

The Beacon

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

Volume 10 Issue 51 December 31, 2020



CEDARS CHURCH
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

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

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Upcoming Services

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.

The Healing Power of Stories

Sunday January 10th
10:00 a.m.
Virtual Worship Service

Kathryn Jay
Johanna Munson, Worship Associate

"Let me tell you a story"

We are made of stories just as much as we are made of atoms. Sometimes these stories uplift and sustain us, but some of the stories we tell about ourselves do us harm. Can we heal ourselves by changing the narratives we

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.

Sunday January 3rd
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 January 5th
7:00 p.m. Meditation Group
[Virtual Meditation Link](#)

Wednesday January 6th
1:30 p.m. Cedars Knitting/Crafting Circle
[Virtual Knitting/Crafting Link](#)
7:30 p.m. Choir Practice
[Virtual Choir Practice Link](#)

Thursday January 7th
10:00 a.m. Morning Reflection
[Virtual Morning Reflection Link](#)
Use passcode 1959 if required

Friday January 8th
1:00 p.m. Cross Cultural Book Group
[Virtual CCBG Discussion Link](#)

hear? Can we transform the world by telling new stories?

Cedars' mid-year Congregational Meeting will immediately follow the service.

Use passcode 2020 if required

Special Note:

An updated recording of last week's complete Music and Being service with Susan Mashiya can be reached [here](#)

News and Announcements

Belonging at Cedars

Rev. Zackrie started the conversation about **Belonging** in his sermon several weeks ago, and the Board would like to engage the congregation in further exploration and dialogue about what that means.



We want everyone at Cedars UU Church to feel that they belong to our community, which means they feel valued as significant and actively participating members.

There is much that we could do to deepen our sense of meaningful community, both nationally and locally, and that has been highlighted for us by the Black Lives Matter awakening, the killing of Stonechild Chiefstick, and inequities in the effects of the pandemic.

For several years now, our national Unitarian Universalist Association has been addressing issues around diversity and inclusion, culminating in a recent report linked here: **Widening the Circle of Concern.**

Within our own Cedars congregation, issues around belonging for members and friends in Greater Kitsap and families have also been longstanding. Furthermore, creating an attractive atmosphere for families and children was identified as a top priority when the congregation was surveyed during our ministerial search process.

For these reasons, The Cedars Board would like to acknowledge and address issues of inclusion and diversity, and is proposing a strategic initiative in 2021 to move beyond welcoming to foster a sense of belonging within our congregation.

As Anita Sands writes,

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

Faith Formation at Cedars

An Advent Calendar

Advent is the traditional period beginning four

"...diversity is a fact (the numbers are what they are), inclusion is a choice (you decide whether to include someone or not), but belonging is a feeling that can be enforced by a culture that you can purposefully create."

In the coming year, we hope to explore how and where we can be more sensitive to the experiences of a wide range of Cedars members and friends so that we can foster radical inclusion, enrich our experience, and thrive as a congregation and as Unitarian Universalists. As we work to make every member of our congregation belong, we will project the deeply held values of our faith to the greater community.

Your Cedars Board of Trustees

Please come to the congregational meeting following the service on January 10th with stories to share about your sense of belonging at Cedars. In order to begin this work, we will start by hearing each others' stories with open hearts-- times when we felt we didn't belong as well as times when we did. These conversations will be ongoing and will help inform our work as we move towards an affirmation of goals at our annual congregational meeting in June.

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.



Morning Reflection

Every Thursday, 10:00 a.m.

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](#).

And an Invitation

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

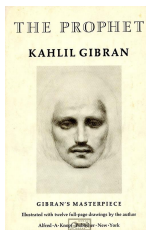


YUUP (the Young Unitarian Universalists Project) is launching a platform to forge connections, work together, support each other, and find leadership opportunities. It will have a variety of different topics and groups within it for UU youth and recent bridgers across the country.

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

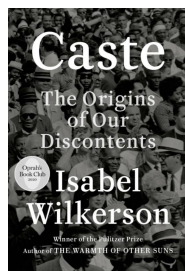


Virtual Sessions

During each Morning Reflection Session, which is led by **Rev. Zackrie**, participants gather for meditation and discussion of brief sections from **The Prophet** by *Kahlil Gibran*.

Cross Cultural Book Group

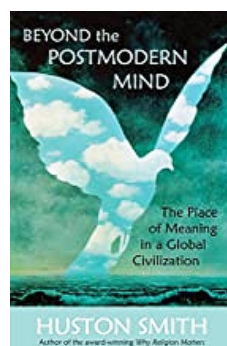
Caste, The Origins of Our Discontents by *Isabel Wilkerson*.



Virtual discussion of this important book will continue on Friday, 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 session.



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.

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



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. 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

Cedars Movie Group

Join us for a Zoom
Discussion at 6:30 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 Knitting/Crafting Circle

Wednesday, January 3rd
Time: 1:30 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 Davison for questions or details.

Cedars Creativity Fair 2020

See What Others Have Been Doing
To Cope with Social Isolation

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 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.

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 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

Recent additions to the show:



Mary and Child in rustic accommodations while Joseph raises eyebrows during last week's virtual Christmas Pageant.

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](#).

Frank Petrie, who volunteers at the Bainbridge testing site, has shared this detail:

COVID testing is performed at the drive-through testing site at Bainbridge Island City Hall, M-W-F, 1:00-4:30. Tests are processed by UW and results are available within 2-3 days. Tests are free, with or without insurance.

You can make a reservation on line up to two weeks in advance. In the event you need a test immediately and there are no available reservations, the City does have a limited number of same-day, drive-up openings. When you arrive at the test site without a reservation, the traffic attendant will hand you a slip of paper with a QR code. Scanning the code with your smart phone admits you to a registration page where you provide name, address, birthdate, reason for needing test ("I have symptoms"), and insurance information. Upon completing your registration, you simply enter the queue and you will be tested.

Remember to wear a mask when you arrive at the test site!

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

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!

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 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.

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.

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.

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

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

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

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)



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

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