

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 7 / February 18, 2022

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Upcoming Services

Side With Love

Sunday February 20th
10:00 a.m.
Virtual Worship Service

Johanna Munson, Facilitator

Last year, four themes from **Widening the Circle of Concern**, a report recommending transformational change in the practices of white supremacy and other oppressions in the UUA, were highlighted in the annual **30 Days of Love** celebration of the UUA and its 1,000+ congregations and covenanted communities.

This UUA-shared service recalls those themes: **Living our Values, Hospitality and Inclusion, Educating for Liberation, and Restoration and Reparations.**

What if to "side with love" meant making bold, faith-full choices? What if it were even a little bit scary? This service brings together worship leaders and musicians from across the country to offer hopeful, moving, and challenging reminders about what we, as Unitarian Universalists, are called to do and **BE** in the world.

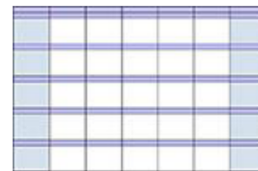
Black Girl Magic

Sunday February 27th
10:00 a.m.
In-Person Service in Webster Hall

Rev. Zackrie Vinczen
Gregory Cook, Worship Associate

The term "Black Girl Magic" has come into popular use as a way of celebrating the beauty, power, and resilience of Black Women. In this service we will reflect on the power of this phrase in the lives of Black Women today.

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 19th
10:00 a.m. Japanese Exclusion Work Day

2:00 p.m. Faithful Practices Reading Group
[Virtual Meeting Link](#)

Sunday February 20th
10:00 a.m. In-Person Service
[Virtual Service Link](#)

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

Monday February 21st
2:00 p.m. Car Magnet Fundraiser
Cedars Center Meeting Room

4:00 p.m. Monday Mingle
Cedars Center Meeting Room

Co-Presidents Update



Welcome to the first monthly President's Update for the Beacon! The past six months have challenged our Cedars community and with no playbook for this time in history, we are all trying our best to find the path through the haze.

Because we attend a monthly Board Presidents' meeting, we know that many UU congregations have similar challenges: declining membership, financial challenges, difficulty in finding staff, and balancing in-person and virtual gatherings. In comparison to other congregations locally and nationally, Cedars is holding its own for 2021-2022.

But we heard loud and clear that you want opportunities to safely reconnect in-person and to revitalize what for many of us is a critical element of why we are UU's; getting out into our community and doing "good".

This "good" energy is spreading-- whether that is trying to figure out how we can meet in-person safely and have a live-streaming option, to providing music for services, to being creative for our stewardship drive. And thanks to your helping hands, we are springing into action:

- At the Social Justice Committee and Program Council meetings, many people raised their hands and said, "I am in and here is what I can do".
- Faith Formation has a new energized group; the OWL program brought back old friends and new ones, and will hopefully thrive in the fall after being postponed due to Omicron.
- People are volunteering to host March Stewardship Gatherings that will bring us back together.
- We are grateful that many people have volunteered to help at our in-person services as greeters, chair and worship set up teams, and as Service Setup Leaders.
- Twice-a-month "Monday Mingle" is an open-door, drop-in activity at Cedars Center for people to connect, chat and simply be together in a safe place.
- CEDARS THIS WEEK email will continue and offer reminders on how to stay connected for our congregation.

We also all need to take a moment and reach out to our friends in the congregation. We have heard that many people have felt left out or abandoned during the pandemic. We ask you to take a moment to call someone you haven't talked to for a while and just check in.

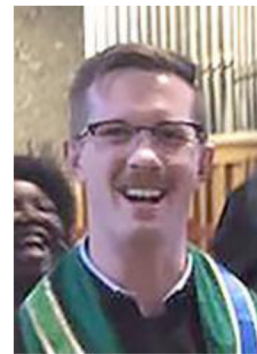
Lastly, there's a hole in our hearts with the

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



Sad News

It's with sadness that I write to inform the Cedars community of another death of someone dear to us: **Rev. Jeanne Pupke**. Jeanne died in hospital last week after sustaining a severe spinal cord injury during a fall.

Jeanne became known to this congregation in 2002 when she served as the Ministerial Intern under the supervision of the Rev. Dr. Peter

death of Diana Peters. She shared her UU values openly and generously with all. We are a better church because of Diana's contributions.

In Peace,
Mike Cox & Kassia Sing, Co-Presidents

Safe Gatherings at Cedars

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

The Board of Trustees has established guidelines for responsible behavior at all of our in-person meetings and gatherings, as summarized on our Cedars website and linked [here](#).

Monday Mingle!

Drop by Cedars Center between **4:00 and 6:00 pm on the first and third Mondays of the month** 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!

Volunteer Work Day at the Japanese American Exclusion Memorial



Join in beautifying the **Japanese American Exclusion Memorial** at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday February 19th in preparation for the upcoming "**80 Years of Healing**" event. This is a wonderful social justice opportunity to connect with our wider community, both past and present, while also connecting as a congregation through the joy of helpful industry.

Please bring masks, proof of vaccination, favorite gardening tools (e.g.

Raible, and a subsequent highlight of her relationship here was ordination into ministry by the Cedars congregation in 2005. Jeanne has served as the minister of First Unitarian Universalist in Richmond, VA. since 2006 and was a candidate for President of the UUA in 2016.

An obituary for Rev. Jeanne Pupke can be found here: <https://death-obituary.com/rev-jeanne-pupke-death-unitarian-universalist-has-died/>

As we join in mourning Jeanne's death, I ask that you hold Regina, her wife, her family and friends, her congregation, and all those within our faith and beyond who were blessed to know Jeanne in your prayers during this time of loss.

You may send messages of comfort with Jeanne's family on the [CaringBridge site](#) or by sending cards to First UU at 1000 Blanton Ave. Richmond, VA 23221

My thoughts are with all those impacted by Jeanne's death. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if you are in need of a listening presence or space to reflect on this loss.

Rev. Zackrie



Cedars and guests 'laying-on-of-hands" to celebrate Rev. Jeanne's ordination in 2005

Another Passing

Former Cedars member **Elsa LaFlamme** died peacefully in her sleep on January 11 in Albuquerque New Mexico. Her obituary (linked [here](#)) reminds us that "Elsa had a wonderful life; she traveled the world, she became a great adventurer, she was deeply spiritual, life was her growth medium, and she loved and was loved."

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.

pruners and clipping bags), as well as a personal lunch bag and water bottle for a picnic with Cedars friends afterwards.

Map Link: [Japanese American Exclusion Memorial, Pritchard Park, 4192 Eagle Harbor Drive NE](#)

Registration is required!

BI Parks Volunteer Registration Link: [BIJAEM Volunteer Day Registration](#) (no cost)

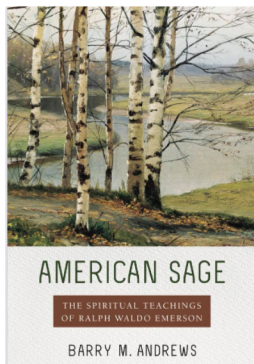
For more information contact [Alison Stokes](#).



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** (who can also provide copies for sale).

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."

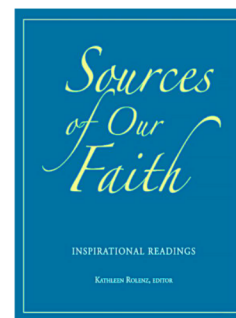
Barry has spent years studying Emerson, finding wisdom and guidance in his teachings and practices, and witnessing how the spiritual lives of others are enriched when they grasp the many meanings in his work. Based on scholarship grounded in historical detail, this enlightening book considers the nineteenth-century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

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



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:

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

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

Parent Chalice Circle

Parents, Grandparents, and caregivers! You are warmly welcome to join this monthly circle where we share in the questions and experiences of nurturing faith formation in our children and in our own lives.



We meet on the second Sunday of the month and utilize the UU Principles as touchstones and reference points for exploration.

Please join us! Our next meeting will be Sunday, March 13 at 7:00 p.m. using this **Zoom link** with Rev. Zackrie and Cory Munson co-leading.

Contact **Cory Munson** for more information.

March Month of Stewardship Gatherings: Hosts Needed

March is Stewardship Month, and we are focusing on building community. Rather than our traditional cottage meetings with a stewardship presentation, we want to encourage rebuilding community connections that are the foundation of our congregation. This year, we are asking for people to host a gathering, whether in person or online, so that we can spend some time together and feel the warmth of community. The only Stewardship Month commitment of the host is to thank them for joining the event and remind people to turn in their pledge forms.

Community events could take any form. Backyard gathering, lunch or dinner, game night, book reading, hike or a myriad of other ideas. These events are the same as many of us have hosted in the past for auctions and fundraisers, but this time there is no upfront donation. Just a reminder to make your annual pledge. All events should follow the [Cedars COVID Safety Protocols](#).

To sign up and host an event, simply fill out this [Online Event Form](#). Your event will be listed among other events where people can sign up to attend. Gather with old friends, make some new ones, and help your congregation regain what makes us so special - our interconnectedness.

For more information, contact Stewardship Chair, **Jeff Philip** philip.jeff@gmail.com

You can be a

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



Movie Group Returning

Our Cedars community has experienced many losses over the past two years. Many of

us who had been active participants for some time in Cedars have pulled back from involvement in the church. With our desire to see the Cedars community thrive and to be more inclusive, we are interested in reviving the film group, now called **Film Fans**, with a different meeting time and more inclusiveness.

We will meet on Zoom and be open to all those interested in watching a selected film on their own and then meeting to discuss, analyze, and interpret the film, often using it as an opportunity to explore our own social, political and far-reaching ideas. Because we would be meeting on Zoom, those of you who are living elsewhere during part of the year or have moved away would be able to participate. Also, it would be open to non-Cedars participants. Each month a different person can select a film for the group to watch and then facilitate the discussion. We will meet on the second Thursday of each month from 7:00-8:00, beginning March 10th. The film we have chosen for our first gathering is "**The Power of the Dog**" an Academy Award nominee available on Netflix.

If interested, please email **Joan Spencer** (gotospencers@yahoo.com) or **Linda Andrews** (lcgandrews@gmail.com).

Jane Martin will facilitate Zoom and will provide a link to the meeting.

We look forward to seeing many of you at our first Film Fans gathering on March 10th.

Joan & Linda

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.

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

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

Elsa LaFlamme (former Cedars member who passed away several weeks ago) was an accomplished artist as well as an educator with an internet presence and gallery at earthprayers.com (click on the word Gallery in the home page title).

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.

Car Magnet Fundraiser

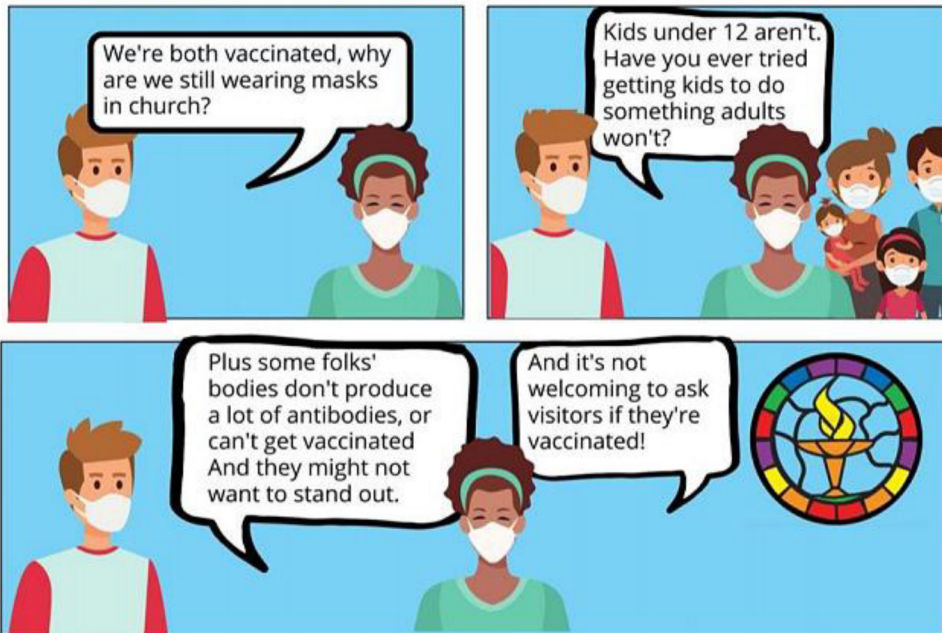
Make a special donation to Cedars and receive a Cedars UU Church car magnet. Donate \$25 or more via cash, check or PayPal – one magnet may be yours for every \$25. Display your magnet(s) to help people know about our welcoming spiritual community, and to help Cedars grow.

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.

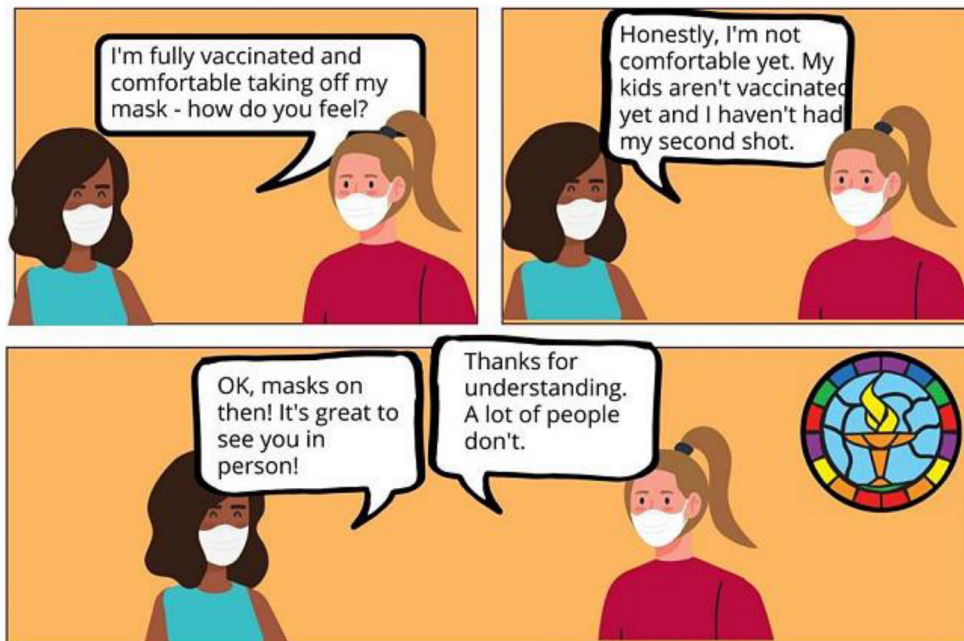
If you can't pick up pre-ordered magnet(s) email jjanemartin4569@gmail.com and she will mail it/them to you. Thank you for your continued support of our beloved Cedars community.



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)

