

The Beacon

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

Volume 11 Issue 13 April 2, 2021



CEDARS CHURCH
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

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

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Upcoming Services

Parables and Controversies

Sunday April 4th
10:00 a.m.
Virtual Worship Service

Rev. Zackrie Vinczen
Johanna Munson, Worship Associate

We often think of the Easter story as one of hope and restoration, but it is also a story of conflict and rebellion.

Join us as we consider the parables and controversies found in the Easter message.

Don't Sleep Through the Revolution

Sunday April 11th
10:00 a.m.
Virtual Worship Service

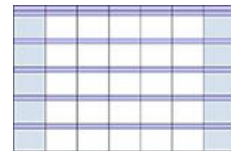
Rev. Zackrie Vinczen
Bryan Baker, Worship Associate

When Rip Van Winkle fell asleep in the woods, he awoke to find he had not only been asleep for 20 years, but had also slept through the American Revolution.

This story became the central metaphor for MLK's 1966 address to the Unitarian Universalist Association in which he implored UUs not to "sleep through the revolution."

Join us for this service as we reflect on the things in the world we are being called to wake up to.

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.

Sunday April 4th
10:00 a.m. Sunday Worship Service
[Virtual Sunday 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

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

Thursday April 8th
10:00 a.m. Morning Reflection
[Virtual Morning Reflection Link](#)
Use passcode 1959 if required
7:00 p.m. Meditation Group
[Virtual Meditation 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 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 service on 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)



There was Cake and there was Color!

The theme for our 2021-22 Stewardship Campaign was **"Belong Together"** and we celebrated its

conclusion with a very special regathering (mask-to-mask and carefully socially-distanced of course) after a long year of seeing each other only virtually.

The weather wasn't very cooperative, but a good supply of specially decorated cupcakes and the festive display of colorful umbrellas and protective raingear helped make the celebration memorable.



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

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.



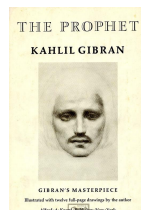
Cedars Knitting/Crafting Circle

Wednesday April 7th
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

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.

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.

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.

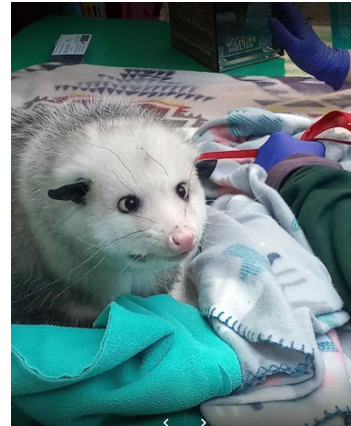
For more information or the Zoom link, contact **Dawna Kramer** at raddjk@yahoo.com or via phone number from the Breeze directory.



Use this form to indicate your interest:
Cedars Chalice Circles

Kathryn Jay
Faith Formation Lead
360-559-2381

Save the Date

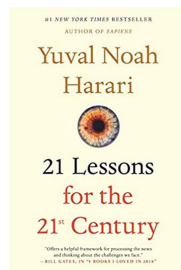


Serve Justice with Compassion at the West Sound Wildlife Shelter! Sunday April 25th 1:30-3:00

Come join us for a work party at the West Sound Wildlife Shelter. The staff is excited to host us and share the work they do for wildlife in our area!

There will be opportunities for all ages and abilities-- light weeding, potting of plants, general cleanup, and assistance with mailers/fundraising work. ALL activities will be held OUTSIDE with participants wearing masks and appropriately distanced. Tables with seated activities will be available. Afterwards there will be a short program hosted by the staff where you can see Echo the screech owl among others who have been rehabilitated at the shelter.

What to bring: a wellfitting mask, a water bottle, and labeled gardening tools (optional)



Evans Reading Group

We invite you to join us on April 13th at 1:30 p.m. Seeking "Salvation by Bibliography" as our late friend Marvin Evans used to say, we meet to discuss books that can intrigue and might enlighten us.

Pushing beyond the highly acclaimed and previously discussed **Sapiens** that explored our historic development as a species, author **Yuval Noah Harari** now presents a probing study of today's most urgent challenges as we move into the uncharted territory of the future in **21 Lessons for the 21st Century**.

How do computers and robots change the meaning of being human? How do we deal with the epidemic of fake news? Are nations and religions still relevant? What should we teach our children?

The book is divided into five sections and our plan is to discuss (via Zoom) the second section on April 13th. For more information contact **Alan Miller** or **Mary Romero**

Social Justice News

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](#).

Pastoral Care Concerns

COVID-19 Symptoms? Get tested Now!

Public health officials are urging Kitsap residents to get tested quickly 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.

Regional Activity

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

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:

Landscape designer Shayne Chandler can't help sharing the garden glories and delights of Spring, and this photo seems especially appropriate for lifting our spirits this Easter weekend:



Guidelines for using Cedars Center

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.

Remember to wear a mask at the test site!

In discussion with the Pastoral Care Team, **Rev. Zackrie** confirmed that he would appreciate being informed if anyone in 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

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.

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.



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.

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.

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

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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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