

# 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 41 / October 15, 2021

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

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## Upcoming Services

### Worthy Now

**Sunday, October 17th**  
**10:00 a.m.**  
**Virtual Worship Service**

**Church of the Larger Fellowship's Worthy Now Prison Ministry Team**

This week Cedars will be joining with the Church of the Larger Fellowship's Worthy Now Prison Ministry Team to reflect on the work they are doing as well as learn how we can get involved in this important work.

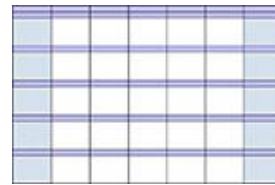
### Water Ceremony

**Sunday, October 24th**  
**10:00 a.m.**  
**In-Person Service in Webster Hall**

**Rev. Zackrie Vinczen**  
**Michael Cox, Worship Associate**

In this return to in-person services, we will pause to reflect on our sacred connection to water and consider the lessons that water has to offer us. Participants are invited to bring a small amount of water to pour into our communal bowl along with a word of blessing for Cedars in the coming year. Water will be available for those who forget.

### 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 October 17th**  
**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 October 18th**  
**7:00 p.m. Knitting/Crafting Circle**  
**[Virtual Knitting/Crafting Link](#)**  
Use passcode 2020 if required

## News and Announcements

### An Invitation from the Board

Dear Friends,

The Cedars  
Board Members

### Our Congregational Mission

*Worship with open hearts  
Nurture a learning spirit  
Serve justice with compassion*

and Reverend 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)

### In-Person Services Update

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. On in-person Sundays, we also plan to have "mini-gatherings" on Zoom at mid-day for those who aren't able to attend in-person services to offer a chance for people to check-in, reflect, and share joys and sorrows.

For safety, we need to limit participation for indoor services to those persons who are vaccinated, so please be prepared with your vaccination card. All in attendance will be required to wear masks. To accommodate those who are unable to be vaccinated either due to age or medical reasons, limited seating will be available outside, east of Webster Hall. For more information about possible outdoor seating, please contact Mike Cox, Kassia Sing (Co-Presidents) or Reverend Zackrie. Doors and windows will be open for ventilation; it will be cold. Bring a blanket! Dress warmly! Outdoor childcare will be provided for children under 12. Youth over 12 are welcome to attend the service with family.

In addition, we anticipate needing to limit the number of attendees for indoor, in-person

*Love without judgment*



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



**Rev. Zackrie Vinczen**

### October 10th Service Follow Up

In a recent service we learned about the phrase "I've got your back" that is a staple of Improv. We explored how this attitude of support can build trust, increase creativity, and encourage calculated risk taking.

Take some time this week to reflect on a situation when you had someone's back or perhaps when someone had your back. What was it like? What form did that support take? What came of this situation?

After reflecting, ask yourself what support you have to offer others as well as what support you need yourself.

If you're interested in learning more about "I've got your back" take some time to review these video resources:

**Keegan-Michael Key:** "Improv actors are at war together"

**Shannon Scott:** "I've Got Your Back—Listening and Hearing in Improv"

### 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

services to comply with Covid room capacity restrictions. Because of this, we request that people RSVP for Sunday services. More details about how to register online will be sent by early next week.

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.

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!

### All-Souls Day Service

In preparation for an All-Souls Day service on October 31st, members and friends of Cedars are invited to submit photos of their departed loved ones to be included in our virtual memorial as part of the service. To submit a photo to be included, please use the photo upload form we've created ([click here](#)).

If you need help submitting your photos, please reach out to **Carolyn Kerns** at [office@cedarsuuchurch.org](mailto:office@cedarsuuchurch.org) or call 206-780-0373



### 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

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. We also need help running the sound system at in-person services. 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, please email **Rev. Zackrie** at [minister@cedarsuuchurch.org](mailto: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 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.

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 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](mailto:philip.jeff@gmail.com)).

### **Pumpkin Decorating with KUUF October 24 1-3 p.m. Raab Park Picnic Shelter, Poulsbo**

Fall is here, which means pumpkins! Join this All-Ages event as we gather together with Kitsap UU Fellowship at the Raab Park Picnic Shelter to decorate some pumpkins. All you need to bring is yourself, a hot beverage and a creative spirit. We will provide small pumpkins, paint, brushes and some spooky music.

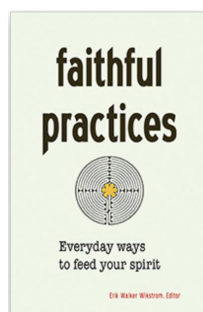
This will be a great opportunity to meet in person, get to know some other local Unitarian Universalists, and have some much needed fun. Remember your mask and to follow COVID safety guidelines.

For more information contact **Jeff Philip**

### **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



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 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](#)

### **Save this Special Date**

Mark your calendar for **Wednesday, November 10th** and start your Holiday shopping early with books for all ages! **As a special fund-raiser for Cedars, every book you buy on-line (and for an hour in-store) that day from Eagle Harbor Books will result in a donation to the congregation.**

So start making your gift list, spread the word, and stay tuned for more details in future issues of The Beacon!

Some very appealing possibilities for that gift list might be:



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:

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)

## Meaningful Movies



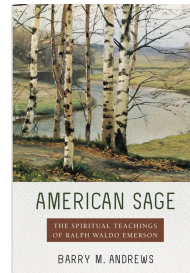
**Join Meaningful Movies on Monday, October 18 at 6:30 PM** for an online screening of *Community First, A Home for the Homeless*, a documentary about a unique residential development that is transforming the lives of homeless people through the power of community.

As explained by the founder Alan Graham, "It is specifically designed to lift the chronically homeless off the streets of the Austin area by offering them a place to call home, helping them to heal from the ravages of life on the streets, and allowing them to rediscover a purpose in their lives."

A trailer and more information is available at this link: [Meaningful Movies](#)

Online screening of the film will be via Zoom on **Monday, October 18 at 6:30 p.m.** at this link: [Community First](#)

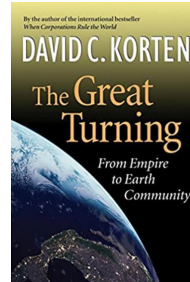
The film screening and discussion are part of the Meaningful Movies Project sponsored by Port Townsend's Quimper UU Fellowship and their Social/Environmental Justice and Green



## American Sage

The Spiritual Teachings of Ralph Waldo Emerson

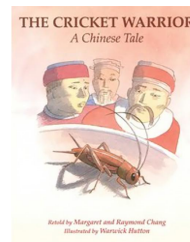
by Barry Andrews



## The Great Turning

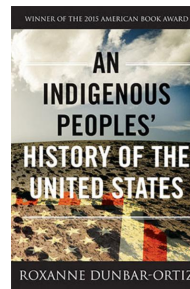
From Empire to Earth Community

by David Korten



## The Cricket Warrior

by Margaret and Raymond Chang

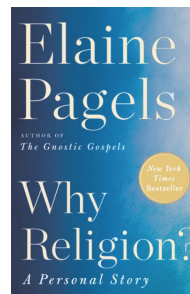


## An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States

by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz

For more information contact [Debbie Macrae](#)

## 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

Sanctuary groups as part of this week's 2021 Social Justice Film Festival co-sponsored with the Social Justice Film Institute and Northwest Film Forum.

More festival information is available [here](#)

## Cedars Knitting/Crafting Circle

**Monday October 18th**

**Time: 7:00 p.m.**

Cedars knitters and crafters are invited to join 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**.

## Cedars Creativity Fair 2021

### See What Others Have Been Doing To Cope with Social Isolation

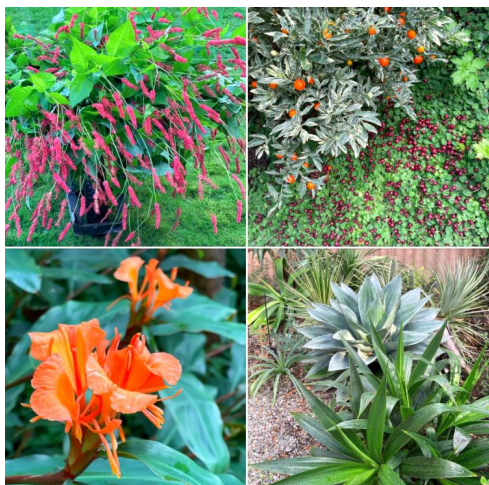
Our identity as a congregational community has been weakened by the COVID-19 pandemic, and one response has been to re-imagine virtual versions of the several after-service **Creativity Fairs** that were held in Webster Hall in recent years.

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

**Shayne Chandler** shared these garden photos without comment (although the images speak proudly for themselves):



## Constant Contact

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**.

## 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](#)). 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

## In-Person Safety at Cedars

For Covid-19 protection, Cedars has implemented special safety practices during all in-person events 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!*



## Constant Contact

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](mailto:office@cedarsuuchurch.org).

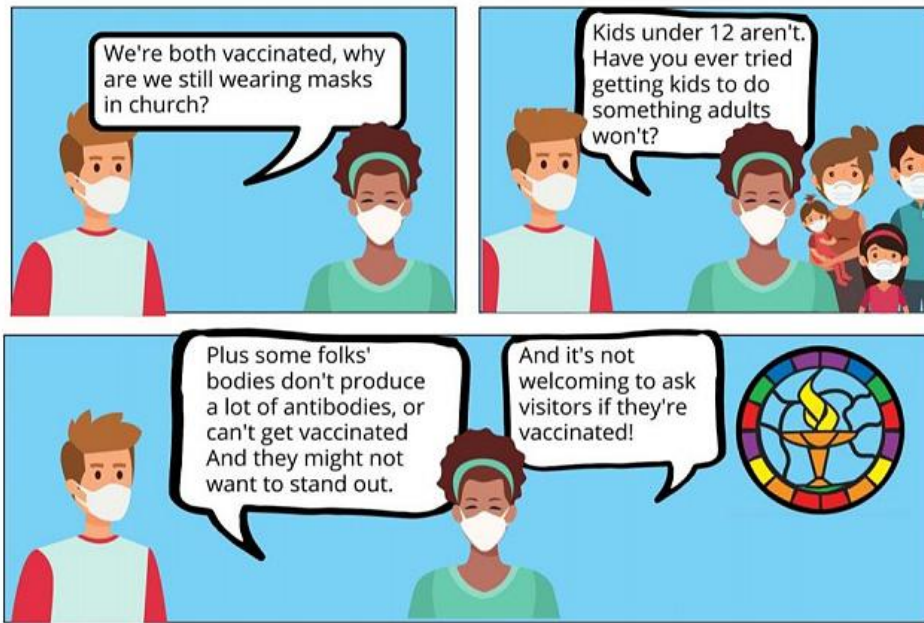
## Pastoral Care Concerns

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.

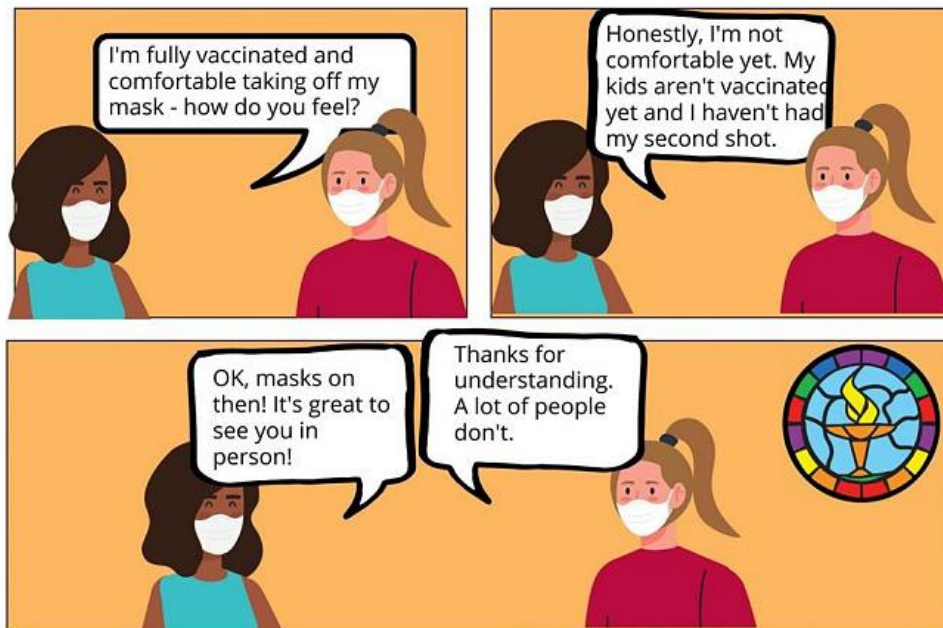
The information will remain confidential if the person so wishes, but Rev. Zackrie's awareness could help with contact tracing as well as determining what support and possible services could be offered by Pastoral Care Team members and perhaps the larger Cedars UU community as well.



## 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](http://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

**Rev. Zackrie Vinczen, Minister**  
For an appointment, e-mail  
[minister@cedarsuuchurch.org](mailto:minister@cedarsuuchurch.org)



Bainbridge Island

**Cedars Center**

284 Madrona Way, NE #128  
Bainbridge Island WA 98110  
(206) 780-0373

Closed during COVID-19 Pandemic

For an urgent matter, call (360) 930-9339 (Pastoral Care)

**Faith Formation Lead (Position Vacant)**

[faith.formation@cedarsuuchurch.org](mailto: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](mailto: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 \(website\)](#)



Cedars Unitarian Universalist Church | 284 Madrona Way NE, #128, Bainbridge Island, WA 98110

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