

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 47 / November 26, 2021

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Upcoming Services

The Myth of Mastery

Sunday, November 28th
10:00 a.m.
Virtual Worship Service

Rev. Zackrie Vinczen

We are told that with enough time and dedication we can master things. But in an ever-changing world, is it really possible to master something? In this service we will consider this question as we explore the role and meaning of mastery.

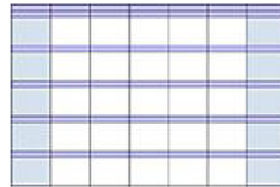
Bodhi Day

Sunday, December 5th
10:00 a.m.
In-person Service in Webster Hall

Rev. Zackrie Vinczen
Gregory Cook, Worship Associate

Bodhi Day is the Buddhist holiday that commemorates the day that the historical Buddha, Siddhartha Gautama, experienced enlightenment. Join us for this service as we pause to reflect on the Buddhist Holiday "Bodhi Day" and consider the wisdom it has to offer us.

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 28th
10:00 a.m. Virtual Worship Service
[Virtual Live-Stream Service Link](#)

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

Wednesday December 1st
1:00 p.m. Knitting/Crafting Circle
[Virtual Knitting/Crafting Circle Link](#)

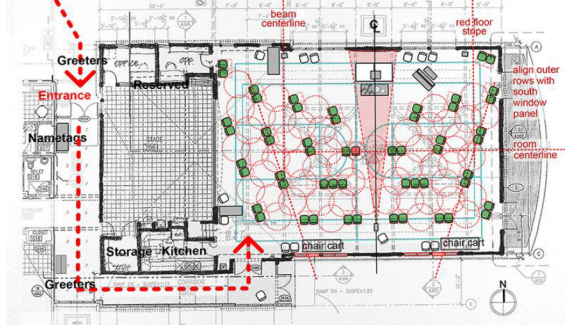
6:00 p.m. KUUC/Cedars Family Vespers
[Virtual Family Vespers Link](#)

News and Announcements

Reopened In-person Worship Services

Our Congregational Mission

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

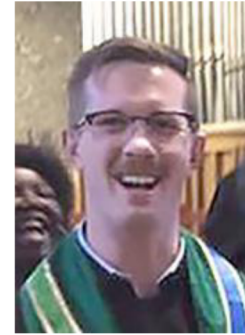


**Cedars UU Church is a
Welcoming Congregation
and Green Sanctuary**

Last Sunday's Worship Service was our second in-person service back in the relatively familiar environment of Webster Hall. Our in-person safety practices mean that seating is now arranged to provide six feet of separation between individuals or family groups and our room capacity is consequently limited to approximately 60, with the possibility of a few more just outside the opened exit doors.

The seating pattern is based on aligned seat pairs that can be modified by "borrowing" from adjacent pairs to provide for family groups of three or four, coincidentally accommodating singles safely.

To ensure the safety of all, full vaccination and masking of all attendees is required, and all room doors and windows must be open for ventilation (so warm clothing is necessary)..



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.

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.



Exciting News! Parent Chalice Circle Forming

**December 12th
7:00-8:30 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.

Contact **Cory Munson** for more information.

**All-Ages Fishline Service Project
December 5th, 12:30 to 5:00 p.m.
Fishline, Poulsbo**

Join us on Sunday, December 5th for an all-ages, family-friendly afternoon of service at Fishline, which provides food, emergency services, and resources to those in need. Activities will include packaging and sorting items, restocking shelves, grinding coffee, and other tasks in their Poulsbo warehouse.

Fishline will provide a brief orientation and help assign and coordinate tasks (please try to arrive a few minutes before the start time). Please also remember to wear a mask, warm clothing, and closed-toed shoes. The minimum age for warehouse tasks is 12, but children under 12 will be able to contribute by making notes or cards for those receiving Fishline services.

RSVP: Please email **Hugh Handeyside** (hugh.handeyside@gmail.com) if you're intending to join, so we can get a rough head count beforehand.

Contact **Carol Ann Davidson** 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

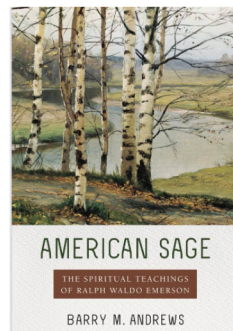
*How's your prayer life?
What spiritual practices
ground you? Where do
you find meaning
throughout your week?*

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:
[December off]
January 22nd
February 19th

Cedars Knitting/Crafting Circle

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



Special Opportunity

"American Sage: The Spiritual Teachings of Ralph Waldo Emerson"

Those interested in purchasing a copy of Rev. Barry Andrews' latest book can get a signed copy from Barry himself. The book, in paperback, sells for \$26.95.

Contact Barry at revbma@mac.com or (206) 451-4509.

Last month Barry gave a talk at the historic First Parish Church (Unitarian Universalist) in Concord, MA on the topic of his latest book. For those who may be interested in viewing it the church has posted a YouTube video:[here](#).

Mission: JOY



Interfaith Power & Light network has been offered a unique opportunity to share the new film, **Mission: JOY**.

Deeply moving and laugh-out-loud funny, this film is a documentary with unprecedented access to the unlikely friendship of two international icons who transcend religion: His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Tutu. In their final joint mission, these self-described mischievous brothers give a master class in how to create joy in a world that was never easy for them. They offer neuroscience-backed wisdom to help each of us live with more joy, despite circumstances.

Inspired by New York Times bestseller *The Book of Joy: Lasting Happiness in a Changing World*, the film showcases the exchange between these two Nobel Peace Prize winners that led to that book.

The film will be available for free online viewing at home with family and friends, November 19 – Dec 2.

Register and watch the trailer [Link](#).

For more information contact **Leslie Marshall**

Wednesday December 1st

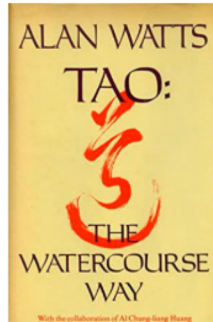
Time 1:00 p.m.

The Wednesday Knitting/Crafting group will meet via Zoom on Wednesday, December 1 from 1:00–2:30 p.m. **Jane Martin** will host. You are warmly welcome to join us for any part of that time to chat, share ideas, or work on a project!

Evans Reading Group

We invite you to join us on Tuesday
January 11th 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 January selection, proposed by Richard Wilson, is **TAO: The Watercourse Way** by **Alan Watts**. In this final (and posthumously published) product of a prolific and creative life of spiritual exploration, Alan Watts (with collaborator Al Chung-liang Huang), shares the deep and meaningful interrelationship of Taoism and the Chinese language.

"Just as Chinese writing is at least one step closer to nature than ours, so the ancient philosophy of the Tao is of a skillful and intelligent following of the course, current, and grain of natural phenomena — seeing human life as an integral feature of the world process, and not as alien and opposed to it."

We will discuss the book (tentatively via Zoom) on January 11th. For more information contact **Alan Miller** or **Mary Romeo**.

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

FUNdraising Success

Thanks to everyone who participated in the Cedars Fundraiser with Eagle Harbor Books. By simply purchasing books online or books and other items in-store, we raised over **\$300** for Cedars (and helped support a local business)!

Our Fundraising Committee's Jane Martin was in Eagle Harbor Books during our designated hour of in-store purchasing, and said it was a joy to see other Cedars Members there - in person!

Special thanks to **Debbie Macrae**, a new member of the Fundraising Committee, for creating and shepherding this FUNdraiser.

A Misunderstanding and Correction

The **Cedars This Week** email announcement earlier this week regarding a meeting of the Movie Essentials Group was in error. That group is currently inactive and will not be meeting tonight.

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

Johanna Munson says "Guess how much this zucchini weighs?! Might have let that one go a bit too long..."



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!

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.

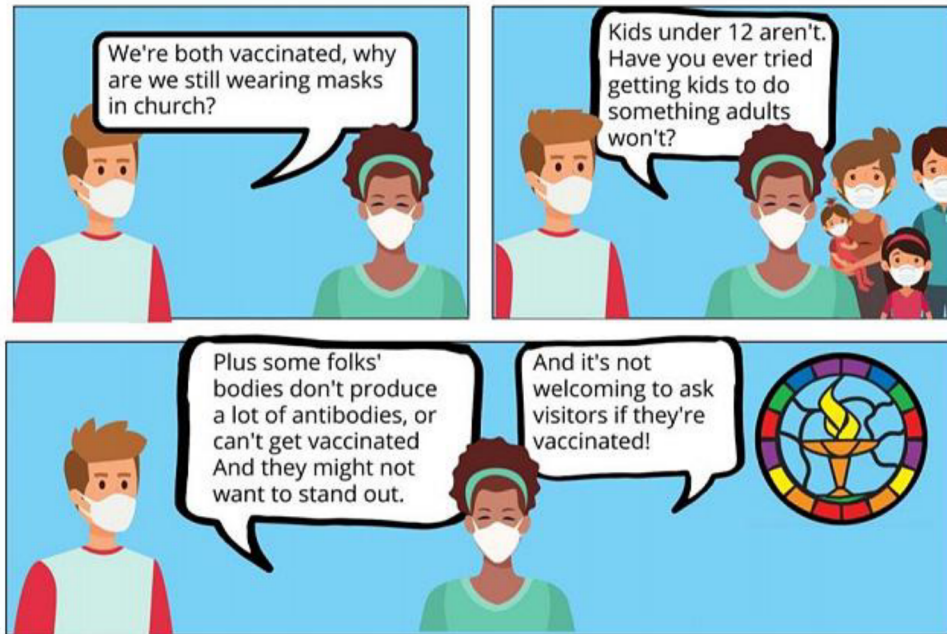
Pastoral Care Concerns

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 Team members and perhaps the larger Cedars UU community as well.



MASKS IN CHURCH?



CONSENT: MASK EDITION!



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.

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

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)

