

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 45 / November 12, 2021

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Upcoming Services

Where We Have Been & Where We Are Going: A Conversation

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

Rev. Zackrie Vinczen, Minister
Kassia Sing and Mike Cox, Board Co-Presidents

Join us virtually this Sunday as Rev. Zackrie and Board Co-Presidents Kassia Sing and Mike Cox reflect on the challenges faced and meaning found over the past year, as well as what we hope for next.

(The previously scheduled "What The Tao Says" service is being postponed to allow this timely conversation.)

Code Red for Humanity

Sunday November 21st
10:00 am
In-person service in Webster Hall

Lead Speaker: Michael Cox
Cedar Members: John Bonow and Carol Ann Davidson
Musicians: Tom Kuniholm and Grace Bonow
Story Tellers: Abi Subramanian, Nash Rickert, and Jacquelyn Shaff

The planet is warming at unprecedented rates and we need to take action now. World leaders are finishing meetings in Glasgow to hopefully plot a path forward for combatting climate change. In this service we will hear stories of why people are concerned about climate change, what they are doing to address it, and what we can do as individuals and collectively as a congregation.

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 November 14th
10:00 a.m. Virtual Worship Service
[Virtual Worship Service Link](#)

Immediately After Service Coffee Hour
[Virtual Coffee Hour Link](#)
Use passcode 1959 if required
Or by phone using 1-253-215-8782

7:00 p.m. Virtual Parent Chalice Circle
[Virtual Parent Chalice Circle Link](#)

Monday November 15th
7:00 p.m. Knitting/Crafting Circle
[Virtual Knitting/Crafting Link](#)

Wednesday November 17th
6:00 p.m. KUUC/Cedars Family Vespers
[Virtual Family Vespers Link](#)

Thursday November 18th
7:00 p.m. Program Council
[Virtual Program Council Link](#)

Saturday November 20th
2:00 p.m. Faithful Practices Reading Group
[Virtual Faithful Practices Link](#)

News and Announcements

Our Successful Reopening



For the first time in 20 months, since March of 2020 and the beginning of our collective and protective seclusion in response to the global pandemic of COVID-19, we were finally able to regather as our beloved community and Cedars congregation in Webster Hall last Sunday.

56 people were present, and safe practices were clearly in place for everyone as in-person attendance was restricted to masked and fully vaccinated individuals, seating was arranged to provide six feet of physical separation between family groups or individuals, and all doors and windows were open for good ventilation.

That service was also our first ever hybrid service. This meant that people could attend either in person or online as we celebrated our annual Water Service. In addition to the 56 people present in person there were another 13 people viewing online, for a total of 69 people gathered physically or virtually together to enjoy the service.

As our first service using new technology and equipment, we had some issues with audio volume. Our tech team is working to correct that and asks for patience as we continue to refine our live-stream technology. Going forward, our plan is to continue offering that option for those who cannot attend in person.

The live-streamed service can still be viewed using the [link](#) available on the Cedars website.



Exciting News! Parent Chalice Circle Forming

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

Our Congregational Mission

*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

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.

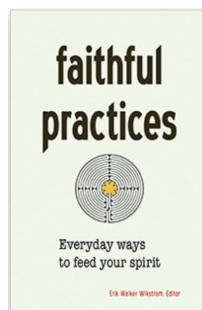
Family Vespers Announcement

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>

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]

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

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](#)).

January 22nd
February 19th

Cedars Knitting/Crafting Circle

Monday November 15th
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](#)

Skagit's eyes say it all "Rev Zackrie sure made himself comfortable after our walk."



In-Person Safety at Cedars

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.

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](#)

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.

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!

The Team meets just once a month with our minister. We are now expanding the Team, and we would love to have you join us.

For more information about the Pastoral Care Team, please contact our office administrator, Carolyn Kerns at office@cedarsuuchurch.org.

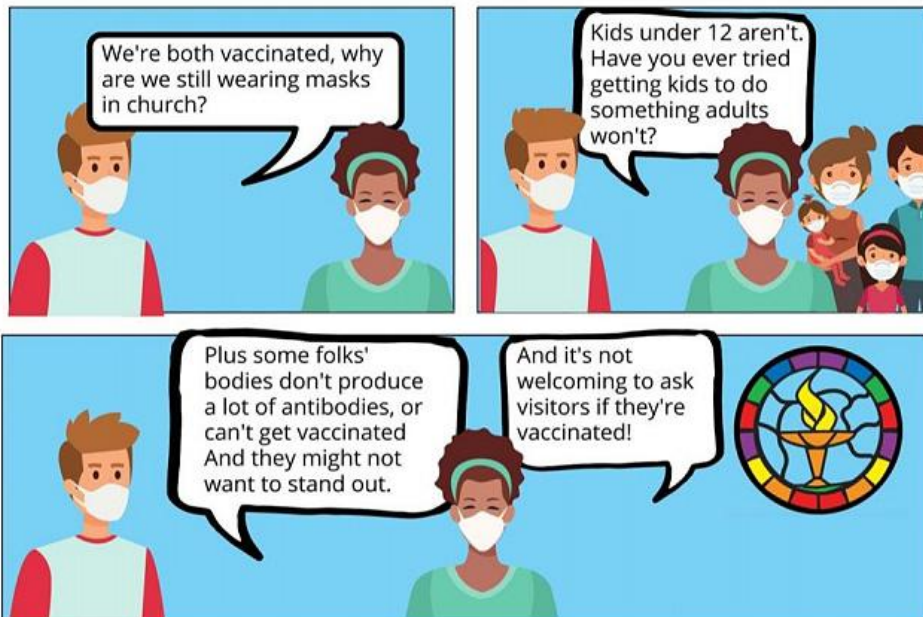
Pastoral Care Concerns

In discussion with the Pastoral Care Team, **Rev. Zackrie** confirmed that he would appreciate being informed if anyone in the Cedars community tests positive for Covid-19.

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



MASKS IN CHURCH?



CONSENT: MASK EDITION!



Print the Beacon Newsletter

The Beacon is available to download and print each week. Go to www.cedarsuuchurch.org. The newest issue is available on the Cedars website under News after 12:00 p.m. on Fridays. Copies will also be available at Sunday Worship Services when they resume.

Member Directory

Members and Friends can easily search our online Church Directory for contact information. The link is located under the Connection Tab of the Cedars website

Services and Faith Formation

Sundays at 10:00 a.m.
The Island School
8553 NE Day Road
Bainbridge Island

Cedars Center

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

Closed during COVID-19 Pandemic

Rev. Zackrie Vinczen, Minister

For an appointment, e-mail minister@cedarsuuchurch.org
For an urgent matter, call (360) 930-9339 (Pastoral Care)

Faith Formation Lead (Position Vacant)

faith.formation@cedarsuuchurch.org

Carolyn Kerns, Office Administrator

Hours: 10:40 a.m. - 4 p.m. Tuesday & Friday
Available remotely 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Thursday
office@cedarsuuchurch.org

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[Cedars UU Church \(website\)](http://cedarsuu.org)



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