

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 5 / February 4, 2022

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Upcoming Services

"Ain't I a Woman?"

Sunday February 6th
10:00 a.m.
Virtual Service on Zoom

Rev. Zackrie Vinczen
Johanna Munson, Worship Associate

In 1851 Sojourner Truth delivered a speech at the Women's Convention gathered in Akron Ohio. This speech challenged white folks to see the worth, dignity, and femininity of Black Women.

In this service we will reflect on Sojourner Truth's speech and consider how it can still speak to contemporary audiences.

"New Bones"

Sunday February 13th
10:00 a.m.
In-Person Service in Webster Hall

Rev. Zackrie Vinczen
Grace, Worship Associate

In her poem "New Bones", Lucille Clifton reflects on the struggle for liberation experienced by past generations of Black Women and articulates her connection to these past generations.

Join us for this service as we consider the poem "New Bones" the power of reflecting on the generational struggle for liberation.

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 February 5th
2:00 p.m. Sources of Our Faith
[Spiritual Reflection Group Link](#)

Sunday February 6th
10:00 a.m. Virtual Worship Service
[Zoom Service Link](#)
Use passcode 1959 if required
Or by phone using 1-253-215-8782

Immediately After Service Coffee Hour
[Coffee Hour Link](#) (same link for service & gathering)
Use passcode 1959 if required
Or by phone using 1-253-215-8782

Monday February 7th
4-6:00 p.m. Monday Mingle
In-Person at the Cedars Center

Thursday February 10rd
10:00 a.m. Sources of Our Faith
[Spiritual Reflection Group Link](#)

News and Announcements



The Belonging Initiative

Our Year-long Exploration of Promise and Possibilities

At the congregational meeting last Sunday, the Cedars Board of Trustees presented the findings and recommendations of its year-long **Belonging Initiative**. The Initiative was started in January of 2021 with the significant objective of promoting and achieving a deeper sense of belonging among members and friends of the congregation.

Over the course of the year, in a variety of discussion settings and gatherings, the Board invited and listened to many stories of connection as well as disconnection. At the congregational meeting in June, members and friends brainstormed ideas for moving forward and deepening a sense of belonging in four suggestively titled areas of focus:

- **Come, Come Whoever You Are**
- **Beyond Pastoral Care**
- **Living Our Values**
- **Cedars of the Future**

The first area explored how Cedars might become a more welcoming and diverse congregation.

The second area explored how we might use the whole web of Cedars relationships to care for each other.

The third area explored how we might live the Cedars mission in our greater community and make the world better.

The fourth area explored how we might expand, enrich, and nurture the Cedars community and especially how we keep and attract more families.

Now, concluding the effort and capturing the content as well as the enthusiasm and recommendations for further action, a detailed slideshow presentation documenting the **Belonging Initiative** findings was shared during last-week's congregational meeting.

The presentation is linked for viewing here

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

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

Safe Gatherings at Cedars

Our Plan for the Next Several Weeks

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.

1. Cedars Center will be closed to meetings unless the organizer receives authorization from Reverend Zackrie.
2. For committees, church-related meetings, and classes please consider either virtual meetings or outdoor venues.
3. 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**

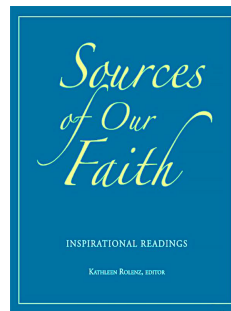
Monday Mingle!

Drop by Cedars Center between 4:00 and 6:00 pm and visit with Board member **Kassia Sing** for an in-person conversation. Come on your way home from work, on your way to dinner or while on your daily walk. Lay-led and open to all!

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



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 free 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.

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

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 meet at 7:00 p.m. on the second Sunday of the month and utilize the UU Principles as touchstones and reference points for exploration.

Contact **Cory Munson** for more information.

Social Justice Committee News

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

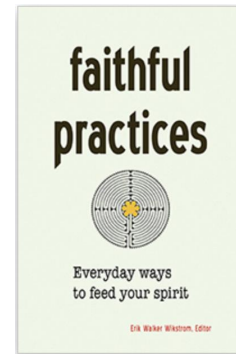
The past two years have been hard for many. It is easy to feel helpless given some of the challenges we are facing in the world. Working together, even in small ways, can help to bring a sense of purpose and integrity through living our values. It can also help to ease anxiety. Many of our congregants 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

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 date:
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.

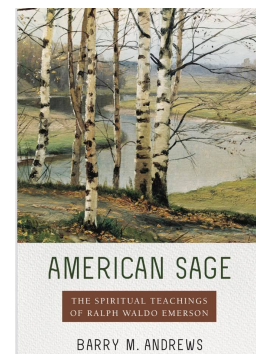
Join them in taking an hour per week to call or write friends, utilities, newspapers, and representatives with a bunch of other awesome people. They are present at <https://www.climatechangemakers.org/> and will welcome your joining with them.

For more information contact **Sandy Spears** at Sandy.Spears@att.net

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.



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.

Car Magnet Fundraiser



Make a special donation to Cedars and receive a Cedars UU Church car magnet. Donate \$25 or more via cash, check or PayPal – one magnet may be yours for every \$25. Display your magnet(s) to help people know about our welcoming spiritual community, and to help Cedars grow.

To donate in person by cash or check and pick up your car magnet(s) at the same time, visit Jane Martin at Cedars Center on Mondays 2-4 pm. If donating by a mailed-in 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. If using PayPal through the Donate button on Cedars’ website, select the “Car Magnet Event” donation option. Every \$25 donation transaction you make will appear on our PayPal report so we know how many magnets to set aside for you.

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

A review summary: "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 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**.

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](#))

If you cannot pick up your pre-ordered magnet(s), email **Jane** at janemartin4569@gmail.com and she will mail it/them to you. Thank you for your continued support of our beloved Cedars community.

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

As **John & Hilda Wiens** prepare for an upcoming move to Olympia, artist/architect John has been sorting and sharing an impressive collection of his own paintings and drawings, including this one:



Join us for a Cedars Hike!

Come join Rod Kempkes and Mike Cox for a hike up Green Mountain on Saturday February 12th. The hike is around 6 miles roundtrip with a 1000 foot elevation gain.

See the link below for a description of the hike (<https://www.wta.org/go-hiking/hikes/green-mountain-1>).

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/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

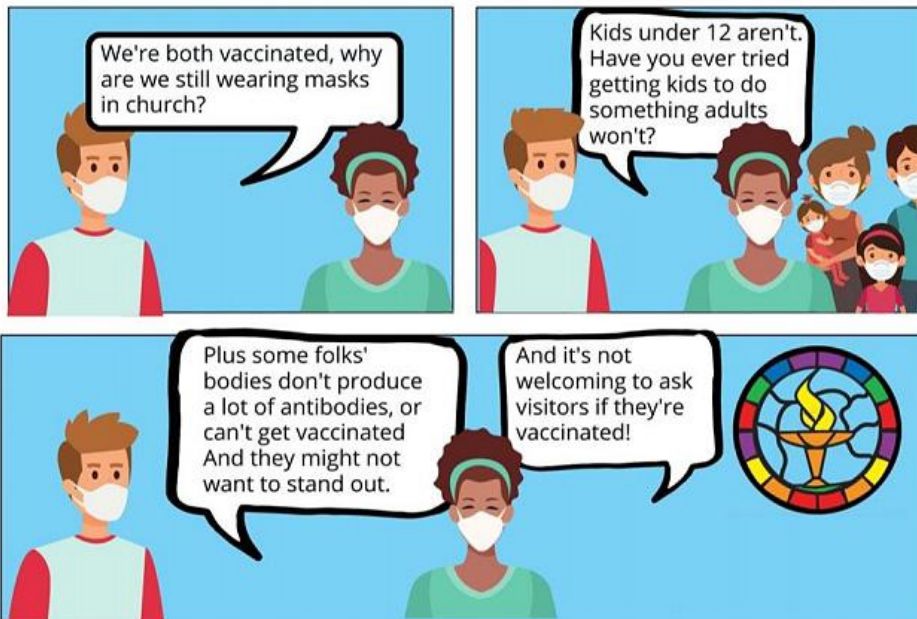
In discussion with the Pastoral Care Team, **Rev. Zackrie** confirmed that he would appreciate being informed if anyone in the Cedars community tests positive for Covid-19.

The information will remain confidential if the person so wishes, but Rev. Zackrie's awareness could help with contact tracing as

If you are interested please contact **Mike Cox** at toxman57@gmail.com or call 206-799-3725 to discuss.

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

[Member Directory](#)

Members and Friends can easily search our online Church Directory for contact information. The link is

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.

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. Zackie 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

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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)



Cedars Unitarian Universalist Church | 284 Madrona Way NE, #128, Bainbridge Island, WA 98110

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