

# 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 49 / December 10, 2021

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

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## Upcoming Services

### Seasonal Hope and Gratitude

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**Sunday, December 12th**  
10:00 a.m.  
**Virtual Worship Service**

**Rev. Susan Fredrick Gray**  
**Johanna Munson, Worship Associate**

For this service, we will be gathering to hear a message of hope and gratitude from UUA president Rev. Susan Frederick Gray followed by a re-airing of Cedars' popular 2020 Christmas pageant.

Please come and join us for this virtual time of fun, reflection, and music.

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### Simple Gifts

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**Sunday, December 19th**  
10:00 a.m.  
**In-Person Service in Webster Hall**

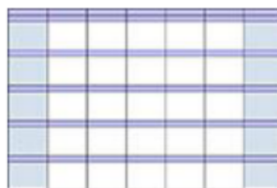
**Rev. Zackrie Vinczen**  
**Grace, Worship Associate**

It's often the simple gifts that have the biggest impact. I think about the times I've been moved by a gift of flowers, a polished rock, or baked goods. In themselves these objects are simple, but in the context of gift-giving become something more. Join us for this service as we reflect on the power of simple gifts.

Give a Gift/Get a Gift -- As part of this service, people joining in-person worship are invited to bring a small gift item to exchange. These items can be anything under \$20 (socks, soap, a book, greeting cards, scarves, flowers, a candle). Secondhand items are also welcome! These gifts will be placed on a table at the back of the room and people who give a gift will be invited to take a gift as they leave.

### Current Week Calendar and Links

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*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 December 12th**  
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

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

**Wednesday December 15th**  
6:00 p.m. **KUUC/Cedars Family Vespers**  
[Virtual Family Vespers Link](#)

### Mark your calendar!

#### **December 24th, 2021 Christmas Eve Programing**

This year for Christmas Eve Cedars will offer two opportunities for people to gather in song and reflection, feel free to join one or both of these gatherings.

#### **In-Person 4-5pm @ Fay Bainbridge Park**

You are invited to bundle up as we gather together at Fay Bainbridge Park for a time of lessons and carols. Followed by hot cider and cookies.

To RSVP Please use the following link: <https://rsvp.church/r/epNO5imY>

### On-Line 6-6:45 (Zoom)

We will also be gathering on Zoom at 6pm on the 24th for a time of reflection as participants are invited into a time of centering and conversation as we reflect on the Christmas holiday and the traditions that make it meaningful.

[Zoom Link](#)

## News and Announcements

### New! Social Justice Committee

Greetings! My name is **Carol Ann Davidson** and I am the Board liaison to a new unified Social Justice committee. The past two years have been hard for many. It is easy to feel helpless given some of the challenges we are facing in the world. Working together, even in small ways, can help to bring a sense of purpose and integrity through living our values. It can also help to ease anxiety. Many of our congregants have expressed the desire to get back into the community and recommit to social justice work and your Board of Trustees agrees. It is time to begin again!

Prior to the pandemic, Cedars had a Social Action Committee that focused on community service and a Social Justice Committee that focused on education and outreach events. At present, both committees have dissolved although Super Suppers continue to be supported by a few former committee members. The Cedars Board's vision is to revitalize our efforts with a newly formed Social Justice Committee that will join together with the Faith Formation and Green Sanctuary Committee members to plan a year in which Cedars recommits to social action projects and social justice work on Bainbridge Island and North Kitsap.

If you are interested in learning more, please reach out to **Carol Ann Davidson**.



### 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

### 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

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.

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## Family Vespers Announcement

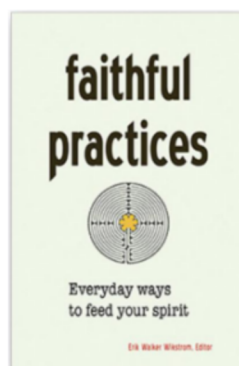
**On Wednesdays at 6pm** Kitsap UU Fellowship and Cedars UU Church have started co-leading an informal and fun family-style vespers service for children and youth and their guardians. Join Rev. Jessica and Rev. Zackrie for a time of poetry, music, and stories. We'll light the chalice, share our joys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

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

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## 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



## You can be a Climate Changemaker!

Changemakers are energetic, ardent advocates for environmental values

making a world-changing difference, especially addressing the challenges of climate change.

Join them in taking an hour per week to call or

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)

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## Christmas Child Campaign



Please consider supporting local children and families by giving to Fishline's Christmas Child program. Your gift will help local families in need provide stocking stuffers and gifts for their children during this holiday season.

[Link to the Program](#)



## 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

write friends, utilities, newspapers, and representatives with a bunch of other awesome people. They are present at <https://www.climatechangemakers.org/> and will welcome your joining with them.

For more information contact **Sandy Spears** at [Sandy.Spears@att.net](mailto:Sandy.Spears@att.net)

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## Cedars Creativity Fair 2021

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

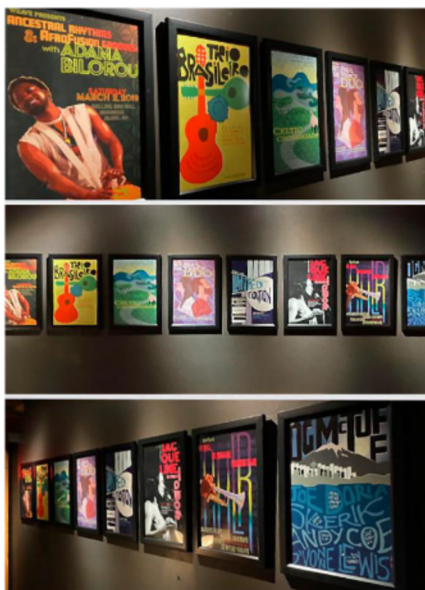
Our identity as a congregational community has been weakened by the COVID-19 pandemic, and one response has been to re-imagine virtual versions of the several after-service **Creativity Fairs** that were held in Webster Hall in recent years.

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

**Alex Sanso** says "Kinda digging the wall of my WEAVE posters representing most of their shows over the past few years.



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## Cedars Safe Gatherings

Because we are responsible citizens and follow the science, we are ready as a community to begin to apply the safe behavior we practice in other parts of our lives to our spiritual home, too. We should feel confident that we can safely gather as a community if we:

- Wear a mask.

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**.

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## 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** 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 health services, as well as direct financial assistance to newly arrived refugees ([linked](#)

- Vaccinate.
- Physically distance if indoors.
- Don't go near others if sick, exposed to COVID, or tested positive for COVID.

Board of Trustees recommendations for responsible behavior at in-person meetings and gatherings are as follow:

### Cedars Center Meeting Space

Committees or groups must reserve the space by contacting the Office Administrator at [office@cedarsuuchurch.org](mailto:office@cedarsuuchurch.org).

- All guests must be fully vaccinated and wearing masks.
- Have an inclusive option for those unable or uncomfortable being in the same room with others; if an attendee is medically exempt from vaccination, meeting organizer should consider an option for them to attend (Zoom, hold meeting outdoors on patio if weather permits).
- Complete safety/health questionnaire for each attendee (kept on stool in Cedars Center foyer).
- Ventilate the room by opening a few windows; also run the air purifier on speed 3 during the meeting.
- Limit number of physically distanced seats available; a maximum of 10 guests allowed.
- Clean all surfaces and throw out meeting-room trash after meeting.

### Home-hosted (or other location) Meetings

Verify vaccination status prior to gathering (if an attendee is medically exempt, organizer should consider using an outdoor space or providing an option such as Zoom).

- Wear a mask.
- Physically distance.
- Complete safety/health questions; send to office administrator for filing (in case of tracing).
- Ventilate the room.
- Limit the number of attendees.

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.

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### 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).

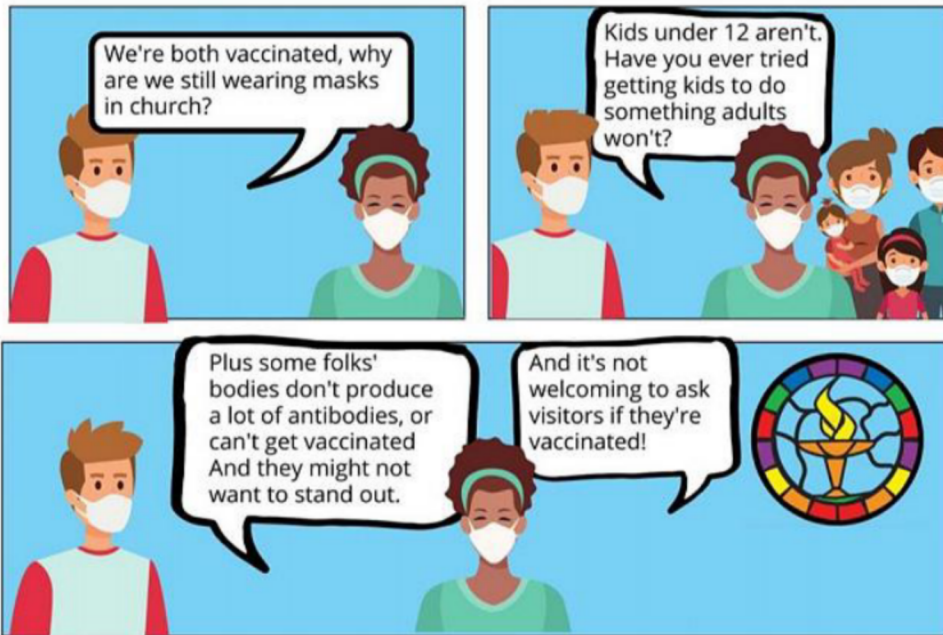
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### Pastoral Care Concerns

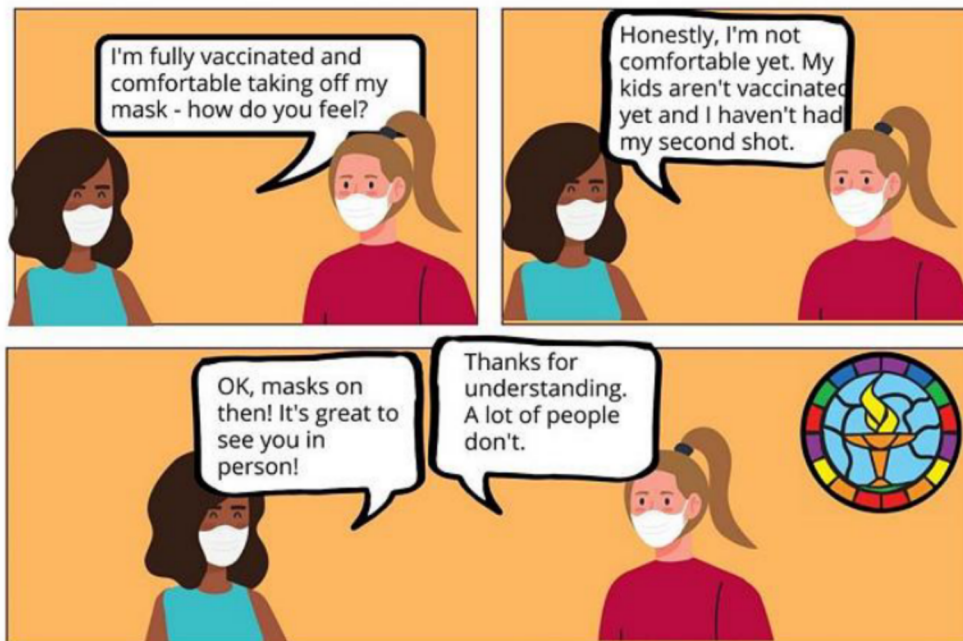
In discussion with the Pastoral Care Team, **Rev. Zackrie** confirmed that he would appreciate being informed if anyone in the Cedars community tests positive for Covid-19.

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  
Bainbridge Island

**Cedars Center**  
284 Madrona Way, NE #128

## Rev. Zackrie Vinczen, Minister

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

**Faith Formation Lead (Position Vacant)**  
[faith.formation@cedarsuuchurch.org](mailto:faith.formation@cedarsuuchurch.org)

Bainbridge Island WA 98110  
(206) 780-0373

Closed during COVID-19 Pandemic

**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)

