

The Beacon

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



CEDARS CHURCH
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

Volume 11 Issue 10 March 12, 2021

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Upcoming Services

Moved by the Spirit

Sunday March 14th
10:00 a.m.
Virtual Worship Service

Kathryn Jay

Mike Cox, Worship Associate

Even though Carolyn McDade's Spirit of Life is a much beloved hymn, many UUs feel a little uncomfortable when "the spirit" gets expressed too overtly.

Join us in this service to explore how we can make space for both the spiritual and the spirited in our community.

Finding Balance

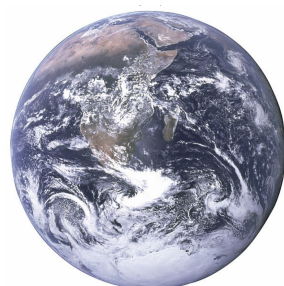
Sunday March 21st
10:00 a.m.
Virtual Worship Service

Rev. Zackrie Vinczen

Penny Brewer, Worship Associate

March 20th, 2021 was the Spring Equinox, a time when there is a balance between light and dark.

Join us for this virtual service as we consider the importance of seeking after balance and the lessons this day has to offer.



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 to reveal more information and an event description.

Friday March 12th

1:00 p.m. Cross Cultural Book Group
[Virtual Cross Cultural Book Group Link](#)
Use passcode 2020 if required

Saturday March 13th

2:00 p.m. Stewardship Cottage Meeting
[Virtual Cottage Meeting Link](#)
Use passcode 2020 if required

Sunday March 14th

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

Monday March 15th

7:00 p.m. Knitting/Crafting Circle

Tuesday March 16th

1:30 p.m. Evans Reading Group
[Virtual Evans Reading Group Link](#)

Wednesday March 17th

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

Thursday March 18th

10:00 a.m. Morning Reflection
[Virtual Morning Reflection Link](#)
Use passcode 1959in required
4:00 p.m. Stewardship Cottage Meeting
[Virtual Cottage Meeting Link](#)
Use passcode 2020 if required
7:00 p.m. Meditation Group

News and Announcements



Belonging at Cedars

More Stories are Welcome

As Anita Sands writes, "...**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."

At the January 10 congregational meeting as well as at the coffee hour on February 14, members of the congregation have shared stories of experiences that made them feel they belonged at Cedars, as well as when they felt excluded.

These stories are being gathered in support of a board initiative to make Cedars the most welcoming and inclusive place it can be, and the storytelling will continue during coffee hours after the services on March 14, and April 11. The process will culminate at the congregational meeting in June with goals and actions that can help us become the congregation we hope to be.

If you are uncomfortable sharing your story in this relatively public forum, feel free to contact Rev. Zackrie, Dawna Kramer or other Cedars board members (Heidi Parkington-Thal, Helen Nissani, Kassia Sing, John Peck, Herb Hethcote or Carol Ann Davidson)

Belong Together

March is the month for our annual Stewardship campaign.



This year's theme will be "Belong Together" as we continue to explore what Cedars means to each of us and how we can make it a place of belonging for everyone.

You will be invited to a Stewardship Cottage Meeting where you'll hear about the future of Cedars and will have the opportunity to break out into smaller groups to share your dreams/vision.

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

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](#).

Bridging

Cottage meetings are scheduled on the following dates/times Zoom links will be added in the weekly Beacon and Board e-mail.

Saturday, March 13, 2:00 p.m.

Thursday, March 18, 4:00 p.m.

Monday, March 22, 7:00 p.m.

Please register for one of these meetings at this [Link](#).

Stewardship will also be featured in the Sunday services during March.

Stay tuned for our grand finale that we are super excited about! Our first opportunity to see each other in person in a safe, fun forum!

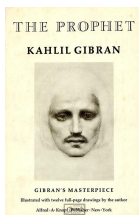
Cedars Knitting/Crafting Circle

Monday March 15th
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.



Morning Reflection

Every Thursday, 10:00 a.m.
Virtual Sessions

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

Meditation

Cedars Meditation Group
Every Thursday, 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.



In our Unitarian Universalist faith, the Bridging Ceremony celebrates the transition of our youth from their high school experience into young adulthood. This ritual helps us -- youth and families and all church members -- recognize and honor this important threshold moment. Right now, in these days where school is online and all the traditional trappings of senior year are missing, these rituals are more vital than ever.

Do you have someone in your family who is graduating from high school this year? Are you yourself graduating from high school? Would you help to shape a bridging ceremony at Cedars?

Rev. Zackrie and Kathryn Jay would love to hear from you!

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!

Chalice Circles

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.

For more information or the Zoom link, contact **Dawna Kramer** at raddjk@yahoo.com or via phone number from the Breeze directory.



OUR CLIMATE OUR FAITH OUR FUTURE

ACTING ON THE CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

Wednesday March 24
7:00 - 8:30 p.m. [Zoom Link](#)

Program presentations and discussion:

The City and Our Climate

Household Carbon Footprint Calculator

What our faiths call us to do about climate,
followed by Q/A

For more information contact **Mike Cox** or
John Kydd at john@kyddlaw.com

Cedars Creativity Fair 2021

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.

Now that 2020 is behind us, a new 2021 Cedars Creativity Fair has opened and the 2020 fair has closed (but remains viewable 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 2021](#)

A recent addition to the show:

JUST ANOTHER SPRING

by Donna Moore

Oh look! A snowdrop peeking out
from under that fir tree.
And there's a purple crocus.
That's a sure sign of Spring!

More information is available [here](#)

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](#)

Kathryn Jay
Faith Formation Lead
360-559-2381

Social Justice & Action News

Special Collection for March

The Cedars Social Action Committee has selected **YouthCare Seattle** as recipient for the March Special Collection.

YouthCare works to end youth homelessness and ensure that young people are valued and empowered to achieve their potential. Through services tailored to young people's needs and a trusting relationship with a caring adult, YouthCare works to help ensure that young people experiencing homelessness can achieve long-term stability. See YouthCare's excellent webpage at <https://youthcare.org/>

YouthCare's major programs include early intervention and specialized services with a unique focus on populations disproportionately at risk: youth of color, youth who identify as LGBTQ+, youth who have been sexually exploited, and youth who have experienced the juvenile detention or child welfare system;

- **Coordinating Bridge Collaborative**, a multi-agency King County partnership providing case management, support, and resources to youth and young adults experiencing labor trafficking, sex trafficking, or sexual violence:
- **Engaging with homeless youth** with a focus on building relationships, restoring trust, and planning for next steps through outreach in the community and in three Seattle area engagement centers.
- **Shelter and employment programs** helping youth find safe shelter and access to housing, paid employment programs offering transformative ways to build skills and confidence to explore a career and gain long-term employment, and programs helping homeless youth overcome barriers to educational achievement.

How about those daffodils that pour
down that rock wall on Ferncliff?
They're up long before those
along Winslow Way have even begun to bud.

What does it for you? The first robin?
Hot Cross Buns at the Blackbird Bakery?
Primroses at the T&C? Garden starts
outside Ace Hardware? Daylight Savings time?
How do you know when Spring has really arrived?
For me, it's masses of color!

One spring I took my mother for a hot air balloon ride
over the Skagit Valley. What a sight!
Miles and miles of red tulips, acres of purple hyacinths,
row on row of yellow daffodils.
And in the middle the town of LaConnor,
like a glorious Max Escher painting - but in color!
Easy to overlook is that mauvish blush the alders
take on before their pale green leaves burst.
Every year I wonder "Is it just my imagination
or is that really Spring announcing her arrival
with her shy, maidenly blush?"

Then, one morning there are more shades of green
than any artists can name.
And the tips of all the evergreens are flouting
those erotic little tassels.
And once again, I find myself repeating over and over
"I'm so glad to be alive for one more Spring!"

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.

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.

To participate in this special collection for support of **YouthCare**, please send a check to the Cedars office with YouthCare designated on the check. Our office address is Cedars UU Church, 284 Madrona Way NE #128, Bainbridge Island, WA 98110.

For more information please contact **Penny Brewer** or **Dean Sampson**.

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.

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

Regional Activity

Various actions and programs organized or promoted by **JUJustice Washington** for the current month can be reviewed in the monthly news update available for review [here](#).

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 testing information 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, Mondays and Wednesdays, 1:00-4:30. Tests are processed by UW and results are available within 2-3 days. Tests are free.

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.

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!



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.

Island School News

Our much-appreciated host facility for pre- and hopefully post-pandemic services and public gatherings has asked that we share news about an upcoming employment opportunity that will follow the retirement of Business Manager Loretta Morgan.

The Island School, a kindergarten through 5th grade elementary school on Bainbridge Island, seeks an accomplished Business Manager to start in summer of 2021. This is a full time position with benefits.

Visit <https://theislandschool.org/our-school/job-opportunities/> to see a detailed job description.

Remember to wear a mask at the test site!

In 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

Amazon Donates to Cedars!

Amazon has a charitable donation program called AmazonSmiles. If you are an Amazon customer, follow the instructions at this [link](#) and you can register so that Cedars will receive a small donation every time you make a purchase. It costs you nothing!

If you are already using AmazonSmiles and want to change your charity to Cedars, sign into your Amazon account and

1. Click on Hello (Name)/Account & Lists towards the top right of the page.
2. Click on Your Amazon Smile at the right.
3. On the right you will see "Your current charity" with a button below "Change Charity." Below that button it shows the charity you are currently helping.

In this donation system, Cedars is currently listed as "Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Bainbridge Island" Location: Bainbridge Island, WA and a renaming request to reidentify us as Cedars is being submitted.

While these donation amounts are relatively minor, every little bit helps, and it adds up over time. Thank you!

The Cedars Fundraising Committee



Notes 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

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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