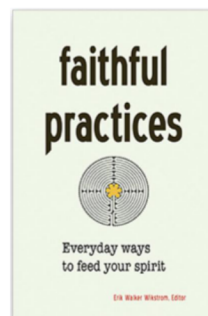
If you have questions, feel free to reach out to  
the Board members.

In Peace,  
Mike Cox, Carol Ann Davidson, Herb  
Hethcote, Jeff Philip, Susan Shaffer, Kassia  
Sing, Robyn Teske

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### 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  
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](mailto:minister@cedarsuuchurch.org)

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### An Invitation

Do you know any  
high school students  
who would like to



please email **Rev. Zackrie** at  
[minister@cedarsuuchurch.org](mailto:minister@cedarsuuchurch.org)

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### 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 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.

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**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](#).**

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### 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, Hilda Wiens  
has announced that the first Monday group  
will reconvene at 7:00 p.m. on September  
20th. Please contact her if interested.**

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

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explore Unitarian Universalism with other high schoolers?

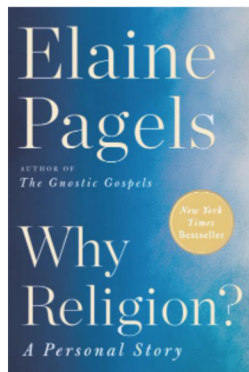
YUUP (the Young Unitarian Universalists Project) is launching a platform to forge connections, work together, support each other, and find leadership opportunities. It will have a variety of different topics and groups within it for UU youth and recent bridgers across the country.

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!

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## 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**.

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## 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

## 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](#)).

**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.

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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

**Jane Martin** has a suggestion for eye-catching and gravity-defying display of those late-summer garden products not otherwise preserved or consumed at mealtimes!



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### 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.

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### 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

### 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](mailto:office@cedarsuuchurch.org).

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### 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.

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### 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.

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### 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.**

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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.

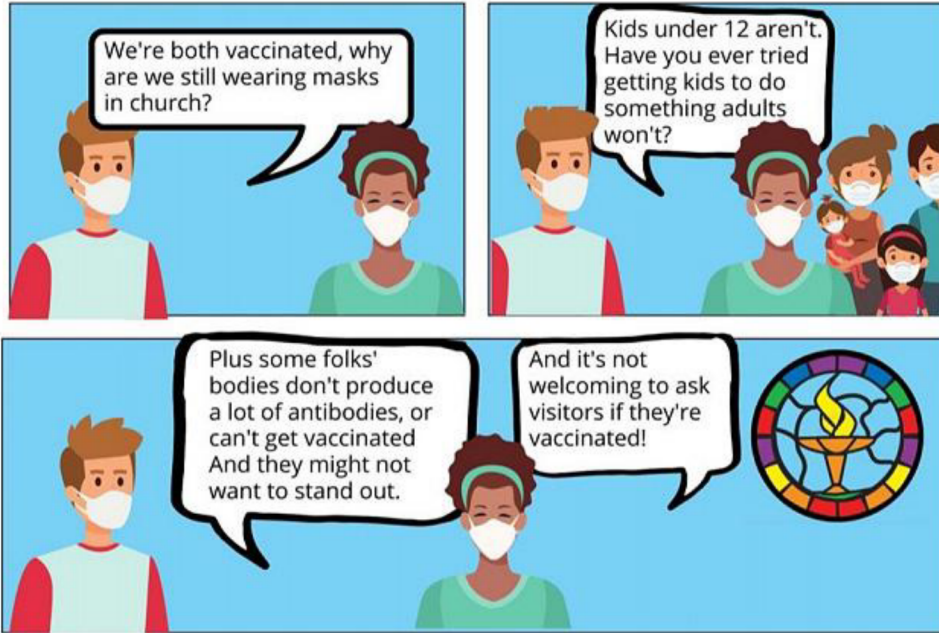
*Thank you for helping to keep us safe!*

### New Hours for Office Admin

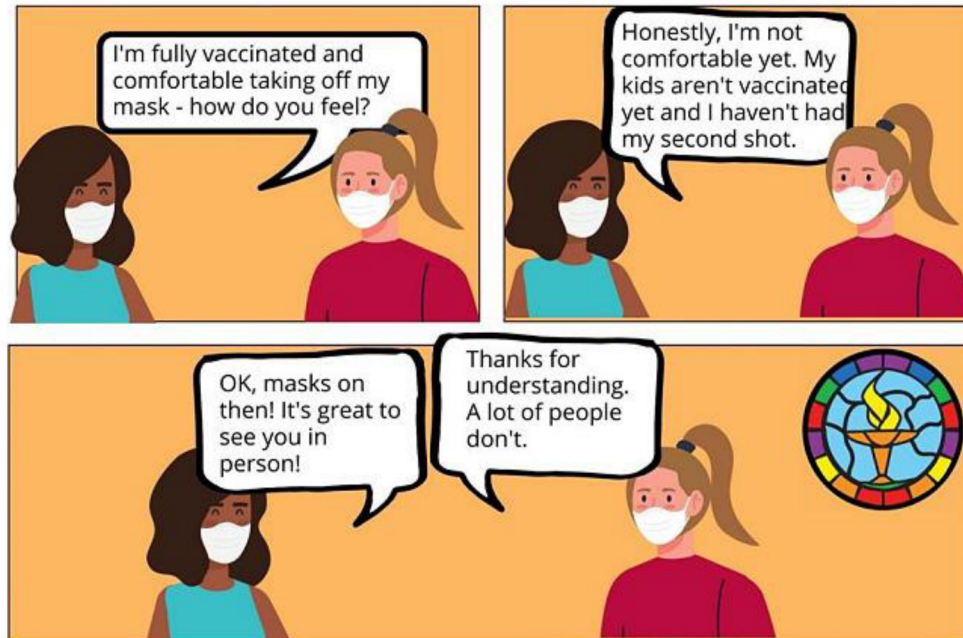
Our Office Administrator, Carolyn Kerns, has made a slight change to her office hours. As she incorporates some remote work into her schedule, her new office hours will be

**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](http://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](mailto: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)

