

# The Beacon

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



Volume 10, Issue 28 July 24, 2020

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## Upcoming Services

### I Am From

Sunday, July 26, 10:30 a.m.  
 Online Service-Zoom link opens at 10:10 a.m.

Puget Sound Worship Collaborative  
 for the Cedars, Northlake, Saltwater, and Westside UU Churches  
 Rev. Kristen Kuriga, Saltwater UU Church

The **Westside UU Racial Justice Change Team** and **Rev. Kristen Kuriga** will lead this week's worship service.

Looking deeply into our own lives shows us that we do not have a single life story, but multiple, interwoven stories and intersecting identities. This service explores *I Am From* poetry as a pathway to the self-awareness that is essential to racial justice work. Members of the **Westside UU Racial Justice Change Team** will share their own experience of looking within to find our purpose in dismantling white supremacy culture. Come prepared to start your own process of self-reflection through poetry.

Use this link to find a template for writing your own *I Am From* poem:  
[Template](#)

The Zoom link for every week's Sunday Worship Service through the summer is: [Summer Worship Services](#)

**Coffee Hour:** After the service, join the Cedars community for a virtual Coffee Hour on Zoom. Use this link: [Coffee Hour](#)

Please join the collaborative virtual Sunday Worship Service each week through July and August.



Cedars UU Church is a  
Welcoming Congregation  
 and Green Sanctuary

### Our Mission

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



Rev. Zackrie Vinczen

### Reading as Spiritual Practice

Sunday, August 2, 10:30 a.m.  
 Online Service-Zoom link opens at 10:10 a.m.

Puget Sound Worship Collaborative  
 for the Cedars, Northlake, Saltwater, and Westside UU Churches  
 Rev. Cynthia Westby, Director of Religious Exploration  
 for Children and Youth, Westside UU Church

Reading helps us live in this world, allows us to explore meaning and truths, and inspires and pushes us to engage in serious reflection about our lives. In this challenging time, reading is a shared comfort for many of us. Our reading can inspire individual or community spiritual practice--powerful and engaging mindfulness practice.

Join **Rev. Cynthia Westby** and **Rev. Nancy Reid-McKee** and learn about various spiritual practices to use with the books you love.

### Cedars Calendar

To view our detailed calendar [click here](#). Then click on the event title to reveal a drop down of more detailed information. Links to virtual meetings are in the **event description**.

Taking advantage of online options, your Cedars community invites you to share events, get information, enjoy fellowship, and pause for reflection.

A **full calendar with descriptions and links** can be found on Breeze.

#### July 24

7:00 p.m. Movie Discussion Group (Zoom link open at 6:45 p.m.)  
 Watch *Midnight in Paris* ahead of time.

#### July 26

## News and Announcements

### From the Worship Team

#### Join Our Team!

If you would like to give virtual worship design a try, now is the perfect time. The **Worship Team** is looking to expand its membership and add a few new *Worship Associates* as well as people to help with virtual worship *Tech Support* and *Video Editing*. Below is a short list of the responsibilities for these two positions.

#### Worship Associate

1. Provide meaningful spiritual/emotional reflection on worship service themes.
2. Record service elements, such as the Welcome, Offering, and Chalice Lighting/Extinguishing.
3. Coordinate with **Rev. Zackrie** and other members of the Worship Team to set service themes and craft worship services.
4. Help support other worship activities as requested (i.e. Wednesday Morning Reflection, memorial services, etc.)

The ideal candidate for this role would be someone comfortable recording service elements and working with the rest of the team to design and edit worship services.

#### Tech Support

1. Help service leaders produce video clips for Sunday worship service elements (meditations, prayers, readings, etc.).
2. Provide technical assistance to people participating in virtual services (i.e. help record testimonials or create picture slideshows)
3. Add lyrics to recorded hymns.
4. Act as a host for *YouTube Live/Zoom* chat during the worship service and coffee hour.
5. Use software like *Open Broadcast Software*, *Shot Cut*, and *Zoom* to provide technical support to guest preachers. (Some training will be provided by **Rev. Zackrie**.)
6. Help others develop technical proficiency.

The ideal person for this role would have some experience with video production and editing—or be eager to learn.

If you are interested in getting involved in the design and implementation of virtual worship services in any of the ways outlined above, please contact **Penny Brewer**.

### From the Program Council

#### July Update

The **Cedars Program Council**, chaired by Board Vice-President, **Helen Nissani**, spent a significant portion of its Zoom-supported virtual meeting last week discussing the impact of COVID-19 on Cedars and why—or whether—our activities need to adjust or be different as a consequence.

Concerns were aired that our sense of congregational community is shrinking or weakening because we cannot gather or meet directly with one another. Few families with children are participating in the virtual activities. Many activities, such as Cedars Team meetings and social gatherings, fundraising and justice events, community collaborations like Super Suppers, and Dinner Connections in each other's homes are not possible now, and they may not be possible for some time to come.



**10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship Service** (Zoom link open at 10:10 a.m.)  
See link in *Upcoming Services*.

#### July 29

**10:00 a.m. (Online) Morning Reflection**

#### [Morning Reflection](#)

Pass code: 1959

Link and pass code can be used each week.

### Pastoral Care Team

#### Pastoral Care and Covid-19

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.

**-Pastoral Care Team**

### Cedars Movie Group Discussion

#### You're Invited!

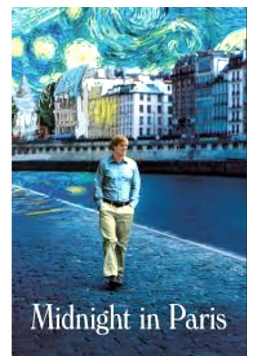
**Tonight: July 24, 7:00 p.m.** (6:45 Start-up for check-in)

The **Cedars Movie Group** meets monthly for social evenings and discussion of a selected movie that participants have viewed previously. **Tonight**, the group will meet virtually to discuss the 2011 romantic comedy, *Midnight in Paris*, written and directed with a satisfying blend of whimsy and wisdom by **Woody Allen**.

Vacationing in Paris, a screenwriter and aspiring novelist has taken to touring the city alone. On one late-night excursion, he encounters a group of strange revelers who sweep him along, apparently back in time as well, for a night with some of the Jazz Age's notable icons of art and literature. The more time he spends with these heroes of the past, the more dissatisfied he becomes with the present.

As the trailer for this movie said, *Paris in the morning is beautiful, Paris in the afternoon is charming, and Paris in the evening is enchanting, but Paris after midnight is magic* - as is the film itself.

The film is available for streaming on Netflix, Amazon Prime, and YouTube, and the discussion will be hosted by **Patti Shannon**, using the Zoom meeting platform. For a link and password, email **Pat and Dean Sampson** for information, and join the discussion!



### Cedars Creativity Fair 2020

#### Coping with Social Isolation

#### See What Others Have Been Doing

As first announced several weeks ago, we have organized a Cedars response to the social isolation in which we all now find ourselves. Missing each other, our identity as a congregational community is suffering, although we are coping as individuals.

Our response has been to re-imagine and present 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 appreciate artful products and demonstrations of the creativity present in our talented and capable congregation, those fairs also helped us get to know each other better.

These observations led to an active conversation about what is needed and what might be possible. Clearly, the group saw a need to create opportunities for individuals to connect. Several suggestions were made: organizing direct phoning to Members and Friends to ask how they are doing; reaching out to help with social justice/action projects, such as take-out versions of Super Suppers; broadening participation in some of the virtual choir practices to create congregational *hymn-sing* sessions; and organizing virtual dinner parties or social get-togethers. It was suggested that there might be a good response to more virtual book and movie/video discussion groups.

The group noted that the current **Creativity Fair** is intentionally seeking to help Members and Friends learn more about each other and deepen familiarity and friendships by showcasing shared interests and talents or capabilities that might otherwise go unrecognized.

## Readers' Corner

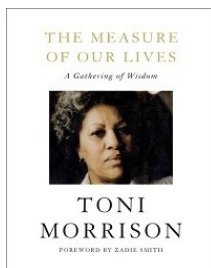
### Summer Adventures in Reading

Summer often can be a time of reflection and restoration--a time to slow down and reinvest in our goals and dreams, for ourselves and for the wider world. Even though this summer is very different from any we've ever experienced, the *UUA Insight Bookstore* ([bookstore@uua.org](mailto:bookstore@uua.org)) suggests the following titles as sources of wisdom in these challenging times. (Book descriptions from the UUA website.)

#### ***The Measure of Our Lives: A Gathering of Wisdom***

by Toni Morrison

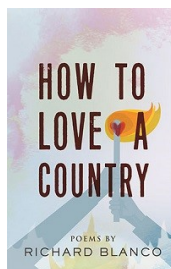
At once the ideal introduction to *Toni Morrison* and a moving keepsake for her devoted readers, this treasury of quotations from her work is also accompanied by a foreword by Zadie Smith. Its compelling sequences of flashes of revelation--stunning for their linguistic originality, keenness of psychological observation, and philosophical profundity--addresses issues of abiding interest in Morrison's work, including the singular power of women, the original American sin of slavery, the bankruptcy of racial oppression, and the complex humanity and art of Black people. *The Measure of Our Lives* brims with elegance of style and mind and moral authority.



#### ***How to Love a Country: Poems***

by Richard Blanco

As presidential inaugural poet, educator, and advocate, Richard Blanco has crisscrossed the nation inviting communities to connect to the heart of human experience and our shared identity as a country. In this new collection of poems, Blanco continues to invite a conversation with all Americans. Through an oracular yet intimate and accessible voice, he addresses the complexities and contradictions of our nationhood and the unresolved sociopolitical matters that affect us all.



Seeking answers, Blanco digs deep into the very marrow of our nation through poems that interrogate our past and present and grieve our injustices, but also remember to celebrate our ideals and cling to our hopes. His message of interdependence and connection amidst the repeated heartache and tragedies we face speaks powerfully to today.

#### ***The Healing***

by Gayl Jones

From the acclaimed author of *Corregidora*, *The Healing* follows Harlan Jane Eagleton, a Black faith healer, as she travels to small towns, converting skeptics, restoring minds, and healing bodies. But before she found her calling, Harlan had been a minor rock star's manager and, before that, a beautician. Harlan retraces her story to the beginning, when she once had a fling with the rock star's ex-husband

Now, the **2020 Cedars Creativity Fair** has opened. Presented as an album of photos on our **Cedars Facebook page**, it is open to everyone, but it also is just a beginning. Everyone is invited to share what they've been doing or creating during this time of isolation.

Please join us by sharing what you have been doing, and enjoy the growing show! Use the link below to find the show!

#### [Creativity Fair](#)

**Richard Wilson and Bonnie Yocus**

Facebook page administrators

A recent addition to the show:



Kyla Barnes holds a newly hatched--and very cute--Coturnix quail chick that is about 1/3 the size of a chicken chick and will join an extended quail family of about 50 in her care.

## Poetic Pause

### More From Cedars Poets

#### **Comet in the Sky**

by Janetmarie Valiga

Not for you and I!  
Rather than driving over to further darkness

To look at it in earthly starkness,  
I'll stay cozily comforted at home  
Already knowing we're not cosmically alone.





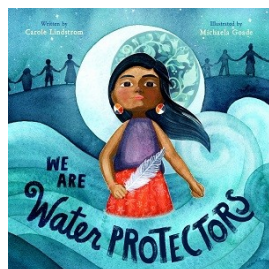
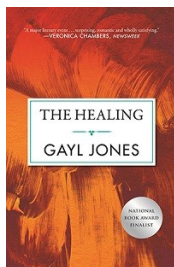
and found herself infatuated with an Afro-German horse dealer. Along the way she's somehow lost her own husband, a medical anthropologist now traveling with a medicine woman across eastern Africa. Harlan draws us deeper into her world and the mystery at the heart of her tale: the story of her first healing.

Her book is a lyrical and, at times, humorous exploration of the struggle to let go of pain, anger, and even love. Slipping seamlessly back through Harlan's memories in a language rich with the textured cadences of unfiltered dialogue, Gayl Jones weaves her story to its dramatic and unexpected beginning.

### ***We Are Water Protectors***

by Carole Lindstrom, illustrated by Michaela Goade

Inspired by the many Indigenous-led movements across North America, *We Are Water Protectors* issues an urgent rallying cry to safeguard the Earth's water. This empowering picture book will both educate and inspire young readers and their families. For ages 3-6.



## **A New Home on the Web!**

### **Cedars Website Gets a New Look**

Thanks to some hard work behind the scenes over the past few months, Cedars has a new website! The [cedarsuuchurch.org](http://cedarsuuchurch.org) address has not changed, but what it brings you is completely rebuilt and refreshed.

A small team consisting of **Carolyn Kempkes, Arlene Wade, Brian Leekley, and Richard Wilson** spent many hours updating and enhancing content from our previous site and moving it all into a new website template created and offered by the UUA. The updated and more capable software allows a fresh and more appealing look, as well as easier access to the information it carries for Members, Friends, and Visitors. In addition, the new website is designed to *present well on the small screens* of smart phones.

On the home page, there is a direct link to the Cedars calendar at the right end of the green menu bar, and direct access into the Breeze directory is available for Members and Friends in the line of basic choices just above.

Try it all here: [Cedars Website](http://Cedars Website)

## **Member Directory**

Members and Friends can easily search our online [Church Directory](#) for contact information. The link is located under the Community Tab of the [Cedars website](#).

## **Staying Connected**

### **Zoom Meetings**

Some connections are through Zoom. If you are new to Zoom or just unsure about how to use it, here are some helpful tips for [Using Zoom](#).

## **Connect with Cedars**



## **Print the Beacon Newsletter**

The Beacon is now available to **print** at home. Newest version is available after 12:00 p.m. on Fridays. Copies also will be available at each Sunday Service on the Activities Table.

### **Services and Children's Religious Education**

Sundays at 10 a.m.  
The Island School  
8553 NE Day Road  
Bainbridge Island

### **Cedars UU Center**

284 Madrona Way NE, #128  
Bainbridge Island, WA 98110  
(206) 780-0373

[Parking Hints](#)  
[Guide to Cedars Center Use](#)

### **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)

### **Office Manager:**

Kathleen Stearns  
Cedars Office Hours:  
Tue-Fri 9:00 a.m.- noon

Would you like to subscribe to *The Beacon*? Email: [beacon@cedarsuuchurch.org](mailto: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](#).