

The Beacon

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

Volume 10 Issue 50 **Christmas Eve**, 2020



CEDARS CHURCH
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

[Website](#) [Faith Formation](#) [Calendar](#)

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Upcoming Services

Hopelessly Hopeful

Tonight! 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 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.

Music and Being

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 express and experience spirituality.

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



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

Sunday December 27th
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

Tuesday December 29th

The Infamous Thomas Starr King

Sunday January 3rd
10:00 a.m.
Virtual Worship Service

Rev. Zackrie Vinczen
Bryan Baker, Worship Associate

Thomas Starr King was a man for whom schools were named and statues were erected, but who was this man and why is his legacy important to us today?

Join us as we consider the life of this extraordinary individual and the lessons we can learn from his example.

7:00 p.m. Meditation Group
[Virtual Meditation Link](#)

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



Cedars UU Church is a
Welcoming Congregation
and Green Sanctuary

News and Announcements

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.

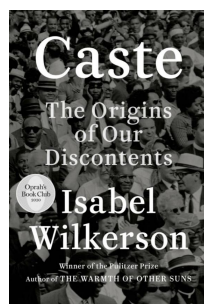
If you are interested in joining this group, or if you'd like some information about beginning a meditation practice, please contact **Dawna Kramer** at raddjk@yahoo.com or by phone from the Breeze directory.

Our Congregational Mission

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



Rev. Zackrie Vinczen



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

Faith Formation at Cedars

An Advent Calendar

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 session.

Save the Date

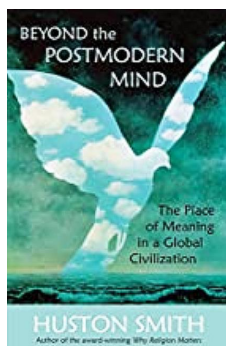
Our mid-fiscal year Congregational Meeting is scheduled for January 10, immediately following the service.



Please join the Board of Trustees as we welcome 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 usual mid-year financials and other business.



Evans Reading Group Invitation

Beyond the Postmodern Mind by Huston Smith will be discussed via Zoom by the Marvin Evans Reading Group on Tuesday January 12th at 1:30 p.m.

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.

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 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

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.

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

Cedars Movie Group

Join us for a Zoom discussion at 7:00 p.m. Friday, January 22nd



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

In January the group will discuss the 1960's satirical anti-war classic, **King of Hearts**.

Just before the end of the first world war, German forces retreat from a French town booby-trapped with a bomb timed to go off at midnight. The town's inhabitants flee in panic, leaving the patients of a local mental hospital to escape and re-occupy the town. Then bewildered Scottish soldier Charles Plumpick (Alan Bates) is ordered in to defuse the bomb, chiefly because of his ability to speak French, and he is acclaimed by the escaped patients as their King of Hearts. It is a carnival of craziness – that being of course the only sane way to respond to the insanity of war.

Available for streaming on Prime Video, YouTube and elsewhere. Get the Zoom link by contacting **Jane Martin**.

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.

Now, the **2020 Cedars Creativity Fair** is underway as an album of photos on our **Cedars Facebook page**, Please join us by

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



Chalice Circle Invitation

Are you interested in meeting regularly with people to listen and learn and to deepen 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 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.

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:



New member Gordon Hallgren introduces other members of his family

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.

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

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

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

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 with the name of the meeting, the host, the date, the starting time, the approximate length of the 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.

Guidelines for using 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 us 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!

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.

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.

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 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

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. 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
For an urgent matter, call (360) 930-9339 (Pastoral Care)

Kathryn Jay, Faith Formation Lead

faith.formation@cedarsuuchurch.org

Office Manager

Currently volunteer staff
office@cedarsuuchurch.org

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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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