

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 2 January 15, 2021

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

[Our Staff](#) [Contact Us](#) [Join Cedars](#)

Upcoming Services

Seattle Clemency Project

Sunday January 17th
10:00 a.m.
Virtual Worship Service

Attorney Jon Zulauf
Penny Brewer, Worship Associate

Honoring Martin Luther King Day, we will learn about a group that is working to mend the injustice done to many people: the Seattle Clemency Project, whose mission is to increase access to justice by matching reformed individuals with pro bono attorneys to seek early release from prison.

Join Attorney Jon Zulauf, co-founder of this project, as he describes the important work being done for immigrants, teen offenders, and those in prison who are ready for a reformed life.

The Far Side of Destruction

Sunday January 24th
10:00 a.m.
Virtual Worship Service

Rev. Zackrie Vinczen
Michael Cox, Worship Associate

What comes after destruction? What possibilities are available when we pass through the old and find ourselves in the new? What needs to be destroyed?

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 17th
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 January 18th
7:00 p.m. Knitting/Crafting Circle
[Virtual Knitting/Crafting Link](#)

Tuesday January 19th
7:00 p.m. Meditation Group
[Virtual Meditation Link](#)

Wednesday January 20th
7:30 p.m. Choir Practice
[Virtual Choir Practice Link](#)

Thursday January 21st
10:00 a.m. Morning Reflection
[Virtual Morning Reflection Link](#)
Use passcode 1959 if required
7:00 p.m. Program Council Meeting
[Program Council Link](#)

In this service we will consider the role of destruction in our lives and explore what awaits us on the other side.

Special Note:

Updated recording of the January 10th Healing Power of Stories service can be reached here [Link](#)

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, members of the congregation shared stories of experiences that had 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 February 14, 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)

Cedars Knitting/Crafting Circle

Monday, January 18th
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.

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

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.

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.

Cedars Meditation Group sessions will also be moving from every Tuesday at 7pm to every Thursday at 7pm, beginning February 2. We hope this time will work for more people. Please join us for our 30 minute group meditation via Zoom followed by a brief discussion of a short reading from Jon Kabat-Zinn's *Wherever You Go, There You Are*.

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

Cedars Choir News

For our Wednesday night choir practices over the next few weeks, Chris is going to take a well-deserved month off to recover from accumulated overtime. Consequently, our plans for the next three Wednesdays (and a Monday) are as follow. Everyone is welcome to join us; use this [new link](#).

January 20: Marcia will lead choir practice. This will be just after Martin Luther King Day and on inauguration day. So she will choose songs appropriate to the celebration -- patriotic songs; spirituals, etc.

January 27: John Wiens will put together our practice, drawing on lessons he has been taking in an online course with Cynthia Lin.

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](#).

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



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?

February 1 (Monday): Those who have signed up will participate in Matt Meyer's one-hour webinar on Rhythm in the Body (1st of his 3-part series on Rhythm for Choirs). It is on at 5:00 p.m. Pacific time. Matt will send you information on the session.

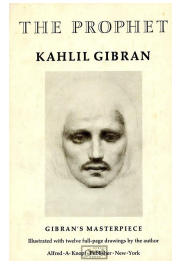
February 3 (Wednesday): We'll hold choir at the usual time -- 7:30. Those who participated in the Meyer's rhythm webinar will share their experiences and reflections (and maybe some embarrassing self-revelations).

For more information contact **Fran Korten**.

Morning Reflection

**Every Thursday, 10:00 a.m.
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*.



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.

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?

In Chalice Circles, 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 Circle 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 exist to support a journey of reconnection to life, to others, and to ourselves.

In Chalice Circles, 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.

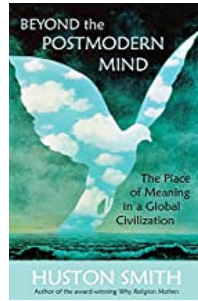
In Chalice Circles, we listen to our own lives and find the sacred in the everyday. Joining a Chalice Circle invites us to take another look and dance with life in a new way. Through spiritual practices and questions focused on our daily living, we engage the world not as an obstacle course to get through, 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

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

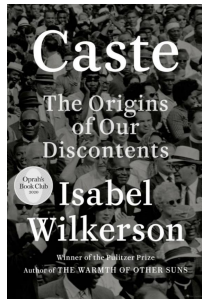
Evans Reading Group Invitation

Beyond the Postmodern Mind by Huston Smith will be discussed via Zoom by the Marvin Evans Reading Group on Tuesday, February 9th 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**



Cross Cultural Book Group

Caste, The Origins of Our Discontents by Isabel Wilkerson.

Virtual discussion of this important book will continue February 12th at 1:00 p.m.

covering parts III & IV.

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**.

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-

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.

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:

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 better.

Now, that 2020 is behind us, a new 2021 Cedars Creativity Fair will open and the 2020 fair will close (but remain 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

Richard Wilson and **Bonnie Yocus**
Facebook Page Administrators

Recent addition to the show:



Melissa Edgerton says: "Pepper the Heart Patient and Kiwi the Small...on Walkies. Ridies? What you can't see is the heated gel pad they are sitting on!"

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

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

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.

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.

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

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

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

Closed during COVID-19 Pandemic

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

[Unsubscribe {recipient's email}](#)

[Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by beacon@cedarsuuchurch.org powered by



Try email marketing for free today!