

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 44 / November 5, 2021

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

[Our Staff](#) [Contact Us](#) [Join Cedars](#)

Upcoming Services

Water Ceremony

Sunday, November 7th
10:00 a.m. Pacific Standard Time
In-Person Service in Webster Hall
(also live-streamed to home viewers)

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.

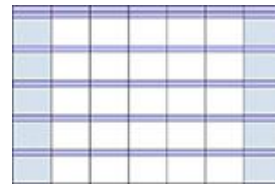
What the Tao Says

Sunday, November 14th
10:00 a.m.
Virtual Worship Service

Rev. Zackrie Vinczen
Tao Group, Worship Associates

The Tao Te Ching is a spiritual text that has been influential on the development of Chinese thought and religion. In this virtual service, we will consider the wisdom of this text and consider the way we can use it to shape our lives.

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.

Standard Time Returns

Sunday November 7th
10:00 a.m. Water Service in Webster Hall
[Live-Streaming Link](#)

11:30 a.m. After Service Virtual Gathering
[Virtual Gathering Link](#)
Use passcode 1959 if required
or by phone using 1-253-215-8782

Tuesday November 9th
1:30 p.m. Evans Reading Group
[Virtual Discussion Link](#)
Use passcode 2020 if required

Thursday November 11th
7:00 p.m. Cedars Board Meeting
[Virtual Meeting Link](#)

News and Announcements

[Sunday's Reopening Service](#)

[Our Congregational Mission](#)



November 7 will be our rescheduled and long-awaited return to Webster Hall at The Island School. Additionally, for the first time, this in-person service will be live-streamed using new capabilities of our technology team to allow remote or home viewing by those unable to attend in person.

The Cedars Board is excited to be planning for this service and the safety of all attendees,

Key information you need to know:

Masks must be worn at all times, and vaccination will be required for indoor seating. Each attending individual (including children) must have pre-registered to reserve a seat by noon on Saturday at this [link](#).

There will be a Safety Check-in at the entry of the school; volunteers will have a list of registered attendees, will ask you COVID safety questions, and check your vaccine status

Please bring your CDC vaccination card, copy of your card, or phone photo of your card for this first Service.

Indoor seating will be physically distanced and consequently limited. The room will be cold (all windows and doors will be open for ventilation), so dress warmly (like you're attending a football game) and bring a blanket! If you will need hearing assistance please contact **Carolyn Kempkes** at ecrkempkes@icloud.com for information.

Once the Service has ended, all attendees will need to leave The Island School property as soon as possible. If people want to chat, go across the street to the Sage parking lot. Our clean-up crew needs to put everything away and clear out of The Island School, so please respect this request.

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



**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. 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.

A separate note to families is that there will be no R.E. program for the rest of the year. For this Sunday, we have Chaperones who'll be outside on the playground with under 12-years-of-age children who prefer to play.

If you are not comfortable coming to the in-person Service, there will be a Zoom gathering at 11:30 led by a Board member. We will have reflections and sharing of joys and concerns.

A huge thanks to all the staff and volunteers who have made this day possible. Many people have worked exceptionally hard on re-opening safely, respectfully and joyfully. With this being our first Service since COVID, please be patient. There may be a few bumps as we figure out new ways to congregate together.

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



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.

Family Vespers Announcement

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

Remember this Special Date !!

Start your Holiday shopping early with books for all ages on **Wednesday, November 10th!** 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 15% donation to the congregation.

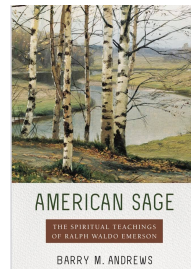
The special on-line buying hours on **Wednesday November 10th** will be 8 am to 6:30 pm, and it will be very important that you write 'Supporting Cedars' in the comment field upon checkout !!

The special in-store buying hour on **Wednesday November 10th** will be 4:30 pm – 5:30 pm, and it will be very important that you make sure to 'mention Cedars' upon checkout !!

Non-book items will also be included when purchased during the in-store hour !!

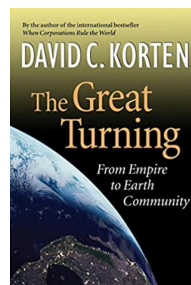
So spread the word, bring your gift list, and help make Cedars' Holiday Season memorable !!

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

On Wednesdays at 6pm Kitsap UU Fellowship and Cedars UU Church have started 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>



Faith Formation at Cedars

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

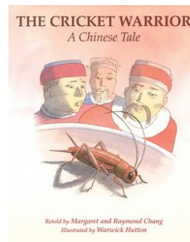
Our Faith Formation (AKA Religious Education) programming generally follows the school year, which means preparing for ways to bring all ages together. We have several unique challenges ahead. The surges in COVID-19 and unavailability of vaccines for all ages means being cautious on how we gather in 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.

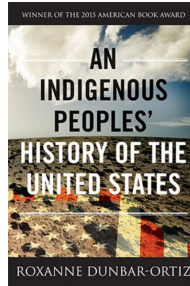
Religious Education and Faith Formation are integral to who we are as Unitarian Universalists. Paving the way for an inclusive, all ages experience will be an important step in preparing for the coming year.

If you have questions, please contact **Jeff Philip** (philip.jeff@gmail.com).



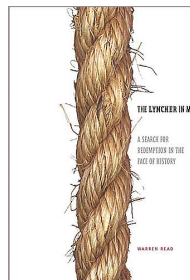
The Cricket Warrior

by Margaret and Raymond Chang



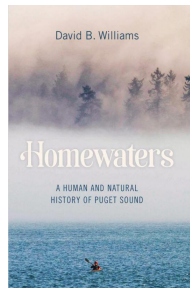
An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States

by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz



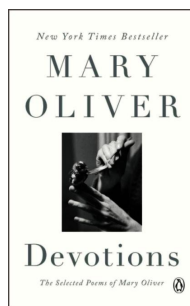
The Lyncher in Me A Search for Redemption in the Face of History

by Warren Read



Homewaters – A Human and Natural History of Puget Sound

by David Williams



Devotions

The Selected
Poems

by Mary Oliver

For more information contact **Debbie Macrae**

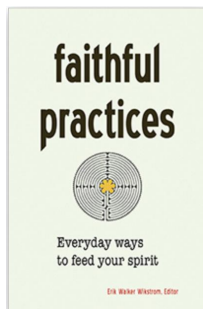
Evans Reading Group

**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

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 is meeting on zoom from 2-3:30 p.m. on the following dates:

November 20th

[December off]

January 22nd

February 19th

Cedars Creativity Fair 2021

See What Others Have Been Doing To Cope with Social Isolation

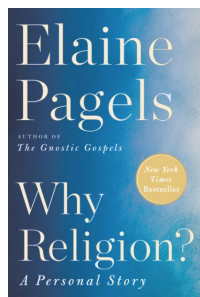
Our identity as a congregational community has been weakened by the COVID-19 pandemic, and one response has been to re-imagine virtual versions of the several after-service **Creativity Fairs** that were held in Webster Hall in recent years.

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

Dawn Weaver says "And all my patients actually took me seriously today? LOL"



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:

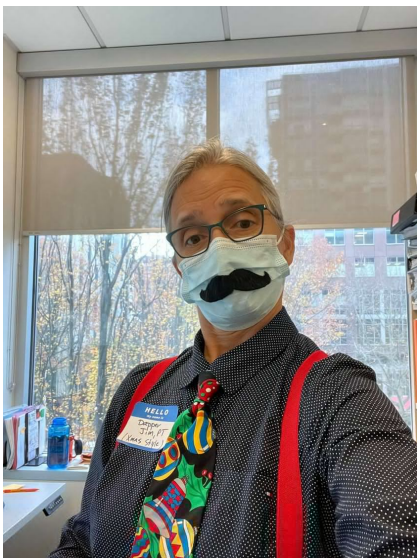
We are paying close attention to the events unfolding in Afghanistan. Like all of you, we are heartbroken for the human beings caught in this humanitarian crisis, especially women, girls and LGBTQ+ Afghans.

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.



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 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

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.

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

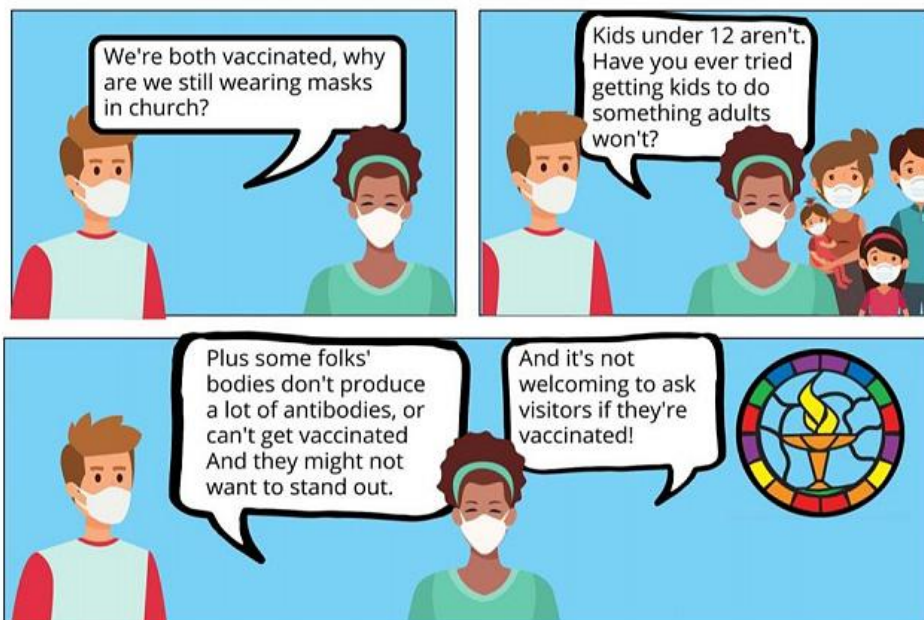
transmission to the few people who must enter the Cedars Center to keep us functioning.

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.

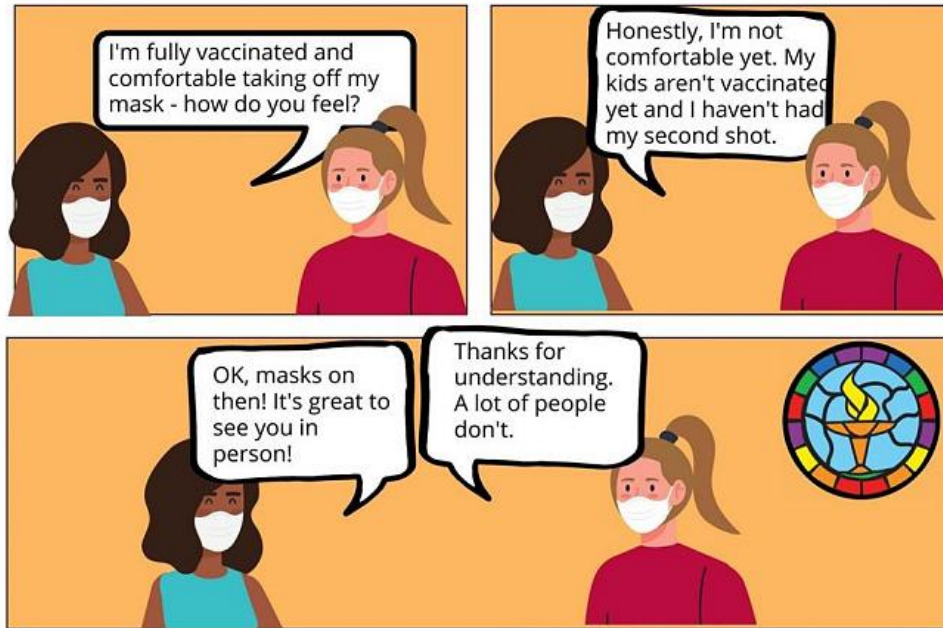
Thank you for helping to keep us safe!

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
Bainbridge Island WA 98110
(206) 780-0373

Closed during COVID-19 Pandemic

Rev. Zackie 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)



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