

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 43 / October 29, 2021

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Upcoming Services

All Souls Day

Sunday, October 31st
10:00 a.m.
Virtual Worship Service

Rev. Zackrie Vinczen
Johanna Munson, Worship Associate

This virtual service is a chance for us to reflect on the balance of life and death and remember our departed loved ones.

Water Ceremony

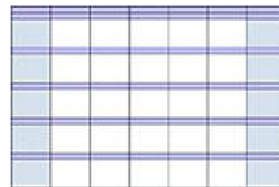
Sunday, November 7th
10:00 a.m.
In-Person Service in Webster Hall

Rev. Zackrie Vinczen
Michael Cox, Worship Associate

In this service, 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.

Saturday October 30th
2:00 p.m. Faithful Practices Reading Group
[Virtual Faithful Practices Link](#)
Use passcode 2020 if required

Sunday October 31st
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

News and Announcements

Our Rescheduled Reopening

Last Sunday's planned Reopening Service in Webster Hall had to be postponed at the last minute because of a significantly threatening rain and wind storm. We didn't know how badly affected we might be, but the forecast was suggesting it could be severe, and out of an abundance of caution we moved to a relatively impromptu Zoom gathering and rescheduled our return to in-person services for November

Our Congregational Mission

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

The decision was not made lightly, and was felt to be the safest option for our community. We discussed how we might still have an in-person gathering, but it would have required cancelling the outdoor children's activities and seating, as well as imposing potentially unsafe driving conditions (tree limbs and power lines down) on attendees.

For our first return to in-person services, we felt that as many in our community as possible should feel welcome and able to participate.

Co-Presidents **Mike Cox** and **Kassia Sing**



Faith Formation at Cedars

Fall is now here, and that means children in our congregation are returning to school.

Our 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.

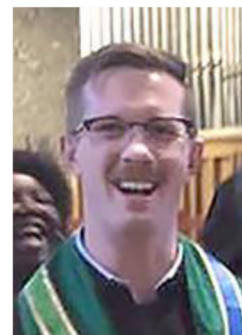
The search for a Director of Faith Formation is taking an interesting turn this year. Both our congregation and Kitsap UU Fellowship are looking for a Director. In a spirit of collaboration, our two congregations are meeting to see if there are opportunities to create a better program together than we 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 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 UU Church is a Welcoming Congregation and Green Sanctuary



Rev. Zackrie Vinczen

This past Sunday October 24th was set to be our first Sunday back in person in 19 months, but mother nature had other plans. So, instead of meeting in person we changed gears and gathered on zoom for a time of community conversation on the nature and role of change in our lives.

As part of this gathering, I shared a reflection of my understanding of change that drew on a variety of sources. After my reflection, members of the Cedars community were invited to share their own thoughts and reflections on change.

If you're interested in continuing this exploration on your own, consider taking time to review the resources I reference in my reflection.

Octavia Butler: [Earthseed Verses](#)

Arthur Schopenhauer: [The World as Will and Representation](#)

Heraclitus: [Fragments](#)

As you read through these resources consider how you might answer the following questions:

- What role do you see change playing in our lives?
- What helps us respond to change?
- What happens when we resist change?
- Does change bring comfort or discomfort?
- Are there things that are permeant and don't change?

Be a part of Worship at Cedars

As we prepare to enter the fall and gear back

Family Vespers Announcement

Starting **November 3rd at 6pm** the Kitsap UU Fellowship and Cedars UU Church will be co-leading an informal and fun family-style vespers service for children and youth and their guardians. Join Rev. Jessica and Rev. Zackrie for a time of poetry, music, and stories. We'll light the chalice, share our joys and sorrows, and enjoy some time together.

To join use the zoom link below.
<https://uuma.zoom.us/j/93985814248>



Exciting News! Parent Chalice Circle Forming

**November 14th
7:00-8:00 pm
Join us virtually on
Zoom**

The **Parent Chalice Circle** is a new Cedars venture of the **Faith Formation Committee**. The idea is to create a space where parents, grandparents, and caregivers can meet regularly to share in the questions and experiences of nurturing faith formation in our children and in our own lives.

How can we support the spiritual lives of our children, teens, and young adults as they grapple with the day-to-day challenges of growing up as well as with big issue questions such as Covid, racism, climate change, politics, religion, reproductive justice, nuclear power, war?

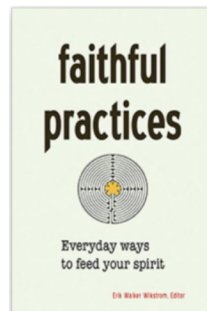
We will meet once a month and utilize the UU Principles as touchstones and reference points for exploration.

Please join us! Our first meeting will be Sunday, November 14 at 7:00 pm on Zoom, with **Rev. Zackrie and Cory Munson** co-leading. Watch for an invitation and Zoom link – or contact **Cory Munson** for more information.

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,



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. 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

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.

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](#).

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

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

Johanna Munson says "It's Saturday- raining here, but it's still a great day to go out to the beach and create some beauty. What beauty can you create today?"

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](#).

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!

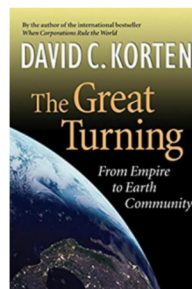
Some very appealing possibilities for that gift list might be:



American Sage

The Spiritual Teachings of Ralph Waldo Emerson

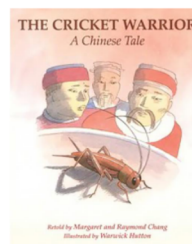
by Barry Andrews



The Great Turning

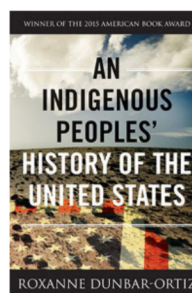
From Empire to Earth Community

by David Korten



The Cricket Warrior

by Margaret and Raymond Chang



An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States

by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz



Super Supper Help Needed



Our Social Action efforts have resumed and we need your help!

Super suppers, a free meal for those in need provided by members of the Interfaith Council, have resumed. Cedars in partnership with Kol Shalom offers dinners on the last Tuesday of each month at Eagle Harbor Congregational Church. Choose a slot to drop off food or participate in preparing food and assembling take out containers while joining in community with others.

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!

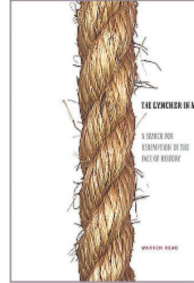
Penny Brewer and the Social Action Team

[Cedars Super Suppers Sign Up](#)

In-Person Safety at Cedars

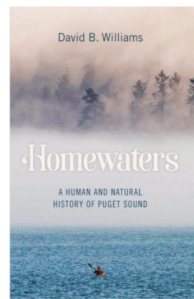
For Covid-19 protection, Cedars has implemented special safety practices during all in-person events until further notice.

Detailed information and instruction about these practices is available on the [Cedars website](#), and the basic thinking about masking



The Lyncher in Me
A Search for Redemption
in the Face of History

by Warren Read

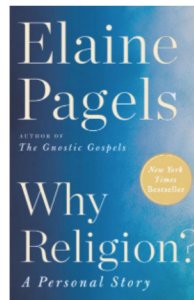


Homewaters – A Human
and Natural History of
Puget Sound

by David Williams

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 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,

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!



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

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](#)).

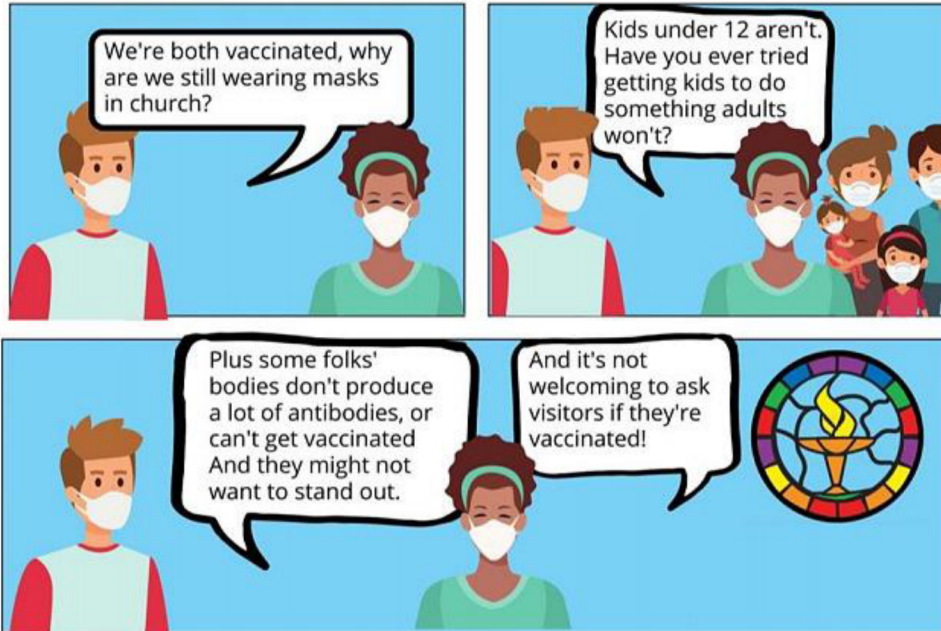
Afghan American Community of Washington: This group provides religious, cultural and social support to the Afghan community while they are adapting to American society ([linked here](#)).

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](#)).

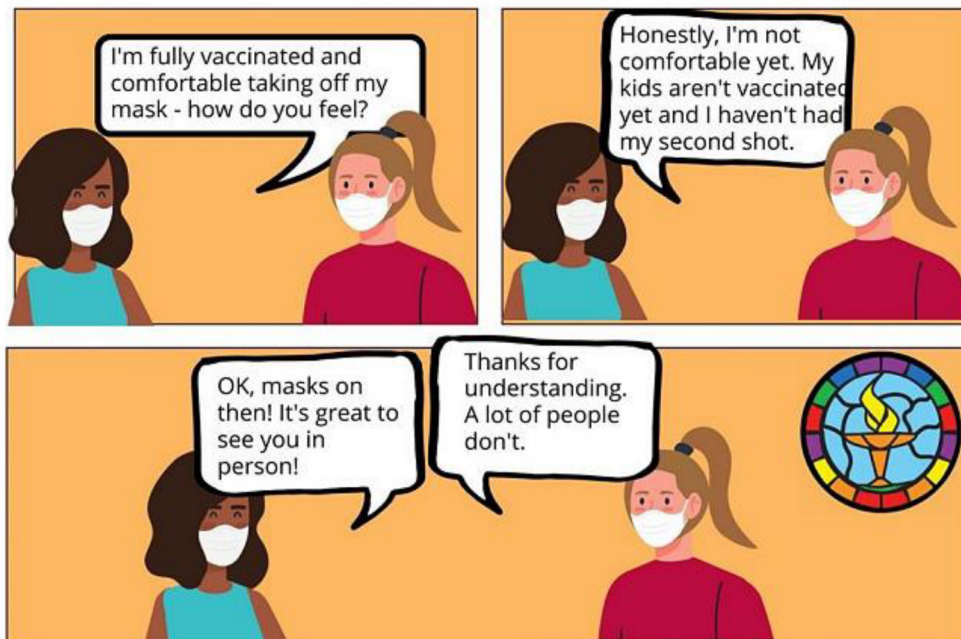
Contact **Penny Brewer** for more information.

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

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

available at Sunday Worship Services when they resume.

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)

