

The Beacon

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



Volume 10, Issue 31 August 14, 2020

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Upcoming Services

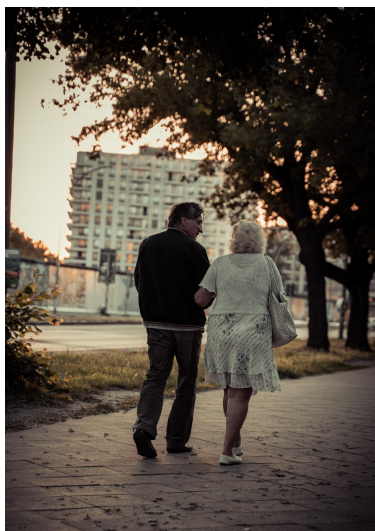
Moving, Hand in Hand

Sunday, August 16, 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. Christopher Wulff,
 Westside UU Church
 and Rev. Kristen Kuriga,
 Saltwater UU Church

From our very beginnings, we
 have known that we Unitarian
 Universalists cannot travel this
 path of discernment and
 commitment alone. We feel the
 blessing of having companions
 with us on our journey, but the
 accompanying burden, of being
 a good companion to others, we
 often carry with real discomfort.



In this service we will reflect on the blessings we have received on our
 spiritual journeys and consider paths to being stewards of one
 another's spirits.

The link to this service is: [Sunday Worship Service](#)

After the service, those who wish to stay for **Coffee Hour** will be
 invited into randomized Zoom rooms. These will be small gatherings
 where you can meet new people; to allow for conversation, there will
 be between 10-15 in a room. You can decline the invitation by ignoring
 it, and stay in the larger Zoom room at the end of the service.

Photo by Leon Seibert on Unsplash.

Blessing of the Animals

Sunday, August 23, 10:30 a.m.
 Virtual Worship Service and Blessing of Pets



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

Cedars Calendar

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.
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.

August 16
10:30 a.m. (Virtual) Sunday Worship Service (Zoom link open at 10:10
 a.m.)
 See link in *Upcoming Services*.

August 18
5:00 p.m. (Virtual) Worship Associates

August 19
6:00 p.m. (Virtual) Cedars Town Hall
[Cedars Town Hall](#)



On **Sunday, August 23**, please join us to celebrate the *blessing of the animals*. This is an opportunity to honor the connection we have with our beloved pets. It is a time to express our gratitude and warm wishes for the friendship and care they bring to our lives. There also will be a time to honor and remember pets who have died.

We are creating a slide show of members of our congregations with their pets. If you would like a picture included, please send it by e-mail to minister@saltwaterchurch.org with *Blessing of the Animals* in the subject line. Photos are **due by Monday, August 17**. On August 23rd, we invite you to bring your pets to worship with you, so we can see them and bless them during our live Zoom service!

**-Rev. Kristen Kuriga, Minister
Saltwater UU Church**

Photo by DEVN on Unsplash.

Water Ceremony

**September 13, 2020
Virtual Worship Service**

If you want to participate in this year's virtual **Water Ceremony**, marking the beginning of our active church year, please take a few minutes to watch these video instructions by **Rev. Zackrie**. Find out how you can participate by submitting a short video clip.



Submissions will be accepted between now and **August 31**. These clips do not need to be perfect! *The goal is connection, not perfection.*

[Water Ceremony Instructions](#)

Photo by Jamie Street on Unsplash.

News and Announcements

Leadership Learning Opportunity

Harvest the Power--Leadership Course

Serving in leadership roles within a congregational setting can be a deeply spiritual and rewarding experience. These roles also can require us to develop skills and perspectives that differ from other organizational leadership structures.

Recognizing this, I would like to invite current, past, and future leaders to join in an exploration of spiritual leadership with me. This exploration will make use of the *Harvest the Power* curriculum and help us to develop an understanding of healthy leadership practices within a church setting.

Pass code: 1956

**7:30 p.m. (Virtual) Cedars Choir Wednesday Evening Sing
[Wednesday Evening Sing](#)**

The meeting ID is 841 3429 2444

August 20

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

Come Sing a Song with Us!

Wednesday, August 19, 7:30 p.m.



Are you missing singing in church? Come sing with the **Cedars Choir!** Everyone in the congregation is invited to the *Choir's Wednesday Evening Sing* on **August 19 at 7:30 p.m.** It is on Zoom, of course.

We will sing hymns with recordings of the Cedars Choir, with Chris or a Choir member leading us, or while watching a musical video. We all will be on mute, so you can sing like a diva, sing off-key, or mangle the words. It's all OK! This is the way the Choir practices every Wednesday night. Now everyone is invited to join on August 19.

The Zoom link is: [Wednesday Evening Sing](#)

Meeting ID: 841 3429 2444

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

This class will take place in six 2-hour sessions. **These sessions will take place from 3:00-5:00 p.m. on the following dates: 09/26, 10/03, 10/10, 10/17, 10/24, and 11/07.** To register for this class, use this link: [Harvest the Power](#)

Registration will be open until **September 18, 2020.** *Please reach out to me with any questions about this class.*

-Rev. Zackrie Vinczen

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*, *Shotcut*, 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**.

Super Suppers-Take Out

Cedars Members Pitch In!

When Super Suppers ended, due to the COVID shutdown, the BARN stepped up to provide meals for those in need. The program through the BARN ended in June, and that sponsor is looking for another grant to provide meals starting again in September.

In the meantime, the **Super Supper** teams met by Zoom, and organizations volunteered to provide meals through the summer. **Cedars** volunteered to provide a take-out meal for the last Friday of July.

Members of the **Social Action Committee**, the **Osprey Set Up Team**, the **Monday Night Women's Covenant Group**, and the **Journaling Group** pitched in to make desserts, contribute food, pack food, and donate funds for the meal. We served pasta salad, green salad, chicken, and dessert. Members of the LDS church helped to hand out the meals to 43 people. Reports back were that the recipients loved the food!

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.

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:



Bay Hay and Feed
by Thea Peterson

Readers' Corner

UUA's InSpirit Bookstore



In times like these, you might need a little extra solace and inspiration. Small but powerful, these books from the InSpirit Bookstore are perfect for a quiet, thoughtful moment and the meditations on resilience, justice, and more will nourish your spirit.

Breaking and Blessing: Meditations by Rev. Sean Parker Dennison. In *Breaking and Blessing*, the 2020 volume of the *InSpirit Series*, Rev. Sean Parker Dennison imagines letters from angels, draws on the natural world, and reflects on love and calling. They chart a path, moving here and there, as if across a constellation--connecting mathematics to love, stars to saplings, and breaking to blessing. Rev. Dennison's striking debut will serve as both solace and flame to readers looking for them in equal measure.

Spilling the Light: Meditations on Hope and Resilience by Rev. Theresa I. Soto. At once deeply compassionate and spiritually empowering, this collection of inspirational poetry provides pastoral care and an encouragement for authentic living. In this 2019 volume of the *InSpirit Series*, one of the most creative voices in Unitarian Universalism today tends to our souls and emboldens us to become our truest selves. Rev. Soto's poems of hope and resilience validate our identities and our humanity--especially for those of us marginalized by mainstream culture.

Look for more information and an opportunity to contribute to the August meal. You will find it in a future edition of *The Beacon*.

-Social Action Committee
Pat Sampson and Penny Brewer

Poetic Pause

Cedars Poets

We are pleased to offer you poetry written by Cedars Friends and Members.

Heat
by Janetmarie Valiga

Last week it was 81° in Seattle.
My sun-filled living room was
Sweltering for here
Because none of my windows will open.

A week ago, my computer worked,
Poetry was possible,
My overworking brain felt more
Connected than in recent pandemic past.

Internet, wi-fi, Google,
Life were grinding away in the
Active world of
Knowing, communicating.

Then my computer died.
Silent, not even blinking.
I even missed the clicking
Of my fingers on the keyboard.

Too many days later, I opened a file,
Heard the background hum of
That small black box that is
My life too much. I got it to work again.

Hot under the collar to
In hot pursuit of normalcy.
The irony? Incomprehensibility?
August, sunny, now it's only in the 50's

And my heat went on again.

Love Like Thunder: Meditations by Jess Reynolds. In *Love Like Thunder*, the 2018 volume of the *InSpirit Series*, a vibrant new poetic voice invites us into an intimate relationship with nature, God, and love itself. Jess Reynolds weeps in the desert at night, meditates on heart emojis, lets a river of love run wildly in their body and together with their partner God goes to couples counseling to find their way. Jess Reynolds' lyric poetry flows like water between genders, between body and spirit, and between earth and sky.

To Wake, To Rise: Meditations on Justice and Resilience edited by Rev. William G. Sinkford. The 2017 edition of the *InSpirit Series* is an anthology of 29 poems, prayers, and reflections about resisting oppression and keeping the faith in social action work. Written by a range of contributors, including ministers and lay leaders, these readings are ideal for both private contemplation and for use in worship. Collected and introduced by a former president of the UUA--and the first Black person to hold that position--these meditations are both a support for activists and a call to action in a new era of political and social division.

Share the Plate

Special Collection for August: UU the Vote Partner Organization

Throughout August, our donations will be shared with *UU the Vote* partner *Center for Common Dreams* and their *Reclaim Our Vote* initiative.

Around the country, Unitarian Universalists are organizing to *#UUtheVote*, working to increase the participation of millions of disenfranchised, eligible voters--especially people of color. *UU the Vote* (uuthevote.org) is a national campaign working with the non-profit *Center for Common Dreams*. The *Reclaim our Vote* initiative is engaging voters who have been prevented from exercising their electoral rights through voter suppression and voter list purging.

Volunteers inform and mobilize voters in the six most affected states. They make sure voters are registered, know how to get a ballot, and know where/how to vote. You can learn more about the campaign at this link: [Center for Common Ground](http://CenterforCommonGround.org)

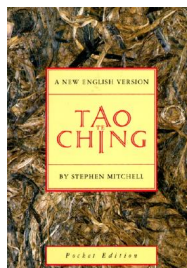
Photo by Parker Johnson on Unsplash.



Morning Reflection-New Day

Every Thursday, 10:00 a.m.
Virtual Meeting on Zoom

Starting on **August 6th**, the weekly **Morning Reflection** will be taking place on Thursday mornings (instead of Wednesdays) at 10:00 a.m. This shift was made by group consensus to accommodate a virtual class that **Rev. Zackrie** will be taking through the months of August and September.



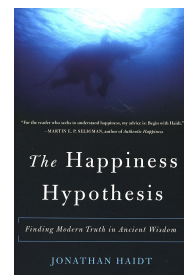
During the **Morning Reflection**, participants will continue gathering to meditate on and discuss Stephen Mitchell's translation of the **Tao Te Ching**.

Book Group News

Marvin Evans Reading Group
Tuesday, October 13, 1:30 p.m.
Virtual Discussion Using Zoom

In its virtual meeting this week, the *Marvin Evans Reading Group* chose *The Happiness Hypothesis* by Jonathan Haidt for its next discussion, scheduled for **October 13**. This insightful book explores concepts, understandings, and perspectives on happiness and meaningful living espoused by significant thinkers of the past, examining them in the light of contemporary psychological research, and extracting lessons that apply to our modern lives.

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



Print the Beacon Newsletter

The Beacon is available to **print** at home. Newest version is available on the Cedars website after 12:00 p.m. on Fridays. Copies also will be available in-person Sunday Worship Services when they resume.

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](#).

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](#).

Connect with Cedars



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
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

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](#).