

# The Beacon

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



**CEDARS CHURCH**  
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

Volume 10 Issue 49 December 18, 2020

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## Upcoming Services

### Virtual Christmas Pageant

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

**Rev. Zackrie Vinczen and Kathryn Jay Penny Brewer, Worship Associate**

In this service we will bring the Christmas narrative into the 21st century with our 2020 virtual pageant.

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### Hopelessly Hopeful

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**Thursday December 24th**  
7:00 p.m.  
Virtual Christmas Eve Service

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

The Christmas story, is a story about the birth of hope in hopeless times. Join us (on Zoom) at 7pm on December 24th as we kindle the light of hope together.

**All participants are encouraged to have a candle with them to light as part of this service.**

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### Music and Being

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**Sunday December 27th**  
10:00 a.m.  
Virtual Worship Service

**Susan Mashiyama**  
**Jenny Weaver, Worship Associate**

Music can move us to tears, help us to learn, call us to battle, and inspire us to dance with joy. As we move forward into the New Year, join former biology researcher and current UU music leader and harp player Susan T. Mashiyama, PhD as we explore the deeper meaning of music and how it helps us to

### 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 title to reveal a drop down with more information and an event description.

**Saturday December 19th**  
7:00 p.m. Cedars Movie Group

**Sunday December 20th**  
10:00 a.m. Sunday Worship Service  
[Virtual Service Link](#)  
11:00 a.m. Congregational Coffee Hour  
[Virtual Coffee Hour Link](#)  
Use passcode 1959 if required  
or by phone using 1-253-215-8782

**Monday December 21st**  
7:00 p.m. Cedars Knitting/Crafting Circle

**Tuesday December 22nd**  
7:00 p.m. Meditation Group  
[Virtual Meditation Link](#)

**Wednesday December 23rd**  
7:30 p.m. Choir Practice  
[Virtual Choir Practice Link](#)

**Thursday December 24th**  
7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service  
[Virtual Christmas Eve Service Link](#)

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**Cedars UU Church is a  
Welcoming Congregation  
and Green Sanctuary**

express and experience spirituality.

## News and Announcements

### The Rewards of Service

It has been deeply rewarding to serve as President of Cedars for the past 2½ years. It turns out that Gandhi was right when he said: "The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others."



I was interested in joining the Board because my children were almost grown, Donald Trump had just been elected, and I wanted to make a difference where I could. I was also excited about the upcoming changes with Rev. Thomas serving as an interim minister, and we faced a search for a settled minister. It was a challenging and vibrant time in Cedars history.

I was also terrified to join because most of my volunteer experience had been spent in the RE classroom. I didn't know much about the business of our church. Further, I really didn't know anyone who was serving on the Board with me. I discovered that we have a talented and engaged leadership team, and the relationships that I have built while serving on this Board have been an incredible gift.

Rev. Thomas told me that serving on the Board is a spiritual practice. I have tried to approach my work on the Board with that in mind. This is my fourth year serving on the Board—My first year I served as Vice-President and the last two and half years as President. I will finish my last six months as an At-Large member. I am now passing the torch to Dawna Kramer who will take over as Board president on January 1.

The word for 2020 is resilience. I recently read an article that talked about the four elements of resilience: Purpose, Connection, Hope and Flexibility. I thought about how this applies to Cedars and think that we have done an outstanding job meeting each of these elements. I feel good knowing that I have helped to build the resilience of our community, and I am confident that Rev. Zackrie and Dawna will lead us forward into an even brighter future.

Last Friday, current and some former Board members gave me a surprise thank you. As I looked at the faces on Zoom, I realized how many people I got to know and love by making the decision to serve on the Board. We will have three open Board positions in June. If someone from the Nominating Committee calls you, think twice before you say no. Think of serving as an opportunity to work with great people who share your values. You might be surprised at the rewards that

### Our Congregational Mission

*Worship with open hearts  
Nurture a learning spirit  
Serve justice with compassion  
Love without judgment*

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**Rev. Zackrie Vinczen**

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### Faith Formation at Cedars

#### An Advent Calendar

Advent is the traditional period beginning four Sundays before Christmas and observed by some Christians as a hopeful season of prayer and fasting in anticipation of the birth of a new era.



To encourage reflection and help to lead us toward a deeper commitment to justice and compassion in this current troubled time, Cedars has created an Advent Calendar! Every day, open a new digital box and enjoy a reflection, a poem, a song, a story! Go to the [Advent Link](#) to start your adventure

#### Chalice Lighting as a Spiritual Practice

You may have noticed a number of different folks lighting and extinguishing the chalice in our Sunday services. It's part of an effort to get more people involved and to make sure we "see" each other even when we can't meet in person.

Do you want to light the chalice? It doesn't have to be a solo affair either! Families and couples can do this together. We all look forward to seeing you. More information about doing this is available [here](#).

#### The Chalice Camp Song

come when working with and in the service of others in our community.

**Heidi Parkington-Thai**

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## Meditation

**Cedars Meditation Group  
Every Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.  
Virtual Sessions**



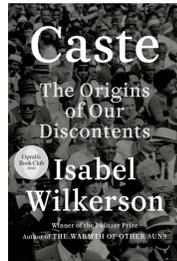
Although the zoom format is not the same as meeting in person, it is a step in committing to a regular meditation practice. Each session includes 5 minutes of chanting, 25 minutes of silent meditation and at least 30 minutes of informal group discussion.

If you are interested in joining this group, or if you'd like some information about beginning a meditation practice, please contact **Dawna Kramer** at [raddjk@yahoo.com](mailto:raddjk@yahoo.com) or by phone from the Breeze directory.

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## Cross Cultural Book Group

**Caste, The Origins of Our Discontents** by *Isabel Wilkerson*.



Virtual discussion of this important book will continue on January 8th at 1:00 p.m. covering parts I & II

This deeply moving and thought-provoking book explores how brutal misperceptions about race have disfigured the American experiment, and how the interrelated but distinct concepts of race and caste coexist and reinforce each other.

For further information, contact zoom host **Herb Hethcote** or discussion host **Barbara Golden**. The Zoom discussion link and invitation will be shared prior to the next session.

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## Cedars Movie Group

**Join us for a Zoom discussion tomorrow Saturday, December 19th, at 7pm:**



The Cedars Movie Group meets monthly for social evenings and discussion of a selected movie that participants have viewed previously.

Tomorrow the group will discuss the film **Peanut Butter Falcon**. After running away from a residential nursing home to pursue his dream of becoming a pro wrestler, a man who has Down Syndrome makes friends with an

My kids and I learned this song when they went to Chalice Camp in Oakland, California. It was written by Rev. Sheri Prud'homme and Laila Ibrahim, who together run Chalice Camp through the Oakland UU Church. Since I learned the song nine years ago, it has become a faithful companion, a tiny earworm that reminds me of what I believe, what I hold dear. My daughter Annie joined me for the singing part! [Link to Chalice Camp Song](#)

## And an Invitation



Do you know any high school students who would like to explore Unitarian Universalism with other high schoolers?

YUUP (the Young Unitarian Universalists Project) is launching a platform to forge connections, work together, support each other, and find leadership opportunities. It will have a variety of different topics and groups within it for UU youth and recent bridgers across the country.

There are a couple of steps to joining the network: first, the youth must fill out the [Youth Drop-In Registry for their region](#) or [registry for recent bridgers](#). Once the registry is filled out and confirmed by a parent and a minister or church administrator, youth will receive a Mighty Network invitation to get on YUUP.

Spread the word! YUUP is for everyone. We hope to see you soon!

**Kathryn Jay**  
**Faith Formation Lead**  
360-559-2381

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## Chalice Circle Invitation

Are you interested in meeting regularly with people to listen and learn and to deepen your spiritual connections to yourself and your community? Consider joining a Cedars Chalice Circle!

### What Is a Chalice Circle?

Chalice Circles are groups of 8-10 committed participants who come together with a trained leader to nurture spiritual growth through deep listening and open-hearted sharing. At the beginning of each month, participants will receive a packet of materials with readings, podcasts, spiritual practices, and questions for contemplation. Each participant chooses one spiritual exercise and a deep question to sit with for the course of a month. At Cedars, Chalice Circles will meet twice a month for two months, then monthly after that for an hour and 15 minutes on zoom.

### Why Join a Chalice Circle Group?

**In Chalice Circle, we build trust by speaking our own truth**, listening receptively to the truth of others, and asking each other honest, open questions instead of giving counsel. We offer each other the healing and

outlaw who becomes his coach and ally.

This tenderhearted adventure film stars Shia LaBeouf, Dakota Johnson, and Downs Syndrome actor Zack Gotsagen. Filmed in Georgia, the story is set in Outer Banks, NC.

Available on Amazon Prime & Hulu. Get the Zoom link by contacting **Jane Martin**.

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## Cedars Knitting/Crafting Circle

**Monday, December 21st**  
**Time: 7:00 p.m.**

Cedars knitters and crafters are invited to join virtual social gatherings on first Wednesdays of the month at 1:30 p.m. and third Mondays at 7:00 p.m.,

Bring your current project, tea or coffee, and snack for virtual sharing and connection. If you don't have a current project in mind, you can knit for charity with your favorite organization or Knitting4Peace.org.

Contact **Carol Ann Davidson** for questions or details.

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## Save the Date

Our mid-fiscal year Congregational Meeting is scheduled for January 10, 2021 immediately following the service. Please join the Board of Trustees as we welcome our incoming president, **Dawna Kramer**, and discuss our vision and aspirational goals for 2021 and beyond.

Rev. Zackrie started the conversation about Belonging in his service this past Sunday. The Board would like to engage in a dialogue about what that means and how we can ensure that families, people off Island, members/friends who work during the day, and other groups can feel that Cedars is a place where they belong.

We will also share our usual mid-year financials and other business.

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## Cedars Creativity Fair 2020

**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 a virtual version 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 better.

empowering gifts of silence and laughter. Supported by others, we work to develop a daily practice that increases our capacity for love and wonder and attention. Chalice Circles groups offer the gift of spiritual (re)connection. Around us swirls a shallow, frantic and materialistic culture that too often leaves us cut off from our deepest selves, life's gifts, and needs greater than our own. Chalice Circles exists to support a journey of reconnection to life, to others, and to ourselves.

**In Chalice Circle, we listen to each other with intention.** It's a gift not often offered in our culture. Most of the time, we are "talked at" rather than listened to, bombarded with information and demands that drown out our own voice. Being listened to by trusted companions helps us hear our own voice again. Theologian Rebecca Parker calls this "the miracle of authentic narrative, made possible by listening that holds still long enough to let our truth be told." It gives us our story back.

**In Chalice Circle, we listen to our own lives and find the sacred in the everyday.** Joining a Chalice Circle invites us to take another look and dance with life in a new way. Through spiritual practices and questions focused on our daily living, we engage the world not as an obstacle course to get through, but as a host of holy voices calling us to greater loving and living.

Interested? Use form below or contact Kathryn Jay (faith.formation@cedarsuuchurch.org) for more information. You do not need to be a Cedars member or Cedars friend to join a Chalice Circle, so if you have a friend who you think might be interested, please let them know. All are welcome.

Use this form to indicate your interest:  
**Cedars Chalice Circles**

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## Social Action/Community Activity

### Christmas Child Fund

**Fishline's Christmas Child Stocking Program** allows families to receive support in purchasing holiday gifts for their children! Last year Fishline served over 400 children in the Christmas Child Program.

To help mitigate any potential spread of COVID-19, Fishline is shifting the Christmas Child program a bit this year. Rather than purchasing gifts in a store and bringing them to us, please donate to the Christmas Child Stocking Fund!

All donations to this fund will be allocated to those in need of help purchasing Christmas gifts.

**Christmas Child Program Link**

**Cedars Social Action Committee**

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Now, the **2020 Cedars Creativity Fair** is underway as an album of photos on our **Cedars Facebook page**. Please join us by sharing what you have been doing, and enjoy the growing show using the link below!

### Cedars Creativity Fair 2020

**Richard Wilson and Bonnie Yocus**  
Facebook Page Administrators

A recent addition to the show:

#### *Gratitude*

*My gratitude grows with each passing year  
A bird, red and gold leaves bring such good cheer*

*I started in life with much more meager thanks  
Though I felt ever so grateful for much  
The hikes in the mountains, the laughter of friends  
The gentleness of human touch*

*My gratitude list gets longer each day  
In spite of and because of the Pandemic's way  
Of slowing us down and helping us see  
How creative and beautiful life can be*

*The Spirit of Life shines everywhere  
Now is the time to demand great care  
For all of earth's creatures, great and small  
For all of Life's Spirit within us all.*

—by Penny Brewer

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### Join the Worship Tech Team

The Worship Tech Team is looking to add a few more members. Since September, **Rhonda Peacock** and **Tyler Weaver** have been busy each week editing and broadcasting our virtual services. They've done an amazing job with this, but since we are likely to be holding services this way for some time, we are hoping to have more people in the mix to share the workload.

All that is needed to join this team is a willingness to learn new technology and work with the rest of the team to produce our weekly services.

If you are interested in joining this endeavor, please contact Rev. Zackrie and let him know of your interest.

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### New Cedars Zoom License

Cedars UU Church recently purchased a licensed zoom account through UUA for use by Board members, committees, and affinity groups. This zoom account has screen sharing, polling, breakout rooms, and no time limits on meetings (the time limit for a free zoom account is 40 minutes).

To schedule a meeting using this account, email [herbert-hethcote@uiowa.edu](mailto:herbert-hethcote@uiowa.edu) with the name of the meeting, the host, the date, the starting time, the approximate length of the

### Justice Network

#### Reform Our Justice System: Targeting the Poor

Banning debt-based drivers license suspensions is a goal of the Kitsap Equity, Race, And Community Engagement Coalition, **Kitsap ERACE**. The organization's criminal justice team added the objective to its list of collective actions after conferring with those working with impacted people.

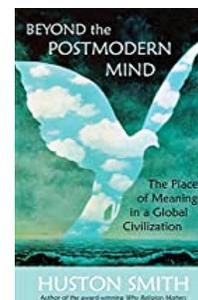
Your license can be suspended if you can't afford to pay a traffic ticket, and if you can't drive, you can't work, so it's a catch-22!

The Kitsap ERACE team believes that drivers licenses should only be suspended if someone has been driving impaired or recklessly. The majority of convictions in Washington State are for driving with a suspended license.

Please help ERACE make a difference with this goal. Use the online link here to contact legislators: **License Suspensions**

Kitsap ERACE is a collaboration of many groups, organizations, and individuals, all striving for racial equity in Kitsap County. More information about ERACE is available [here](#).

Contact Penny Brewer of **Cedars' Justice Network** for further information.



### Evans Reading Group News

***Beyond the Postmodern Mind*** by Huston Smith is the new selection of the Marvin Evans Reading Group.

The author, a noted scholar of religion who also spent 15 years as Professor of Philosophy at MIT, makes a case for transcendence, asserting that we must recognize a broader spectrum of reality than modern science acknowledges.

For more information, contact **Alan Miller** or **Mary Romeo**

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### Pastoral Care Concerns

#### COVID-19 Symptoms? Get tested now!

Public health officials are urging Kitsap residents to get tested as quickly as possible if they have any COVID symptoms, no matter how mild.

More information about testing is available [here](#).

In recent discussion within the Cedars Pastoral Care Team, **Rev. Zackrie** confirmed that he would appreciate being informed if any

meeting (you can go over this time length), if it is a weekly or monthly recurring meeting, and your mobile phone number.

Herb will schedule the meeting and send an email to you with the zoom information about the meeting including the link to the meeting and an attachment with complete instructions on being a zoom host. Then you can cut and paste this zoom meeting information into an email to those whom you are inviting.

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### Guidelines for using the Cedars Center

The Cedars Board is making the following restrictions to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission to the few people who must enter the Cedars Center to keep our church functioning.

1. Permission from staff or Board Member is required for entry.
2. Sign in when entering and sign out when leaving.
3. Use hand sanitizer when entering.
4. Wear a face mask and practice social distancing.
5. Avoid touching your face.
6. Please disinfect high contact surfaces when you enter and before you leave: door handles, light switches, computer mouse and keyboard, desks, tabletops, countertops, sinks, toilet, and shared equipment such as pens, staplers, and clipboards.

*Thank you for helping to keep us safe!*

member of 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.

--The Pastoral Care Team

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### Employment Opportunity

Cedars is currently seeking applicants for part-time employment as Office Administrator. The position provides administrative support and assistance with communications and operational needs at our Cedars Center.

Formal Cedars policy does not permit hiring members of the congregation, but members are encouraged to share news of the opportunity with others. More information is available [here](#) and on the Cedars website.

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### A Special Note from Rev. Zackrie

The recent United States Supreme Court appointment is worrying to many folks and for many reasons.



If you're a member of the LGBTQ+ community and find yourself suddenly needing to get married for legal protections, contact me. I am willing to officiate small socially distanced weddings in Western Washington.

### 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  
Bainbridge Island WA 98110  
(206) 780-0373

Closed during COVID-19 Pandemic

### 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)

**Kathryn Jay, Faith Formation Lead**  
[faith.formation@cedarsuuchurch.org](mailto:faith.formation@cedarsuuchurch.org)

**Office Manager**  
Currently volunteer staff  
[office@cedarsuuchurch.org](mailto:office@cedarsuuchurch.org)

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Cedars UU Church (website)

