

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 50 / December 17, 2021

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Upcoming Services

Simple Gifts

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.

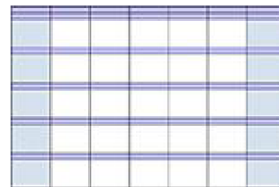
A Time for Rest and Reflection

Sunday December 26th
10:00 a.m.
Virtual Lay-led Worship Service

Claire Branley, Worship Associate
Johanna Munson, Speaker:

Join us for a meditative service where we will take a pause together. Have paper and a writing utensil handy for a meditative exercise. We'll enjoy a discussion in small breakout rooms with questions to reflect on together.

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 December 19th
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 22nd
6:00 p.m. KUUC/Cedars Family Vespers
[Virtual Family Vespers Link](#)

Friday December 24th
4:00 p.m. In-Person Christmas Eve
Gathering at Fay Bainbridge Park
[RSVP link for registration](#)

6:00 p.m. Virtual Christmas Eve
Gathering
[Virtual Gathering Link](#)

News and Announcements

Christmas Eve Programming

This year Cedars is offering **two** opportunities to gather and participate in Christmas Eve song and reflection services.



Please feel free to join either or both of these gatherings:

Fay Bainbridge Park Service at 4:00 p.m.

You are invited to bundle up and join us at the large beachside shelter in Fay Bainbridge Park for a family (all-ages) candlelight service, "Lessons in Carols," led by Rev. Zackrie Vinczen, followed by warm cider, cookies and carols!

To join this in-person event, please RSVP to <https://rsvp.church/r/epNO5imY>

Virtual Service Gathering at 6:00 p.m.

We will also be gathering on Zoom at 6:00 p.m. for a time of centering and conversation as we reflect on the Christmas holiday and the traditions that make it meaningful.

[Zoom Link](#)

Collection for Women and Children Experiencing Domestic Violence

At the in-person Christmas Eve gathering, Cedars will collect donations of NEW socks and pajamas (all sizes) for women and children. They will be donated to the **YWCA Alive Shelter** which is dedicated to ensuring the personal safety, rights, welfare, and dignity of those who experience domestic abuse while building partnerships and increasing community awareness to create positive social change.

For more information, visit their website at <http://ywcakitsap.org>.

If you are unable to attend the Christmas eve gathering but would like to donate, there will be a donation box at the Cedars office where items can be dropped off between **11am and 3:30pm on Tuesdays or Fridays**.

New!

Social Justice Committee Restructured and Revitalized



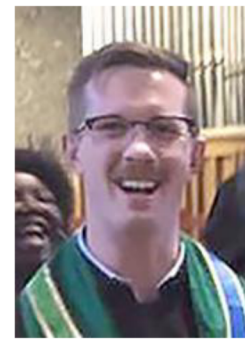
Greetings! My name is **Carol Ann Davidson** and I am the Board liaison to a new unified Social Justice Committee.

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 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

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

Would you like to meet regularly with other Cedars parents?

Our Parent Chalice Circle is a new venture of the Cedars **Faith Formation Committee**. The idea is to create a space where parents, grandparents, and caregivers can meet 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.

Meet our Kids' Sunday Activities helpers!

We are thrilled and grateful that two graduates from our Cedars RE program (who are all grown up now) are offering their time, energy

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.

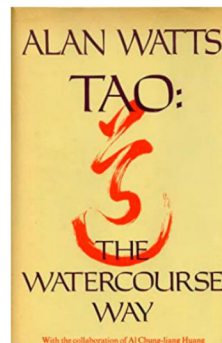
If you are interested in joining the worship team in any of these roles or have questions, please email **Rev. Zackrie** at minister@cedarsuuchurch.org

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 collaborator Al Chung-liang Huang), shared 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**.

and talent to do fun activities with YOUR kids on Sunday mornings.

They're showing up for YOU! Let's get to know them:



ARCHER PHILIP

- Favorite UU hymn: Come Come Whoever You Are (This hymn really encapsulates a big part of what being a UU is to me personally - being open and accepting to all persons.)
- Favorite food: Chicken Curry with vegetables is my guilty pleasure and favorite meal to cook
- Favorite game: Munchkin - A Dungeons & Dragons parody card game I've played with my family since I was young.
- What I am looking forward to most: Fostering a welcoming and engaging space for youth of all ages to look forward to and communicating the core values of Unitarian Universalism for youth to hopefully embrace.

ERIN KEMPKES

- Favorite UU hymn when I was younger: This Little Light of Mine
- Favorite food: Anything chocolate
- Favorite game: Spoons
- What I'm looking forward to most: Getting to explore all the cool nature at Island School with the kids (especially the tire swing and worm bins!)

Cedars Creativity Fair 2021

See What Others Have Been Doing To Cope with Social Isolation

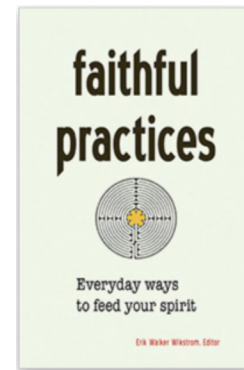
Our identity as a congregational community has been weakened by the COVID-19 pandemic, and one response has been to re-imagine virtual versions of the several after-service **Creativity Fairs** that were held in Webster Hall in recent years.

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!

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 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

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

Cedars Creativity Fair 2021

Warren Read says “Every year we say we’re going with a smaller tree, but then something happens once we’re at the tree farm.”



Safe Gatherings at Cedars

Because we are responsible citizens and follow the science, we are ready as a community 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.
- Vaccinate.
- Physically distance if indoors.
- Don't go near others if sick, exposed to COVID, or tested positive for COVID.

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

Cedars Center Meeting Space

Cedars committees and groups may now reserve meeting space in our office facility by contacting the Office Administrator at: 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).

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.

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,

- 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; 10 guests is the maximum attendance allowed.
- Clean all surfaces and throw out meeting-room trash after meeting.

Home-Hosted (or other location) Meetings

The following guidelines should be followed for meeting in other locations:

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

Reminder: Cedars Office Hours

If you need to come into the office for any reason, the Office Administrator, Carolyn, has office hours from 11am to 3:30pm on Tuesdays and Fridays.

You can also contact her at office@cedarsuuchurch.org.

Pastoral Care Concerns

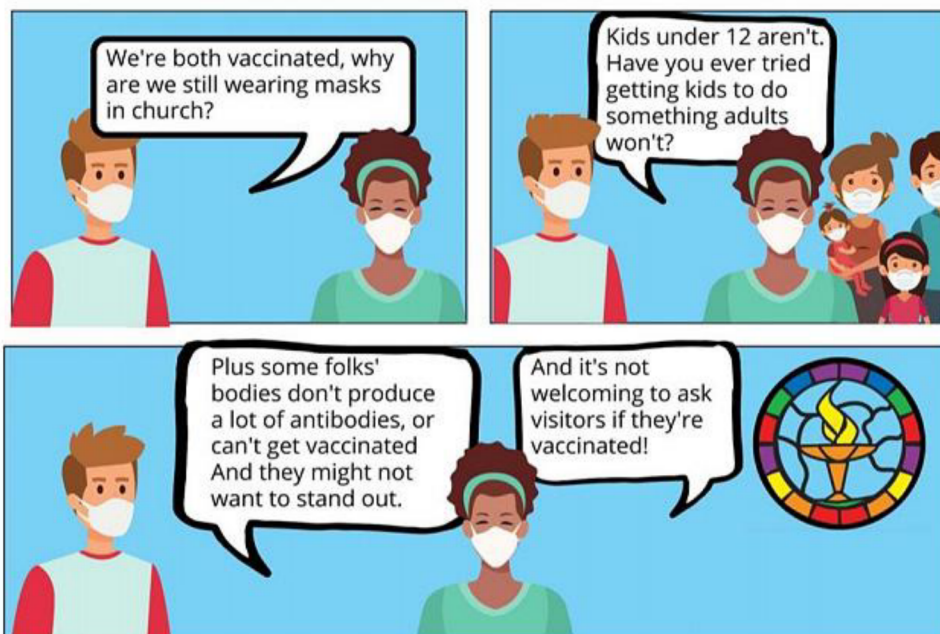
In discussion with the Pastoral Care Team, **Rev. Zackrie** confirmed that he would appreciate being informed if anyone in the Cedars community tests positive for Covid-19.

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.

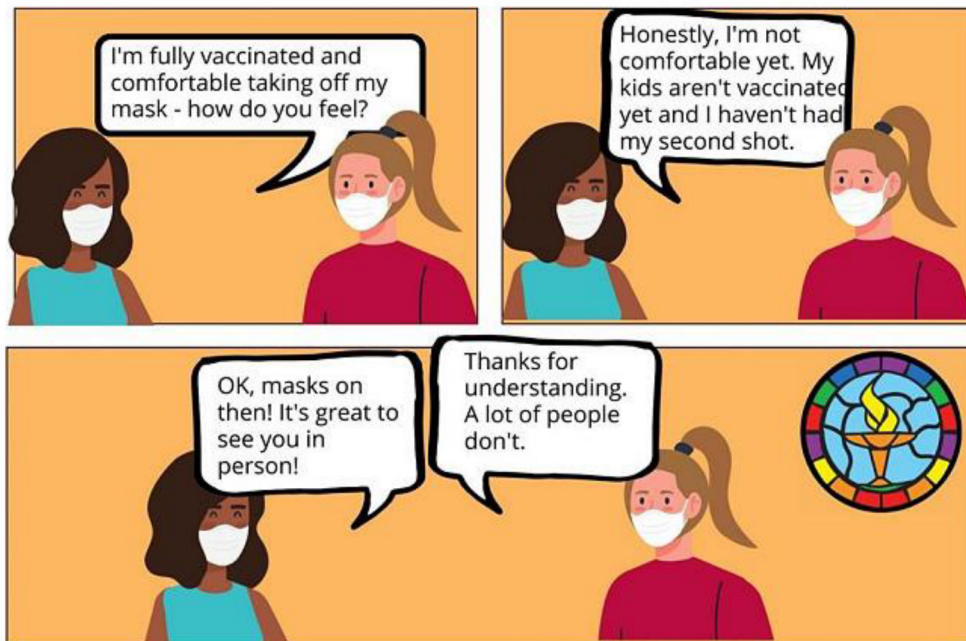
Jane Martin shared evidence that last Sunday's virtual service was fully appreciated at her house.



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

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. - 3:30 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)

