

# The Beacon

A weekly email newsletter from  
Cedars Unitarian Universalist Church  
Serving Bainbridge Island and Northern Kitsap County



**CEDARS CHURCH**  
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

Volume 12 Issue 3 / January 21, 2022

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## Upcoming Services

### The Minimum Wage Machine

**Sunday January 23rd**  
10:00 a.m.  
Virtual Service on Zoom

**Rev. Zackrie Vinczen**  
Gregory Cook, Worship Associate

Self-taught Engineer and Conceptual Artist Blake Fall-Conroy is known for creating works that touch on the socio-economic aspects of our lives. In this service we will reflect on one such work of art titled "The Minimum Wage Machine" and consider our own relationship to labor.

### Giving & Receiving During a Pandemic Shutdown

**Sunday January 30th**  
10:00 a.m.  
Virtual Service on Zoom

#### The Cedars Board of Trustees

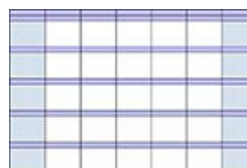
For many of us, it's déjà vu with the Omicron threatening another shutdown. But there have been some unexpected gifts during the pandemic, too, like more family time and rekindling friendships.

What meaningful gifts have you received during the pandemic? What inspired you to give back to others?

The Board will host a discussion on the "interdependent web" of giving and receiving during the pandemic.

**There will be a Mid-Year Congregation Meeting immediately following the service;**

### 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.

**Saturday January 22nd**  
2:00 p.m. Faithful Practices Reading Group  
[Virtual Meeting Link](#)

**Sunday January 23rd**  
10:00 a.m. Virtual Worship Service  
[Live-Stream Service Link](#)  
Use passcode 1959 if required  
Or by phone using 1-253-215-8782

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

**Thursday January 27th**  
7:00 p.m. Board of Trustees Meeting

stay on Zoom when service ends or tune in using same Zoom link.



### News and Announcements

#### Congregational Meeting: January 30

Please mark your calendars for our semi-annual **Congregational Meeting** on January 30th at 10:45 a.m..The Cedars Board of Trustees will host a virtual service with an all-congregation meeting to follow on Zoom.

Cedars has much to celebrate and be grateful for, given the challenges that many churches have faced during the pandemic. We will present a mid-year financial report and update members and friends on the current state of programs, strengths and challenges; there are no issues and/or topics for members to vote upon, so this is informational only. Let's work together to meet these challenges and sustain and nurture our community in 2022.

#### 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**

#### Safe Gatherings at Cedars

##### Path Forward for Next Several Weeks

**Update 01-19-22: We still have a “Severe” COVID rating in Kitsap County per the COVIDactnow.com tracking. We will not have any in-person gatherings and/or meetings until the numbers decline to a safer level.**

The year is ending as it started — with a dangerous virus spiking in our area. This time it's Omicron and it's on fire around the country. After consultation with medical experts; evaluating the rates of infection and positivity in Kitsap County; reviewing the UUA guidelines; and consulting with members of the Congregation, the Board of Trustees has decided on the following path forward for the month of January.

1. All services will be via zoom for the month of January.
2. Cedars Center will be closed to meetings unless the organizer receives authorization from Reverend Zackrie.
3. For committees, church-related meetings, and classes please consider either virtual



**Rev. Zackrie Vinczen**

#### Service Follow up

Last Sunday's zoom service featuring **Fran Korten's** sermon exploring meaningful implications of our UU 7th Principle was recorded for subsequent viewing by those unable to attend the live service and is now available at this [link](#).

meetings or outdoor venues.

4. Confirm booster status with all those who have verified vaccinations to prepare for possible in-person services in February.

Lastly, as a reminder, the UUA has four points for congregations to follow during these times.

- Root decisions in the values of consent and inclusiveness.
- Follow the science.
- Go slow and be flexible.
- Be realistic with expectations of ourselves and others.

We agree with these principles and ask that people be respectful, responsible, and flexible as we deal with yet another wave. Our goal is to be together as a religious community, but to do it safely during these difficult times.

We will continue to monitor the situation and provide frequent updates over the next several weeks.

The Cedars Board of Trustees: **Mike Cox, Carol Ann Davidson, Herb Hethcote, Jeff Philip, Susan Shaffer, Kassia Sing and Robyn Teske**

## 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 are meeting once a month and utilizing the UU Principles as touchstones and reference points for exploration.

Contact **Cory Munson** for more information.

## Social Justice Committee News



**Embracing the  
Interdependent  
Web of Life**

*Sunday Service*  
**1.16.2022**

## 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.

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)

## Faithful Practices Reading Group

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

**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**.

### Super Supper Sign-Ups

Cedars in partnership with Kol Shalom offers Super Supper dinners on the last Tuesday of each month. Super suppers are a free meal for those in need provided by members of the Bainbridge Island Interfaith Council.

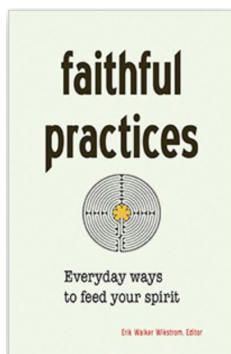
We now have a regular sign up for you to use each month so that all in our congregation have a chance to participate. Please consider signing up for one or more slots [here](#).

Thank you so much for continuing to help our neighbors in need!

Please contact **Penny Brewer** or **Emily Mockett** for more information.

**Show the World! Car Magnets Available**

"Show the world all the love in your heart," is a quote from Carol King's song *Beautiful*. Attach a Cedars car



*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:  
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](mailto:Sandy.Spears@att.net)

### Sources of Our Faith: Spiritual Reflection Group

Starting in February through May, the Cedars Community is invited to join Rev. Zackrie for a regular time of reflection on the sources of our Unitarian Universalist faith. This gathering will take place twice a week on zoom and is a time for participants to engage in thoughtful reflection on a variety of readings found in the book "[Sources of Our Faith: Inspirational Readings](#)," written by Kathleen Rolenz.

Folks should feel to attend one or all the sessions as your schedule permits. A complete schedule for both sessions of this reflection group can be found below.



magnet to your vehicle and “show the world” a path to our welcoming spiritual community – Cedars UU Church - that people might not have considered before. A Cedars car magnet can be yours for a \$25 donation via PayPal or Check.

Want more than one? If using PayPal through the Donate button on Cedars' website, select the “Car Magnet Event” donation option and make multiple donations of \$25 each. Our report from PayPal will show how many \$25 donations you made, and we will have that many car magnets for you. If donating by check, write the number of magnets you want in the “Memo” line at the bottom left of your check. If you decide to donate \$100, but want only one car magnet, just write “one magnet” on the Memo line.

To obtain your Cedars car magnet(s), you can see Jane Martin at Cedars Center from 2-4 pm on Mondays (1/17, 1/24 and 1/31). She will have them ready for you just inside the door of Cedars Center, based on our list from PayPal and those who paid by check. (Bring cash or a check with you if you prefer that to mailing ahead.) If you cannot pick up your pre-ordered magnet(s), email **Jane at [janemartin4569@gmail.com](mailto:janemartin4569@gmail.com)** and she will mail it/them to you.

Thank you for your continued support of our beloved Cedars community.

## Evans Reading Group

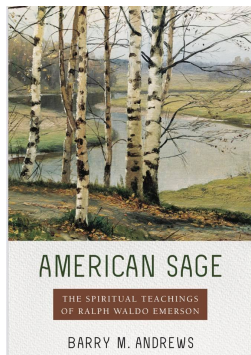
**We invite you to join us on Tuesday March 8th at 1:30 p.m.**

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 March selection is ***American Sage - The Spiritual Teachings of Ralph Waldo Emerson***, the latest title by Cedars member **Barry Andrews**.

Even during his lifetime, Ralph Waldo Emerson was called the Sage of Concord, a fitting title for this leader of the American Transcendentalist movement. Everything that he said and wrote directly addressed the conduct of life, and unsurprisingly, he sought to rescue spirituality from decay, eschewing dry preaching and rote rituals.

Barry has spent years studying Emerson, finding wisdom and guidance in his teachings



Thursdays @ 10am and Saturdays @ 2pm on the following dates:

2/3 & 2/5  
3/3 & 3/5  
3/10 & 3/12  
3/24 & 3/26  
4/7 & 4/9  
4/14 & 4/16  
4/21 & 4/23  
5/5 & 5/7  
5/12 & 5/14  
5/26 & 5/28

For more information (or if you need help purchasing a copy of the book), please contact Rev. Zackrie at [minister@cedarsuuchurch.org](mailto: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** 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](#)).

and practices, and witnessing how the spiritual lives of others are enriched when they grasp the many meanings in his work. Based on scholarship grounded in historical detail, this enlightening book considers the nineteenth-century religious and intellectual crosscurrents that shaped Emerson's worldview to reveal how his spiritual teachings remain timeless and modern, universal and uniquely American.

We will discuss the book (via Zoom) on March 8th. For more information contact **Alan Miller** or **Mary Romeo**.

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### Cedars Creativity Fair 2022

#### 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 2022

**Jane Martin** shared this photo and was asked "Those are hammers? Jewelry hammers?" Is that how you store them? Jane's smiling response was "Yes and Yes and Yes!"



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/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.

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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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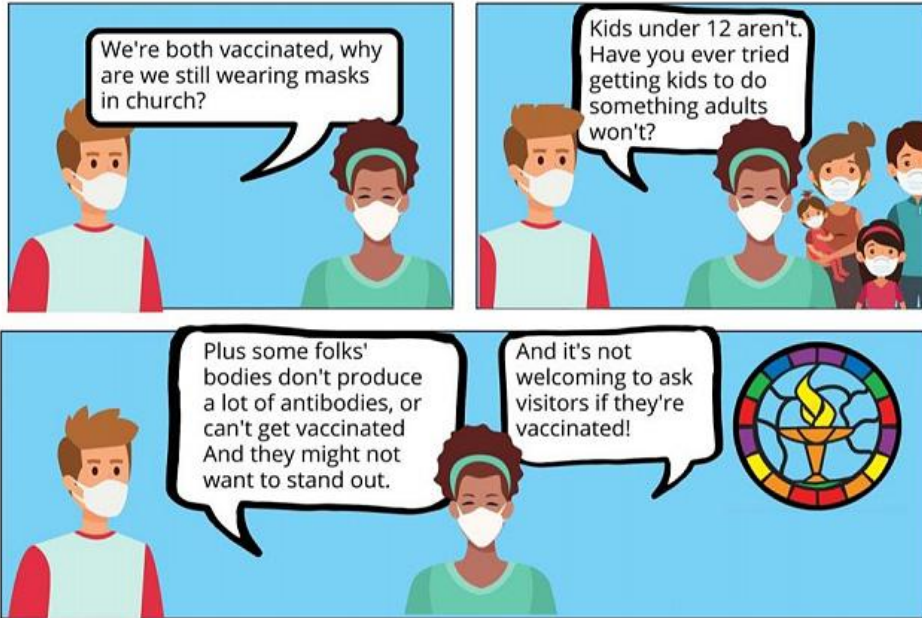
### Pastoral Care Concerns

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.

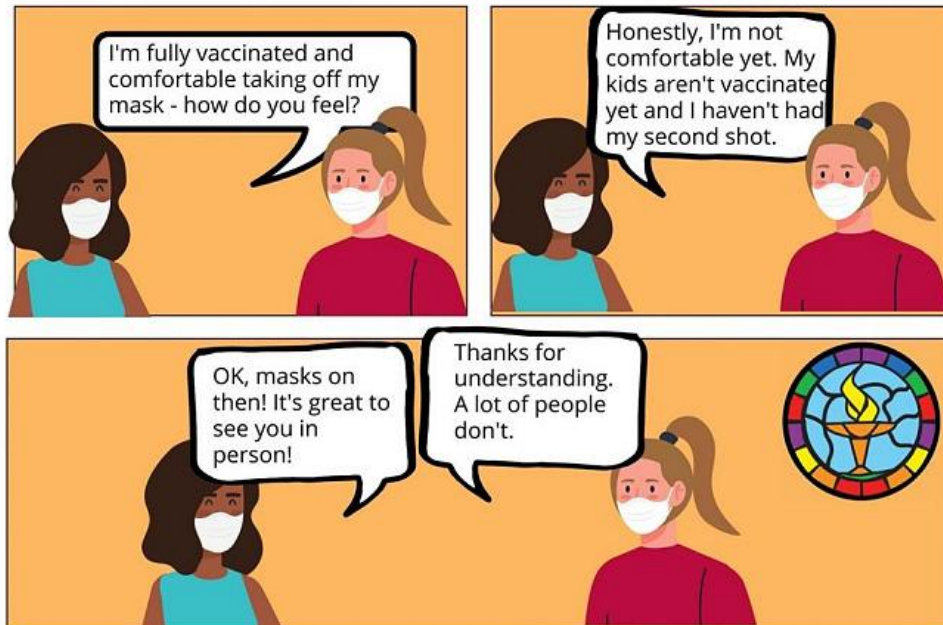
The information will remain confidential if the person so wishes, but Rev. Zackrie's awareness could help with contact tracing as well as determining what support and possible services could be offered by Pastoral Care Team members and perhaps the larger Cedars UU community as well.



## MASKS IN CHURCH?



## CONSENT: MASK EDITION!



[Print the Beacon Newsletter](#)

[Member Directory](#)

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.

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](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)

**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](mailto:office@cedarsuuchurch.org)

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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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